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Y AND LESBIAN NEWS FOR NEW ORLEANS AND THE GULF SOUTH

IMPACT

VOLUME 19 ▼ NUMBER 26 ▼ DECEMBER 23, 1994-JANUARY 5, 1995



THE VIRGIN PUNISHING THE CHRIST CHILD (AFTER MAX ERNST) BY STEN ANDERSON ©1994 STEN ANDERSON

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

AH, DEAR ONES, WE LIVE in an epoch of increased specialization—to see this on the less-than-cosmic scale, have a look at the Services & Organizations column of this paper in which it would seem every human need or desire is, if not gratified, at least addressed; at least specialization need not always mean Balkanization, to use a currently near-obscure cant word. Further adducement of this, if any were required, is set forth in a proposition from the Lesbian and Gay Community Center that another group is forming there, this one for “Twenty-somethings” as an alternative to various varieties of high-decibel and liquor-soaked debauchery. So far, according to the prime mover and shaker in all of this, Scott Tierney—who has been in touch with the highly successful “Twenty-something” group in New York City and has taken it as his model—there are hopes of at least two meetings every month. The first of these is on Tuesday, January 10 at the Center (816 North Rampart). So perhaps specialization is not all that new...we could tell you a tale that happened to us, years before Stonewall, when we ventured into a gay bar for amputees in the West Thirties in New York, but we'll refrain. Of course, in those days, a word like “Twenty-something” would have been preceded by the adjective “Roaring.”

AT ONE TIME, OF COURSE, IN OPERA, the contemporary was suitable only for the comic while only antiquity and myth and the medieval seemed to have acquired a sufficiently lustrous patina to inspire the tragic; with Verdi, this—as with so much else—changed, though Verdi's attempts to work actual historical events into his work led to censorship, charges of *lèse-majesté*, and a good bit of libretto-shuffling (how else did *Un Ballo in Maschera* switch suddenly from the gay and giddy Swedish court of Gustavus III to dour Olde Puritan Days?) With *verismo*, things crept a little closer and so, finally, we end up with operas dealing with such things as the murder of Leon Klinghoffer during the hijacking of the Achille Lauro *vu par* Peter Sellars. It was only a matter of time, we suppose, before someone made an opera of the murder-cum-martyrdom of San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk (as well as the city's Mayor, George Moscone) by the nutty and vengeful Dan White, a piece of human detritus if ever there were one. Stewart Wallace and Michael Korie are the composers, and we go on about this at length because the World Premiere of *Harvey Milk* (which sounds rather like the name of one of those Britten operas and, on a simple scale of grandeur, seems a bit pallid next to *Boris Godunov* or *Adrianna Lecouvreur* or even such one word wonders as *Norma*, *Louise*, *Carmen*, *Sadko*, *Siegfried*, *Turandot*, *Arabella*, *ad nauseam*)

is a production of the Houston Grand Opera, and will be staged January 21, 25, 28, and 31 and February 3 and 5 at the Wortham Center's Brown Theatre. Christopher Alden is the director and Ward Holmquist is conductor, and the singers are Robert Orth in the title role (a baritone), Gidon Saks as Moscone (a bass), and Ray Very as Dan White (a tenor), and Juliana Gondek sings the role of Dianne Feinstein—as Anna Russell says of the inter-generational romances in *The Ring*, “I'm not making this up, you know.”

Those with a more than cursory interest in such historical matters and with the sufficiencies of leisure and means might want to attend. Tickets range from \$15 to \$75 and are available to those not in Houston by calling 1-800-828-ARTS. *Harvey Milk* was, by the by, commissioned by Drs. Dennis and Susan Carlyle.

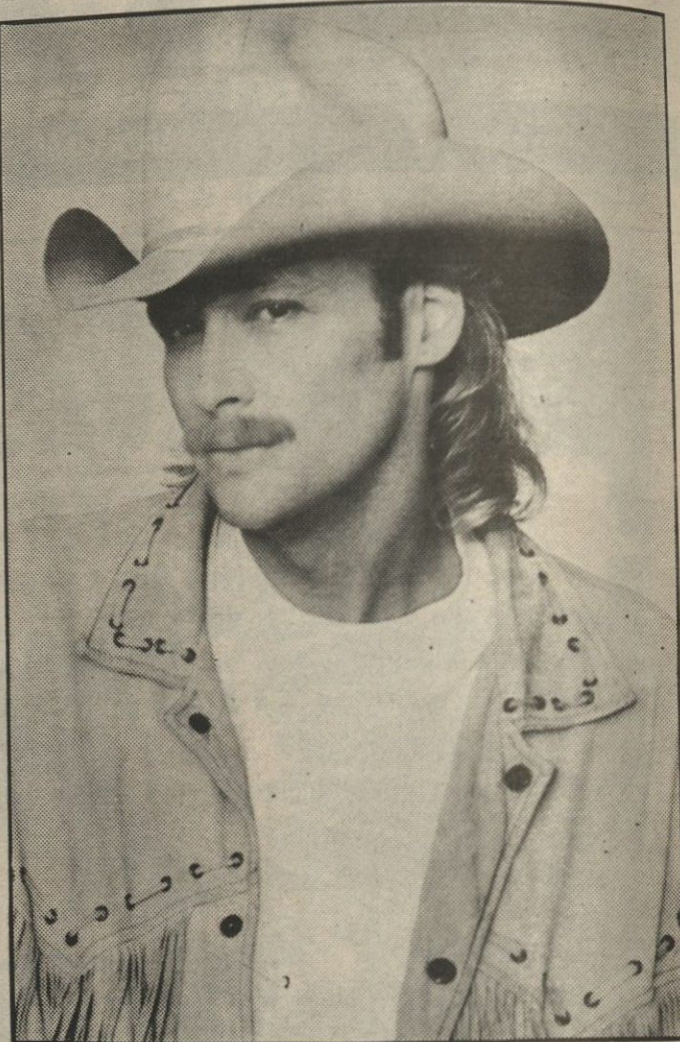
• **BRIEFLY: NETWORK Q.** the les/gay videomagazine, in its third year of production, will start distributing its monthly program through Tower Video, including the one just uptown from us on North Peters. So ask them for it already.

QUEERS R US is assembling an anthology of “all that radical, queer anti-assimilationist material that deserves a bigger audience than it got the first time around.” Send them your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, and also broadsides, ‘zinework, newsletter pieces, articles, demo fliers, as well as documentation of “transitory agitprop” (spray paint to wheat-paste to bumper-stickers), along with info such as “why you did it, what you did with it, responses.” To: D. Gould, 4646 N. Winchester Ave., #2, Chicago IL 60640, before May 1 of 1995. E-mail address: E.Rand: erand@bates.edu.

BUDDING BARDS AND POETASTERS will want to know that the International Library of Famous Poets (with an address in the heart of the Gucci Belt, on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills!) is sponsoring a poetry contest for local poets with some twenty-five prizes in all and a grand prize of a thousand big ones. Deadline—entry is one poem, twenty-one lines or less—is January 15. The Director of the contest, Dr. Richard Huntington, says, “Louisiana has produced great poets over the years, and I expect this contest to yield exciting discoveries.” Well, after all, Lee Grue and Miss Amy Boudreaux and the late Everette Maddox come immediately to mind, and after all, in Louisiana, Walt Whitman did see a Live-Oak A-Growing or something like that, so who can tell? Entries to: Free Poetry Contest, 421 N. Rodeo Drive, Suite 544, Beverly Hills CA 90210.

“FLYING TOO HIGH IN THE SKY

with some guy is my idea of nothing to do,” says the Cole Porter lyric but ideas are all relative, after all. Hence, the brand-spanking-new National Gay Pilots Association, an organization headquartered in the District of Columbia and devoted to gay and lesbian aviators—a term we refer to pilots, since it has a somewhat romantic patina on it: Amelia Earhart and Blériot and Lucky Lindy and Wiley Post were aviators, after all—in various ways. (Goals include educating aviators about their civil rights, the investigation of such matters as a support network and safe flight procedures, and—eventually—a scholarship fund.) Membership is open to commercial or corporate or student pilots, flight attendants and managers and aficionados of the Conquest of the Air; annual dues are \$35, somewhat less for students or full-time flight instructors. Information by writing N.G.P.A., Dept. N, PO Box 27542, Washington, D.C. 20038-7542 or by calling 703-660-3852. Δ



Hey, when a guy's this handsome, and you get his picture in the mail, what choice do you have, really, save to run it? This is Alan Jackson and while we're not terribly cognizant of the latest developments in country music, we might be if more of the performers looked like Mr. Jackson. He's appearing at UNO Lakefront Arena, Friday, January 20 (with special guests The Mavericks).

As of the January 6, 1995 issue of *Impact*, we will be folding our tents like Arabs and silently slipping away, at least from our current World Headquarters on Marigny Street. (Having determined at least that said street—named for that heroic city planner, not-so-heroic “real-estate developer,” and even-less-heroic compulsive gambler—isn't really big enough to contain Dawn Dedeaux, Patrick Shannon, El Rey de Chicharrones, our Editor, and this newspaper.) We will be moving to 2120 Burgundy Street, opposite the former site of the fabled Paris Theatre, and while we look with fondness on the past two years here next door to French Market Ice Company, we'll be a bit easier to get to and closer to the French Market and the CBD. Our phone number—94-IMPACT—will, of course, remain the same.

The Staff of
Impact
Gulf South
Gay News
would like to wish
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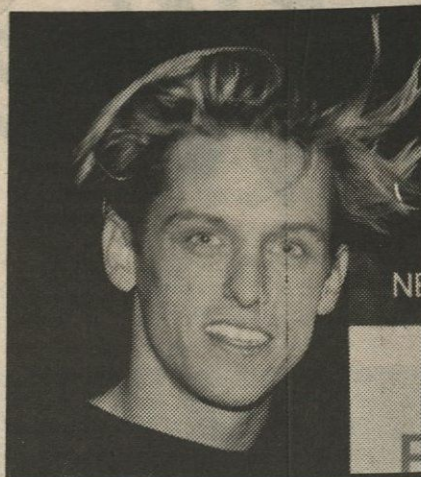
OBITUARIES

Leif Eric Spivey
20 December 1958 - 13 December 1994

Eric Spivey, son of the late Lester and Marilyn Louise Spivey, sisters Anne Marie Spivey and Chantelle Martin, brothers Joseph, George, and Blue Spivey, and his lover of nine years, John



Ishmael, in Atlanta, Georgia, of complications from HIV. Owner/operator of Club NONO and The Dinner Table restaurant, member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues. After moving to Atlanta in 1990, Eric began the public access television program, Out in Atlanta, and in August of 1992 was elected as an openly gay, HIV+ delegate to the Democratic National Convention (from, ironically, Cobb County!) and started another television program, Positive Living. In August of 1993, Eric ran for the Atlanta City Council, and placed third in a field of five candidates. A celebration was held in Atlanta on December 17; donations in his memory to The AIDS Survival Project, Atlanta.



Mark Reynolds:
11 November 1957 - 17 November 1994
Sadly Missed by Family, Management & Staff
of the Bourbon Pub/Parade, and Friends

IMPACT

is published in New Orleans, Louisiana and distributed free on alternating Fridays of each month in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Houma, Lafayette, Monroe, and Shreveport, Louisiana, Biloxi, Mississippi; and selected outlets in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, and Mobile, Alabama; Pensacola and Tampa, Florida; Austin, Dallas and Houston, Texas; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Los Angeles and San Francisco, California; Chicago, Illinois; Washington D.C., New York City, New York, and; selected outlets in North and South Carolina, Minnesota, Maryland, and New Mexico. (\$1⁰⁰ Outside Louisiana)

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The office address is 511 Marigny Street;

Office hours are 10 until 5

(CST) Mondays- Fridays.

Telephone: (504) 944-6722;

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Design Consultants: Wenger Ink, Inc.

Sample copies or back issues are \$2 postpaid.
Subscriptions are \$50 per year, postpaid
(overseas or air mail rates upon request)



Steven Dale Hanson
Died 15 December 1994 at Lazarus House
Born 15 February 1956 in Great Falls,
Montana

Survived by brothers Ferlyn Hudson of Walla Walla, Washington, Robert Hanson of Portland, Oregon, and sister Renae Smith of Vancouver, Washington. Moved from Florida to New Orleans in 1986. Worked for New Orleans Reproductions.

Memorial Service to Be Announced

F.Y.I.

LONG ROAD TO FREEDOM: THE
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THE NEWS

OREGON CITIZENS ALLIANCE CHIEF: THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—The attorney general's office has rebuffed a bid by the loathsome Lou Mabon and his Oregon Citizens Alliance to put its latest anti-gay-rights measure on the May 1996 primary ballot instead of the November ballot. Though statewide citizen initiatives have always gone on the November ballot, the OCA said it wants to place its new plan on the May ballot to avoid competition from other measures in the fall election.

Attorney General Ted Kulongoski's office said December 16 that the state constitution spells out that votes on initiatives measures are to be held in the general election, unless the Legislature specifies otherwise.

OCA Chairman Lon Mabon said his group might challenge that interpretation in court. To be safe, however, the group has filed a new measure for the November 1996 ballot as well, he said. The OCA's latest attempt to enact a statewide anti-gay-rights policy was rejected by voters in the Nov. 8 election. Δ

STUDY SUGGESTS NEW HERPES VIRUS MAY CAUSE KAPOSI'S SARCOMA

WASHINGTON (AP)—A deadly cancer that strikes more than a fourth of all homosexual men with AIDS may be related to a herpes virus, according to researchers who report today on discovery of genetic evidence of the virus. In a study published in the journal *Science*, researchers led by a husband-and-wife team at Columbia University report that unique DNA sequences, or fragments of genes, were isolated from tissues of Kaposi's sarcoma lesions taken from AIDS patients and that the gene material may be from a previously unknown human herpes virus.

"The DNA sequences we found contain portions of at least three different genes that are unique to herpes virus," said Dr. Yuan Chang of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. "The evidence strongly suggests that these DNA sequences belong to a new herpes sequence, but additional tests are needed to confirm it." Finding the viral gene sequences in nearly all of the Kaposi's lesions tested raises the intriguing possibility that the same virus is the cause, or at least a contributor, to the cancer, said Chang. But she emphasized this is only speculation.

Proof that a virus causes Kaposi's sarcoma could lead to developing a diagnostic test to find people susceptible to the disease and perhaps to a drug that would kill the virus and thus prevent the cancer.

Chang's husband, Dr. Patrick Moore of the Columbia University School of Public Health, said Kaposi's sarcoma, or KS, was a rare cancer, usually seen only in elderly men of eastern Mediterranean ancestry, until the AIDS epidemic. Since then, KS is found in 25 percent to 50 percent of all gay men infected with human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, which causes AIDS. Moore said that the classic KS is a slowly developing disease of the skin but that in AIDS patients the cancer can spread throughout the body and is "very serious and very aggressive."

Laboratories all over the world have been trying to determine if KS is caused by some

infectious agent. Other viruses or bacteria have been suggested in the past, but were never confirmed. "It's really good work and it could be a substantial advance," Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Institutes of Health said in *Science*. "But I have major questions." Gallo and other researchers suggest more proof is needed of the precise role of virus in KS.

Chang and Moore said they plan to test for the virus in tissue from patients with the classic KS not associated with AIDS. If the virus is found there, it would support the suggestion that the virus causes KS. There are seven human herpes virus, and all are troublesome.

Moore said that viral gene sequences isolated so far show that the new virus is most closely related to Epstein-Barr, a herpes-type virus that causes mononucleosis and has been associated with some cancers, and to simian, a herpes virus that causes cancer in monkeys. Chang, Moore and their colleagues found the virus gene sequences in 25 of 27 tissues tested from AIDS-related KS lesions. The sequences were found in six of 39 non-cancerous specimens from patients who had AIDS. In 85 people with neither AIDS nor KS, the gene sequences were not found. Δ

NEBRASKA CLUB OWNER AGREES TO REMOVE CONTROVERSIAL ART EXHIBIT

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—The owner of a nightclub has agreed to remove a controversial display of gay art while a judge decides whether the pictures are pornographic. Omaha City Prosecutor Martin Conboy said he agreed on December 15 not to file charges against Terry Tippet, the owner of the Run club, after deciding that the issue would best be decided through a civil proceeding. "From our perspective, they've agreed to stop the display," he said. "It's as much as we can ask, and we'll get the same resolution because we'll get an issuance of opinion by a judge."

Police seized three pictures December 13 on display in the basement of the nightclub. Tippet said the pictures are part of a 22-piece art collection done by gay artists from San Francisco. "If they consider this bad, I'd say they need to look at the floor of the Capitol building and the Joslyn (Art Museum). There's some pretty lewd stuff in those places," Tippet said.

Tippet's attorney, Jeffery Silver, plans to ask a district judge next week to decide whether the pictures in question are pornographic or obscene under state law. The agreement means that Tippet avoids a criminal proceeding, Silver said. "Ultimately, it's a question of what scenario a court will determine this under," Silver said. "Now it will be civil proceeding, so that eliminates any criminal elements."

