State GOP Rejects Log Cabin Ad, Says No to Booth

In an unprecedented move to stifle dissent within the party, Texas GOP leaders have rejected a Gay Republican group's request to have an exhibit booth at the state Republican convention, according to a letter from the state GOP organization released by the group, the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas. The state GOP has also refused a full-page advertisement for the convention program submitted by the Log Cabin Republicans. The party's decision comes just days after a landmark ruling by the United States Supreme Court that Gays and Lesbians could not be excluded from the political process simply because of their sexual orientation.

"The party's decision to deny a Republican group a display booth at the state convention is an unprecedented act of exclusion," said Dale Carpenter, noting that even pro-choice groups who disagree with the party's stand on abortion are permitted booths at the state convention. Carpenter is the President of Log Cabin Texas. "We're Republicans asking for the same opportunity to be heard that other Republicans have. The party must make room for those who disagree. That's what the democratic process is all about," Carpenter noted that exhibit booth applications have been routinely accepted from other political groups and commercial vendors with no relationship whatsoever to the party.

"This is the first shot in a renewed 'culture war' against gays and lesbians, it has badly misfired. It comes at the worst possible time for the party, in the middle of a presidential campaign in which our party is already seen as irrelevant. This action indicates that some party officials have no patience for those who disagree with them regarding the civil rights of gays and lesbians," said Carpenter.

On April 1; Log Cabin applied for an exhibit booth at the state GOP convention. The group sent in their application along with a check for $400 to cover the booth fee. Carpenter confirmed acceptance of the booth application in a telephone call to Jonathan Gurwitz several days later. Gurwitz is exhibits chairman for the party. Subsequently, the state party cashed the check submitted along with the booth application. "As far as Log Cabin is concerned, we had a deal," said Carpenter, an attorney in Houston. "Now the part is backing out on its word." Log Cabin also submitted a full-page advertisement for inclusion in the state convention program. Again, Carpenter confirmed receipt and acceptance of the ad the next day, with a party official.

In spite of the agreement and inclusion of other groups, state GOP executive director Barbara Jackson sent a letter to the Log Cabin

(Continued on Page 17)
If you would like an event listed in this section, please feel free to call me at 529-8490 or fax the fact to me at 529-9031.

Friday, May 31

• Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9:30 Westminster. Call 782-5664.
• HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 523-8817.
• HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
• 12 step program at Montrose Counseling Ctr. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. Call 527-1348.
• Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. Call 528-SAFE.
• Free Buffet at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 p.m.
• The Women’s Group meets at 10:45 a.m. Call 529-8571.
• Using the Resources of Business Initiators to Accelerate Business Growth Lunch-on at 1:45. Call 932-7495 X 42.

Saturday, June 1

• Houston Chn Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 863-1860.
• After Hours on KPTF 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.
• Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. Call 780-4382.
• Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. Call 528-SAFE.
• Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 a.m. Call 583-8408.
• Determining Your Entrepreneurial Expects for Starting a Business. 9:00 a.m. Call 932-7495 X 40.
• Mr. Chance Contact at Chances. 9:00 a.m.
• Islands Art Festival at Galveston’s Pier 21. 10:00 a.m. Call 521-0133.
• Films at the Museum of Fine Arts: Super Fly at 7:30 p.m. and Foxy Brown at 9:30 p.m. Call 679-7513.

Sunday, June 2

• PFLAG meets at 2:00 p.m. Call 867-9020.
• Houston Chn Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 863-1860.
• Prime Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis Center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.
• HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
• Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 532-0612.
• Out in Ft. Bend meets. Call 344-6638.
• Brunch at the 611 12:30 p.m. $3.
• Snack Night at the Beavers River Bottom. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
• Montrose Ice Packs skate at noon. Call 629-1412.
• Pool Tournament at Chances. 6:00 p.m.
• Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 a.m. Call 537-1348.
• Mr. Prime Choice Contact at the Riptide. 9:00 a.m. Call 521-2792.
• Island Art Festival at Galveston’s Pier 21. 11:00 a.m. Call 521-0133.
• Films at the Museum of Fine Arts: Super Fly at 5:00 p.m. and Foxy Brown at 7:00 p.m. Call 679-7515.
• Montrose Softball League plays at Memorial Park fields 4 & 5. 10:00 a.m.

Monday, June 3

• Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce meets at 6:00 p.m. For info call 523-7576.
• Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6187.
• HeartSong open rehearsal at the First Unitarian Church at 7:00 p.m. Call 526-9095.
• Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-1227.
• Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 p.m. Call 539-0037.
• Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Women’s Issues Support Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their care givers at Montrose Counseling Center.

6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Men’s HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-9031.
• Pool Tournament at the Brazos River Bottom. 6:00 p.m. Call 528-9192.
• Free HIV Testing and Counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Queen Nation meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2700 Alwyre.

Tuesday, June 4

• Pride Cruise of Houston meets at 6:30 p.m. Call 529-6976.
• Helping Cross Dresser Anonymous meets 259 Mango Street 8:00 p.m. Call 528-9009.
• Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kho Project. Call 522-8182.
• Southern Country gives dance lesson at the Ranch. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.

PROJECT support group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 520-7870.
• Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Center. 8:00 p.m. Call 520-0043.
• Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Survivors of loss support group meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 379-2875.
• Fine Dance Lessons and Karaoke at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Call 528-9192.
• Jazz at Borders Book Shop. Call 782-6006.

Wednesday, June 5

• Rex Reed speaks at the Museum of Fine Arts. 7:00 p.m. Call 639-7350.
• Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 525-1000.
• Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 p.m. Call 537-1348.
• Stanley Lennon performs at Chancen. 9:00 p.m. Call 523-7217.
• Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.
• GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.
• Women’s Action Coalition meets at TooPers. 7:00 p.m. Call 867-3581.
• Men’s Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. Call 537-1348.
• Lambda Rollerblading Club skates at 8:00 p.m. Call 933-5818.
• Women’s Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. Call 622-7250 for more info.
• Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Women’s Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Women’s Action Coalition (WAC) meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9581.
• Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
• Bi-Net of Houston meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 867-3580.
• Developing Business Skills workshop. 7:15 a.m. Call 932-7495 X 48.
• Women’s Network at Texas Women’s Charter’s 51st by Lesbian Learning Unlimited at 877-1981.
• Houston AIDS Peace Prayer at 7:00 p.m. at 7228 Call 867-9127.
• Free Stop Smoking Classes by AIDS Foundation of Houston. 9:00 p.m. Call 623-6970.

(Continued on Page 4)
Clinton defends support of bill outlawing gay marriages

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin, Thursday, May 23 (AP)—President Clinton defended Thursday his support of legislation that would allow states to outlaw same-sex marriages and deny recognition of gay marriages allowed in other states.

Despite that position, Clinton insists, "I do not favor discrimination against people because they are homosexual." Clinton was in Milwaukee for a meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The two leaders spoke at a joint news conference, but a question-and-answer session that followed was dominated by U.S. domestic politics. Clinton fielded questions about Republicans who are fighting in Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to outlaw same-sex marriages.

Kohl looked amused at times as Clinton fielded election-related questions. Gay rights groups that have supported Clinton are furious at the White House announcement that Clinton would sign the bill. The president accused Republicans of pushing the measure in hopes of winning an election issue.

"And let me just say, even though I will sign this bill...this is hardly a problem that is sweeping the country," Clinton said.

Anticipating that gay marriages may soon be legalized in Hawaii, a bill proposed in Congress would allow states to reject same-sex marriages performed in other states. But it wouldn't block any state from conferring its own legal status on same-sex unions.

The bill also defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman.
**Pride Committee Fundraising**

Lesbian Gay Pride Week is now participating in the Kroger Share Card Program. Here is how it works. Everytime you go to your local Kroger Store in the Houston Division you hand the cashier your special Pride Committee Share Card, the cashier scans your card, making sure that it is the very first item they scan, that is very important and guess what? 1% of your total sale is given to the Pride Committee of Houston!!

To get your share card, call the Pride Line at 529-6979, leave your name, address and telephone number.

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**Community Calendar**

(Continued from Page 2)

**Thursday, June 6**

- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Gal-laria, 8:00 p.m. Call 639-1432.
- Broadway Showtimes at T.R.'s, 9:00 p.m. Call 521-2519.
- Art Classes at the Art League, 1:00 p.m. Call 522-8187.
- Front Runners meet at Memorial Park, 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8201.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.
- Twentysomethings meet at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.
- KPTT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs at 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call 866-6505.
- Burger and Chili night at the Brazos River Bottom, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Steak Night at the Six Pub, 6:30 p.m.
- Dance lessons at the Brazos River Bottom, 9:30 p.m. Free. Call 880-0670.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center, 1:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center, 2:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center, 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center, 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- Men's Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA, 7:00 p.m. Call 796-2272.
- Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center, 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- HIV support survivor Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive, 7:00 p.m. Call 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism, 7:30 p.m. Call 738-RACE.

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**PETITIONS**

Send the following petitions to 811 Westheimer Suite 105 Houston, TX 77006

- Petition to end the homophobia and prejudice that exist in the workplace.
- Petition to promote the rights of women.
Power at the Polls: new survey paints portrait of gay, lesbian, bisexual vote

Washington, D.C., April 23, 1996 — Now that the primary season is effectively over, the major political parties are planning election strategy, which states and constituencies will bring victory? Which states and voters need attention? And which can be written off?

But a new survey, released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), for the first time paints a portrait of a political constituency that Democrats and Republican ignore at their own risk.

"Power At the Polls: The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Vote" is based on exit polling data from the 1992 and 1994 elections. The data was originally collected by Voter News Service (VNS), a major national polling organization, and until now has remained largely unappared by the media. The report was produced by the NGLTF Policy Institute. NGLTF is a non-partisan organization. The gay vote survey is an analysis of gay, lesbian and bisexual voter demographics, political persuasions and voting patterns. It provides the first scientifically reliable picture of self-identified gay, lesbian and bisexual voters.

"We are releasing this report at this critical time because gay issues have exploded into the 1996 presidential campaign in an unprecedented way," said John D’Emilio, NGLTF Policy Institute director and author of the report. "After a generation of coming out of the closet, gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans are flocking to the polling booth."

The VNS 1992 exit polling data is based on a nationally representative sample of 1,300 voters. The poll allowed gays, lesbians and bisexuals to identify themselves for the first time in a presidential election. Some of the major findings include:

- Gay, lesbian and bisexual self-identified voters constituted 3.2 percent of the total voting population in the 1992 election. That is roughly the size of the national Latino vote in the same year, more than double the size of the Asian vote, and slightly less than the Jewish vote. It’s also as large as all of the African Americans, the family farm vote. "Because we know that four still keeps the majority of gay people in the closet, this figure of 3.25 percent must be considered a floor rather than a ceiling, and a basement floor at that," said D’Emilio. "In other words, the total number of these voters is certain to be higher than three percent and is likely to be considerably higher."

