

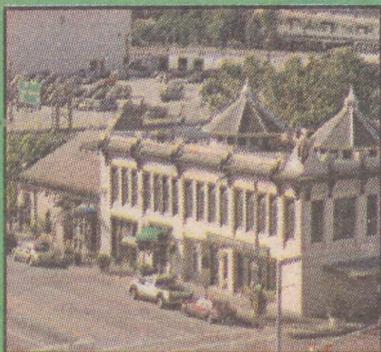
## 'Glory Box'

Tim Miller takes his activism to Houston and out of the 'Box'

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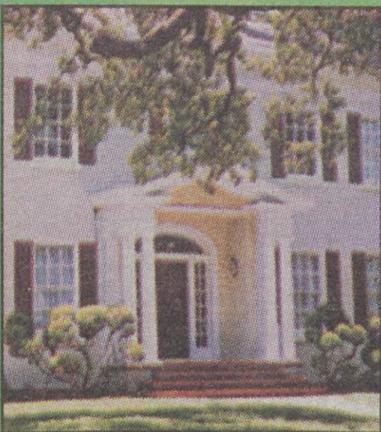


## INSIDE



When selecting a site for a commitment ceremony, consider nontraditional locations, like the Magnolia Ballroom in downtown Houston.

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Whether you decide to take a cruise or stay close to home, like at the Lovett Inn in the Montrose, there are a variety of honeymoon options for gay couples.

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Ballet, Alley and Unhinged all offer up stylish, sharp performances.

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## ExxonMobil to consider anti-discrimination policy



Oil company shareholders give needed 10 percent support to measure barring anti-gay discrimination

by PETER FREIBERG

A resolution urging oil giant ExxonMobil to explicitly bar anti-gay discrimination by amending its equal employment opportunity policy won support from 13 percent of shareholders on Wednesday, giving backers the right to make the proposal again next year.

Supporters needed to garner at least 10 percent of the vote to be able to introduce the resolution in 2002. This year's total was 57 percent higher than the 8.2 percent of shareholders who voted in favor at last year's annual meeting in Dallas.

"I am elated," said Shelley Alpern, an openly lesbian analyst at Trillium Asset Management, a sponsor of the resolution. "It's fantastic."

ExxonMobil executives, Alpern said, "have got to be taking note of this. They disagree with us so profoundly that they don't want us back at their shareholders meeting every year. ... [T]his resolution allows us to keep the issue alive, and they want it to go away very badly."

The increased backing, Alpern said, appears to be due to more support from public employee pension funds that own stock in ExxonMobil. This is the third consecutive year the resolution was put before the company's shareholders.

Tom Cirigliano, a spokesperson for ExxonMobil, said the company was sticking by its position that there is no need to mention specific groups in its anti-discrimination policy—except those required by federal law—because it has stated elsewhere it does not discriminate on any basis.

"We don't see any reason for the resolution," Cirigliano said. "We didn't see it before the meeting, and we don't see any reason for it after the meeting. We've said we won't discriminate, we've said it orally and in writing. ...

➤ Continued on Page 13

## Same-sex unions are centuries old

While June is the traditional month for weddings, nontraditional unions are as old as time

by D.L. GROOVER

On the arid windswept plateau near Saqqara, the oldest royal funerary complex in Egypt and home to Djoser's step pyramid (the prototype of the stone behemoths that would define pharaonic Egypt for all time), an Egyptian archeologist literally stumbled onto a forgotten passageway cut into the rock of a causeway. The passage led down into an Old Kingdom mastaba on whose walls in technicolor splendor were painted reliefs of two men embracing.

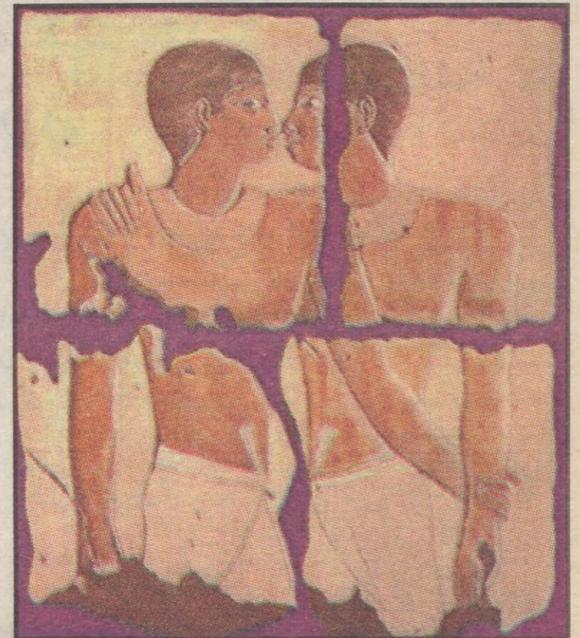
For anyone used to the hieratic images and somewhat unchanging iconography of ancient Egyptian art, these pictures were shocking. It was as if you showed a nude centerfold to your 87-year-old grandmother.