Conboy said he had planned to file a misdemeanor charge of exhibiting pornography against Tippet. The decision followed an investigation in which police officers confiscated three pieces. The works contain nudity and some depict men performing sexual acts. "There is no hard and fast standard or special guideline in these cases," Conboy said. "But what I saw, by law, would not be acceptable for public display." Δ



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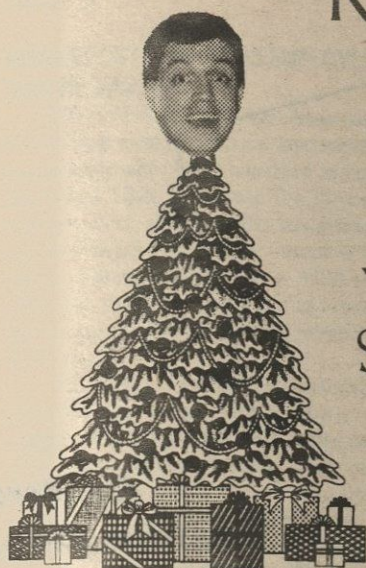
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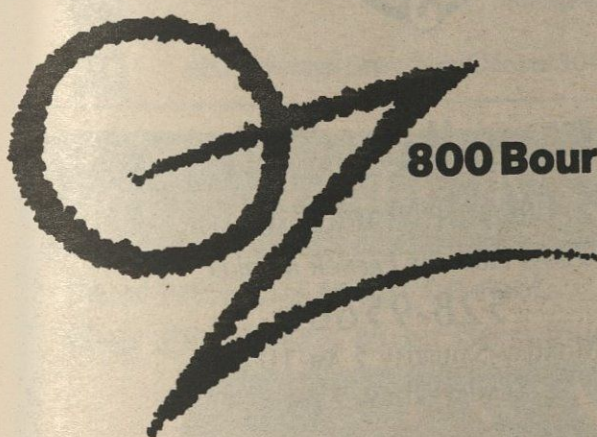


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CHIEF RABBINATE COURT CRITICIZES RECOGNITION OF GAY COUPLES

JERUSALEM (AP)—An Israeli Supreme Court ruling recognizing the rights of gay couples will destroy the fabric of Jewish life, Israel's Chief Rabbinate said on December 13. Moshe Friedman, spokesman for the nation's top religious authority, said the ruling ignores the principles of the Torah, or Jewish Bible. "This decision provides a dangerous opening toward justifying a way of life defined in the Torah as an abomination," Friedman said in a statement. "The ruling uproots the central place of family in Israel and undermines moralistic Jewish character as it is expressed in the Torah."

The high court ruled Oct. 30 that the national airline El Al must grant the boyfriend of a flight attendant the same benefits granted to spouses of other employees. The rabbinate, made up of the chief rabbis of the Ashkenazi and Sephardi Orthodox communities, called for Israel's parliament to pass a bill using Jewish law to define a couple. Leaders of the Reform Jewish movement accused the rabbinate of trying to impose its Orthodox standards on a largely secular public. "The Chief Rabbinate has a monopoly over Jewish life in Israel and we don't agree with that," said Amir Shacham of the Israel Religious Action Center, a Reform group. Shacham said Reform rabbis would not perform a homosexual wedding ceremony because of religious principle, but the issue at hand was one of civil rights. Δ

CALIFORNIA COPS SAY MURDER VICTIM WAS A MAN

CONCORD, Calif. (AP)—Police investigating the death of a transvestite who was married to a Washington state Navy sailor were unsure whether the victim's sexuality was a factor in the killing.

"It's certainly possible, but we just don't know," police spokesman Joe Kreins said December 12. The 28-year-old transvestite who went by the name Terrie Ladwig was found strangled in the couple's apartment on Dec. 2. Ladwig married Navy Petty Officer Steven Ladwig last summer in Reno. The couple had dated about four months before Steven Ladwig discovered that his partner was a man. "I was kind of confused, but I wasn't upset," said Steven Ladwig, 25. "I consider her full female. I'm not gay. I don't feel that way. It wasn't really a sexual relation. We were friends. I was lonely, she was lonely. Mostly we enjoyed each other's company."

Steven Ladwig found his partner's body in their apartment after returning from a tour of duty aboard the USS Parche. He is not a suspect in the killing, Kreins said. Terrie Ladwig, also known as Larry Earl Thompson, intended to have surgery to become a transsexual, police said. Military officials were investigating the incident, including Steven Ladwig's sexuality, but declined to say whether he faced discipline, said Navy spokesman Michael Pascoe.

The investigation could take some time because it was unclear whether Steven Ladwig, who has said he is not gay, falls under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy regarding gay soldiers, Pascoe said. Steven Ladwig is stationed in Bangor, Wash. Terrie Ladwig, a nurse, was planning to move to Washington state later this month to be closer to the base. Police do not have a motive or any suspects in the murder. Δ

MASSACHUSETTS TEEN-AGERS COMPLAIN GAY RIGHTS LAW IGNORED AT THEIR SCHOOLS

BOSTON (AP)—At 16, Kate MacLeod says she already has been hounded out of one school by classmates who branded her "a dyke and a lesbo" because she dressed a little differently and spoke out for gay rights. That was only junior high, too, and before she had told anyone she was bisexual. In between, there were occasional thoughts of suicide but mostly pain. "Every time I hear those hateful words, I hurt," MacLeod, a sophomore at Duxbury Junior-Senior High School, told the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth on December 12. A year after Massachusetts enacted the nation's first law protecting the civil rights of homosexual teen-agers in public schools, students say gay bashing continues unabated in classrooms and hallways across the state.

What's worse, students and state officials say, is some principals are doing little if anything to enforce the law protecting their gay and lesbian pupils.

"Until now, we have given schools time to voluntarily follow the law," said David LaFountaine, chairman of the commission. "There seems to be a lower standard for respecting gay student rights than for other civil rights of students," LaFountaine said testimony from some of the more than 250 students, parents and educators at the hearing would be included in a report to Gov. William Weld on how to close gaps in enforcing the law.

Since Weld signed the protections for gay students into law last year, the number of gay-straight high school support groups around Massachusetts has jumped from just five to 35. But the increased visibility of the gay and lesbian groups has drawn both the ridicule of classmates and attempts in by some school officials to disband the organizations, LaFountaine said.

Alan Safran, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Department of Education, said he was unaware of any instances where administrators or teachers were resisting the law meant to make schools safe places for gay and lesbian students to learn. C.J. Doyle, of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, blasted the law as "a weapon in the hands of homosexual militants to censor, silence, and punish critics of homosexual behavior." Doyle said the law limits free speech, citing the case of a teacher at Boston Latin who was reprimanded for "the thought crime of expressing his moral beliefs about homosexuality."

Meanwhile, state education officials and gay activists want to start requiring teachers to be trained on how to help gay and lesbian students cope with some of their problems. The program, believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, is part of a larger campaign to improve the lot of gay students at public schools.

Activists say many teen-agers feel isolated in school and suffer intense emotional pain as they come to grips with being homosexual. A federal study has suggested that gay teens are at a much greater risk of attempting suicide than their heterosexual peers. But it takes more than just a handful of programs that few students even know exist to combat homophobia, said Jennifer Adelman, a senior at Arlington High who founded the school's Gay Straight Alliance earlier this year. "Just because a task force exists and just because 80 kids go to see the movie *Philadelphia* doesn't mean the school is a safe place to be gay or bisexual," she said. Δ

NEWS CONTINUED

SEATTLE BISHOP SAYS NIXING GAY WEDDING GRIEVED HIM

SEATTLE (AP)—An Episcopal bishop says it was extremely painful for him to stop a gay wedding that was to be held at a Seattle church. In a letter read to parishioners at St. Mark's Cathedral on December 11, the Rt. Rev. Vincent Warner said he couldn't allow the ceremony because the church has not taken a position on same-sex unions. "As a person who has all my life stood with those who are marginalized by the church and society, it grieves me deeply that I am the person who says no," Warner said in his letter. "And I ache for the couple who only asked that their care for one another, their covenant, be witnessed and blessed by the church."

Thom Monnahan, 39, and Jim Black, 52, had planned a commitment ceremony at the Capitol Hill church that afternoon and had invited hundreds of guests from as far as England and Vietnam. But Warner last week told the Very Rev. Frederick Northup, dean of St. Mark's Cathedral, he couldn't perform the blessing of the same-sex union.

Northup offered to preside over the ceremony anyway, but the couple called it off. They said a union not blessed by the church would not open the door for other gay couples. Warner said the Episcopal church's general convention last August decided that before same-sex unions would be blessed, a theological basis for a liturgy would be developed. He said it would be presented to the next general convention in 1997.

But Warner, bishop of the Diocese of Olympia of the Episcopal Church, added that he would start a dialogue on the issue between now and the church's next general convention. A letter from Monnahan and Black also was read to the congregation. In it, the couple apologized for any inconvenience the issue has caused and thanked parishioners for their support. In his sermon, Northup said he was both ashamed and proud of the church over the issue. "In the dialogue in these coming months, we must point out the hypocrisy of the church," he said. "Either we accept people or we don't." Δ

SANTA WITH AIDS REACTIVATES SUIT AGAINST MACY'S

NEW YORK (AP)—Mark Woodley's Santa costume hangs in his closet like an old tuxedo.

He put it on only once this season. Five years ago, when he was Macy's grand old elf, children opened their hearts to him. But then he got the virus that causes AIDS. The world's largest department store refused to rehire him. And he filed a lawsuit against Macy's (which has always preened re its holiday 'spirit', cf. *Miracle On 34th Street* in any of its various incarnations and that horrid Thanksgiving parade) saying it had discriminated against him because he was HIV-positive. The suit lay dormant, however, after Macy's bankruptcy in 1992.

During the next three years, Woodley kept busy as an architect and played Santa for private parties, mostly for children with AIDS. But he still dreamed of getting back his job at Macy's. Now, with the store's acquisition by Federated Department Stores Inc. and its emergence from Chapter 11, Woodley and his lawyers are dusting off his lawsuit and pushing ahead for a day in court. "Basically, after waiting three years to get my day in court, we are going forward to do that," Woodley, 45, said December 9. Earlier that week, his lawyer, Elizabeth Koob, sent a letter to Macy's lawyers informing them that he was proceeding with his case.

Woodley is seeking more than \$3 million in damages, as well as the opportunity to play Macy's Santa again. He also said he filed the suit to educate people about AIDS. "It was a personal thing that has an important principle behind it," he said. "You can't get AIDS from Santa Claus. You can't get AIDS by sitting on Santa's lap. If it was transmitted that easily, everyone in the country would have it. The fear that was behind Macy's decision not to rehire me is a fear that I think needs to be addressed."

Besides, he said, "I was one of the best Santas they had when I was there. I really did the job well. ... I believed in it, in the magic of Santa Claus."

Macy's spokeswoman, Christine Carter, said the store would not comment on the suit, but added, "We absolutely do not discriminate. We never have discriminated. And we are an equal opportunity employer." Macy's officials have said in the past that the year Woodley was not rehired, he was offered a job supervising Santas at more pay. And they noted the store has give thousands of dollars to AIDS causes.

Macy's also said it was worried that the drug Prozac, which Woodley was taking for depression, would cause him to have sharp mood swings. He had written on his employment application that he was taking AZT, an AIDS medication, as well as Prozac.

Woodley has been diagnosed as having AIDS, but no infections have set in, he says. He describes his health as "pretty good." He recalled that in 1989 he went to Macy's to play Santa because he thought it would help him get over the death of a friend who had AIDS. "What better way to reaffirm life than being around kids!" he says.

Later, as he listened to

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Gay and lesbian rights is no longer a 'No-Way' issue for a lot of politicians. It's an 'Oh-shit' issue. And that's very important. It has become a difficult issue for a lot of people. That's a very real improvement. —Rep. Barney Frank speaking to the Washington, D.C. chapter of P-FLAG on November 20; quoted by Kristina Campbell in the Washington Blade, 12.2.94 issue

the wishes of children with the AIDS virus at the State University Health Science Center in Brooklyn, he felt his own life was reaffirmed. The children, he said, reminded him of how important it is to live in the moment. "They don't let (AIDS) stop them," he said. "They go full tilt." Δ

SHREVEPORT THIEF BITES EMPLOYEE, SAYS HE HAS AIDS

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP)—A man who tried to steal meat from a local supermarket bit an employee who chased him down and shouted that he had AIDS, police said. The 25-year-old would-be thief, whose identity was withheld, remained in jail without bond December 13 on a charge of intentional exposure to AIDS virus. If convicted, the felony charge carries a maximum fine of up to \$5,000 and a prison sentence of up to 10 years.

The man also was booked on misdemeanor charges of simple theft, simple property damage, disturbing the peace, resisting an officer and contempt of court, a jail official said. Police said the man tried to steal meat from a Kroger supermarket about 9 p.m. on the preceding evening. When confronted by an employee, he reportedly ran and dropped the meat inside the store before fleeing on a bike.

The employee, who asked not to be identified, jumped in his car and gave chase and caught the man, who bit one of his fingers as the

two fought during an argument about the attempted theft, police said. Shreveport police Detective Tom Oster said the suspect allegedly yelled to the employee that he had AIDS before biting him. However, at the jail, the would-be thief told police he did not have the virus, Oster said.

"He said he just wanted to scare the guy and hurt him," Oster said. Police often encounter similar incidents. "They (people in custody) spit at and scratch us all the time. And then they like to tell us, 'I have AIDS,'" Oster said. "It's the big thing for them to do now. They want to slow you down from making the arrest." Δ

STUDY SHOWS GIRLS OFTEN FORGET ABUSE

DURHAM, N.H. (AP)—Women who were sexually abused as children often have no memory of it, according to a recent study.

University of New Hampshire sociology professor Linda Meyers Williams and her colleagues interviewed 129 women, who as children had gone to the hospital after being sexually abused during the 1970s. Seventeen years later, 38 percent had no memory of the abuse, which had been documented in hospital records, she found.

Williams said the results were surprising. Although some of these women may have

decided not to tell interviewers about the abuse, other findings suggest they didn't remember. Memory also is dependent upon how close the women were to their abusers, she said. The study suggested some women did not remember when a family member abused them because the women felt betrayed or lost trust in that person and found the experience painful. Women who were molested by strangers were more likely to recall the abuse than those who were abused by someone they knew, she added.

Williams recently published an article about her research in the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. The women were comfortable with interviewers and spoke of other very personal matters, such as other sexual abuse and intimate details of their sexual histories, she wrote. She concluded that makes it unlikely they would have been embarrassed to discuss the abuse that led to hospital visits.

Of the women who remembered being abused, 68 percent told interviewers about other assaults they experienced as children. Women who didn't remember the specific incident of abuse were likely to have suffered it at a younger age than those who remembered, Williams said.

Williams also believed very young girls may have lacked the mental development to remember. Sixteen percent of the women who did remember the abuse reported periods when they could not remember it, she noted. Some women recalled remembering the abuse after watching TV shows which dealt with topics of sexual abuse. Many of the women who remembered the abuse described the incident much as hospital records depict it. "Having a time period with no memory of abuse doesn't necessarily indicate the person wasn't abused," she said. Recovered memories should not be discounted, but not all recovered memories should be believed immediately, Williams commented. Δ

CAMBODIAN NEWSPAPERS WARNED ABOUT SEXY MATERIAL

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Information Minister Ieng Mouly threatened on December 16 to shut down local publications if they continue publishing "sexy stories and pictures." Mouly said he would order five newspapers closed the following week if they did not stop printing salacious material. He

did not name the newspapers. Cambodia's free press has been under pressure from the government, which came to office after a United Nations-supervised election last year. A draft press law to be considered by the national assembly would heavily penalize publications which are found to have slandered the country's king or published material deemed libelous. Local and foreign press associations have criticized the law's guidelines as unfair and unreasonable. (This is the result of "free", i.e., supervised-by-the-West, elections?)

Pressure has already been applied on local journalists, who have been attacked, and have been threatened by officials. Three journalists have been murdered or died in mysterious circumstances this year. Ieng Mouly claimed the publication of sexy material—primarily photos of women garbed in bathing suits and other attire which is revealing by local standards—"strongly affects the good traditions of Cambodia, and, especially discredits Khmer (Cambodian) ladies' prestige."

However, Khmer Journalist Association president Pin Samkhon said he opposes shutting down newspapers because of their sexy content. "I don't support the sexy publications, but it is not a solution to close newspapers because of it," Samkhon told The Associated Press.

The association wants the information ministry to issue a directive in advance to guide journalists before taking peremptory action. Meanwhile, the U.N. Center for Human Rights here and UNESCO, the U.N. cultural agency, plan to train Cambodian journalists about ethics and defamation.