- The gay, lesbian and bisexual vote can be decentralized in urbanized states. The self-identified gay vote is not evenly distributed throughout the population, but it is heavily concentrated in cities. In towns with a population between 5,000 and 10,000 people, the self-identified vote is slightly more than one percent. But in cities with populations between 250,000 and 500,000 people, the figure rises to more than eight percent. "As time goes on and more small-town residents come out, this figure will grow. But the urban concentration means the gay, lesbian and bisexual vote can be the margin of victory in key states," said D’Emilio. "It can also make the critical difference in many Congressional races and in state and local elections as well."

- D’Emilio points out that eleven states with urban areas and well-organized and visible gay, lesbian and bisexual communities—such as California, New York, Illinois, Michigan and others—together provide 49 percent of the national electoral vote. Add in two other states, and a candidate wins the presidency.

- The self-identified gay, lesbian and bisexual vote is also a younger voter, and will inevitably grow in size. "Because of the changes provoked in American life by the gay and lesbian movement, younger voters are significantly more likely to self-identify than are older voters," said D’Emilio. In comparison to the overall voting population, the self-identified vote is under-represented in the older—than-40 group, is concentrated in the under-40 group, and is represented especially heavily among younger voters younger than 30. "Gay voters already constitute five percent of the under-30 voters," said D’Emilio. "As our issues continue to have high visibility in national and state politics, there is every reason to believe the proportion of self-identified voters will get larger over time."

- The gay, lesbian and bisexual voter displays a clear political profile. The polling data shows the gay vote leans heavily toward liberal positions on key issues. The gay voter is more likely to favor more government services and higher taxes to pay for them; downplay the importance of deficit reduction; support greater access to health care; blame government neglect rather than a decline in moral values for social problems; believe that government should encourage tolerance of diverse value systems; and support continued legalization of abortion. "In other words, this is the profile of a politically progressive constituency," said D’Emilio.

The survey also details who gay voters vote for. In 1992, Clinton received 43 percent of the total popular vote, but 72 percent of the gay, lesbian and bisexual vote. Only Jewish voters and African-American voters provided Clinton with larger margins. The gay vote for Clinton surpassed the percentage of votes he received among Jewish voters, urban residents and Latinos.

But, cautious D’Emilio, the gay vote is not guaranteed to any candidate. "If the only two options in 1996 were to vote Democratic or Republican, the story would seem to be over. But gay, lesbian and bisexual voters have a third option: they can stay home," said D’Emilio.

Evidence from the 1994 elections supports this assertion. By the midterm elections, when gay issues received less attention than in 1992, and when disappointment was still fresh from the Clinton Administration’s support of the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, the self-identified gay, lesbian and bisexual vote shrunk by more than a third. "It still remained a heavily Democratic vote, but there were a lot fewer voters," said D’Emilio.

Whether voters stay home in 1996 or rush to the polls depends on several factors, said D’Emilio. Will the Democratic party actively court the gay vote, or simply take it for granted? Will the Republican party continue the gay community like a dog in 1992, or try to avoid polarizing social issues? Will the external Clinton hype make gay the target of their rhetoric, and thereby galvanize gays, lesbians and bisexuals to come out and vote? Will gay organizations succeed in their plans to coordinate massive voter registration drives, and will they be able to mobilize these voters?

In other words, the Republican Party can organize the gayvote, or try to neutralize it," said D’Emilio. "The Democratic Party can effectively mobilize it, if it can slip away in reaction. To a degree, the survey confirms what we have known only intuitively—but never had statistically visible data to prove," said D’Emilio. "There is a gay, lesbian and bisexual vote. It is growing, it is a constituency, and it is still untapped."

The survey was released today as a Washington, D.C. press conference, which also featured a report by Carmen Vazquez, director of the "Promote or Veto" group, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender national voter registration drive, and Tony Valenzuela and Brenda Schumacher, co-chairs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Voices 96, an ad hoc coalition planning actions at the GOP Convention in San Diego this year.

For copies of the gay vote report, contact NGLTF at (202)332-5483, ext. 3303, or visit the NGLTF Web site at http://www.nyltf.org.
In My Own Voice
by Deborah Bell

Lesbians and Gays are without Due Process

The possibility of the State of Hawaii legalizing same-sex marriages has caused quite a stir among religious radicals. They think that their institution of marriage is somehow threatened by two men or two women being able to marry one another. While many of us very much want this right and are watching hopefully for passage of the Hawaiian law, we are not very optimistic.

By expanding the marriage contract between two consenting adults and the State to include same-sex couples is not only granting rights, but additionally conveys the responsibilities involved in such a partnership. Taxes, insurance coverage, rights of inheritance, and other financial responsibilities would be matters that would make their marriages advantageous to everyone. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered persons are denied certain rights of citizenship in this country the same as convicted criminals. Criminals are allowed to marry another consenting adult (of the other gender), while they are incarcerated, even if both parties are in prison. While our sexual relations are considered criminal in some states, we do not have to be found guilty in a court of law to be denied our rights. We are without due process. If we are in fact criminals, then charge us with a crime. But do not deny us, otherwise, the law abiding, tax paying citizens our constitutional rights based on the prejudice and discrimination sanctioned by and perpetuated by some people's so called "religious beliefs." The judgment of our morality by these nonhumanized homosexuals is hugely offensive to the many people of faith in the LG/B/T Community and to all of us who believe in separation of Church and State. The Metropolitan Community Church of the Philippines founded by Gay Minister Rev. Troy Perry along with other denominations, recognize same-sex partnership in some states, we do not have to be found guilty in a court of law to be denied our rights. We are without due process. If we are in fact criminals, then charge us with a crime. But do not deny us, otherwise, the law abiding, tax paying citizens our constitutional rights based on the prejudice and discrimination sanctioned by and perpetuated by some people's so called "religious beliefs." 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The love and commitment I have with my partner, equals of not surpasses any such partnership between a man and a woman. We get up in the morning, go to our jobs, spend time with our friends and families, are active in the community, grocery shop, do our housework, pay our bills, take care of each other if we are ill, love each other, the same way we do other families. If anyone is frightened by such ordinary day to day life, then I am sorry for them. Our sexuality is a private matter between the two of us and need not concern them. In addition to the right to have our intimate relationships honored in legal marriages throughout this country, all sodomy laws should be repealed. Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered individuals should be able to serve openly in service to their country in the military, if that is their choosing. President Clinton needs to reassert his promise of eliminating the Military Ban instead of letting the ridiculous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy continue. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered service men and women and DO, serve their country with honor and dignity. The United States Government has no business legitimizing discrimination. No one is asking for special rights, we are only asking for protection from discrimination. We want the right to our homes, our jobs, our children, and our pursuit of happiness. Our very lives are at stake, as evidenced by the rise in hate crimes against LG/B/T in this country. The Lexington Washington Gay Bar was the site of so called "Homosexual Agenda." How can anyone so smart say something so dumb?

Former Rhodes Scholar and President of the United States, Bill Clinton--quoted from newscconference in May 1996.

Well, first of all, as I understand it, what the bill does--let's make it clear. As I understand it, what the bill does is to state that marriage is an institution between a man and a woman, that, among other things, is used to bring children into the world, but the legal effect of the bill--as I understand it, the only legal effect of the bill is to make it clear that states can deny recognition of gay marriages that occurred in other states. And if that's all it does, then I will sign it. Now, having said that, I do not favor discrimination against people because they're heterosexual.
Son's Horizons Not Broad Enough

I was in Beaumont about a week ago to see my youngest son receive an academic honor at that city's Central High School. Not to be outdone, his brother had something to show off, too. "Take me to drop off my film," he begged.

To my traveling man-child, I have "taken him to drop off" canners of film he snapped of monks and girlfriends in The People's Republic of China, artist-welders in Illinois, aunts and "friends" in New Mexico, streets, schools, and kids along side of streets in New York City, and the brick wall view of his kitchen window in San Francisco. The remarkable thing is not that he is pursuing (all expenses paid) by colleges and universities in all these places trying to romance him to their institutions, no. The remarkable thing is that when he gets home with his film he can't get himself to do the duty to have the pictures he took developed.

This is my nonmaterialistic (the travels with a few drawing pencils and a Call Home phone card create disorganization and despair) and lover of the planet, Zen Buddhist son. Part of his religion involves respect for the environment and so great is this respect that he does not drive ("It depletes the natural resources of fossils and causes air, noise and nervous terrors.") His mother's nerves, that is.

"So will you take me to Wal-Mart?"

Wal-Mart! Wal-Mart! Last time I was in that town there was no Wal-Mart. The biggest commercial business was the "Bobby-Q Stand." That's the place where all the tools were made on the spot. Links and ribs, "Bobby-Q Bones," that wouldn't quit tasting good until about an hour after you were through eating them. They were cooked, sold and served by a lady who was black, and thin as scissors. She kept herself "all dodged up" and if her name wasn't Hazed it should've been.

Wal-Mart?

"Not just 'Wal-Mart'—it's a Wal-Mart. Super Store! It's open twenty-four hours and it has everything! Everybody goes there. It's so popular you have to call ahead and reserve a parking space. I mean, everybody in Beaumont goes there every day! People pack lunches and drive in from Raywood and Saratoga and Honey Island to see it. You own it yourself not to miss it. It's like going to Paris and bypassing the Louvre, it's like going to London and missing the bridge. It's like going to the Galleria and avoiding Neiman's to come all the way to Beaumont and then miss our new Super store!"

I dropped him off at Wal-Mart. I never found out what pictures he was having developed, but I think that boy needs to get out more. Out of Beaumont, out of East Texas. He needs to broaden his horizons. He should try La Capella (Mexico City) next. I bet he'd love the bazaar.

Questions About Life?
Concerned About:
- Your Relationship
- Friends/Family
- Your Career
- Your Health
- Money

[Questions and answers are printed here but not transcribed.]

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Questions About Life?
Concerned About:
- Your Relationship
- Friends/Family
- Your Career
- Your Health
- Money

[Questions and answers are printed here but not transcribed.]

New Developments in Neartown

The Neartown Association reports that the owners of Rick's, a popular night-club in the Mellow area, are demolishing the old Tita's restaurant building in the 700 block of Westheimer. They plan to open a major nightclub. The club is already in possession of a liquor permit, and the redevelopment seems imminent.