The goal is to help Cambodian journalists become more professional, said a statement from UNESCO. The first week-long seminar on ethics will begin Dec. 26, and more seminars are planned for next year. Δ

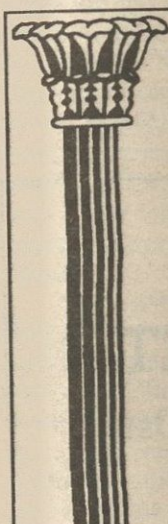
BALTIMORE MAYOR SIGNS REGULATIONS FOR CITY'S RED LIGHT DISTRICT

BALTIMORE (AP)—Patrons of the city's infamous red light district will be walking into city-licensed businesses when they frequent The Block's tawdry nightclubs and peep shows from now on. On December 15, Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke (a humane sort of guy, already on the right side vis-a-vis drug legalization) signed into law legislation requiring licensing of the district's risqué establishments, while also expressing his hope they would be gone within 10 years. "Our biggest problem is we just don't have the bucks to just come in and buy up all the businesses," Schmoke said. "What we're trying to do in the short run, the next three to five years, is just contain it, clean it up and regulate the activities so that we don't have abuses of law down there," Schmoke said.

The mayor said he hoped development pressures around the district would eventually force the bars and nightclubs out. City officials are now promoting plans to develop the old Brokerage and Fishmarket complexes east of The Block into a children's center and museum.

The bill also bans sidewalk barkers who try to draw customers into the clubs and forbids blinking neon signs or posters of an adult nature. State Police conducted a high-profile raid on The Block last January, but half of the resulting criminal cases were later dropped because of weak evidence, poorly executed search warrants and police misconduct. The next Storyville? Δ

The News is
Continued on Page 26



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ELECTION RESULTS II

BY ROBERTS BATSON

The November elections, along with changes in national organizations, require that careful thought be given to assessing what the effects will be for lesbians and gay men, and what elections should now be taken. It would appear that the elections have caused upheavals in the way the US government is going to do business, as well as in some aspects of its guiding philosophy. Or so one might presume.

The truth is, however, that no one *really* knows what's going to happen. It is presumptuous—if not downright folly—to make pompous pronouncements about who is going to do what and what the results will be. Although this is always a wise caution, it's particularly relevant regarding these current political circumstances. One reason is because there is no precedent in the short experience of national political lesbian and gay organizing. Even throughout the Reagan and Bush presidencies (1980-92), and the first six years of that period when Republicans controlled the Senate, Democrats maintained large majorities in the House.

Another reason is that, more so than ever before, political tides can ebb and flow very quickly—remember that President Bush's job approval in 1991 approached an unprecedented 90 percent, and a year later he was defeated by one of the most humiliating margins that any incumbent President has ever suffered.

So let's avoid pronouncements. Instead, let's list some things that *could* happen and some things that bear careful watching.

First, the Presidency of Bill Clinton. Although some of the shriller gay voices on both the left and right fringes still don't seem to understand, Clinton has been the best friend that lesbians and gay men have ever had in the White House. Unless someone better becomes a viable candidate, he's the best we've got. It appears that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats will nominate anyone in 1996 who would be better on lesbian/gay issues: Neither a Jesse Jackson nor a William Weld (the Republican Governor of Massachusetts) is thought to have a chance at gaining their respective party's nomination. So it stands to reason that a weakened Clinton Presidency is not in the best interests of lesbians and gay men.

Judging from his recent "middle-class tax cut" speech and other statements, it appears that Clinton is going to try to move to a more centrist position on economic

issues. But close attention should be paid to whether he also distances himself from his previously progressive stance on social issues.

Second, there is the Congress. The election has obviously produced more conservative majorities in both houses, groups less friendly to the legislative matters important to gay people. But other than the total numbers, there are some particularly sensitive aspects of the Congressional process that cause concern.

One of these is the matter of committee chairs. They are very powerful people who determine to a large extent what legislation even gets considered. Some very friendly Democratic chairs have been replaced by some very hostile Republicans.

For example, Joseph Biden of Delaware, who had an 80 percent positive voting record according to the Human Rights Campaign Fund, has been replaced by Orrin Hatch of Utah, a consistently vocal opponent of lesbian and gay issues, who has a zero percent positive HRCF record. One wonders if someone like Ginger Berrigan, a great good friend of the lesbian and gay community in New Orleans, could survive confirmation from a Hatch committee. Or, also, whether Clinton would nominate her today; or, indeed, if she—and other progressive judicial appointees now—would be willing to subject themselves to the sort of attacks that might occur during the confirmation process. Remember the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill mess? Well, that's the Hatch-Strom Thurmond gang who will now be running the show in the Judiciary Committee.

Another Senate committee to watch is Labor and Human Resources. Ted Kennedy was the previous chair, and because of his strong support, it was this committee that a months ago held the first Senate hearing ever on a lesbian and gay civil rights bill, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Kennedy was one of the thirty-two Senate co-sponsors of ENDA this year. Now he has been replaced by Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas—not a co-sponsor—who has a zero percent positive voting record on the gay and AIDS bills that the HRCF monitored. And it was Kassebaum who, herself, tried to exclude sexual orientation from the non-discriminatory language in health legislation this year. It is going to be very difficult to move ENDA forward unless Kassebaum becomes supportive. ENDA is the whole centerpiece of national lesbian and gay civil rights policy. Watch this closely.

Another Senate Committee to monitor is the Foreign Relations Committee, now to be chaired by right-wing demagogue Jesse Helms of North Carolina. He will have the

opportunity to affect aspects of immigration and international AIDS issues, and it is hard to believe he won't use his new chairmanship for maximum destructiveness. This committee also handles the confirmation of diplomatic appointments, so Washington insiders are paying close attention to the upcoming confirmation hearings on a gay man who has already been named by Clinton to an ambassadorship. As mentioned in the Judiciary Committee consideration, it will be interesting to see if the man now withdraws his name from nomination—or if the President withdraws it.

A second part of the political process that could be greatly affected by Republican majorities in both houses of Congress is what happens now in House-Senate conference committees. These are the committees appointed to resolve differences in the language of bills passed in each of the two houses. It is in conference committees where Democratic majorities have quietly and successfully removed some of the most virulent antigay aspects of legislation. A recent example of this was the conference committee deletion of Jesse Helms' amendment to the

Education Act. Helms' amendment would have eliminated counseling programs for lesbian and gay teens, suicide prevention programs, and AIDS information programs for teenagers. Usually these House-Senate conference committees work quietly and don't receive much attention. Now, especially, they demand careful attention.

All in all, the most important thing to watch may very well be how the Republicans handle the explosive social issues such as lesbian and gay civil rights, abortion, school prayer, AIDS, and gun control. If the Republicans are very smart, they will convince their Christian Coalition and National Rifle Association colleagues to keep quiet for the next two years in the hope that, in 1996, the public will keep majorities in the Senate and the House, and will also elect a Republican President. If that happens, they will then control all three branches of the Federal government: The White House, Congress, and the Supreme Court. Then it would be far easier for the radical right to get what it wants.

It bears watching. Δ

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LESBIAN VOICES

BY MARILYN MCCONNELL

I don't know about you but I've had it up to here with patriarchal, heterosexual images of the winter holiday season. Think! Have you ever seen two female pilgrims hanging around the feast table together? Always a man in black top hat, woman in bib apron attire. Santa Claus (male image) always gets the positive reinforcement. Where is Mrs. Santa? (female image) You guessed it at home with the elves making toys, preparing candies and cookies for the stockings. I'll bet she's never been 10 miles from her home town at North Pole. Now Santa, he gets to travel all over the world! He's highly visible and well loved by all children. He delivers all the toys and candies Mrs. Claus makes. She was socialized to make her husband look good. You know the old "behind every famous man...." saying. Sounds like a terminal co-dependency case to me. She even looks and dresses like him! The only difference is, she has no beard and she's wearing a skirt, same color as Santa's pants, red with fur around the bottom. The Nativity is another thing! Man woman, baby. Have you ever tried to buy two Marys? Don't bother. I don't care if the figures are plastic or porcelain: Man, woman, and baby come as a set, animals come as a set, visitors come in a set, always three and always wise men (no wise female images).

It is accepted fact that if adults and children do not see themselves depicted in history, it perpetuates the myth that they have never existed. Heterosexual women see themselves depicted only negatively, as property, the only image they have of themselves or others like them. This can be damaging to the spirit and leads to low self esteem. Lesbian women do not see



At left: A Lesbian Nativity Scene, complete with dogs...A Promote Lesbian Visibility in the Holiday Season Scene. At bottom of page, left: George Segal's famous sculpture, *Dykes and Their Dogs At Rest from Holiday Shopping*. Bottom of page, right: three powerful women—Charlene Schneider, Judge Miriam Waltzer, and Mary Stuart, LAGPAC Co-Chair at the December 8 LAGPAC fundraiser in Judge Waltzer's honor. Photo by Marilyn McConnell

themselves depicted at all in this holiday history. We lesbians know that about ten percent of the population is homosexual. Yet we never see our images during the holidays! We don't even see our selves depicted as holiday shoppers except maybe in the *Shocking Grey* catalog. What do you suppose that does to the self esteem of lesbians and gay men who are struggling with their internal homophobia? Surely we were there? Or were we? This absence of images perpetuates the most effective tool of oppression, invisibility. If we saw our-selves depicted in the holiday scenes just once say two, pilgrim women with their big collars and aprons holding hands at the feast table, a lesbian family shopping in the mall... how different our lives would be. If we could—just once—see one wise woman in a Nativity Scene. If we ever saw female Santas or even a female Santa's helper, then little

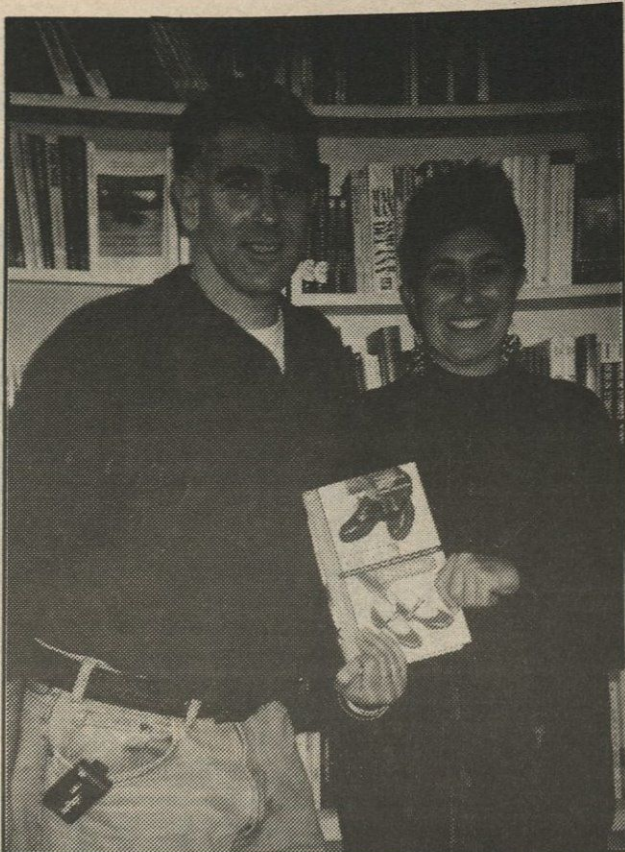
girls could admire, even aspire to be a Santa or a helper and travel all over the world in a sleigh in the sky and make children happy on Christmas.

For the last few years at the holiday season, I've been trying to find something a little more relevant in my life to celebrate. My allegiance to the patriarchal, sexist, homophobic, misogynistic church of my childhood has faded away. I search to celebrate and validate our lives, our spirit, our strengths, our chutzpah, as lesbian women, our connection with each other present and past. I love the season decorating with lights, the parties, receptions, *réveillons*, singing in the Square, running through the decorated oaks in City Park and now Audubon. I want to encompass all that is wonderful for me at the holiday season into my celebration of women.

In the last few months I've been curious about the Winter Solstice Celebration. Some women have been celebrating this and similar holidays forever but one's life is a process, and sometimes you notice things and sometimes you don't. Thanks to a knowledgeable local lesbian, I quickly found out how little I know on the subject. The information I acquired was fascinating, exciting, and seemed to be just what I was searching for. Yule, a Celtic word, is celebrated this year on December 22. It is a celebration of the birth of the sun (not son) The emphasis is not on the sun but she who gives birth.... brings forth life. I like that. In the early Christian times, at Yule celebrations, trees were decorated in memory of the dead. When this practice was forbidden by the church, trees were cut down, brought inside and decorated. At this very moment I'm thinking of a way to make



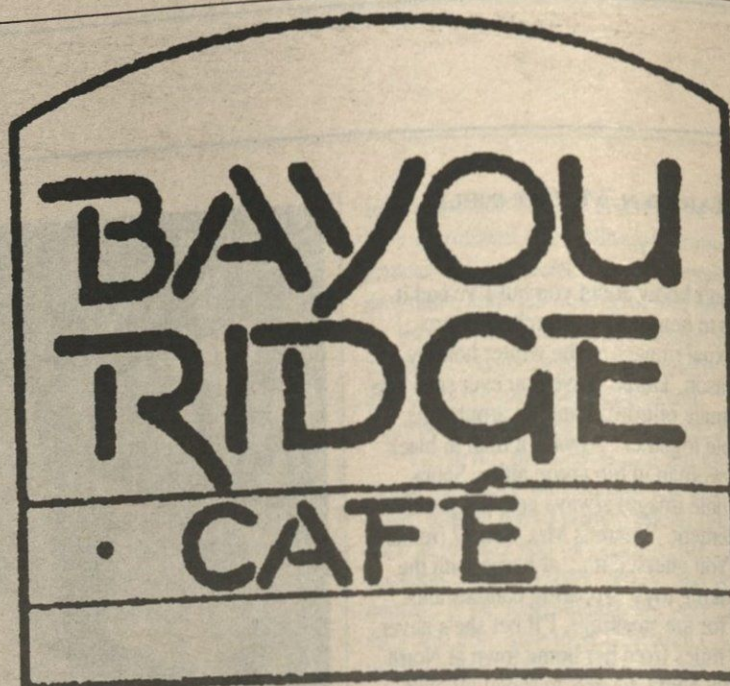
Sappho, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Audre Lorde memorial ornaments to add to my tree. I like that idea. Another thing I like about Yule is the Goddess who birthed the sun was a Crone Goddess. That's one of the older, more mature goddesses. Her name is Holla. I've decided... I will have a Winter Solstice celebration. I'll invite a few lesbian friends. I'll redecorate my tree, to remember women who have helped to empower me and are no longer living. I'll make a special decoration for all the invisible lesbian women who came before us. I'll decorate with holly in honor of the Crone Goddess Holla and we'll celebrate the birth of the sun and especially she who brings forth life. I like that. Δ



Joyce Zonana and her brother Victor at the FM Bookstore publication party for *Sisters and Brothers: Lesbians and Gay Men Write About Their Lives Together* on December 11. / Photo by Marilyn McConnell



Angela King, Hanson Galleries director, and Toni Pizanie, the Arts Director of the Lesbian & Gay Community Center—both instrumental in bringing "The Long Road To Freedom" exhibit to New Orleans, at the opening at Hanson Galleries on December 11 (the show, drawn from photographs that originally appeared in *The Advocate*, runs through December 30). Below, Daneta Muse and Sharon Gouse view the exhibit. / Photographs by Marilyn McConnell.