Neartown has a blanket policy if fighting any new liquor permits in the area. The association says it has received many calls complaining of the effect such development will have on Avondale and the board is reviewing the process by which a liquor permit was granted before the Neartown Association, or surrounding property owners, learned of the plans.

The parking for the new club will be on the south side of Westheimer in what is now a row of vacant lots. Neartown views this as a positive step to keep cars off the residential streets, but it is concerned with the indication of the number of patrons the club owners anticipate.

Robert Waters, a partner (or former partner) of Rick's,Cabaret on Richmond is attending to purchase a plot of land between Kirby and Greenbriar on the Southwest Freeway (US Hwy. 59) in order to open a sexually oriented business. Waters is trying to secure both a liquor permit and a sexually oriented business permit. Just outside the Neartown boundary, and a mere 5 blocks from Poe Elementary School, Neartown's board is interested in the opinions of its membership in this matter. They are working with the Boulevard Oaks Association in an attempt to persuade Mr. Waters that his current location is simply not appropriate.

The debate over the Westheimer Street Fest continues. A recent poll showed that a strong majority of residents in favor of the festival. Neartown remains officially neutral about the Fest but has created a committee charged with the authority to research and make recommendations on 1) How to dramatically change the Festival to protect the most affected neighborhoods or 2) To stop the Festival completely, if the concerns and suggestions of this committee, upon adoption, are not addressed.

The fall 1996 Fest and possibly those scheduled for 1997, have already been permitted by the city. The existing committee created last year to negotiate voluntary compromises on conduct of the Fest is still operating. It is chaired by former Neartown President Ammie Parker, and it is currently working with Westheimer Street Fest, Inc., the festival organizers.

Friday, June 7th
The Montrose Softball League presents the 1996
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by Jon Anthony

Much to the chagrin of competing networks, CBS was the victor in the highly contentious efforts of all networks to win Tom Sellick back to the small screen. Sellick will star in as yet undisclosed show for the struggling network to premiere during the 1997-98 season. In addition to Sellick, Bill Cosby and Ted Danse will be on the network's slate. CBS hopes their marquee value will transcend into stellar ratings. Madeline Kahn returns to series television in CBS' new Cosby show this fall. Joan Collins is being heavily considered to play Endora in the big-screen adaptation of Bewitched starring Alicia Silverstone. No word on who will portray Darrin... Real-life NYPD detective Thomas McKenna has written a book detailing his most grisly cases. McKenna has assisted Sen. John Turturro, Michael Douglas and Andy Garcia with preparation for their various detective roles in movies. Manhattan North Homemake is published by St. Martin's Press... Simon & Schuster will release an updated version of Untitled Partners: Our American Story. Bob and Elizabeth Bole originally released in 1988, the new edition will be released July 2... World renowned French chef Julia Child was the daytime Emmy for Outstanding Service Show Host last week. Child's award category was not televised. Competing nominees were Bob Villa and Martha Stewart... This year's Tony Awards ceremony ceremony is so more exciting than recent galas. Despite the fact that Julie Andrews and her Victor/Victoria crew will boycott the event. The cast of the latest Broadway smash Rent will perform live, as will the cast of The King and I. A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum and Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk. To mark the prestigious award ceremony 50th anniversary, CBS has starred Lisa Minnelli and Bernadette Peters to sing a medley to honor the occasion. Nathan Lane will host this year's festivities. The Tony Awards air June 2... The June 12 performance of Tommey, the rock opera by The Who, at the Cynthia Woods Pavilion has been canceled. Refunds are available at all Ticketmasters... No, you're not incoherent, that really is John Wayne in those Coors commercials. Thanks to digitized computer technology similar to that used in Forrest Gump, the ad's director was able to make the late actor's appearance in the spot seem realistic. The advertisement was approved by Wayne's estate and Coors made a generous donation to the John Wayne Cancer Institute, a non-profit treatment and research facility... Christopher Reeve and HBO have formed a partnership. Reeves will mark his directorial debut for the cable network with In the Glamour; about a wheelchair-bound young man dying of AIDS who returns home. In addition, the paralyzed actor will direct an as yet untitled romantic comedy later this year, write a book, and be heard as the voice of King Arthur in the upcoming animated movie The Quest for Camelot... Rob Reiner will direct an upcoming film based on the real life drama of the murder of Modger Evers. James Wood will portray Ron de la Beckwith, the man convicted of shooting the slain civil rights leader in front of his wife and children. Abet Baldwin and Whoopi Goldberg, who portray Modger's wife, also star in the Castle Rock film slated for release this Christmas. ABC has postponed indefinitely their plans for launching a 24-hour all news channel to compete with CNN on cable outlets. Media tycoon Robert Murdoch and NBC's commitment to debuting sitcoms is finding more resistance at rivaling CNN this fall has been attributed as a major factor in NBC's decision... John Stewart is being handed a possible replacement for Greg Kinnear for NBC's Later program. Kinnear's big-screen career in rising and NBC wants to be prepared... Demi Moore will star in Ridley Scott's G.I. Jane as a Navy SEAL. Moore will shave her head to give the character authenticity... Jeff Foxworthy has penned a new book of down home humor untitled No Shirt, No Shoes, No Problem, published by Hyperion and currently available at bookstores... See, Drug and Consequences is the name of an ABC News Special slated to air Thursday June 6 at 7 p.m. The special will provide a retrospective on the AIDS dilemma and look at recent developments that appear to be promising as a continent to the disease. Barbara Walters and Morgan Fairchild co-host... David Lindsay is signing his new bestselling book Requiem for a Glass Heart on Saturday, June 1 at the Tanglewood Super Congress bookstores at 1 p.m. Lindsay's popular books place many of the characters in Houston and Requiem is set at an international crime summit in our city. Moving Pictures, Demi Moore's production company has already purchased the novel for adaptation to the bigscreen. Moore will produce and star in the film... CBS debuts a revamped version of Mission Impossible with Tuesday, June 10's highly publicized flip. Raquel Welch and Gerald McRaney have been cast in an effort to boost the shows ratings. The show-retitled CPW, debuts on June 5 at 9 p.m. and will air twice weekly on Wednesday and Friday at 9 p.m... Singer/actress/activist Betty Buckley guests on CBS' This Morning program June 6 at 7 a.m... Elton John visits the set of Good Morning America on ABC Tuesday, June 4 at 7 a.m... Dana Rose and John Waters chat with David Letterman on CBS Late Night June 5 at 10:33 p.m... Top of the Charts: Mission Impossible was king of the box-office and set a record as the biggest Memorial Day Weekend opening of a film in history (see review in this issue of The Houston Voice). The Florence Hotel held that record until now. Mission raked in $57 million over the weekend and has tallied $75 million since its opening last Wednesday. Twitter continues to force moviegoers to the theaters as evidenced by its impressive third week gross of $37 million bringing its total to an impressive $144 million to date. Leslie Nielsen's Spy Hard opened at No. 3 with $11 million in receipts... Sinfeld was the highest rated show according to Nielsen. Bose Thugs of Harmony The Crossroads is the number one single in the country and The Score by the Fugees is the biggest selling album... Cassandra Wilson rules the Jazz charts with her single New Moon Daughter and Jose Carreras' Passion tops the classical charts. Terry McMillan's How Stella Got Her Groove (Viking) and Donna Holman's autobiographical Bad As I Wanna Be (Delacorte), co-written with Tim Kean, are the best-selling fiction and non-fiction titles according to The New York Times best-seller list. Quote of the Week: "I'd rather talk to a bag of women at the supermarket than a lot of people in Hollywood." - Cher in a cover story interview in this week's Entertainment Weekly.

This & That!

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Poll Results Question Clinton's Popularity

President Clinton's high standing in recent polls aside, most Americans have not succumbed to liberal idealogy as some pundits would like to suggest. In a recent Gallup Poll, conducted April 25-28, billed as a "national referendum" poll focusing on 27 important issues, the American public overwhelmingly favors conservative policies on a majority of those issues.

The poll demonstrates the public's unwavering commitment and support on all major issues by a 2-to-1 margin. More than 80% of those polled support a balanced budget amendment, raising the minimum wage, English as the official language and life sentences for drug dealers. Over 70% favor the death penalty for murderers, congressional term limits, voluntary school prayer, reducing government agencies, and a two-year moratorium for welfare recipients. Mandatory job training and doctor assisted suicide were favored by 69% and 68% of the public, respectively. In addition, the public appears to be in agreement on several issues that they overwhelmingly oppose such as legalizing marijuana (73%), withdrawing from the EU (77%), selling public lands (70%) and racial preferences in jobs and schools (83%), 67% are opposed to Gay marriage, as are President Clinton and Bob Dole.

The fact is most people in this country believe that socialism does not work. Europe is a prime example of the ills of socialism--double digit unemployment, blocked private job creation, etc. Ronald Reagan's popularity clearly demonstrates that the public does not favor class warfare or zero-sum economic policies. So why are the Republicans losing ground and Bob Dole's campaign struggling to gain momentum? Several reasons.

First and foremost, Bob Dole needs to realize that he will not win the White House if this election is a referendum over income inequality and redistribution or austere numerical balanced budget plans. The GOP's misguided commitment and fixation with the balanced budget issue has caused them great confusion and particularly undermined the opportunity for Clinton to look presidencial and restrained. It was a mistake that can be rectified. Difficult? Yes. Impossible? No. Here's how I believe it could be accomplished: The GOP needs to aggressively bring to the forefront a host of issues that President Clinton cannot walk off on without serious risk of alienating his core constituency. In politics, the victor is usually the candidate who shapes the dialogue of the campaign. The current resident of the White House has clearly been the winner to date. If the GOP wants to gain ground, they need to reverse the tide and stake claims on substantive issues. How? Taxes. The issue of taxes is something every working American understands. They are fully aware of the impact that taxes impose upon them. It is a winning issue. Ronald Reagan and his more recent, Christine Todd Whitman are models of the benefits of this issue. Whitman's 1993 gubernatorial win in New Jersey is a testament that resonated the Republican Party to victory in 1994. Whitman's entire campaign strategy focused on the taxation issue and never veered from it. "You will spend your money more wisely than the government will," she repeatedly intoned during stump speeches.

The GOP seems to have forgotten that President Clinton and a Democratic controlled congress enacted the largest tax increase in history during their reign. That is something that bears repeating to a point of redundancy in a fact that will indelibly resonate with the voters. Clinton and his colleagues had a two year opportunity to enact welfare reform and neglected to do so. Now he wants to take credits for welfare reform efforts in states like Wisconsin that were created by Republican governors. Likewise, they could have raised the minimum wage during the first half of his presidency with relative ease. Again, they neglected to do so. This type of posturing by Clinton is typical and to be expected. He is a much better actor than Ronald Reagan ever was and should have no problem obtaining roles in Hollywood once he leaves office.