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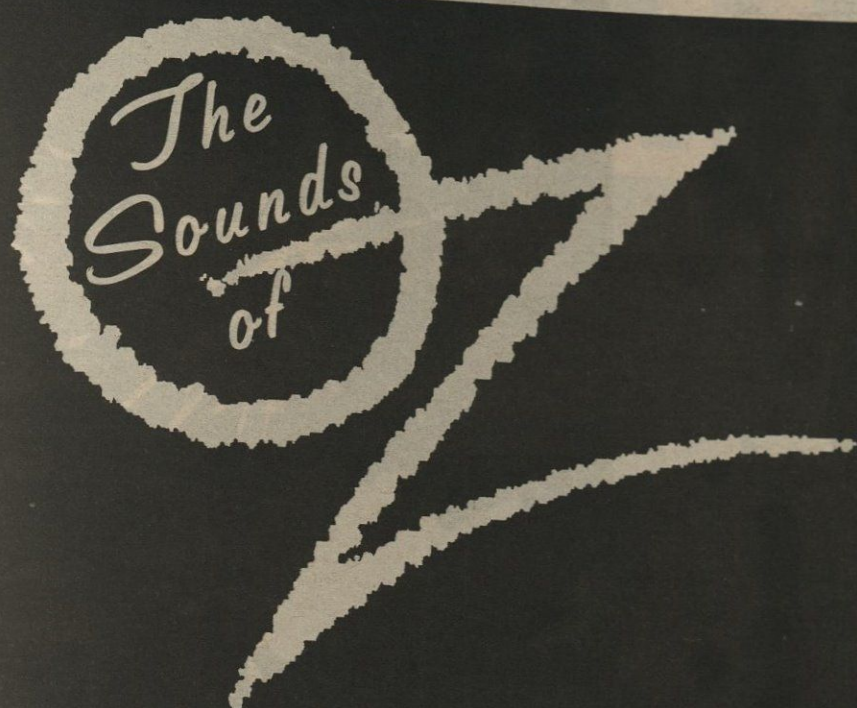
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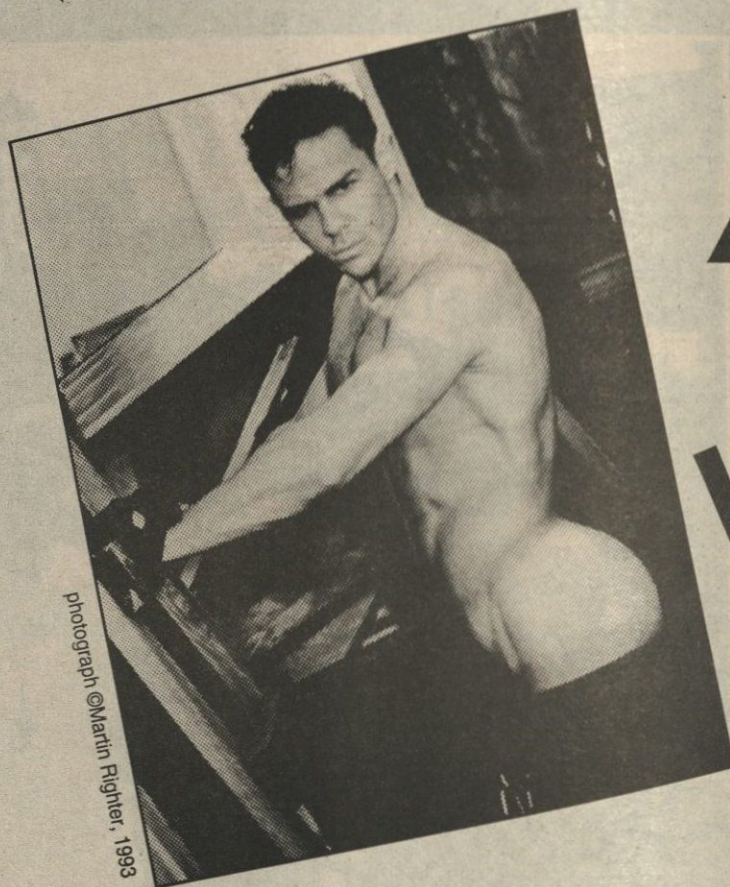
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Δ Cafe Lafitte in Exile/The Corral
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Δ Charlene's/Over C's
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/Photograph © 1994 by William Liermann

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IN THE PUBLIC EYE

LIFE-STYLES OF THE RICH AND HEINOUS: We finally got around to reading the short book, *Nicole Brown Simpson*, by Faye Resnick, telling her version of the Simpson affair. It is, as we expected, self serving and it really doesn't tell us much about the Simpsons that we didn't already pick up in the media. Faye seems to be one of those free spirits so common in Southern California. (She is only free if she can't find someone to pay for it.) Kind of a latter day Holly Golightly, except that the original Holly was a male prostitute that Truman Capote picked up on the street; although the majority of that novel was fiction, the one thing that remained was the title: **the poor hustler was so ignorant** that he thought Tiffany's was a fine restaurant, thus the request for breakfast there. Needless to say the notoriously stingy Capote didn't take him to breakfast there; the kid was lucky if Truman took him to the Automat or Nedick's.

But Faye Resnick was probably one step above the streets. LA is filled with young boys and girls who work as waiters, etc. and are ready to do anything to almost anything to latch onto a real money maker. If one can hang on for a couple of marriages/serious affairs, squirrel away a few bucks (\$100K) and **not become addicted to a costly drug**, he or she should be able to open a small business, utilize the friends and sophistication acquired along the way, and prosper.

Such appears to have been the way in which Faye got ahead, but when she and Nicole Brown were going to open a coffee shop, poor old Faye was apparently down to her last twenty thousand, and Nicole's unfortunate demise was a godsend.

How much she actually knew about the Simpsons is putative, but she had some pictures of herself with them and their closest friends, thus qualifying her to write the book. (A word to the wise: hang onto those old photos of yourself with a celebrity; You never know when they'll come in handy.)

Faye does take the opportunity to dump on the ubiquitous Kato Kaelin, some time jester to the Simpson court. The whole affair does in some vague way resemble **some Byzantine court** with the sycophantic hangers-on being used as go-betweens by the principals, something like Procopius *Secret History* but with snazzy, costly cars and drugs added. Kato is apparently resented by Faye (note the contrived spelling, **always the hallmark of the parvenu**), no doubt because he was at one time more central to the action than Faye: He was at first a supernumerary in the household of Nicole before being lured away by OJ, with **promises of more**

and bigger dick, or more and better cocaine.

Faye does, however, in the only bombshell in the book, let us know that she and Nicole tasted the delights of *homosex* (female variety). According to Faye, it just happened. We wonder if it also just happened to OJ and (as they would say in Hollywood) his very dear friend, Bruce Jenner, closet homo, quondam Olympian decathlete, and **onetime boxboy for Wheaties**, the Breakfast of Champions.

(We remember the first time we met Bruce at a party: when we were introduced, we inquired was he not a track star, and he shyly said yes, whereupon we said, **grasping the basket**, "Take a lap around this." We were thereupon shunned and ultimately asked to leave the party. Closet cases have no sense of humor.)

MORE LIVES OF THE RICH AND HEINOUS: The current *New Yorker* has an interesting article about Tennessee Williams and the late Lady Maria St Just. Entitled "The Lady and Tennessee", it was written by John Lahr, the son of Bert Lahr (the Cowardly Lion of *The Wizard of Oz*, and before that a low comic of some repute) and the author of *Prick Up Your Ears*, the anagrammatically-titled biography of Joe Orton, homo playwright of the sixties. More about Lahr later.

Maria St Just was a high class Faye Resnick, a woman who **by means of obsequiousness and guile rode on the coattails of the rich**, the famous and even the noble (her husband, the deranged Lord Peter St Just left her nothing, but he left a considerable fortune to their daughters—she wasn't that deranged). Because she was the daughter of a petty bourgeois Russian-English couple, she reinvented (the current euphemism for lied) herself into the position of a **displaced Russian aristocrat**.

Shortly before the end of his life, Tennessee, in a casually made will, named her a co-trustee of the trust, derived from the income generated by his writings, benefitting the unfortunate Rose Williams, **his lobotomized sister**. Maria St. Just used this position to become, in effect, his literary executor, which was certainly not his intention. The trust, however, owned the rights to his most important works, and Maria St. Just capriciously used this wedge to deny production rights to person(s) who annoyed her, becoming a nauseating and ostentatiously presumptuous bully about Williams' literary style and the motives for both his characters and his creation of them.

But now more about the author, John Lahr. Any Anglophile should know better

than to refer to Maria St. Just as Lady Maria St. Just. Properly she should be called Lady Peter St. Just, since she was not herself a member of the aristocracy, just as the non-aristocratic wife of Prince Michael of Kent is known as Princess Michael of Kent.

This of course is not his worst transgression: Lahr, a **noted closet case**, neglects to mention what Maria's real role in Tennessee's life was. She and some of her friends liked to refer to her as the inspiration for Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, but she was no Maggie. More likely she was **the inspiration for the unfortunate Catherine Holly** in *Suddenly, Last Summer*, but without the innocence—or, at least as performed by Elizabeth Taylor, the sheer obliviousness. Maria St. Just was the dick-bait or lure for Tennessee and his friends when they toured Mediterranean beaches, etc. It was her job to meet young guys and size them up (Tennessee was, **like so many of us, a size queen**); get them drinking and loosened up for the kill, so to speak. And she was very good at it, since she was after all, a bottom-feeder by nature.

Lahr's very successful biography of Joe Orton pictured him as a brilliant playwright brought down by a murderous lover, all of which may be true. At the time of its publication, we were so taken with it we went back and reread Orton's plays. They were **inventive and racy for the late Sixties**, but somehow they have been tarnished by the passage of time, their vivacity depleted. Perhaps if he had lived he would have gone onto bigger and better things like Tennessee (no pun intended).

Maria, despite her long exposure to the theatre, was not much of an actress, a fact readily conceded by such friends as she had. Once she was cast as Blanche in an off-off-Broadway production of *Streetcar*; Stanley was played by a sometime lover of Tennessee, Mike Steen, who was not much of an actor either, but he and Maria hated each other. The best moments in that run were when he used the opportunity to **rough her up a little more than the stage directions called for**.

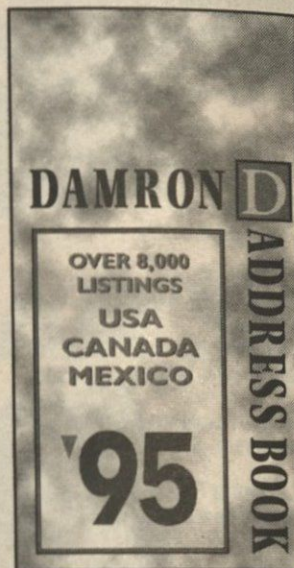
The night that Tennessee went to see it many in the audience in the small house were aware of the animosity between the two and the audience laughed at decidedly inappropriate moments. Tennessee turned to his guest and said, "My, my, I didn't realize that I had written such a bad play". Whatever, if for the public good.

A bientot,
Marcel

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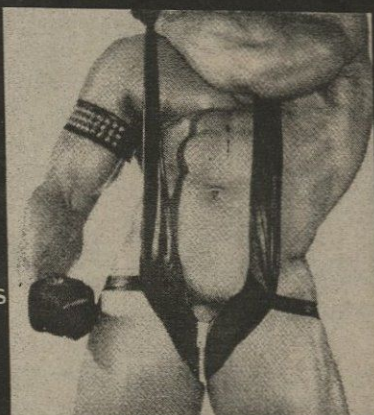
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Louisiana Personals

Instant Phone Contacts By Area Code

MANFINDER™

Baton Rouge **DOESN'T EVERYONE?** looking for someone special, likes to have a good time, masc guy discreet share good times with- #11311

Bay St. Louis **JUST LIKE A WOMAN:** Selby White TS male, 22, 5'6 140, long blk curly, brn eyes, pre-op seeking white tanned musc guy who can fill my life with passion- #11956

Baton Rouge **ED**, 5'10, 175, clean shaven, looking for a GWM friend 20-40 new to area, nice quiet eves at home, #7668

Baton Rouge **WELL, IT ALL STARTED WHEN...** Ed, 5'10, 175, WM clean shaven, looking for GWM 20-40 new to area, tell me a bit about yourself- #7668

LA **MARRIED, WITH DOUBTS:** White male, married, 45 yrs. old, looking for my first bi experience. I will travel. #5187

LA **LOOKING FOR A SMOOTHIE, ANY FLAVOR:** 18 yr. old, TP looking for smooth guys to go out with. Race is unimportant. #5522

LA **COULD YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?** Looking for a guy 18-40 yrs. old who likes to have a good time. Give me a call, any time. #627

Lafayette **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:** Mitch, 35, 5'6, 145, brn/brn lkg for a blind/blue, smooth like myself around the same age, into the outdoors, hiking, quiet times at home, moving to the area in October, like to get to know you - #5315

New Orleans **SPIRIT IS WILLING:** recently moved here GWM 28 grad student seeking friends and a sweetheart, crazy about redheads, like all kinds of books and movies, tend to lead a spiritual life- #6480

New Orleans **THE REDDER THE BETTER:** recently moved here GWM 38 good shape grad student in Health studies, crazy about redheads- fairly quiet but into everything- lead a spiritual life- #6480

LA **INTO IT ALL:** 20 yr. old, sub GWM, CD, B+D, S+M, and anything kinky, looking for someone who may find this interesting. #33650

New Orleans **ATTRACTIVE** secure, bi white male, 35 yrs. old looking for discreet TV's in the area. #34029

Oxford **END ZONE:** 24 yr. old GWM, graduate student, looking for people about the same age for a long term relationship. #15829

Shreveport **18 YR. OLD**, 5'10", into biking and dancing, looking for someone who is 18-30 yrs. old, musc, and trim. #34069

LA **NOT EVEN TRIVIAL PURSUIT:** Terry, 35, stable, 5'11", looking for masc men 35-50 yrs. old who are not into games. #32890

Lake Charles **YOUR MAN:** Black bi male, 6', musc, looking for other black males, 25-45 yrs. old, in the area for fun. #32810

Metairie **FOR THE CURIOUS:** 30 yr. old, Bln/Blu, smooth, into just about everything, looking for bi or straight men who are a little curious. #32834

New Orleans **PEOPLE TOUCHING PEOPLE:** 32 yr. old, 5'10", stach, looking for a person who shares my some interests or a work out partner. #32877

Monroe **EVENING JAUNTS:** Greg, 36, white, 5'11", Brn/Brn, nice build, looking for local guys who are interested in getting together for evenings of fun. #32179

Shreveport **INTERESTING INTERESTS:** 28 yr. old attractive professional, 6'2", stach, with lots of interests looking for men to spend time with. #319218

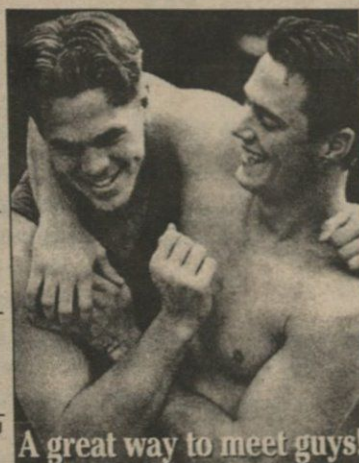
Baton Rouge, **BIG RIVER:** 24 yr. old GWM, 5'11" looking for people for friendship and possibly more. #30860

Gulf Port, **LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YA:** 31 yr. old GM looking for older gentleman, 45 and up, interested in starting a relationship. #30347

Louisiana, **TAILS YOU WIN:** 24 yr. old GWM with no prior experience looking for patient, discreet men in the N. Mississippi area. #29788

New Orleans, **GUMBO:** GWM wishes to meet GWM 29-39 yrs. old for interesting times and more. #29677

Tuscaloosa, **SUNNY BOY:** GWM relocating from California looking for some white men in good shape, professional, friends, lovers 30-45 yrs. old. #30799



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Baton Rouge **NO, I DON'T THINK ITS THAT ONE:** Bryant 26 GWM 6' 180 lkg for masc GWM #2980

Birmingham **EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER:** Jared 20 bi male if 30 or younger in the area and want to teach me more! call me- #2507

Dathan **INSPIRE ME TO DO GREAT THINGS:** Roger 42 6' 175 thinning red hair/blue eyes shy but aggressive around the right guy-cute boyish uy wm smooth musc under 35 - #2088

Gulf Coast **I THINK YOU KNOW...** Mark blind/blue 5'9 155 looking to meet someone 18-25 galk to go out with and have a good time or who knows what- #3510

Gulf Coast **ITS NOT JUST A PHASE:** Mark 25 blind/blu looking for same int- just about anything dancing, gambling nights out, dinner lkg for bi like myself, or gay, 18-35-never really done this before- lets get together and have some fun- #3752

LA **TAKE IT OFF- TAKE IT ALL OFF:** Alex GWM 6'1 180 atr college educ, stripper, built, into shaving int in everything and anything- #2460

New Orleans **MARDI GRAS ALL THE TIME:** Rocky and Chris live in the French Quarter looking for other guys to get to gether with us- we're home all the time- #4064

Baton Rouge **INCREDIBLE HULK:** John interested in big strong guys, wrestling. #42354

Baton Rouge **I BET YOU DO:** Looking for masc GWM - into music, dancing, love to have a good time- #7307

Gulf Port **BEACHCOMBER:** Kelly, 19, looking for 20-27 interested in movies, walks on the beach, going out- #37413

New Orleans **ONE OF EACH:** GWM, bi-wm looking for men TV'S TS cross dressers black men- #42801

Freeport **21 YR. OLD** white male, college student, looking for guys in the area to hook up with. #33895

LA **UNDER THE BIG TOP:** TP, masc, male looking for masc men. I am 6' 175 lbs, nice body, clean shaven, Blu/Brn. #33648

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Leesville **PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT:** Bi curious WM, 19 blind/blu, want to get with another guy to see what it's like new to this, want someone to how me the ropes, teach me- #7133

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Leesville **TAKE THE BAIT:** Ken, 26, 5'6, 130 smooth, int are reading, quiet things, fishing, hunting- #7597

New Orleans **YOU KNEAD E, AND I KNEAD YOU:** 35 yr. old, 5'6", Brn/Brn, good looking, smooth, into quiet times at home and massages, outdoors, looking or guys with similar interests. #5315

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At last! An inter-active astrology reading for some New Year's facts and fun.

Capricorn: Jupiter, a helpful planet, will be in a health area of you chart for the next twelve months. This gives general protection from illness or better recovery. The year looks prosperous for many. The 14th is favorable for money. If your finances are difficult, read all but the last line of Gemini.

Aquarius: You may be your own worst enemy when it comes to matters of health, so make those resolutions now to take better care of yourself. Avoid rich food, excess alcohol, and drugs. Hearts are filled with love in the middle of the month. If your romantic prospects are looking good, read all but the last line of Aries.

Pisces: Saturn is exerting pressure on your health in the coming year, possibly due to a heavy workload, extra responsibility, or a generally run-down physical condition. You have strength and determination now to do a good job. If work and money look favorable read all but the last line of Scorpio.