The appealing aspect of Clinton is his enduring popularity amongst the electorate when he campaigns. Clinton, as President, never could muster approval ratings over 50% in opinion polls. In fact, he has had lower poll ratings of any president, consistently for most of his term, hovering around the low to mid-60 percentile range. He is an effective campaigner and seems to have an uncanny ability at manipulating his negatives into positives. In my opinion, Clinton's popularity says more about the public's acquiescence to their steadfast allegiance to his image over reality. The fact that Clinton is campaigning on Republican themes has also been a contributing factor.

The soon-to-be former Senator Dole needs to buy some energy and juice and start campaigning with a fervor. The aforementioned poll shows that when it comes to issues, he has the upper hand. Additionally, the poll confirms that a clear majority wants government less involved with their lives--both financially and in personal matters. Dole should disavow government paternalism into peoples private lives, i.e. abortion and homosexuality issues, and focus on the economy, crime and foreign policy. If the GOP truly believes in removing the government off of the backs of the public, then they should practice that maxim on the personal front as well.

Dole needs to offer clear distinctions between him and Clinton. This should not be difficult. Dole should promote the American people that he will provide them with tax relief. His recent meeting with Steve Forbes suggests he will do just that. Dole's decision to bring Jeane Kirkpatrick aboard to head his foreign policy agenda was equally as impressive. I expect he will announce other high profile and respected individuals as ideological contributors to his campaign in their respective fields in the campaign cycle progresses. Both Kirkpatrick and Forbes would add luster to his fledging campaign as vice presidential candidates. As would Christine Todd Whitman or Rep. John Kasich.

The election in Bob Dole's to lose. To unsure, he is the underdog but Americans have always had an affinity for an underdog. Ronald Reagan was more than 30 points behind President Carter when he won the nomination and managed to win the presidency in a landslide. In Dole's case, nothing is certain. Personally, I cannot get excited about either candidate and have not yet determined who I will vote for, or if I will vote in the process, nor do I believe most Americans have either...
Prayers for Healing with Anointing

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ASK THE PASTOR

Q: "I want to be an example to others in my Christian walk. How can I help someone who doesn't want to be helped?"

A: Let's look at the importance of living our lives for Christ in our actions and interactions with others. It is generally not the "preacher" type who wins the favor of others. It is the one who lives their life full of joy, sincerity, truth, integrity and peace that has the greatest influence on others for Jesus. I began to look at the stages that most people go through when they are becoming a Christian, or entering into a relationship with Christ. The first stage was one of uncommongness, or not caring or seeing a need for a spiritual life. The second stage was one of concern. A person was able to see the need for a purpose and direction of a spiritual life and the need for God. This week we will look at the remaining three stages.

The third stage is one of being convicted. The person now has enough information and is being challenged by the Holy Spirit to do something about their spiritual needs. It is very important at this time that you spend a lot of time praying for this person. Your prayers will help them listen and respond to the work of the Holy Spirit. It is at this stage that the person really needs to be in fellowship with other Christians. Exposing hungry seekers to praise and worship, to teaching and good preaching allows the Spirit of God to continue the conviction process. If it is successful, it will take them to the next stage.

The fourth stage is repentance. Repentance is making an about face and walking in an opposite direction. Instead of living for self and the world, a person is now ready to turn around, and walk with God. It is at this stage that a person realizes that they were living their life for themselves in a selfish way. Sin is the desire to be independent of God. Sin is wanting to run your own life apart from God's help. Sin is taking matters into your own hands. When a person realizes that they were made to live in relationship with God, repentance brings them to the place of acknowledgment. Here a person learns about forgiveness and how to receive it and begin a new life. We must not get in the way of letting a person go through this stage. It is a beautiful experience and a freeing one. Here God frees us of our own stubborn wills so that we can be free to be who and what God made us to be.

This brings us to the final stage of faith. Here a person becomes the gift of faith to believe that God can lead them every step of the way in life victoriously. The gift of faith enables a person to believe and accept God’s will as truth. With this gift not only comes the assurance of a relationship with God in God’s child, but it gives you strength to live each day. It is the beginning of a lifetime of excitement and fulfillment! This is the place where a person is born anew of the Spirit of God.

Once a person reaches stage five, you have just begun a discipleship relationship with this person. Now, more than ever, they will need your encouragement to guide them along this new way of life. It is as if you are taking a baby by the hand. Give them time to grow and learn and explore. Here your example to them is more critical than ever. They are looking up to you. It is a powerful experience!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION, WRITE: REV. JANET PARKER, MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX, 77256-7932.
CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY - 5/31
* "Your Sacred Self" - study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. Kingdom Community Church, 4404 Blossom. Call 862-7513.
* Catholic Mass at 10:00 a.m. Kolbe Project. 1509 Fairview. Call 861-9149.

SATURDAY - 6/1
* Services at 7:30 p.m. Dignity Church, 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872.

SUNDAY - 6/2
* Grace Lutheran Church - Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. 2515 Waugh Dr. (at Missouri).
* First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. 5200 Fannin at Southampton. 526-5200.
* Services at 5:30 p.m. Dignity Church, 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872.
* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "A Study in the Gospel of Mark" and "The 'E' Factor," (How to be a positive influence on others as a witness for Christ) at 10:00 a.m. Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry, 11:00 a.m. Maranatha Fellowship, 3400 Montrose, Suite 600, 528-6756.
* MCCR worship services with Rev. Jim Burns. 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-8235.
* Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 a.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.
* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533. "The Celestial Prophecy: An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 a.m.
* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15. 1405 palm. Call 526-8093.
* Covenant Baptist Church. Worship service 1:30 p.m. and education hour at 3:00pm. 6610 Alder. Call 688-8830.
* Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:30 a.m. Seekers class 9:15 a.m. 1440 Harold. Call 526-1017.

MONDAY - 6/3
* Catholic Mass at 7:30 p.m. Kolbe Project. 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182.
* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m., 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

TUESDAY - 6/4
* MCCR: Empowerment for living support group & potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. GloriaSingers at 8:00 p.m., The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.
* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 526-7870.
* Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 p.m.
* These groups are open to all people. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.

WEDNESDAY - 6/5
* "A Course in Miracles"- Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Interpersonal Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 p.m. Call 862-7533.
* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 p.m. 1405 palm. Call 526-8093.

THURSDAY - 6/6
* Pot Luck Dinner 7:00 p.m. at Kolbe Project with community concerns with Fred Games "Being. Africa-Americas & Gay". 1509 Fairview. 522-8182.
* Community Gospel Church worship service 7:30 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 861-9149.
* MCCR worship services, 7:00 p.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
* If you want an event listed in this section, please call (713) 529-8490.

MR. PRIME CHOICE 1996
A Contest For Men Over 40
FRIDAY, MAY 31 • 10PM
Meet The Contestants and Judges with Mark Frazier of The Dallas Eagle, The First Mr. Prime Choice Ben Moore and Guest Bartender Mr. International Drummer David Walker

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 • 10PM
A Night of Fantasy with Mr. International Fantasy J.D. Buchert Guest Bartender Mr. International Drummer David Walker

SUNDAY, JUNE 2 • 9PM
MR. PRIME CHOICE CONTEST
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MONDAY 8PM-11PM
HAPPY HOURS
MORNING 7AM-2PM • AFTERNOON 5PM-9PM • SATURDAY 7AM-7PM

Gay Today
by Glen Webber

The Best of Friends
I was eight years old when Mr. Spunky first came into my life. He was a cute little terrier. He was a very small dog who could not run very fast. He showed up on the back patio one afternoon, scratching the glass, wanting to come in. So, I let him in. He jumped up into my arms and started licking my face.

My folks said I could not keep Mr. Spunky, that I would not take care of him. We looked at my folks, both of our puppy dog eyes, and finally they gave in. They gave me a list of what they expected about caring for my new friend.

Mr. Spunky was a delight. Like many dogs, Mr. Spunky loved attention. People were warned if they came over, he would jump on their lap. Most people did not mind too much, but he could be a pest if he got too excited.

Mr. Spunky’s favorite thing to do was to play and my favorite way would be to jump on the bed where I was sleeping and lay down by my face and go to sleep. He would wake up about two or three in the morning and lick my face for a minute, then go back to sleep. I always knew he loved me.

When we went on family trips, my Dad would bring a box for Mr. Spunky. We put his favorite blanket in the box and that is where he would sleep. We also smuggled him into our hotel rooms this way.

I will say that Mr. Spunky was my best friend. I was a shy, introverted child and he helped me to come out of my shell. He was welcome everywhere I went and if someone were to refuse him entrance, we would leave.

Of course, it all had to come to an end. One night he was lying on the bed next to my pillow as usual, but I knew something was wrong. During that last night, he woke me with one of his routine licking sessions and then we both went back to sleep. The next morning, he was lying there stiff. My best friend had died but had been still able to let me know he loved me before passing away.

We held a back yard funeral service. I was very sad for a long time. My loneliness kept me company for a while but one day I started to recover from my grief and go on living without him. My folks offered to buy me another pet, but I totally said no. Mr. Spunky was it.

That is, until eleven years ago, when Miss Lady came into my life. I found her on the streets eating garbage. I took her home, and as a responsible pet owner had her spade. She is a wonderful friend and hopefully, someday I will tell you more about her.

If the time comes when I no longer care for her due to my illness, I know I can call the caring people of the Pet Patrol. Their hard working volunteers will walk and feed pets when a person living with AIDS is unable to do so. They will even supply food for pets of those on limited income. I am certain you will find it relieving to know about your animals, when you are not able to care for them. They will even help find a suitable, loving homes for your furry loved ones when the time comes.

Sometimes people say you should not have pets when you are ill. Well, I say my beautiful friends are my best friends. When my lover Kelse died. Miss Lady and Miss Garfield pets, my cat kept me from going completely crazy, offering me a loving support system. The Pet Patrol knows how their clients feel about their pets. They will take very good care of them and save you the worry.

So many of the Pet Patrol volunteers fall in love with their client’s pets. Those that need this help in turn love the Pet Patrol. Please call them if you or a friend need their help, or if you would like to vol- unteer, and when they have a fund- raiser, be generous. Miss Lady, Miss Garfield and all of us, thank you very much.

The Pet Patrol may be contacted at 522-1934.