Aries: Love relationships look very promising, with the meeting of many new friends this year, or the sharing of a romantic adventure, happy social life or travel is indicated around the middle of the month. You will feel good then. If your health is poor, read all but the last line of Libra.

Taurus: This year, Jupiter will be giving you the ability to deal wisely with others where money is concerned. The will also be inclined to be generous toward you. Love can be beautiful on the 24th, but stormy on the 9th. If you're having romantic trouble, read all but the last line of Cancer.

Gemini: The planets Neptune and Uranus continue to make your money matters cloudy or unsettled, causing you to worry about bills. Creative and original solutions work best. Romantic

relationships can be rich and fulfilling on the 14th. If you're happy with your love life, read all but the last line of Leo.

Cancer: Off and on this year, two slow planets may leave something to be desired socially, or make a dependable, lasting friendship hard to form. Just hang in there. The Sun and Mars can boost physical vigor and vitality on the 24th. If your own health is good, read all but the last line of Capricorn.

Leo: This year, a lucky star passes through your house of love affairs which can lead to a "life-time" together. This is good if you already have someone or are still looking. Beware of accidents due to haste around the full moon on the 16th. If you're worried about your health, read all but the last line of Pisces.

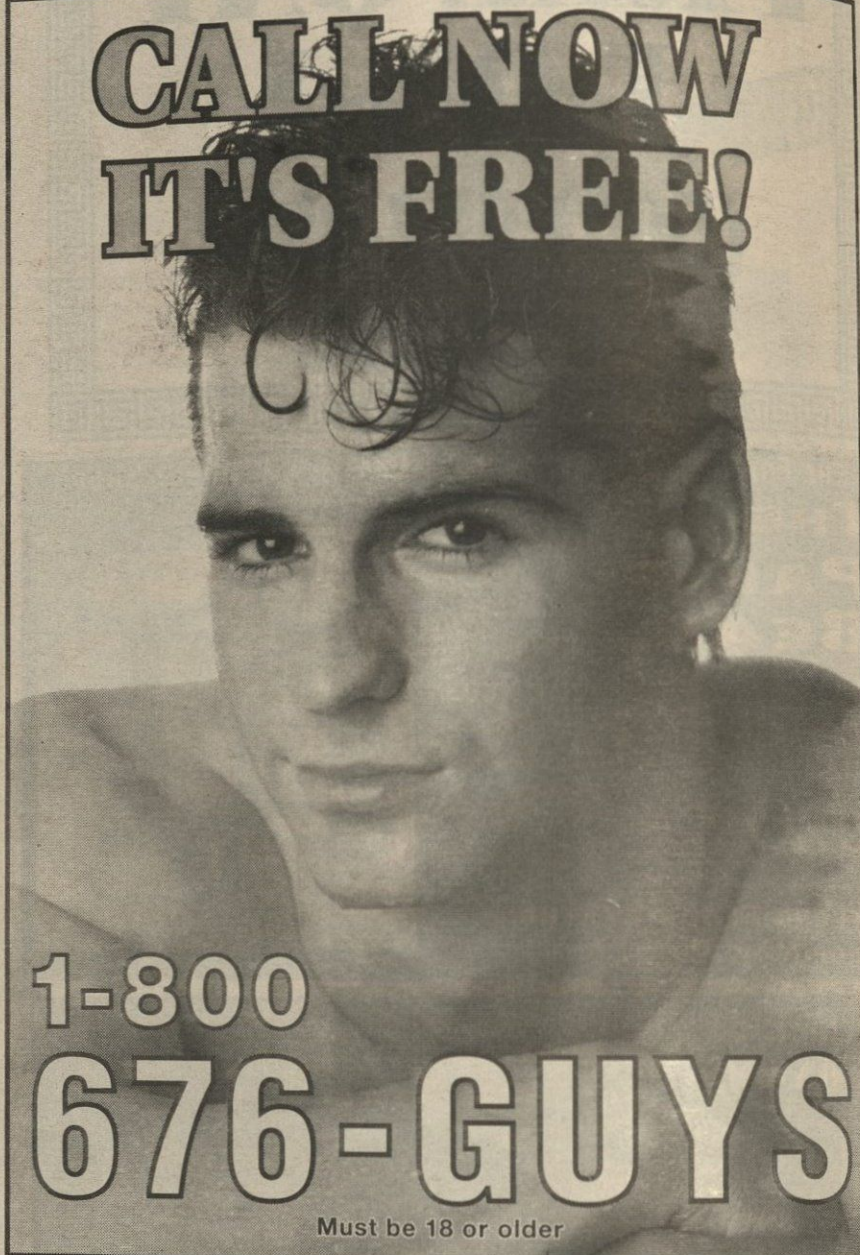
Virgo: Your love life, for the next twelve months, will be like a bed of roses...complete with thorns! Serious Saturn in the heart department makes satisfaction hard to find. Only the real thing will bloom, but it can be lasting. If you are looking forward to a good year financially, read all but the last line of Sagittarius.

Libra: Saturn, in a health area, can have a debilitating effect and lower your resistance this year. So, rest, eat right, avoid bad habits, and don't over-work. Your mind should be rich with money-making ideas on the 11th. If your financial situation seems good, read all but the last line of Taurus.

Scorpio: Jupiter's passage, all year long, through a career-pay house in your chart shows a good chance for increased earning power. Lovers, who may be jealous or quarrelsome, kiss and make up, show affection by the 14th. If you're lonely or unhappy because of a love problem, read all but the last line of Virgo.

Sagittarius: Despite the fact that two problem planets still occupy a business sign, your money picture looks hopeful all year, thanks to Jupiter, (an indicator of material security and abundance) in an important house. Your spirits should be high. If you have health concerns, read all but the last line of Aquarius. Δ

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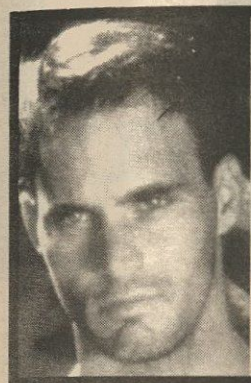
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ALEXANDER AND A
BAG OF ZAPP'S

Hey, OK, it's Christmas and we know, it's a time for ecumenical brotherhood and remembering the neediest and so, let's face it, most of these occasions—celebrations of Queer History, Queer Sibling-hood (something like Red Riding Hood), a benefit for the Community Center and P-FLAG sponsored by Third Thursday, NO/AIDS volunteers performing above and beyond, and everywhere else, the call of duty and normal caritas—do not lend themselves to our usual unguarded levity and jocosity. But behold, what is that star-sized (or at least Ford Galaxie-sized) sparkly thing in the East, hanging over the MRB? Fear not, for we bring you tidings of great joy...or hey, at least Brenda LeShat and her gals do: the Flapper Look is Back! And behold, over there at Oz—where there seems to be a veritable orgy of butt-sniffing going on, and hey who can blame those with the lucky honkers in these cases?—a Great Big Star, Jeff Stryker, who is actually a nice fellow who even seems to reciprocate some of his fans' affections—at the very least he remembered everyone's name and seemed genuinely glad to see them see him. (And no, it doesn't look like a cordless telephone.) And over there, above the Phoenix, a perfect Pleiade of twinklers wishing Lance a happy birthday and looking like the North Pole had turned into a ghost town for the day. So there! God bless us, everyone, as Bette Davis would say. / All photographs (but of course not this clever verbiage) © 1994 by William Liermann.

Merry Christmas!



**Daddy of
'Em All!**



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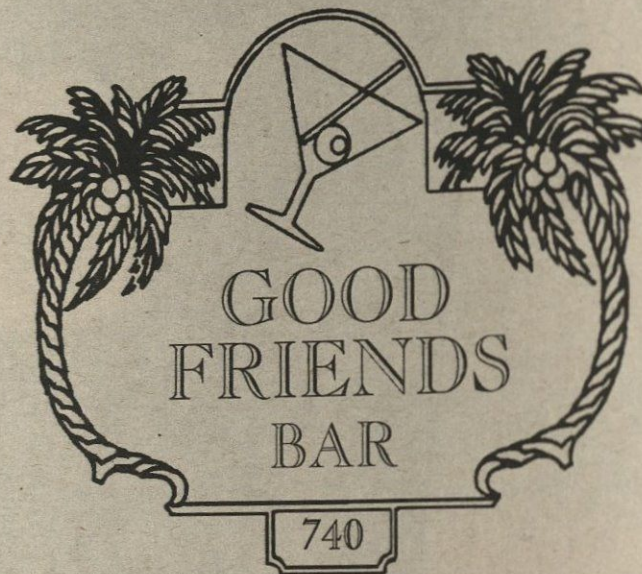
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Community Resources

Because of space limitations, we can publish only the essential addresses and telephone numbers.

Political & Activist Organizations

- LAGPAC (Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus)
PO Box 53075, New Orleans LA 70153
- LEGAL (Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians)
PO Box 70344, New Orleans LA 70172; 949-9124
- P-FLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays)
meetings on second Thursday at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church; 581-2749 or 895-3936
- Alliance of Pride; POB 72055, New Orleans LA 70172
- The Forum For Equality; PO Box 850096, New Orleans LA 70185-0096
- Stonewall '94 Committee
meetings on 2nd & 4th Tuesday monthly at the Community Center; 947-1568
- Lesbian Avengers of New Orleans
meetings on Wednesdays at Community Center; PO 791375, New Orleans LA 70179-1375, Voice Mail: 365-3069
- Log Cabin Republicans, Louisiana Log Cabin, 504/593-1083, meeting info & voice mail

Community Centers

- The Lesbian & Gay Community Center of New Orleans
816 North Rampart Street, 522-1103
- GL Friendly Community Center, 308 Caillavet Street, Biloxi MS 39530; 601/435-2398

Archives

- The Amistad Research Center,
Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, 865-5535; a repository for material on civil rights, race relations, ethnic minorities, the gay rights movement, and queer issues

Religious Organizations

- Vieux Carre Metropolitan Community Church
1128 St. Roch Avenue, 945-5390; services Sundays 11 a.m.
• Dignity New Orleans; 2048 Camp Street, 522-6059
- Dignity Baton Rouge
PO Box 4181, Baton Rouge 70821; (504) 343-5172
- Integrity, 3rd Tuesday monthly at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1329 Jackson; 866-1577
- Jewish Gay & Lesbian Alliance; Amos Lassen, 525-8286
- Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus; 3151 Dauphine Street; 944-9836 or 949-2325
- 1st Unitarian Church of New Orleans Gay & Lesbian Task Force

- 5212 S. Claiborne Ave., services Sunday at 10:30 a.m. 865-7005 (men) or 822-3278 (women)
- St. Ambrose Ecumenical Catholic Church, 500 Dufossat Street, 895-4742. Masses Saturday at 4:30 PM & Sunday at 10:30 AM
- Associated Catholic Charities; 1000 Howard Ave. Ste 1200, NOLA 70113.

Health/AIDS Organizations

- NO/AIDS Task Force, 945-4000 (administrative); 944-2437/944-AIDS (hotline); 1-800-992-4379 (statewide hotline); 944-2492 (TTD for hearing impaired).
- ACT UP/New Orleans
meetings Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at 1407 Decatur; 944-4546 or 522-5105
- Buzzy's Boys & Girls/The William J. Fanning Foundation, 943-8929
- PWA Coalition, 945-4000
- United Services for AIDS, 522-5239
- RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network), 523-3755
- AIDSLaw, 944-5035
- Darrell Hamby Memorial Food Bank, 944-3663
- The Lambda Center, 2106 Decatur, 947-0548 (AA & Al-Anon)
- Charity Hospital/C-100 Clinic, 568-5304
- Veterans Administration Medical Center, 589-5920
- Project Lazarus, 949-3609
- Belle Reve, 945-9455
- North Lake AIDS Network (NoLAN), PO 2397, Slidell 70459; (504) 641-6750
- Food For Friends, 944-6028
- Positively Social, POB 72225, NOLA 70172-2225; 504/365-3027

Social or Special Interest

- Men of Color, POBox 57694, NO 70157-7694; 482-5341
- Womyn of Color, 488-5708; 891-0673
- The Divorce Center, support for gay spouses (3rd Tuesday monthly), 488-9924
- New Orleans Women's Music Collective, 522-1318
- New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus, 245-8884
- Frontrunners Running Club, George, 947-1081
- UNO Gay/Lesbian Alliance, UNO Student Affairs, NOLA, 70148, 286-6349
- National Leather Association/New Orleans, PO Box 50133, NO 70150
- Knights d'Orleans, POBox 50812, NO 70150
- Lords of Leather, PO Box 72105, NO 70172
- Gay Bowling League, Mid-City Lanes, 482-3133
- Original Kocktail Bunch Bowling League, 861-0233
- Volleyball New Orleans, 833-3747; 945-4364; 482-3133
- Tri Delta Chi, cross-dressers, TS, TG support group, 943-6612
- Zeitgeist Theatre Experiments, "alternative cinema," 524-0064

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Men Seeking Men

Scott, WM, ISO other males in the north shore area. (Call Thru) Box# 8264

Masculine hairy top, 34, ISO hot bottom. Box# 8400

Bi white teddy bear, 37, looking for male companionship. I aim to please. Box# 1104

Bob, super personality, if you are lonely, call me. (Call Thru) Box# 7934

Male ISO other man for friendship and companionship. Box# 9234

Mike, 32, well-built, masculine, ISO a WM around 6'2, very hairy, for fun hot times. Box# 9287

Paul, call me on call thru. (Call Thru) Box# 6537

Carl, 29, GWM, 180, 5'9, ISO a sincere open minded man, any race. (Call Thru) Box# 3779

TV, 5'11, 140, 30, blond hair, ISO a big black man. Box# 1451

Jim, 5'8, 155, ISO aggressive men. (Call Thru) Box# 1336

GM, 25, 5'9, 150, muscular, ISO other GM. (Call Thru) Box# 3078

Jeff, 35, WM, 195, brown hair/eyes, good body/looks, looking to have fun with other men. (Call Thru) Box# 4558

Michael, BM, 23, ISO guys my age for football, movies, etc. Box# 6919

Male, 28, 5'10, slender, blond hair, blue eyes, looking for someone fun to go dancing, out to movies and dinner. Box# 9584

Kevin, masculine, ISO Gay or BiWM, 20-35 who is built and masculine also. (Call Thru) Box# 3560

Mark, 30, 5'8, 150, dark hair, my partner- 29, 5'6, 142, light brown hair, ISO men under 40 for goodtime. (Call Thru) Box# 4245

Stanley, born in 69, like walks, tennis, volleyball. Box# 6162
Curt, over-weight GWM, ISO nice, hairy, funloving top men. (Call Thru) Box# 2875

Ernie, soft tongue, goodlooking, ISO another male, 18 and over. Box# 5374

WM, 6'190, athletic, well-built, very submissive bottom, ISO a large well-endowed top, you won't be sorry. (Call Thru) Box# 7197

Jason, 24, 5'9, 165, well-built, ISO guy around the same age. (Call Thru) Box# 6510

John, 6'1, 240, top, aggressive, ISO a passive, very feminine male, any age/race. (Call Thru) Box# 1862

DAVE, if you want goodtimes and long fun, call me. (Call Thru) Box# 9590

Justin, BM, 25, ISO other males 25 or younger. (Call Thru) Box# 4147

Chip, like long walks, volleyball, ISO someone to build a relationship. (Call Thru) Box# 9352

Male, young, hot and ready to go. Box# 2545

Michael, 32, GWM, ISO guy for relationship, no games. (Call Thru) Box# 8812

Joe, BM, 29, ISO other BM, I like the outdoors and I am down to earth. (Call Thru) Box# 4522

Kevin, 24, bottom, still in the closet. Box# 5610

M, 5'6, 150, 18, muscular, blond, blue eyes, 9"s, ISO an experienced top to show me everything. (Call Thru) Box# 8427

Jenni, 6'1, 190, ISO teddy bear, 37-47, hairy, dark hair, muscular and intimate. (Call Thru) Box# 3315

GWM, 5'7, blond, blue eyes, 38, goodlooking, well-endowed, muscular, thin, ISO top, HIV-, goodlooking man to love. (Call Thru) Box# 8547

GM, John, 22, college student, ISO someone out-going for good times. Box# 5093

GM, Bob, 35, 6'1, 195, dark hair/eyes, masculine, working-out, ISO someone for some male bonding. (Call Thru) Box# 3440

GWM, 32, independent, financially secure, ISO someone fun for relationship and hot times. Box# 4506

GM, body-builder, 54-inch chest, 36-inch waist, 210, 40's, ISO someone younger, in good shape like myself. (Call Thru) Box# 4684

Tim, ISO dominant, masculine, very mature M, if you have these qualifications, please call me. (Call Thru) Box# 5304

GBM, James, 34, 5'8, 160, ISO friends any race, talk to me, lets get together. (Call Thru) Box# 8149

African-American GM, 31, 6'2, 180, beautiful voice/eyes, top, high sex drive, like bowling, fishing, horseback riding, ISO honest, mature, independent, HIV-, African-American bottom. (Call Thru) Box# 5943