AMES Project Houston Elects 1996 Board
The NAMES Project Houston is pleased to announce its new Board of Directors and officers. Elected at its general membership meeting on May 20, are David B. Jackson, Chairperson; Laura Fel- dman, Vice Chair; Arnold Sachi, Secretary; Pierre Dolph, Development; Jo Anne Banker, Finance; Doris Price, Education; Barry Mandel, Outreach; Gervy Buncher, Volunteers; Bert Itto, Membership; Susan Battlestein, Display/Logistics; Daniel Chalis, Merch- ander; Pete Martinez, Panel- making; Maggie Jones, Media. Voted in as members-at-large of the Board were Jackson Hicks, Keith J. Crawford, Joel Laser, Steve Lupino, Robert Cruz, Mon- que Bossert, Eric H. Shamban, and John Jaco.

The NAMES Project Houston expresses sincere gratitude to Barry Mandel who served as past chairperson, and the many other members of last year’s officers, who overview the remarkable expansion of the educa- tion/outreach efforts of the education and outreach efforts of the group.

Part of the work of the new officers and board will be preparations for the 1996 Display of The AIDS Quilt in Washing- ton, DC this coming October. The Names Project Houston may be contacted at 713/522-1934. 
Remembering Memorial Days Past

This past Memorial Day, like many before it, passed with barely a notice except that I was aware the banks were closed and the mail was not delivered. Memorial Day is one of those bottom-tier holidays, so unrecognizable that they can be placed on random Mondays and not be affected.

Such was not always the case for me. As a child, I actually looked forward to this harbinger of summer not just as an end to another school year, but as a day of adventure. In my distant youth, Memorial Day was an occasion when my grandparents took my brother and I to the cemeteries.

While on the surface, it, hardly an auspicious beginning, such adventure was but an open door to history—in my case, family history.

Our little party ventured a mere twenty miles to the hamlet of Otterville—which, one supposes, came by its name from a certain animal in the nearby Lamime River, although I failed to ever spot such a creature. From the highway, we walked down a dirt road, stopping intermittently for short visits with assorted relatives, and finally reaching the town's cemetery. In those remote years between the Second World War and the Korean action, veteran groups had already placed tiny flags, marking the graves of those who fought in the war that real material—the Civil War (hardly civil) or the War for Southern Independence.

Years later during a somewhat brief teaching career, I found that the history of that war, if taught at all, centered around causes and effects, battles and generals. Yet the guts of that conflict were represented by the more than six hundred thousand soldiers who fell in battle. Based on a percentage of the nation's population at the time, that would correspond to five million war dead today.

This Otterville grave site was connected to my maternal grandfather's family. The Longdons of Indiana and before that, New England. But no flags marked the graves of the male members of that clan as none had actually had to wear their nation's uniform. After a few hours of surveying the markers and receiving a refresh course on this family's history, we found our way to an even more remote dirt road which runs past an almost hidden small church with accompanying cemetery. Here the Mount Olive Baptist Church silently stands over nearly overgrown grave markers of perhaps two hundred mounds. Yet, as in a child, this was the most fascinating place on earth. This was home to the remains of my maternal grandmother's family, the Steeles of Kentucky and Virginia. Actually every one buried there I bore some relation. So remote was tiny Mount Olive that by that time no veteran group maintained the usual flag ritual.

Nearly all the markers bore dates ending before or around the turn of the century. But there was one I search for the grave of Uncle Green Steele so that I could once more hear Grandma tell me the stories of Uncle Green's raiding with the "irregulars." Southern troops not always actually Confederate service. It was in that peaceful setting that I heard the stories of the Seven Years War (1754-1763) when Missourians fought Kansans over the extension of slavery to their more western state. Missouri was a slave state, surrounded on three sides by free territory, and my part of Missouri, that central strip which marks the influence of the Missouri River, was the bedrock of slavery in a divided state.

But Uncle Green Steele so absorbed by my grandfather's experiences in the union battles with the railroads (my hometown of Sedalia existed only because of the railroads) early on confirmed my faith in the right of working people to fair treatment and just wages.

Finally, if we had the time, my grandparents would stop at another small community—the one right on the highway to Jefferson City, the state's capitol—Syra, sue, the origin of which I would not learn until college. Here was buried my father's family. My paternal grandmother, who died the year I was born, had the requisite American interest in denouncing his service in the Spanish-American War, although I have no idea whether he made it to Cuba or was trained in Texas.

The bulk of my father's family was buried in Clinton County where they had settled a century and a half ago and generally pursued journalism for several generations, producing but one noteworthy individual, my cousin, Jake Lingle, whose lasting claim to the history books is that while a newspaperman in Chicago, he was murdered by Al Capone's gang after offending that noble soul in print.

I don't go back to those cemeteries anymore. I don't go back home anymore. If I did, I'm not sure they still plant miniature flags. Certainly there would be fewer stories to tell. My father and some uncles and cousins fought in World War II. My brother served in Korea. But considering all the bloody conflicts, the closest any member of my family came to heroic sacrifice was an uncle of my paternal grandmother, a Fry, who was hanged on the road to Booneville for allegedly being a spy. Unfortunately, family history failed to recall which side, North or South, for which he was spying.

At least in true family style, I served my time in the Army between Korea and Vietnam, maintaining the family tradition of survival and undistinguished service—which puts me somewhere between Bob Dole's heroism and Bill Clinton's dodging the draft—I can appreciate the position of both without judging either.

In the oft-quoted words of Thomas Wolfe, "you can't go home again." Certainly applies to me. But I can appreciate the heritage acquired in those early Memorial Day days and have no regrets in the demise of a cherished tradition.

WE TAKE TIPS!
Your HOUSTON VOICE appreciates your news lead or feature story ideas. Call us (best time: Thursday or Friday) at 529-8490 (Fax: 529-9511).
International Bowling

Fourteen Houston bowlers traveled to Philadelphia this past weekend and joined more than 600 other bowlers from all across the USA, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia for the International Gay Bowling Organization's (IGBO) Annual Tournament.

Marla Aizenstat came back with a trophy for High Handicapped game for the women. In the singles event, John Lathi placed 25th, Pat DeCarlo 46th and Cindy Lawrence 56th. In the doubles event, Randy Groch and Tom O'Dell placed 14th, Del Fuller and Randy Lamb came in 22nd. John Lathi also placed 22nd in all events and Pat DeCarlo placed 58th.

Two Houston bowlers, Andrea Black and Gardy Harvey were honored by being nominated for The Fellowship Award. IGBO's highest individual recognition for outstanding achievement in the bowling community, Gary Shope was elected Regional Director of the South Plains Region of IGBO, representing the leagues from Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado.

Many of the participants at IGBO said they are planning to attend the Texas Invitational Tournament planned for the 4th of July holidays which could make the Houston-based tournament one of the last the city has seen. For more information about the Texas Invitational, phone number: 522-9612.

Regular league play took a holiday the past week.

HMIBL Continues

The team Coalition continues its impressive won match record with only one loss in the 16 matches played for a percentage of .938. They are followed by J.R.'s Crew Crew with a win average of .824 and both the Jackson and Brian Patch teams at .706.

It was decided at the last monthly meeting that all league members are entitled to purchase an HMIBL jacker at the price of $50. Ron Sioux, Treasurer, has all the information including actual fabric swatches. He requests payments be made in cash and definitively prior to the last monthly meeting which is the deadline.

Lambda Skaters

The Lambda Roller skating Club will hold its next Skate Night Wednesday June 5 from 8 until 10:00 p.m. at the Starlight Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road. Admission is $3 plus an additional $1 if skate rental is needed. Everyone is welcome to skate and a variety of events will be scheduled along with door prizes. The organization will be having a Board Meeting June 2. Please phone for more information.

If your club or organization would like to hold a skate event, please contact us. For more information or to contact Lambda telephone 933-5818; online at gayskate@aol.com or at the Web Page site, http://members.aol.com/gayskate/lamba.htm.

IBL Winter Awards

The Winter Season's Awards Banquet is Saturday June 1 at the Santa Fe side of J.R.'s Ameks and Grill on Pacific. The party is from 2 until 5:00 p.m. and members and a guest are invited to attend and have bar-b-que with all the fix and free drinks. This is also the First Anniversary.

The summer season will begin its first night of play Thursday July 18 with registration scheduled for June 29 from 2 until 5:00 p.m. at the Outpost II. The second registration is planned for 1st Saturday July 6 from 2 until 5:00 p.m. Fees, as before, sponsor, $40 and due at other registra.

tion team, $150 ($35 per person) and substitute, $10.

South of the Border Night

with Marilyn "LaQuinta" Marx

Thursday, June 6, 11:00pm

Roxanne • Lexy
Rochelle Stevens
Susan Masar
All Day - All Night

Granny's Tacos!!

"Koi and Lillies" and other works by David Wheeler may be viewed at his one man show opening May 31 at Hyde Park Gallery.

David W. Wheeler--One man show at the Hyde Park Gallery

It is with great pride that the Hyde Park Art Gallery presents David W. Wheeler in his first one man show. This Friday, May 31, a body of work of unmatched realism is presented to the public.

David Wheeler, a native Texan, is a self taught artist having painted and exhibiting his work since he was fifteen. Having moved to Houston in 1979, David has enjoyed success with his art in group showings around town. To continue his development as an artist, he has continued to further his art and style through many private lessons from leading artists. David's style can best be described as Realism (Photo Realism). In his painting and in his selection of subjects, he creates a sense of peace and tranquility. One can see and feel the peace of nature and enjoy the realist execution of the subjects in his "Koi and Lillies" (11" x 14"). The public is cordially invited to a reception for the artist, Friday, May 31 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., to meet the artist and see this unique one man show. The exhibition will continue through the month of June. The Hyde Park Art Gallery is regularly open Sunday, Monday, and Thursday from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 12 noon to 9:00 p.m. Contact Larry Crawford, Director, Hyde Park Gallery, 11 Hyde Park or call 713/526-2744.

SPORTS NOTES

Star Studded Tuesday Show

Hostess Catia Lee Love

and Special Guests: Mr. EJ's - Brandon Martin Cameron Jade Mykels talent night winner

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8th Annual Lambda Literary Award Finalists named

From the unprintable to the spiritual, the 8th Annual Lambda Literary Award Finalists announced March 1 in Washington, DC once again beat witness to the depth and range of Gay and Lesbian books. A collection of Lesbian fiction with a four-letter word in its title was honored in two categories, while the Gay and Lesbian Spirituality category debuted with an impressive list of books, all from mainstream houses.