GBM, Maurice, 30, 5'9, 140, ISO another masculine GBM, 25-35. Box# 9118

Michael, 5'7, GBM, top, looking for a goodtime, let's talk. Box# 6117

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GBM, Andre, 20, college student, ISO GWM, for dancing, movies, etc. Box# 6542

GBM, Andre, 5'10, 155, drk hair/eyes, ISO GWM 20-30, to enjoy life to it's fullest. (Call Thru) Box# 7751

GM, 21, 5'9, 140, grn eyes, brn hair, party size, ISO built, masculine guys around same age. (Call Thru) Box# 2503

GWM, 35, 6'2, 180, brn hair/eyes, clean shaven, like legs and feet. Box# 7199

GBM, Mike, 35, slim, attractive, ISO GBM, bottom, 30-50, attractive, slim-med. build, for discreet fun. Box# 3968

GWM, Jay, 25, ISO another M, 25-35, for fun. (Call Thru) Box# 9973

Hot Italian, Jack, 35, dark hair/eyes, 5'4, 170. (Call Thru) Box# 8674

GM, Dave, 6', dark hair, 32 inch waist, clean shaven, ISO partner for fun and good times. Box# 8397

Dave, 6', dark hair, 32 inch waist, clean shaven, ISO honest, sincere partner for fun and pos. rel. (Call Thru) Box# 5049

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APARTMENT WANTED

Phantom Of The Opera—Opera Singer/Actress looking for sublet/room to let from January 4-February 19. Nonsmoker, French Quarter preferred. Have one gentle, declawed, loving, long-haired cat. Gabrielyn Watson, 816-756-0387; 212-613-9109. (12/23)

Phantom Of The Opera—Associate Conductor looking for sublet/room to let from January 4-February 19. Nonsmoker, French Quarter preferred. Please call Jerry Steichen, 816-931-4066. (12/23)

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Five-room bed and breakfast operation seeking live-in gay/lesbian couple to handle day-to-day domestic and guest service responsibilities. Duties include continental breakfast preparation, room cleaning, chauffeuring guests, light gardening, nightly bed turn-down, and guest relations. Looking for stable couple who can meet our demanding standards. Couple will be provided furnished, on-site apartment with telephone, cable, and utilities, use of house vehicle, use of all facilities and salary. Only serious inquiries with references at 504/948-2219 Monday-Friday 10-4

Household Manager Needed, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-5:30 pm, must have own transportation. Duties include house-keeping, shopping, laundry, and some coking. Send resume to: PO Box 1819, Marrero LA 70073. (1/6)

WANTED

Volunteers Needed
for a new nonprofit organization. MARKHAVEN is a recently-formed charitable organization that needs drivers, escorts and support personnel to assist families, friends, and significant others of persons with AIDS who are visiting from out

of town. Please call 504/836-1515

Rooms Needed!!

If you have a spare room with a bath or an apartment, we could use your space! Markhaven is a new, nonprofit organization that temporarily boards families, friends, and significant others of persons with AIDS who are visiting from out of town. All referrals are checked thoroughly. Your location must be in a safe neighborhood within the New Orleans metropolitan area. Please call 504/836-1515 for more information.

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PERSONALS

Visiting New Orleans February 4-9, 1995
Challenging GWM who could convert boring conference into exciting, memorable, dynamite trip. Prefer bottom, 25-40, athletic and educated. Me: 39, 5'10", 180 lbs., physician, top. Send letter & photograph & telephone number to:

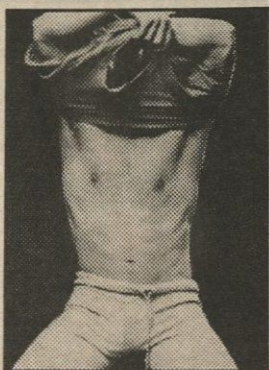
Habib, Box 722 #180, Boston MA 02117. Come visit Boston! (1/20)

Law Student

Public interest, trying to avoid corporate hustle. In need of sponsorship/support to make it through and pay off school. Any assistance greatly appreciated. Please reply to: PO Box 15764, New Orleans LA 70115. (12/23)

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PRISONERS

WM, 22, 6', 192 lbs., blond, blue eyes, seeking friendship as a start. Likes camping, fishing, bowling, water sports, and Jeopardy. I'm sensitive, caring, and intelligent. Made a mistake and am now paying for it. Will be released August, 1995. If you are warm, sensitive, and lonely like I am, and have no qualms about writing to someone who made a mistake, then let's get to know each other. Write to: Francis Smith, 085201 EB-114, Tomoka Correctional Institute, 3950 Tiger Bay Road, Daytona Beach FL 32124. (12/23)

Handsome Hunk

27, 185 lbs., blondish-red hair, green eyes, seeking older gay male for relationship. Currently incarcerated, but will relocate for my 'Prince Charming.' Robert Britt, 797689 E-103, Tomoka Correctional Institute, 3950 Tiger Bay Road, Daytona Beach FL 32124. (1/6)

Young, sexy GWM, 6'4", 198 lbs., blonde hair, brown eyes, nice body, hung (circumcised). Well educated, mature, high sex drive. Incarcerated but out soon. No head games. Cross Dressers, TV's, TS's a plus. All answered promptly. Paul Fox #097277, Box 747, Starke FL 32091. (1/6)

GWM, incarcerated, blond hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 135 lbs., 25, willing to relocate. Released June '95. Write, you can't go wrong. Billy Jo Ferguson, DC-086738, Florida State Prison, POB 747, Starke FL 32091. (12/23)

WM, 27, 6', blond, brown eyes, looking for sincere, romantic, longterm steady relationship. I have just a few short months remaining before my release. Don't hesitate to write! William Arthur Rowe, Jr., DOC-122549, FSP, POB 747, Starke FL 32091. (12/23)

WM, 20, i.s.o. serious, open-minded, caring, sharing, loving bottoms of all ages. Come one, come all for long friendship or more. Will answer all! No gamesters! Jerome Nelson, DCN-392680, Florida State Prison, POB 747, Starke FL 32091. (12/23)

Extremely goodlooking GWM, 25, 5'10", 186 lbs, blond with sea-green eyes. Honest, faithful, caring, sincere, and straightforward. Seeking mature male who is ready for a serious relationship. No games. Please write with SASE to: Dennis Fairman, #B-103126, Florida State Prison, T-3-S-8, POB 747, Starke FL 32091. (12/23)

Take A Chance! Incarcerated, soon-to-be-released GWM, 23, blond hair, blue eyes, 195 lbs., searching for live-in relationship. Honest/sincere, no head games. Charles Saffold, #086113, POB 747, L-1-N-13, Florida State Prison, Starke FL 32091-0747. (12/23)

GWM, 19, 5'8", blue eyes, 170 lbs., looking for a special person to share

dreams and life with, tired of games and real people only need apply. Write to Larry Newton, #30758, N.T.C., POB 479, Burgin KY 40310. (12/23)

Incarcerated WM looking for sincere loving soul mate to become one with in a true relationship of love and understanding. 22 and full of love. Keith Lambert, 095045 L-wing, FSP, POB 747, Starke FL 32091. (12/23)

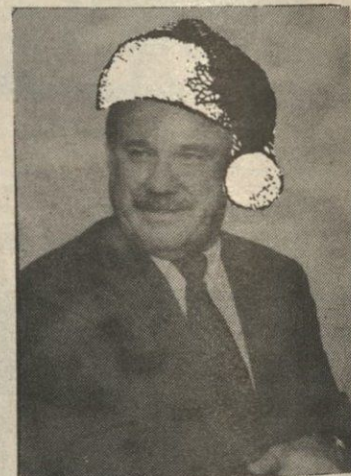
Lonely incarcerated GBM, short-timer, caring, honest, affectionate, 37, 5'11", 175 lbs., brown hair and eyes, attractive, light-complexioned, HIV-, loving, healthy and old-fashioned, seeks that special someone to share my life with. 'Last of the Moheicans.' Your photo gets mine. Write to: Donald L. Allen, POB 1989-28192, Ely NV 89301. (1/6)

GM, 24, 5'10", dark hair, blue eyes, 155 lbs., clean and in great shape, athletically built, presently incarcerated. Seeking professional man for friendship and possibly much more in the future. Please, sincere and serious inquiries only. Age/race not a factor. Jeff E. Bell, #81559, KSP POB 128, 3-11-L-04, Eddyville KY 42038-0128. (1/6)

Incarcerated GWM, short time, caring, honest, affectionate, 31, body builder with swimmer's physique, smooth, 5'10", 155 lbs., blond, hazel-green eyes, HIV-. Looking for that special lifemate; prefer someone older than me, age is not an issue. Please send photo with reply. Write to: Lloyd D. Kaufman, POB 1989-15974, Ely NV 89301. (12/23)



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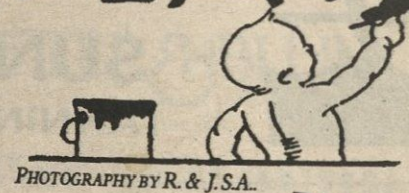
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BY BODE NOONAN

When I first met the Buick, she wasn't the Buick yet. She was just a kitten who showed up on my front porch one late autumn afternoon looking for what—food? attention? respite? Who knows what cats want? She was pretty, her fur a deep solid grey, except for the paws, vest, and underbelly, which were a brilliant white. She held aloft a huge grey tail, ringed in charcoal like a raccoon's, and twitched it, waved it back and forth like a scepter.

I wasn't a cat person, but this tiny grey fluff seemed so purposeful and independent as she sat back on her haunches and quietly followed my every movement with her keen eyes that I thought, well, just one taste of the Pet Cream I like to put in my coffee couldn't hurt. In fact, I thought, she'd probably be very, very grateful. Sure enough, she lapped up that Pet Cream pretty quickly, smacked her lips for a moment or two, then sauntered off, without so much as a brief howdy-do. Cats.

A few afternoons later Buick came back, bounding across the street as happy as could be, but she was limping, sort of dragging one leg behind her. It looked as if her hip had been crushed. She wasn't cut or bleeding. Perhaps someone had stepped on her, maybe kicked her. Perhaps she'd been knocked aside, grazed, by a mindlessly driven car. I felt immediate pity and compassion, but the Buick rebuffed that impulse cleanly and quickly. She didn't pity herself and, as a matter of fact, appeared summarily unaware that there was anything different or unusual about her at all.

I thought she might appreciate a taste of Alpo Whitefish and Tuna Treat from one of the cans I had stacked up in the cabinet under the kitchen sink (just in case she came back), and she did. She even allowed me to stroke the top of her head—not the chin, not the pretty vest, not the belly, just the top of the head—and twitched her tail and, as seemed to be her wont, bounded away.

As the weather turned cooler (in addition to the now more or less regular afternoon Whitefish and Tuna Treat dinners in which she was indulged) Buick started showing up at my door in the evenings, patiently expecting to be let in so she could curl up at the foot of my bed—not too much petting, please—and be let out again at the first crack of sunlight. As she began sprouting from a plump little kitten into a lanky adolescent, I thought about getting her spayed, but she seemed so to enjoy rolling on her back with Plate Face, the big striped round-headed cat from down the road, that I decided I should just let nature take its course as it must have with all of



the other striped round-headed cats I soon realized were roaming all over the neighborhood). Besides, surely *someone* was taking care of all of these cats. Surely *someone* had assumed responsibility.

I can't say I felt surprised (guilty, maybe, but not surprised) when it looked as if the Buick might possibly be pregnant. As the weather began turning warmer and warmer, Buick's little body continued

growing and growing, until one day when she was lying on her side on the front porch, her belly heaving like a beached flounder, I admitted she had, in fact, gotten as big as a Buick—a huge, extravagant, gas-guzzling, pregnant Buick (hence the name). Buick eventually delivered three kittens in the small, rather untended garden in front of my house, and it appeared I had been saddled with a young mother, a teeny-tiny grey and white kitten who looked

"It's okay, Buick," I petted her, but she was a steel bristle, her crouched body as knotted as gristle; her eyes, vacant. No, not vacant. She didn't know it was over. Or maybe I was the one who didn't know that it wasn't, it never would be for a cat like her who lived on the street. "You were a good little mother," I said, standing back, not wanting to frighten her any more than she already was as I watched the big orange dog lope to the corner, sit down to lick his balls for a minute and then move on.

just exactly like her, a robust little tiger-striped plate-headed boy, and the runt—a pink faced, mottled little wisp who seemed destined not to survive—all to look after.

I brought home a sturdy cardboard box from the Winn-Dixie, filled it with a few old towels, and lay it on its side in the weeds next to Buick. Buick never went into her comfortable new box, of course, but she did drink from the brand new green ceramic bowl full of water I put out for her, because she was nursing and I knew must be using up a lot of her fluids. Every time I checked on her, as a matter of fact, almost all the water had been drained.

Every morning Buick would leap out of the bushes as soon as I opened the door to get my morning paper, and I would follow her into the kitchen where I served up the Whitefish and Tuna Treat that she would gobble voraciously, licking the can. Finished (she was eating for four now), she would pad quickly back to the front door as I padded quickly behind her to let her back to the babies she had left momentarily unprotected.

My neighbors were amazed at the way Buick let me pick up her kittens—the strong little tiger, the pretty dainty grey girl, and the tail-less little Steven (who was not Steven yet) with her huge eyes, mute cry and wild, mottled fur. But they're not mine, I would tell them. These are not my cats. I'm just tending them for a while, until they go where they're supposed to go, to other people, to the streets, maybe to the pound, wherever.

One night as I lay on my living room couch reading, watching television, sleeping, planning, wondering, whatever, I heard a dog barking, close. It was a menacing bark. I heard an answering low, rumbling feline-like growl—the kittens!—and leaped from the couch, unhesitatingly running to position myself between my terrified little family and the huge orange dog that stood rooting, growling, pawing, thrusting into the garden, its tail standing straight up, the hair bristling on its back.

I felt the low garden branches brush against the small of my own back. This big dog was no more than a foot and a half from me, its lips tightly curled back. I curled my lips back, hoping the beast would buy my bluff. For a second, he moved as if to bite my thigh. I could see pointed, yellow canine teeth puncturing my skin, grinding my bone, then crunching Buick's tender neck, masticating, gulping three mewling kittens as I lay on the ground bleeding. Yet I crouched—feet apart, knees bent, arms open, bent at the elbow—and stared the dog down until dipping his head, he sniffed at the ground, dropped his tail, wagged it half-heartedly, and nonchalantly trotted away. What, was I crazy?

But that was it. It was over. "It's okay,

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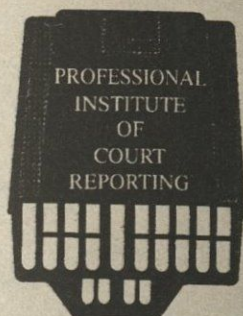


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LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE

**MUSICAL GIFTS
OF THE SEASON**

BY EDWARD REAL

If the Christmas season brings about a virtual cessation of theatrical activity, we are compensated by the gifts of music it produces. Since there was no compelling dramatic fare over the past two weekends, I welcomed the opportunity for a change of pace, visiting the Orpheum for only the second time this season to hear the Louisiana Philharmonic, venturing into cabaret, and of course indulging in the theatre buff's favorite sport—avidly listening to the spate of new recordings the season brings.

For its "Classics 5" concert, the LPO was conducted by Robert Spano, and it responded to his precise, commanding manner with a high disciplined and rewarding performance of three works in a wide variety of styles. The program opened with an elegant and exuberant Mozart Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major, and the orchestra evoked the wit and warmth which ironically was a product of one of the gloomier periods in the composer's life.

The second item of the evening was the sort of thing which often strikes fear into the hearts of conservative local concert-goers—a new work for an instrument not usually deemed a "solo performer" (Some people have still not recovered from Erb's trombone concerto a couple of seasons back). Edgar Meyer's Concerto for Double Bass and Orchestra, with the composer as guest artist, proved to be a crowd pleaser. While it was an exercise in demonstrating the full range of the instrument's voice, the concerto did not seem merely an opportunity for virtuoso showiness; it had the earthy, low humor and "down-home" feel one might expect from a composer equally at home in the symphony hall and in recordings with Garth Brooks, Kathy Mattea and others of the country set.

The orchestra concluded with a superbly played Sibelius Fifth Symphony, and Spano elicited from the players a proper tone of heroic affirmation (the work was composed partially in response to the rigors of the First World War). In a sense, this work may be relevant to the LPO's current situation—the musicians are heroically persisting against seemingly hostile forces: At the program's inception concert master Wendy Putnam made a quietly emotional appeal for community support for the struggling orchestra. The ensuing musical performance amply demonstrated that the fine ensemble does

indeed deserve more patronage and respect from its audiences.

Another treat of the holiday season is that it brings back native daughter Diane Lala from Cincinnati. And she has brought with her a new cabaret act, which she performs (in spite of a major cold) with her usual charm and *brio* at the True Brew in the Warehouse district. Miss Lala is not only a vivacious, personable entertainer, she's also a musical-comedy archeologist who seeks out little treasures of song from relatively unknown shows. Her most recent set includes tunes from such obscurities as *Smile* ("Disneyland"), *Working* ("Just a Housewife"), *One Two Three Four Five* (Maury Yeston's beautiful "New Words"), in addition to a healthy dose of Sondheim. When she does take up a standard, she gives it a unique Lala twist: Her rendition of "Do It Again" gives free rein to her comedic gifts.

Some of the songs Lala sings are turning up on newly released recordings aimed at the insatiable musical-comedy lovers' market. *Unsung Musicals* (Varese Sarabande) is a compilation of rare gems from shows which did not survive their pre-Broadway tryouts or closed shortly after opening. It is a must for any theatrephile on your shopping list with its all-star performers and musical rarities. Among its pleasures are the rousing title tune from *Sherry*, the absolutely politically incorrect "Silverware" from *We Take the Town* (yes—a musical about Pancho Villa), and a wistful ballad called "Starfish" from the stage version of *La Strada*.

From the same company comes the "Lost in Boston" series, a collection of songs cut from successful shows usually in order to strengthen the show as a whole, not because the songs were inherently inferior (though material excised from *The King and I* and *West Side Story* may be of dubious merit). Often it seems that the music which was cut was better than that which remained. Several numbers from *110 in the Shade* give that impression, but perhaps that's because they are performed by the delightful Sally Mayes. Mayes also has a highly recommendable new release on Varese. *Our Private World* is an entertaining compilation of Comden and Green material.

The late Jule Styne is honored on an RCA Victor recording. Nothing says

Wicked Stage

Continued on Page 20

Buick." I petted her, but she was steel bristle, her electrified hair pricking my hand like steel points. Her crouched body, not unlike my own, was as knotted as gristle; her eyes, vacant. No, not vacant. She must have been focused on the same chewing scene that had forced me into my militant crouch, only she didn't know it was over. Or maybe I was the one who didn't know that it wasn't—never would be for a cat like her who lived on the street. Her babies—their tiny, pink eyelids still mucousy shut—squirmed, eager for the return of Buick's mothering nipples indifferent now to the terror that had just threatened them.

"You were a good little mother," I said out loud, standing back, not wanting to frighten her any more than she already was as I watched the big orange dog lope to the corner, sit down to lick his balls for a minute, then move on.

The next morning when I opened my door to get the paper, there was the Buick, as usual, except for the fact that Mr. Tiger—his tiny eyes half open and looking a little confused—dangled daintily by the nape of his neck from her mouth. Cats really can give you a look, can't they? "Well, come on in," I said, and stepped aside, holding the door open wider. Determinedly—as if she'd thought it all out during the night—Buick padded into my bedroom and ducked under the bed, where I hadn't yet taken up the fake Persian rug I laid out over the winter to keep the cold from coming up through the floor boards, separated by nothing from the outside.

Mr. Tiger safely ensconced way back against the baseboard, Buick padded back out to get the little grey Lady. (I had propped open the screen door while I went to the garden to fetch the ceramic bowl Buick seemed to like so much.) Finally she returned with the last tiny wisp of fluff (my precious Little Steven) swinging from her soft jaws, and stashed her under the bed with her brother and sister, all four of them coalescing contentedly into a squealing and squirming little cosmos of nurturing.

Well, that settled it. I guess I have cats under my bed, I conceded. I'm sleeping over a world. Δ

FAMOUS QUEERS BORN THIS FORTNIGHT

Dec. 23: Tsar Alexander I, 1777; Jose Greco, 1918; Dec. 24: Galba, 3 BC; Joseph Cornell, 1903; Howard Hughes, 1905; Ava Gardner (honorary?), 1922; Dec. 26: Thomas Gray, 1716; Richard Widmark, 1914; Dec. 27: Sydney Greenstreet, 1879; Marlene Dietrich, 1904; Gerard Depardieu (honorary?), 1948; Dec. 28: F.W. Murnau, 1888; Manuel Puig, 1934; Dec. 30: Paul Bowles, 1910; Dec. 31: Pola Negri, 1894; Orry Kelly, 1897; Odetta, 1930; Joe Dallesandro, 1948; Jan. 1: Cicero, 1906 BC; Pope Alexander VI, 1431; E.M. Forster, 1879; J. Edgar Hoover, 1895; William Haines, 1900; Joe Orton, 1933; Jan. 3: Dorothy Arzner, 1900; Anna May Wong, 1907; Jan. 4: Marsden Hartley, 1877; Michael Stipe (honorary?), 1960; Jan. 5: Jean-Pierre Aumont, 1913; Alvin Ailey, 1931

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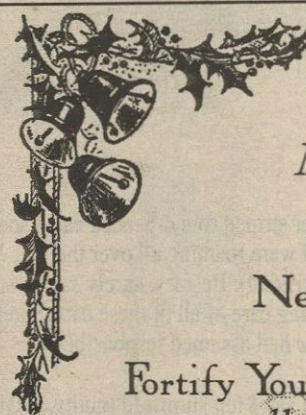
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Dia Lala—pictured above with pianist Harvey Lantz—has a new cabaret act at True Brew in the Warehouse District. She is not only a vivacious, personable entertainer, she's also a musical comedy archeologist who seeks out little treasures of song from relatively unknown shows (Smile, Working, One Two Three Four Five). When she does take up a standard, she gives it a unique Lala twist: her rendition of "Do It Again" gives free rein to her comedic gifts.

Broadway like a Styne overture, and this has thirteen of them, alas not including his farewell show, *The Red Shoes*.

From DRG we expect the best in cabaret entertainers, and this season's crop includes Ann Hampton Callaway's "Bring Back Romance," Karen Akers' "Just Imagine," and a charming presentation of Barbara Cook, "Live in London."

One of the best of the "crossover" albums, wherein opera stars perform lighter theatrical material, is Dawn Upshaw's *I Wish It So* perhaps because the songs here are by Bernstein, Blitzstein, Sondheim and Weill (sounds like reindeer) which are more suitable to the operatic voice.

Some hint of what the new London Norma Desmond sounds like is provided on Betty Buckley's new release on Sterling, *With One Look*. Some hint of what Julie Andrews used to sound like is offered on Philips' *Broadway: the Music of Richard Rodgers*.

It is very much a bountiful season of musical gifts, in local performance and on recordings. Δ

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COSTUME EPIC

BY KAREL GAZDACKA

Robert Altman is an old-fashioned showman. At his best, in *Brewster McCloud* and *The Long Goodbye* and *Nashville*, he has the audience gasping for breath, amazed at how many characters and plots he can keep in the air at the same time. His movies are elaborate stunts, feats of cinematic prowess—there really should be a barker outside the theatre urging the passers-by to “step right up and see the Amazing Alt-Man, He cuts! He pans! He cranes! He dollies! He tracks! He even shoots a nine-minute scene without so much as a cut!” So breath-taking are his camera moves, so exhilarating his rhythm and tempo, that it can be days before the viewer realizes he or she has been had. For all its innovations in form or structure, *Nashville* got it all wrong when it came to the South and Southern politics and country music—but you didn’t care. As with Woody Allen (and now, I guess, Quentin Tarantino), Hollywood luminaries are willing to work

for scale for Altman and so *Nashville* was full of high-priced talent having the time of their lives working up quirky character parts. Like an indulgent paterfamilias, Altman encourages their antic behavior. (The glorious exception is Altman’s masterpiece, *McCabe and Mrs. Miller*, the only time the director would get full-bodied performances rather than mannered bits-o-business.)

After *Nashville*, something happened, something terrible happened. Altman began to take his press seriously and himself too seriously. I couldn’t believe it, but I remember stumbling out of his next movie, the truly execrable *Buffalo Bill and the Indians*, after a mere forty-five minutes. I felt as if I were in a state of shock—here was my favorite director (at the time) and I was walking out on his latest movie! And then the following year

came *Quintet*, the gold standard when it comes to worst movies of all time. After that, it was a head-long plunge into-gasp—mediocrity: *A Perfect Couple*, *A Wedding*, *H.E.A.L.T.H.*, and his Hollywood swan song, *Popeye*. One hears

When he was good, Robert Altman made films like *Brewster McCloud* (1970) with René Auberjonois as the lecturer in ornithology who identifies with his subject to the point of metamorphosis—the scene almost looks it was shot in our favorite store in Paris, Deyrolles—a taxidermist’s on the Rue du Bac.



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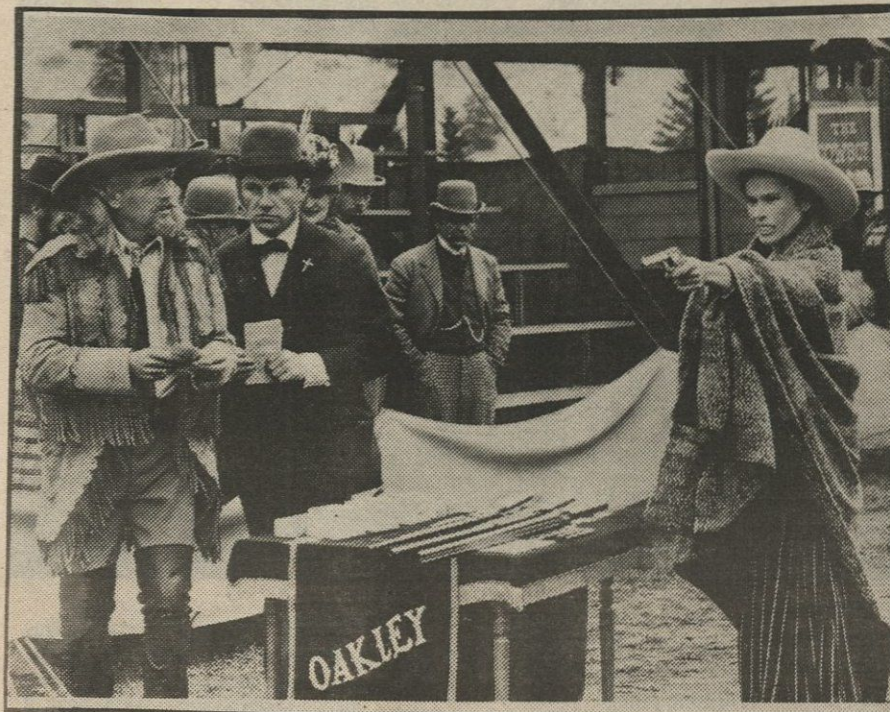
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Favorites:
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHIP LANDRY

Movie Police
Continued from Page 21

that by this time Altman's fondness for booze and the noxious weed had cost him his facility behind the camera. Certainly, let's hope the likes of *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* and, especially, *Fool For Love* can be

The rot started to set in with Altman about the time of *Buffalo Bill and the Indians or Sitting Bull's History Lesson* (1976); Geraldine Chaplin—as sharpshooter Annie Oakley—shows off her virtuosity with a shootin' iron as Buffalo Bill Cody (Paul Newman) and Cody's poor relation Ed (Harvey Keitel, who played smaller roles in those days) watch.



chalked up to the effects of alcohol poisoning. (Ever since working with Sam Shepard on *Fool For Love*, Altman never hesitates to badmouth America's most self-indulgent, self-absorbed, self-important playwright, a fact that guarantees there'll always be a special place in my heart for Altman.) Then it was self-imposed exile in *la belle France*, directing operas and a series of movies that practically no one saw (Do you know anyone who's seen *O.C. and Stiggs?*).

Just when everyone thought that the last had been heard from Bobby Altman, and it was time for the AFI Life Achievement Award, he was "re-discovered" with *The Player*, a satire on Hollywood and the suits that would no longer hire him. *Short Cuts* found him straining for significance (a good way to get an artistic hernia) and doing some of his best work since *Nashville*. Which, finally, brings us to *Prêt-à-Porter*, or as it has been re-titled at the eleventh hour, *Ready To Wear*, a putative satire on the fashion industry which, if I may borrow a page from a noted local educator on a work by Truffaut, is like a satire on satire. Surely everyone knows that fashion is not to be taken too seriously and don't tell me I've got to be wrong because Tina Brown devoted an entire issue of *The New Yorker* to 'couture,' going down on Karl Lagerfeld, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Donna Karan, Ralph Lauren, and that ilk. Altman also knows his subject this time is frivolous and *Ready To Wear* is probably his most relaxed and playful film since his *Nashville* days. Aware that you can't

really make an important statement about the human condition with a fashion statement, Altman sets out to have an impish good time at the expense of these silly creatures. He's nasty and gleefully so, and it's nice to see a director so unabashedly go about bashing those who would tell us what we should and shouldn't wear.

No one is likely to mistake *Ready To Wear* for top-of-the-line Altman, but like slumming it has its pleasures: Kim Basinger as a fashion reporter with a twangy Texas accent who covers the fall collections for TV viewers back home in extravagantly overwrought phrases cranked out by her assistant ("...from supernovas to super-nobodies..."), the three dowager-editresses from the publishing world representing *Elle* (Linda Hunt, as a woman), *British Vogue* (ditzy Tracey Ullmann, a vision in an over-sized Mad Hatter chapeau), and *Harper's Bazaar* (the icky Sally Kellerman, fresh from being the voice of Hidden Valley Ranch's Honey Dijon dressing); Stephen Rea as a wiseass fashion photographer who sets out to humiliate the three.

While Generation-X'ers will probably not be familiar with the—how shall we word it?—more mature actors and actresses, *Ready To Wear* is a veritable where-are-they-now of art film stars for the baby boomers in the audience. Anouk Aimee is a dignified latter-day incarnation of the beauty in Jacques Demy's *Lola*, while Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni frequently appear dazed and baffled, not certain what they're doing in

this movie.

As enjoyable as the odd line and the occasional gesture frequently are, you leave the theatre convinced there must have been some essential parts that didn't survive the editing. All the big scenes seem to be missing. Maybe, though, that's the ultimate statement about the world of fashion. Δ

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NEWS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

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Glasgow, Scotland - The combination of Retrovir brand zidovudine (AZT) and the investigational drug 3TC (lamivudine) reduces by 92 percent the amount of virus in the blood of patients infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), according to a new study. The reduction is much greater than what is seen with any single licensed therapy. Patients receiving the combination experienced an average gain of 85 CD4+ cells after eight weeks in the study and maintained an 80 cell increase at week 24. At week 48, this increase persisted with a 49 cell increase over baseline. Patients who received Retrovir alone over the same period had CD4+ cell counts drop by an average of seven cells at week 24. However, patients in the Retrovir only group who switched to the combination after 24 weeks of study showed an increase of 40 cells above baseline by week 48.

These data show the combination of Retrovir and 3TC to have the most prolonged and pronounced effect of any drug regimen studied to date in suppressing the replication of the virus and boosting the body's own infection-fighting capabilities. These studies assessed laboratory markers of HIV disease; they did not assess clinical endpoints. The data were presented at the Second International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV infection by the French research team which coordinated the trial. "These data are extremely significant not only for their effectiveness in reducing virus and increasing CD4+ cell levels, but also because these effects persisted throughout the year-long study," said Dr. Christina Katlama, the leader of the study who presented the data. "It's also important to note that the combination was very well tolerated by patients."

The double-blind study randomized 129 patients to either Retrovir and 3TC combination or the control regimen of Retrovir alone. Patients in the combination arm received 300 mg of 3TC twice daily and 200 mg of Retrovir three times daily. Nausea, vomiting and headache were the most commonly reported adverse events. Patients admitted to the study had CD4+ cell counts between 100 and 400 and had less than four weeks of prior therapy with Retrovir. The findings are consistent with a second study presented by Dr. Schlomo Staszewski from Frankfurt, Germany, which showed that in patients already treated with Retrovir for at least 24 weeks, the addition of 3TC produced significant improvement in immune response. When compared with other two drug combi-

nations, Retrovir and 3TC is the most effective regimen studied to date, including Retrovir and ddI or Retrovir and ddC.

Researchers theorize that 3TC may play a key role in preventing the development of viral resistance to Retrovir, thereby increasing the duration of the proven antiviral effect of Retrovir. The combination does not prevent the rapid development of resistance to 3TC. These data are precursor to the presentation of clinical trial data on two U. S. studies of the Retrovir and 3TC combination which will be shared in early 1995.

Dr. Margaret Fischl of the University of Miami School of Medicine presented data which indicate that combination therapies with nucleoside analogues, including Retrovir, ddI and ddC, are more effective in increasing CD4+ cell counts and for longer periods of time than therapy with a single agent. In addition, she reported that the combination of Retrovir, ddI and Nevirapine, a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, also appeared to result in more pronounced effects.

Retrovir, widely considered to be the cornerstone therapy in almost all two and three drug combinations, was the first drug released for marketing for the treatment of HIV infection and AIDS. Its use as a therapy for HIV infection and AIDS was discovered by scientists at Burroughs Wellcome Company which produces and markets the drug.

3TC is licensed by BioChem Pharma to Glaxo Pharmaceuticals. The Retrovir and 3TC studies were funded by Glaxo. In March 1994, Wellcome and Glaxo signed non-legally binding agreements giving Wellcome the option to develop 3TC for HIV infection. Glaxo has informed Wellcome that it has decided not to proceed with this option. Δ

DEAN BIOGRAPHER THREATENED WITH LIBEL SUIT

James Dean's sex life continues to stir controversy, almost 40 years after his death. William Bast, the late film star's biographer, has filed a libel lawsuit against Paul Alexander, author of the recently-published book *Boulevard of Broken Dreams: The Life, Times and Legend of James Dean*, which Bast charges implied he (Bast) and Dean were in fact lovers. (Many people have charged many things about Dean since Kenneth Anger first published thirty years ago that Dean's nickname among certain queer cognoscenti was "the human ashtray.") Bast and Dean once shared an apartment during the 1950s.