This book with the incendiary title, "The New F**k You (Semirealistic)" was among a set of Gay and Lesbian Fiction Anthology finalists that itself demonstrated the field's range. Also selected in the category were Forbidden Passages (Clein), a collection of gay and lesbian fiction banned in Canada until a recent lawsuit placed limits on the ability of Canadian Customs to censor gay and lesbian books, Afireke (Anchor), a collection of writings by African-American lesbians, Tasting Life Twice (Anchor), another collection of lesbian fiction, and His, a collection of gay male writing issued by the venerable publishing house of Faber and Faber. (There's an irony in this category: Tasting Life Twice editor EJ Levy, made her criteria for inclusion in the anthology writing "by lesbians," drawing an explicit distinction with the Lambda Literary Awards, which recognizes books based on gay and lesbian content.)

The finalists in the Spirituality category also demonstrate the range of gay and lesbian writing. Queer Spirit (Beacon) is a rebuke to those who regard gay men as purely physical, demonstrating a long tradition identifying "queer" men as lovers, healers, artists and teachers in cultures as disparate as ancient Babylon, native Hawaiian, and contemporary San Francisco. Peter Cashoral's Gay Fairy Tales (Harper Collins) likewise looks at gay men in terms of past tradition, reinterpretting many "magical" stories with a gay twist. Wrestling with the Angels (Riverhead) details the struggles of gay men with the mainstream religions in which they grew up. Catholic priest John McNeill's Freedom, Glorious Freedom (Beacon) and MCC minister Nancy Wilson's Our Tribe (Harper San Francisco) look at the ferment, excitement and promise of the thriving contemporary gay and lesbian religious movement.

As if there were a cosmic fate determined to highlight just how much the phrase "gay and lesbian" can include, two books with very similar names and very different agendas were selected in the Lesbian and Gay Men's Studies categories. Virtual Equality (Anchor) is a collection of works by former National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director Urvashi Vaid, and argues that the gay and lesbian movement will never succeed until it gives up its dream of assimilation and sees its struggle as one to radically change society to make it tolerant of diversity and difference; Virtually Normal (Random House), by New Republic editor Andrew Sullivan, argues that the gay and lesbian movement will never succeed until it gives up its dream of radically restructuring society, and instead places its hope in winning for its members the same rights and opportunities. Such a marriage, enjoyed by the rest of society.

The other finalists in the Lesbian Studies category are Dyke Life (Basic Books), by Karla Jay; S/he (Firebrand), by Minnie Bruce Pratt; Tomboys (Alison), edited by Lynn Yamaguchi and Karen Barber; and Parker and Halme (Firebrand), by Julie Glauminza and Alison J. Lurie. The other Gay Men's Studies nominees are Invention of Heterosexuality (Dutton), by Jonathan Ned Katz; De Los Otros (Columbia University), by Joseph Carriker; I, Pierre Seel; Depotted Homosexual (BasicBooks), by Pierre Seel; and Saint-Foucault, by Daniel Halperin (Oxford University Press).

In addition to The New F**k You, Dyke Life, Tomboys and S/he were finalists in two large categories. Large publishing houses continued to be well represented on this year's list, with Harper Collins having eleven titles. Viking/Penguin ten finalists and Random House eight finalists. Among the gay, lesbian and feminist small presses, Firebrand led the way with five nominees, followed by four each from Cleis, three from Alyson and two each from Seal, Naad and BadBoy presses. The nomination process was further evidence of the ongoing boom in gay and lesbian books: nearly 450 books were nominated for the award, with especially large numbers of titles in categories such as Lesbian Fiction (45), Gay Men's Studies (43), Nonfiction Anthologies (35), and Small Press (60).

The Lambda Literary Awards have a three tier selection process. A list of nominees is assembled from ballots sent in by readers; this year, nearly 300,000 ballots were distributed nationwide. The books nominated were narrowed down to five finalists in each category by a finalist committee that included gay and lesbian book professionals, members of the lesbian and gay press and others. 104 judges, representing a broad cross-section of the entire lesbian and gay literary community, will select a single book in each category from among the finalists.

Award recipients will be announced at a gala banquet in Chicago, Illinois, on Friday, June 14, 1995 during the American Booksellers Association Convention. For further information about the awards program or banquet tickets, please contact LAMBDA BOOK REPORT, 1625 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC, 20009-1013 or phone the LAMMYS LINE at (202) 462-7924.

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HOUSTON VOICE / MAY 31, 1996 15
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Republican Rejection

(Continued from Page 1)

Republicans informing them that their requests for a booth and a full page advertisement had been "rejected." There is no explanation in the text of the letter giving a reason for the rejection.

State GOP officials sought to distinguish the appearance of a pro-choice group from the appearance of a gay group. Lester Van Pelt III, spokesman for the Texas GOP, said that sodomy is still a crime in Texas, while abortion is legal.

"That is a ridiculous distinction," retorted Carpenter. "We're not going to commit illegal acts in the exhibit booth. We're just going to be exercising our right to speak out on the party's platform, which was not illegal the last time I checked the Constitution," he said. Carpenter also noted that the state's prohibition on sodomy has been held an unconstitutional invasion of the right of privacy in Texas.

"I believe the party's decision will not sit well with fair-minded Republicans across this state, including some party officials and delegates who are vocal opponents of the state convention," observed Carpenter, himself a Republican precinct chairman and state convention delegate. He added that Log Cabin would consider all appropriate responses to the party's decision, including possible legal action.

"Regardless of what happens now, we intend to stay in the party and fight for equality for gays and lesbians," he concluded. "Here's our message to the party: we're Republicans, we're gay, and no matter what you do or say—we're not going away. Ever."

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) has joined Log Cabin groups from around Texas in protesting the State Republican Party's decision to not allow Log Cabin to set up a booth at the upcoming convention in San Antonio. They are calling on the entire community to lodge a complaint against the party by calling the executive director Barbara Jackson in Austin.

"The Caucus is committed to the right of Gays and Lesbians to participate openly in all political parties here in Texas," said HGLPC president Pat Gandy. "Opposing part of a party's platform is how change is made to improve our lives. It's a critical part of the democratic process."

In a statement, the HGLPC said they find it reprehensible that the Republican party has decided to exclude a group of active Republicans from voicing its belief in fair and equal treatment for Gays and Lesbians. "We wouldn't stand for this in the Democratic Party and we won't stand for it in the Republican Party," said Gandy. The Caucus urges all Houstonians to stand up to the politics of exclusion and protest the state GOP's decision barring the Log Cabin booth. Texas GOP Executive Director Barbara Jackson can be reached at (512) 437-9821.

Log Cabin is a nationwide organization of Republicans who believe the party should welcome gays and lesbians and should support the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. In Texas, the group has chapters in Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio.

Rejection Letter from State GOP

May 21, 1996

State Executive Committee
Thomas W. Pauken, State Chairperson
Requested #P 431-105-447

Mr. Dale Carpenter
Log Cabin Republicans of Texas
P.O. Box 50484
Austin, Texas 78763-0484

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

Please note your organization's proposed advertisement for the 1996 Republican Party of Texas (RPT) State Convention program has been rejected for inclusion in the program. Enclosed please find your check #4725 in the amount of $750.00. Also enclosed please find RPT check #3320 in the amount of $400.00 as refund for your organization's booth request. This request has also been rejected.

Sincerely,
Barbara Jackson
Executive Director

Get off it. Exercise.
Mr. Prime Choice Weekend

Don Gill and Don Dowden host this contest for men over 40! Allan Gibson will also provide entertainment! The contest starts at 9:00 p.m.

But I have to win, I bought 60 tickets!

If it is Tuesday, I must be a Mary's for their $2 Jose Cuervo shots all day and all night!

Join Cata La Love and her guests Mr. EJ's '96 Brandon Martin, Jade Mykels, Mr. Gay Life Today Cameron, plus the talent night winner from Saturday night's talent contest for the Star Studded Super Show tonight at EJ's.

The show starts at 11:00 p.m.

Big Mama Marcil plays the songs you want to hear at the BrianPatch! Be sure to try on the BrianPatch's Texas-sized martinis! There is plenty of room for olives in those glasses!

Terrific Tuesdays at Berry Hill II tempe and ease you with dear naked female dancers! The doors open at 6:00 p.m. and happy hour runs thru 10:00 p.m. Berry Hill II is located off 1-45 North at the Greenspoint exit.

Wednesday, June 5

It's my party and I'll Mary's if I want to! Join birthday gal Gaye Yancy as she celebrates her 10 year anniversary at Mary's and the big five-O, (eyes 50) birthday. The party starts at 3:00 p.m.

Back to back to Bacchus II Join your friends for the 6:00 p.m. buffet and enjoy the sounds of Colleen and Sandy (of W. 42nd Street) starting at 7:00 p.m. Bacchus II, where Houston's professional women meet!

Sheila Lennon is singing her birthday blues tonight at Chances. The candles are lit starting at 9:00 p.m.

The Boy Toys boogie at Gentry starting at 7:00 p.m. You might want to try Gentry's specialty cocktail Ambrosia for only $2. Tasty, tasty! While you wet your whistle, watch the male strip contest at 11:00 p.m.

Tonight and tomorrow night, Mela's Tejano Country offers big ol' buckets of beer for only $9. Be sure to check out Mela's Tejano packed juke box!
Ratrat Gets a Hat!!

Johnson has all you custom screen printing, embroidery, and ad specialty needs covered. Call him at 523-6923 for more info.

Those crazy guys at 24 Hour News and Video are still offering all videos for half price with a coupon form the Houston Voice! Clip out the coupon from page 6 and shop till you drop!

Jo! June 8 on your calendar! It is Gentry's 6th anniversary party! 50¢ well cocktails and 75¢ domestics! I'm sure not going to miss this party!

Stan Tubbs has solutions for living. Call him at 526-8802 to set up an appointment.

This week's features at the French Quarter are "Leather Triangle" and "Photo Play."

Martin's offers estate sale management. They specialize in professional household liquidation for those moving, retiring, or settling an estate. Call Martin at 523-6923 for more info.

Contact for the Sky! Skyz Martins are only $3 today and every Thursday at Gentry! Don't forget the Boy Toys wiggle wildly starting at 9:00 p.m.

Other Important Stuff

Lobo is moving out their long time home on the curb to a new, bigger and better location. Their new address is 3939-S Montrose. That is in the shopping center that also houses Marble Slab and General Joe's. They open their new doors on June 11.

Tickets are available for the roof of Mary's for the parade! Stop in the bar to get your ASAP! They go fast!

The Houston Voice would like to welcome Coastal Impressions to out family of advertisers! Bill Johnson has all you custom screen printing, embroidery, and ad specialty needs covered. Call him at 665-1117 for more info.

Get you tickets NOW for the Gay Pride Comedy Shows that will be at the Houston Laft Stop on June 17 and June 18! See the ad on page 3 and call 524-2333 for tickets! Hurry, with these laugh riotous comedians, the tickets will go real fast!

At the Ripcord!

Houston Soap, Part II Thursday, June 6

Burgers on the patio at the BRB tonight from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Stick around for free C&W dance lessons starting at 9:00 p.m.!!!

Sexx Thursdays continue at Pacific Street! There is no cover with your valid membership card to Club Houston or any other health club! Watch the towel boys sweat in their cages of steam heat! The doors open for "Sexx" at 9:00 p.m.

Reach for the Sky! Skyz Martins are only $3 today and every Thursday at Gentry! Don't forget the Boy Toys wiggle wildly starting at 9:00 p.m.

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At the Ripcord!

Birthday Corner

A happy birthday to Stormy of Charlie's!

A happy birthday to Woody of Gentry!

A happy birthday to Glen of Gentry!

Rodent Dropings

Ratrat has been watching old reruns of McHale's Navy and insisted that I buy him a sailor's hat. Well, it came in the mail this week! He looks so adorable with this on and actually has worn it for more than 2 minutes! I think the only reason it stayed on it that I might have tightened the knot just a wee bit too much! Oh, well, pictures will be forthcoming!

The usual disclaimer is in force! As you all know, this part of the Houston Voice is not journalism, it is lies, gossip, and trash seen, overheard, or tattled to me!

Eric (Hangs at Mary's): What's the white stuff they were seen in the garden?

Papa Del (Gentry): Are Filipino grits better the second time around?

J.T. (PS): What is this I hear about you having a funnel tongue? Are you jealous of Glen's (PS) clover tongue?

Jim Roberts (Venture-N): Are the rumors about you true? Details, I want details!

Dave W. (hangs at Gentry): I kinda sorta hear that you had a date! Did you remember how?

Pacific Street Bar Whore Tour: How long did it take you boys to get tossed out of Austin?

Tommie Sue (BRB): Sean (Gentry) wants to know how many customers you have knocked over lately because of your hard nipples?

Kurt (MMC) and Jim: Congratulations on your nuptials!

Big Mike (BRB): Why do you have stars in you eyes these days?

Cameron (Mr. Gay Life Today): And I quote: "I've been gerbiled!"

Vera (BRB): Who gave you a cucumber for a Mother's Day?

Sam (Mary's): Why do you drool Spearmint Schnapps?

Britt (Midtowne): You took 4 out of town guests to the Ripcord! Why did you have them prop up?

Jennifer (RSICSS): So you are one crown short! Next time, be at the designated contest at the right time!

Rainbo (MSL): Yes, honey, you once were young and cute!

Sean (Gentry): Or should we call you cowboy? How long has it been since you rode a horse?

Shaboom (E/J's): So, you did not even recognize an old photo of yourself?

Jackie (MSL): So, you have a Whopper! Do fries come with it?

Mark (Gentry Gaps): I think I'm the only one in Houston that did not hear what happened to your car!

Rico (hangs at Mary's): Yes, dear, you finally see your name in print!

If you find tons of type-os and grammatical errors, it is not Clifford's fault. He did not proofread Soap this week!

Cuerovlyn

At the Lambda Skate Club pajama party!
New Editor...

(Continued from Page 1)

Gay & Bi Equal Rights and Liberation gave Bell the opportunity to take her years of activism to the national level in a paid position as the National Organizer for the march. Billy Hileman, one of the march co-chairs said of Bell, "Deborah was the outstanding candidate in an impressive group of applicants. Her experience as a feminist organizer is incredible. She brings to the organizing effort determination, competence and a commitment to grassroots organizing."

Work with the march included working on several publications where Bell was called on to write, edit, sell ads, do layout, and deliver papers. "It was an incredible experience," Bell says of the year she spent in the Nation’s capital. "I learned so much, got to work with outstanding leaders from all over the country and even got to attend an inaugural ball."

One of my cherished memories from that year is being asked to read names at the national display of the Names Project Quilt in 1992. Not only was I moved by the fact that my list of names included some of "my guys" from Bretton, but the person who I read after was, Jeanne White, Ryan White’s mother." "I asked about what the march meant to her on a personal level. Bell stated, "I had to call upon the best of myself and saw the rest of the community do the same to make the march be the successful event that it was."

I’m extremely proud of the work that we did. It was such a monumental effort, and we pulled it off," Bell laughingly added. "Of course, now I think I’m capable of handling anything, even editing the Houston Voice!"

Bell says she has a hard act to follow. "I think Sherri will really be missed. She is well respected in the community as a very talented writer and editor, which is one reason I nominated her for Grand Marshall of Pride Week in 1992. I know I am sorry to see her leave Houston, but understand her need to take care of herself and her family situation. She also has two boys she is raising alone and I know what that is like. She will at least have family around to help in Louisiana."

Bell sympathizes. "I hope that she won’t leave us entirely, because there will always be a place in the Houston Voice for her writings." Bell said.

Are big changes planned for the paper? Bell stated that she doesn’t think that is the case, at least for the time being. "Sherri and I are different people and of course have different styles, so there are bound to be some changes. I hope I can keep the best of the foundation she worked to build here and take it from there," Bell says. She also says she welcomes the guidance of members of the community and may even do some focus groups in the near future. "Unlike a purely commercial venture, as a community newspaper, we have a responsibility to the community we serve. To me that is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people, not only in Montrose, but in the Greater Houston area, in and outside the loop. I need to know ways that can best be done. Is there a segment we are not serving? A way to do it better? What do people like or dislike about what is being done now? What do our readers want?"

It also means the businesses we give our money to. Of course, we need to have the financial backing of our advertisers, so we will be looking at ways to better serve them and build revenues. We are counting on their support, especially to us we can get better equipment in here. That will make our jobs a lot easier," Bell emphasized. I do have some ideas that I am really excited about, things I want to write, and see covered. My editorial column "In My Own Voice" premiered in this issue. We really welcome submissions from the community, book reports, news and culture, as well as our personal stories. It is so important that we report what our lives really are. It is the documentation of what we are all about as a people, what history will know of us." Bell concluded by saying, "I’ve only been at work a few days, but there is a good staff here. Jack, Maggie, Carolyn, Lee, Matt, Ray and Al are working hard and care about the quality of our work. My first day was the busiest day of the week for them, a Wednesday - the day the paper is put to bed (sent to the printer). I was very impressed. It is a real team effort. The writers also work hard to bring interesting columns and information. I’ve been following their work as a reader and am looking forward to working with Glen, Jon, Curt, Larry, Jazz, Javier, B.R. and the others."

1996 PRIDE GUIDE MAILING

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Where: Multi-purpose Service Center-1475 West Gray

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9:30 a.m. to noon
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Mission: Impossible (Mi) kicked off the summer season of high profile films slated to be released within the next month. With the phenomenal success of 'Twister' and the record breaking opening weekend tallies of 'Mi', this could be a record breaking year for film industry annual revenues. Amidst all the hype regarding big films, some of the smaller independent movies and foreign art house films get lost in the melee for media hyperbole to become king of the box-office. One of those films is Nobody Loves Me (German), a somewhat complex slice of life dramedy that is certainly unique. Both films exemplify the strengths and weaknesses of their genre.

Looking For Love In All The Wrong Places

Nobody Loves Me, a box-office hit in Germany, will have its Houston run, for one week only, exclusively at the Landmark Greenway Theatre. The film can best be described as a black comedy. Maria Schäfer portrays Fanny Funk, a 29-year-old woman who is obsessed with the notion that if she does not find a husband before she's thirty, she is more likely to get hit by an Atom bomb. An airport security half-operator, Fanny's job is frikin' passengers as they travel.

Enter Orfco's Altamar (Pierro Sanoussis), a man covered in body paint whom Fanny gets stuck on the elevator with. Turns out Orfco is a psychic and palm reader who happens to moonlight as a drag queen at a gay bar Orfco describes his fate with men: 'Orfco infers that she will meet someone special, but she must initiate the affair successfully because this is her last chance. Orfco describes the man in detail and says it will relate somehow to the number 23. Meanwhile, a new building manager arrives that matches Orfco's description.

Fanny, of course, believes she must do everything and anything to succeed. Not realizing that her efforts will most likely have the opposite effect. The building manager Lothar (Michael von As) is a heartless womanizer who has managed to seduce all of the pets in the building and brought them to the pound because the lessees stipulated no pets allowed. Lothar also can't sleep alone and has a harm of woman available to sleep with him. Fanny goes to extraordinary lengths to appeal to this man. Including driving her car head on into his so that she could end up lending him her car. Finally, she just seduces him. Had she just done that in the beginning, it would have saved her and us a considerable amount of time. Subsequently, Fanny— who wants to surprise Lothar, does a negligence gets in the trunk of her car with bottle of wine in it and waits for him to go on his daily drive to a secluded area for relaxation. Predictably, Fanny is the one who gets the surprise of her life.

The problem with this film is that it makes a mockery of women. The notion that a woman can't get through life without a man is prevalent throughout the movie and perpetuates stereotypes. The film does manage to convey some thought provoking messages about love and death. Throughout the film, Fanny is enveloped in a class on how to die, not a suicide class, rather a class on the preparation process for death. Fanny's mother is there for comic fodder. She writes novels and goes into tailspins when she comes across negative reviews. The scenes with Fanny and her mother are hilariously absurd, and very funny.

Fanny's friendship with Orfco is the curve of this film. Orfco's anchorman lover has left him for another man. Lothar has evicted him because his rent is in arrears, and he is dying. Orfco is not dying of AIDS, he is from another world and in fearing for his departure to return. In order to return, he must die first. Fanny nurses and takes care of Orfco until his death. Their friendship was as intimate as any relationship between two people could be without sex. Finally, Fanny realizes something the audience knew from the beginning. You can't go looking for love, it will happen in due time. Nobody Loves Me is a complex and whimsical film that manages to frustrate and enlighten you at the same time. At times poignant, this film is a mixed bag of pop psychology.

Mission: Impossible Offers Unbelievable Escapist Fun

Predictability is certainly not one of Mission: Impossible's strong points. The heavy plot twists in this thriller border on credibility. The movie opens with a bang and manages to entertain through-out, despite some unbelievable scenes. Tom Cruise is in fine shape in this, his latest blockbuster. MI has a stellar cast, including Emilio Estevez, Jon Voight and Vanessa Redgrave among others. Redgrave is this film's strongest point. Her portrayal of Max, one of the movies villains is brilliant. Redgrave is one of the best actresses, if not the best, of our generation. Redgrave's performance as the conniving, manipulative and menacing Max is convincing, chilling and devilishly delightful.