Those "New" Democrats (a continuing series): "Jeffrey Dahmer should have been sentenced to death by a jury, not by a bunch of thugs in a prison.... This is certainly not a day to celebrate such a brutal killing. But the truth is, Jeffrey Dahmer earned it, he deserved it. Congress should learn from a bunch of prisoners who provided some justice in America."—Congressman James Traficant, Democrat of Ohio, speaking on the House floor; reprinted in the Washington Blade, issue of 12/9/94.

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actor's meteoric rise to film idol, and Alexander's book describes their relationship as an "on-again, off-again love affair, akin to a troubled marriage," according to the lawsuit. Bast denies having a sexual relationship with Dean and is suing for unspecified damages (unspecified, we presume, because why would he not be proud of such a fact?) and for a halt to publication of Alexander's book (which is the sort of publicity every trashy biographer dreams of; look at what denunciation of this sort did for Kitty Kelley and C. David Heymann). 4

TENNESSEE'S SODOMY LAW POSSIBLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL, SAYS JUDGE

A county judge in Tennessee this week declared that the state's law prohibiting consensual sodomy violates a state constitutional guarantee to the right of privacy. The ruling came in a Dec. 7 preliminary hearing in which the judge refused to grant the state's request that the lawsuit challenging the sodomy law be dismissed.

Instead, Judge Walter Kurtz of the Davidson County Circuit, which includes the state's capital of Nashville, issued a twenty-page memorandum, saying that the state could not prohibit same-sex acts simply because the majority thinks it immoral. Lesbian activist attorney Abby Rubinfeld, who organized the challenge, said yesterday that she is "cautiously optimistic" that Kurtz's ruling will lead the state Supreme Court to strike the law from the books. Rubinfeld said the judge had scheduled a trial date of Jan. 10 to hear evidence in the case but that the state's attorneys have not indicated they plan to bring any witnesses to justify the law. Instead, she said, the state tried to justify the law by saying that the law protects the public health. But Judge Kurtz said the state had failed to provide any evidence to support that contention.

After Kurtz issued his memorandum Wednesday, Rubinfeld filed a motion for summary judgment. She said the state has 30 days in which to reply to that motion and that, then, Judge Kurtz could choose to issue a final declaration without going to trial. Once Kurtz issues his final ruling, the case will go directly to the state Supreme Court.



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books. The Tennessee case, *Campbell v. Tennessee*, is being pressed by five plaintiffs—Nashville Lesbian activist Penny Campbell and four others, including an airline pilot and a nurse. Their lawsuit charged that the law violates their rights to equal protection and privacy under the state constitution. The Tennessee sodomy law prohibits sodomy only by same-sex partners, not heterosexual ones. The state's sodomy law prohibited both same-sex and heterosexual sodomy until 1989, when it revised the law to prohibit only same-sex acts.

In reasoning that Tennessee's sodomy law is unconstitutional, Judge Kurtz took a slap at the U.S. Supreme Court majority opinion in *Hardwick*. Instead, he recalled the minority's dissent as emphasizing that the record in the case was "devoid of any evidence which indicated that sodomy had adverse consequences for the general public health or welfare such as spreading communicable diseases or fostering other criminal activities." Justice Harry Blackmun (the Nixon appointee who wrote the minority dissent), noted Kurtz, "concluded that the belief that homosexuals do not share the majority's values does not justify invading the homes, hearts and minds of homosexuals...."

"It is inconsistent with the state constitutional right of privacy and liberty to prohibit behavior based on majoritarian morality," wrote Kurtz. The right to privacy, he said, "is a right of independence in making certain important personal decisions with the ability to conduct oneself in accordance with those decisions, undeterred by governmental restraint. This right includes the right of sexual expression with another consenting adult regardless of the gender of the sex partner." (Lisa Keen, *Washington Blade*) 4

If Tennessee's law bites the dust, it will represent the seventh state law prohibiting sodomy to be either repealed, overturned, or gutted since 1986, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, that Georgia could prohibit consensual same-sex sodomy in the privacy of the home. That would leave only eighteen states with enforceable sodomy laws still on the

AN ATTEMPT AT LESBIAN DOUBLE SUICIDE IN CHINA

CHINA—Two lesbian lovers agreed to commit suicide after arguing over whether or not one should enter a heterosexual marriage (unlike the classic example in the famous Japanese *bunraku*, *Double Suicide* in which caste is more involved and one of the lovers is married).

According to United Press International, on Dec 5, the *Shanghai Evening News* reported that the two women became lovers years ago after meeting each other while working for the same company in Suihua, a city in the northern Heilongjiang Province. The younger of the two women, who were both in their early 20s, decided to enter a heterosexual marriage while the other vehemently opposed the idea. The two agreed to commit suicide by injecting each other with lethal doses of the disinfectant Lysol, which seems like an ugly way to go. One woman died and the other remains in critical condition.

The UPI report stated that the Chinese press rarely deals with homosexual matters but that tabloids and a new crop of penny-dreadfuls in the 'boom cities' of southern China, including Shanghai, "are offering a steamier fare of gossip, romance, and crimes of passion." Just what China needs—its own 'yellow journalism.' (*Washington Blade*) 4

SURPRISE BUSINESS NEWS OF THE MONTH

A Federal appeals court ruled November 22 that the pharmaceutical company Burroughs Wellcome has exclusive rights to market the anti-HIV drug AZT (zidovudine). The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit upheld a July 1993 district court ruling on five of six disputed AZT patents, ruling that two scientists from the National Institutes of Health did not contribute significantly to the invention and development of AZT. The sixth patent claim was sent back to the district court to determine the facts. The decision rejected the claims of two other drug companies, Barr Laboratories, Inc. and Novopharm Ltd., and prevents these companies from marketing a generic version of AZT under a license granted by NIH, which conducted preliminary testing of the drug. Burroughs Wellcome put AZT on the market in 1987, using the brand name Retrovir. This, of course, means also that Burroughs Wellcome can continue to sharkishly manipulate drug prices—that of AZT is, in particular, notorious for its artificial inflation, and operate with the impunity of monopoly. Why is this news seem so depressingly, malodorously stale? 4

MELINDA PARAS NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NGLTF

The Board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) announced the appointment of San Francisco Health Commissioner Melinda Paras as the new executive director of the organization, which has been newly re-shaped following a four-month program evaluation of the agency. Appointed to the San Francisco Health Commission in 1993 by Mayor Frank Jordan, Paras chairs the Budget Committee and serves on the Joint Conference for San Francisco General Hospital.

For the past four months, Paras has headed a transition team at NGLTF, assessing the organization's strengths, challenges and duties, and developing a plan for its next two years. The NGLTF board established the transition team in response to the departure of several key staff people, the changing demands of NGLTF's

constituents and the altered political atmosphere facing the gay and lesbian community.

Following extensive evaluation, Paras has created "a new vision for a new era."

In addition to heading the transition team responsible for creating the new structure for NGLTF Paras has assisted in stabilizing NGLTF's finances. The organization had scaled back its budget to 2.6 million dollars and had prepared for a potential year-end deficit following income shortfalls earlier in the year. In her four months as interim Chief Operating Officer, Paras has eliminated that projected deficit and the organization plans to end on the targeted budget.

"I have been a great admirer of NGLTF for years," Paras said. "I am proud to have led NGLTF out of its internal crisis so it could resume the critical work it does. Our constituents need so much from us—and the re-engineered NGLTF will be in a better position than ever before to deliver relevant programs and resources to our community."

Paras has been active in movements for social change in the Filipino and lesbian/gay communities for more than 20 years. In San Francisco, she served as coordinator of the lesbian/gay speakers bureau of the Community United Against Violence anti-violence project; vice president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club; staff member of the 1990 and 1991 political campaigns for domestic partners legislation in the city; and campaign manager for the successful campaign to defend the new domestic partner law in 1992. She pioneered efforts to make AIDS services available to poor and disenfranchised communities as the Director of Multicultural Affairs and later as the Deputy Director of the somewhat beleaguered Shanti Project, a large AIDS service provider in San Francisco. 4

CLINTON NAMES FLEMING AS NEW AIDS "TSAR"

Acting director of AIDS policy Patricia Fleming was appointed Nov. 10 to permanently replace former AIDS tsar Kristine Gebbie, who resigned from the post in June. Fleming, a former assistant to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, has been acting director since Gebbie resigned amid criticism that her leadership was ineffectual. Fleming said her chief mission will be to shape the AIDS budget and see it through the necessary steps to approval, as well as serving as the president's liaison to HIV-impacted community. In an interview with the *New York Times*, Fleming, who is African-American, said President Clinton has requested a report on AIDS in adolescents.

Fleming is particularly concerned with rising AIDS rates in women and minorities, and wants to devote more work to vaginal microbicides and female-controlled safe-sex devices. She has advocated abstinence and monogamy as the best ways for teens to avoid contracting HIV, noting that half of all HIV-infections occur before the age of 25. She also has the support of the AIDS Action Council and the National Minority AIDS Council. ACT UP has criticized the president for appointing a mid-level official to the job and not making the post a cabinet position. 4

News Continued on Page 27

SEXBUBBLES

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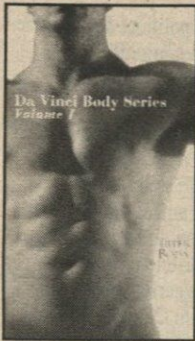


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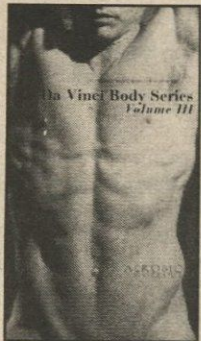
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The Art of Touch - An Intimate Guide to Male Massage \$24.95

This groundbreaking video was the title to open and firmly establish a special interest niche within the gay community. This video presents an intimate guide to massage and touch exclusively for men. Learn innovative massage strokes to relieve tension, relax muscles of the body and face, and enhance sensual awareness.

SALE \$14⁹⁵

The Art of Touch II - A Taoist Erotic Massage \$24.95

This is the erotic follow-up to the best selling *The Art of Touch - An Intimate Guide to Male Massage*. In this volume six gorgeous international models from Norway, Hungary, England and the United States carefully demonstrate ancient secrets of channeling sexual energy throughout the entire body. These beautiful, completely nude young guys are your guides on a sensual 50-minute odyssey, exploring sexual heights rarely experienced by Westerners.

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Produced as a classic study of the male form in motion, we looked at the most difficult, yet most elegant sport: Gymnastics. Our five athletes, collected from European national gymnastic teams, are aged 18 to 24 and rank among the best in the world. This video was designed as a high-end photography book in video format. *Gymnastikos* is a must-have for all serious video collectors.

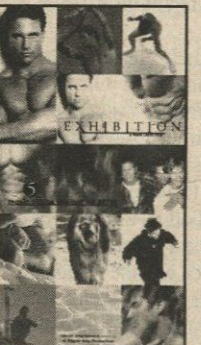
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Sexual information about alternate positions and techniques that are more deeply satisfying for gay men have not been readily available in the U.S. market because of the fear and prejudice surrounding gay sex. That is, until now! This videocassette is aimed at the gay male who wants to learn more about his sexuality and his choices. Whether you are in a relationship or single, this information offers a fresh way of looking at ourselves that is both natural and excitingly explicit.

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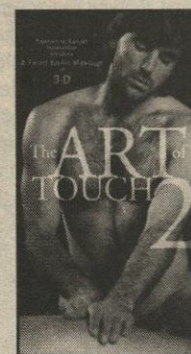
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FORMER COACH SAYS SEXUAL ORIENTATION LED TO HER DISMISSAL

COLUMBIA, Ky. (AP)—Many Lindsey Wilson College volleyball and softball players coached by a woman who says she was fired because she is a lesbian say the coach's personal life was never an issue for them. The players are expressing outrage at Diana Chalfant's firing. They say they never thought about Chalfant's personal life. "Number one, she never told any of us she was a lesbian or ever commented on it. It was not an issue," said Melissa Schultz, 19, a sophomore volleyball player from Campbell County. "It didn't matter. It wasn't an issue....If they did fire her because she's a lesbian, that's just not right."

Chalfant was preparing the women's softball team for its first fast-pitch season this spring when she was fired Dec. 9 by Ray Wells, athletic director of the private, liberal-arts college affiliated with the United Methodist Church. "When we found out, we were shocked that this could happen," said Sonya Mouser, 19, a freshman from Nelson County. Chalfant said Wells told her he didn't like her handling of the volleyball program, although the team had just finished a winning season. Wells also said there had been "some lesbian incidents," Chalfant said.

Chalfant, 30, acknowledges that she is gay, but said she was not open about it on campus and never made advances toward any of her players. Wells and college President John B. Begley declined last week to talk about Chalfant's firing. They cited a school policy that forbids publicly discussing personnel matters. "She was a fine coach," Begley said. "All personnel decisions are hard to make, and it was particularly hard with Diana." Begley said the school must follow the lead of the church, including its social principles, and the Methodist church does not condone homosexuality and considers it incompatible with the Christian faith,

The Wisdom of Republicanism (a continuing series): "One way to describe this election is to say that the American public [well, some 38% or so of it, anyway] took the liberal social agenda of the 1960s, crumpled it up in a ball, and threw it in the trash. The old traditions of gay activism went with it.... This election marks the definitive end to the Stonewall generation of politics. Now that the old generation has been repudiated, the next generation of gay leaders has the opportunity to refine the moment."—Richard Tafel, Executive Director of Log Cabin Republicans in a November 23 press conference—carried on C-SPAN, my dear. This is such an amazing and arrogant piece of nonsense we feel it incumbent to editorialize: First, when will Tafel and the other Republicans, and Democrats for that matter, realize the way things are set up in this country? As Adam Gopnik recently pointed out in *The New Yorker*, the United States is politically Republican and culturally Democrat and has been for some time, but neither party is, or ever will be, happy. The Republican desire to influence the cultural climate borders on frenzied lust, as does the Democratic urge for political control. In all probability, this won't happen.

Second, why must Tafel (like those horrid-but-amusing NeoCon intellectuals) blame the Sixties for everything? Was this guy even alive then? Doesn't he realize that those of us who lived through the Sixties and are not Neo-or-Paleo-Cons view the period as Talleyrand did the ancien régime, "Only those who lived before the Revolution know how sweet life could be"? Third, why must pioneering leaders be "repudiated"? It's unusually Freudian to think that the achievements of the parent must be negated, indeed destroyed, denied, so that the children can progress unimpeded and unrepressed. Fourth, does this popinjay really think he speaks for more than a handful of little guppie cloak-and-suit megalomaniacs who are ecstatic, to the point of incoherent mean-spiritedness, and drunk with the thrills of prospective sycophancy and political table scraps. All that ass-sucking might really pay off this time.

Begley said. Chalfant said Wells fired her after first asking her to resign quietly. When she asked for a detailed explanation, he wouldn't give one, she said. Later that

day, Chalfant met with Begley, but he also offered few details, she said. "It was, 'Get off campus, get your stuff out of your office [for this "fine coach"], and we don't want to see you,'" she said last

week. "It was awful." There are no Kentucky or federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Because such discrimination doesn't violate the law, attorneys rarely file lawsuits challenging dismissals such as Chalfant's. Nonetheless, she said she wants to sue. Δ

OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT REACHED IN PRIEST-HIV LAWSUIT

DENVER (AP)—An out-of-court confidential settlement has been reached in a lawsuit filed against a Catholic priest by a man who alleged the priest molested him for two decades and gave him an HIV infection. Thomas Perea, 38, a substitute teacher in Boulder, sued the Rev. Delbert Blong and the Pueblo Catholic Diocese last year, a sexual relationship with the priest from 1971 until late 1992. He alleged the priest infected him with HIV. The Rev. Edward Nunoz, Pueblo Diocese vicar general, said December 15 the diocese admitted no wrongdoing in the settlement reached last week. All parties agreed not to disclose terms of the settlement.

Perea said he learned he had HIV in March 1993. His suit alleged the diocese knew of Blong's activities, but did nothing. Blong, 68, admitted the sexual relationship with Perea. The priest also said he had learned last year that he had AIDS. Pueblo Bishop Arthur Tafoya prohibited Blong from performing sacramental duties. Blong, who served his entire priesthood in the Pueblo Diocese, lives in the Denver area. Tafoya has said the diocese was surprised about the Blong-Perea relationship.

Perea alleged Blong first molested him when he was 15, and insisted that protection was unnecessary because he was monogamous. Blong later admitted he had sex with four other men, all of whom were infected with HIV and two of whom later died of AIDS, Perea alleged. Blong denied the allegation. He said he learned he had AIDS in January 1993 when he was hospitalized for salmonella poisoning and heart surgery. Perea contended he used protection with his other male lovers, all of whom tested negative for HIV. Δ

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