Mission: Impossible is a fun movie. The plot is thin, unbelievable and somewhat ludicrous, yet the movie manages to move along at rapid pace with its special effects and stunts extraordinaire. It would be easy for a critic to tear this movie apart, but we would somehow be missing the point. Some films are meant to be pure escapist fun. Realism has nothing to do with it. The audience wants to be taken on a thrilling exciting ride. This film delivers the goods. There is a scene in the film where Cruise and company have to break into CIA headquarters. While the film manages to make the task of infiltrating the CIA seem relatively simple, it is the films most suspenseful scene. Another plus is the many plot twists that titillate you and keep you guessing until the end.

Mission: Impossible is a *** film that is pro sold, has a great cast, and promises to be one of the years biggest hits. Besides, it has Tom Cruise, who seems to have been working out like a mad dog. At any rate, it's a good ride as long as you don't take it seriously.
CLASSIFIEDS

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MARY'S LOUNGE accepting applications for experienced bartenders. See bartender 7am-1pm, Monday Friday. 1022 Westheimer.

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RECIPEs BY KUNTY KIDD

No-Title Turkey

Every now and then, I fix a meal that really sounds good to me, but is a little disappointing at the end. This week you need to give it to you because my significant other liked it, so maybe you will too. Depending on the ingredients you use, it could be nearly fat-free.

C 3 fresh spinach, coarsely chopped
1 tsp margarine
1 tsp olive oil
1/2 pound ground turkey
1 c fresh, grated Parmesan cheese
2 large eggs
1/4 tsp ground black pepper
1/2 tsp salt
1 pinch of fresh, grated nutmeg
3 Tbs fresh, grated Parmesan cheese
paprika

Rinse spinach well, leaving water on leaves. In skillet, using collapsible steamer, steam spinach until just wilted. Remove steamer with spinach still in it, cover and set aside. Empty water from skillet, and wipe dry.

Over medium heat, sauté chopped onion in margarine until soft but not browned. Add mushrooms and minced garlic and sauté until mushrooms are soft and dark. Remove mixture from pan and set aside with spinach, keeping covered.

Add olive oil to skillet. Over medium-high heat, sauté ground turkey and mashed garlic in olive oil until turkey is no longer pink, crumbling with spoon while cooking. Discard garlic. Remove turkey from heat, and add 1/2 tsp salt.

Drain juices from turkey and reserve. Pour juices, onion, 1 tsp buttermilk, 1 c/2 Parmesan cheese into skillet. Blend until smooth. Blend in eggs until very well blended. Pour mixture over turkey. Sauté onion with 1/2 tsp salt and pepper. Pilot cheese-egg mixture over all top and on remaining 3 Tbs Parmesan cheese. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 30 to 35 minutes, until tops is set and slightly browned. Sprinkle with paprika and let stand for 10 minutes before serving. Makes 4 servings.

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!
KUNTY KIDD

THE GREAT AMERICAN PUZZLE

TEXAS EDITION

By Henry McCarg
ACROSS
1 Peter: first Texas governor (to a second term) 8 to 10 in cerochet 16 margarita 20 ocean 23 body wild 25 one's former

5 10th and 6th consonants of the alphabet 11 Darrelle: Moniker for the head of the (Houston) voice, phone number (on CNN, radio) 12 Marian city across from El Paso 22 19th century 26 tropical American plant such as the eucalyptus and the cypress 27 epic poem 31 16-mile river 46 62-mile river 48 8-mile river 62 14-mile river 73 Peter's oar 76 12th son of Adam 80 famous Texas citygroup

19 cold Canadian river (to a headvoice)
23 alliterative name for a public relations office 32 country of wayward poor 35 country police force 38 Texas electric police force 40 1931 - 1941 when the Allies of the Axis in Europe were called, the Allies of the Axis 49 purpose of a large office building 53 1779 and 1880s 57 180s and 1980s 58 17th under scrutiny 59 1900s 60 Torres 61 Carr's brother 62 no longer a part of the state 63 member of the Pueblo people of Arizona 67 young girl 70 British Broad- casting Corporation 71 news or weather report 73 constructed in a way 74 1984; 1992, 1996; 2000; 2008 75 capital of Egypt 77 eye exam 78 information on the U.S. sidewalk

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TO ANSWER AN AD BY MAIL: Each ad has a five digit code. Write your response and seal it in a stamped envelope with the five digit code in the address space. Place your sealed response and $2.00 in an envelope and mail it to us, we will mail a response in reply. If you do not receive a response, please write to us for a refund within 30 days of your response's postmark.

GALAXY GAYZER A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 31 - JUNE 6, 1996

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The main focus for you right now is on work, and the more you accomplish, the more you receive. Relationships are important, but you must stand on your own two feet. Your yearly income will start improving.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20) You may need to keep a lot of good things secret, especially your accomplishments. Doing so may make you feel uncomfortable. You'll get a lot of support from those who are closest to you.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20) You seem to be able to handle just about anything which may be thrown your way in regards to surprises. By putting a lot of faith in those you love, it is a shock when someone lets you down. Keep your self-esteem intact and take time out for yourself.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Ongoing relationships are a little strained presently, and new ones are somewhat dubious. Just wait it out and things will improve soon. Money is not important to you, but you enjoy having enough so you can do the things you want without counting the cost.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Being quite a homebody, now will be an excellent time to capitalize on any inclinations you have in that direction. Your love life is quite intense lately. It is especially exciting that your loved one's emotional intensity matches even surpasses your own.

LEO (July 24 - August 23) This week you need to capitalize on your powers of persuasion and emerge as a winner in a business or professional situation as well as in your love life. You seem to be happier in a relationship than you are alone. Since your standards are incredibly high, your love life may not always be as harmonious as it appears to others. Enjoying companionship and the sharing of ideas is important, and you won't focus on the positive side of everything.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) Even at the best of times you have to guard against a tendency to adopt a negative attitude toward life in general and romance in particular. Whether you know it or not, you are capable of getting by on your own. Being a fast thinker, you handle sticky situations well.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) You are very good at keeping secrets, especially about how you feel about others. Your love relationship may not always translate as being somewhat private, just that you may feel that you are happy without the need for being open.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22) Beneath your strong, independent exterior lies a desire for a truly fulfilling relationship. Resist the temptation to indulge in self-destructive behavior if you do happen to be unhappily married. Emotional satisfaction can also be found in renovating old friendships.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21) Although you usually have a significant other, you do much better on your own. Independence is your motto. Your real strengths lies in your present optimism. Learn to realize those valuable moments in your life and learn from them. You have a natural athletic ability.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) The inherent falsity which seems to follow you around may stifle any positive attitude needed for you to get ahead. Your strength lies in your ability to move forward, so you need to work on gaining control over your negative thoughts. Being practical and living in the real world is your strong suit.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) Feeling dependent on others is the type of situation you steer clear of, especially when it comes to any emotional relationships. Since you do quite alright on your own, avoid hemorrhage tendencies. Your compassionate nature will get you into no more trouble than its worth.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20) Virgins, on the other hand, you could be the best way to calm the air, providing tact is used. You are feeling quite attractive lately and that feeling is communicated to everyone else. You are in touch with the guiding impulses of your nature and enjoy expressing yourself.
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**Women SEEKING Women**

SF: I'm from England. I'm 5'2" & 32. I'm new to Houston. I'm looking for friends to hang out & spend time with. I enjoy the theater, films & music. I'm open-minded. If I'm lucky, I hope to find someone who is more than a friend.

Call Ext. 5062

SF: I'm 23, 5'2" & 93 lbs. I have very short brown hair & blue eyes. So, if you're looking for a cute G2-looking little boy, it's me. Call Ext. 5048

SBH: Kidnap me. Take me on a hot air balloon ride. Seeking a female. Race & age are not important. Call Ext. 5025

SF: I'm 0'7"2 bratwurst who is very active. I enjoy traveling, dancing out, the outdoors, bike riding, etc. I'm looking for friendship & to have a lot of fun with people. Call Ext. 5025

SF: I am 36, 5'6" & 115 lbs. I have gray hair & hazel eyes. I enjoy outdoor activities, camping, kayaking, canoeing, walking in the country & riding my motorcycle. I love animals. I like all types of music, except rap & hard rock. I'm interested in meeting someone 35-45, for friendship or dating. I'm not looking for a hard task, but I am looking for a soft bat, anoduous or feminine woman, I would prefer to meet a non-smoker. No drugs, please. Light drinking is okay. Call Ext. 5020

**Men SEEKING Men**

SBM: I'm 26, 5'2" & 262 lbs. I'm a part-time student, with a professional career. I'm looking for a masculine type. Blue-collar worker is preferred. Race is not important, I like traveling & reading. I'm not into the club scene, I'm looking for someone who wants to have a good time. Life is short. Call Ext. 5087

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today and place your FREE ad.

**HOW TO USE THIS SYSTEM - Dear Reader: Enjoy reading all the ads in the category of your choice, highlighting the ones you'd like to respond to. Then just call 1-900-772-3085 ($1.69/min.* and follow the instructions. Ads are kept in service, repeated 7 days and then erased. If you need help using the system, call Customer Service at 1-800-636-9297. What you see here is only a small portion of the ads currently on our Voice Personals system, so you might wish to call and browse through the newest ads. To record your own FREE voice personal, call 1-800-461-5930. You'll automatically be assigned a voice box number. Remember, we screen our ads daily, but we are not responsible for the advertisers. We urge you to screen people yourself. Talk by phone, and meet first in a public place. Publisher reserves the right to review, revise or refuse any ads. Must be 18 or older to use this system. Touchtone phone required. *Average length of call is 3 minutes, total cost determined by caller: Have fun and good luck! (Houston Voice, Houston, TX)
FOR ADVENTURE. FOR SEX. FOR DATING. FOREVER.

Nowhere else can you meet this many men at one time. Manline has hundreds of unique and exciting voice ads for you to check out right now.

Zero right in on your type of man. Choose him from a category that best suits the relationship type and physical description you're seeking. There are 12 categories from which to select. Enjoy the kind of relationship or intimate encounter you want.

The call is free. And it's free to listen to the voice ads and record your own personal voice ad. Trade messages with other members and make instant one-to-one connections for about the cost of a cup of tea.

Find your man the fast and easy way through Manline. Call now!

CALL NOW! 917-3939

Listen to hundreds ads in 12 categories. Featuring Man-To-Man live connections!

MC does not pre-screen its callers and we assume no liability when meeting with someone through our service. Adults 18 years of age or older only. Free to call within the 713 area code.