Nothing like this had ever been seen before, certainly nothing like it had ever been reported. Here was rather irrefutable evidence of what could only be construed as gay life in ancient Egypt.

It was the tomb of Ni-ankh-khnum and Khnum-hotep, palace functionaries and royal confidants, and the underground crypt was designed to be shared by both of them. Children are present in the banquet scenes, but no wives, although there seems to be a seated female image chiseled off the wall.

The two men press their faces together.

➤ Continued on Page 13



Same-sex couples are depicted in this painted relief from ancient Egypt. Found in the tomb of Ni-ankh-khnum and Khnum-hotep, the pair's names have been written together to read 'joined in life, joined in death.'

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## Issue 1075

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# AIDS turns 20

As the epidemic shifts, treatments improve and public perception of HIV-positive people changes, experts ponder the next 20 years of AIDS

by ERIN O'BRIANT

No one wanted to mark the 20th anniversary of AIDS.

When the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in Atlanta first documented the disease that would later devastate the gay community on June 5, 1981, the virus was already killing gay men in droves.

But there was hope, too, that AIDS might be curable. Or that a vaccine was on the horizon. In 1981, it seemed possible that AIDS might not be around for 20 years.

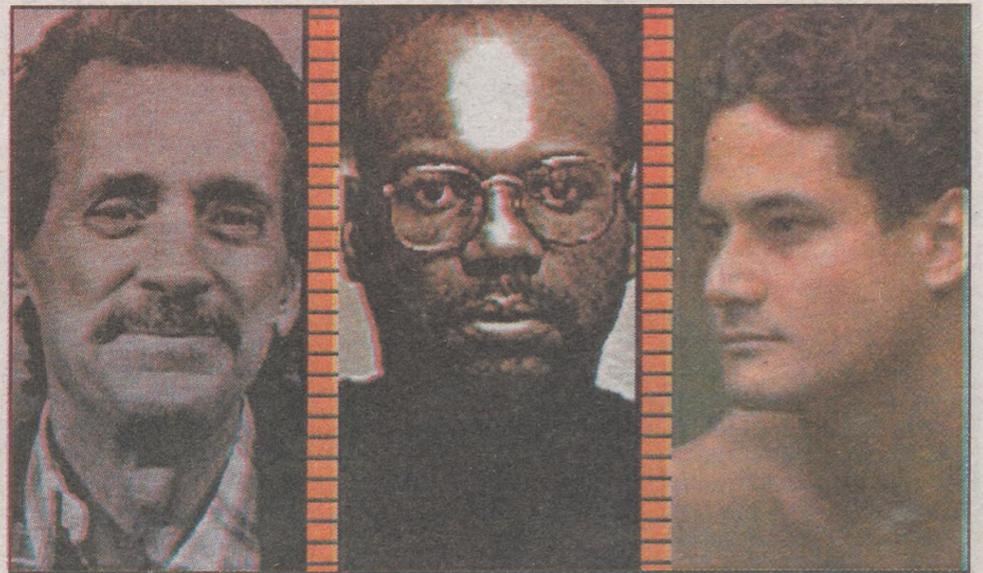
In 2001, the crisis is one of worldwide proportions.

Today, HIV will most likely orphan more than half the 15-year-olds living in sub-Saharan Africa, according to Sandra Thurman, executive director of the International AIDS Trust in Washington and former AIDS "czar" for President Bill Clinton.

"That's as many 15-year-olds as there are in America east of the Mississippi River," she said.

The past 20 years have been a "roller coaster ride" for patients and clinicians alike, said Dr. Mark Feinberg, who directs the clinical HIV trials at Emory University's Vaccine Research Center in Atlanta.

The challenge today, say those leading the efforts to fight AIDS, is to settle in for a long struggle against what Thurman called



Closeted gay film star Rock Hudson (left) died of AIDS during the first few years of the epidemic. Nearly 10 years later, out gay writer and filmmaker Marlon Riggs also succumbed to the virus. But unlike Hudson, Riggs was part of a movement of gay men who publicly explored how AIDS affected their lives. Today, Olympic diver Greg Louganis is a symbol of the gay men living openly with HIV and remaining in top physical form.

"an epidemic the likes of which humankind has never seen."

## The image of AIDS

Early news reports about the disease that would later be called AIDS depicted patients who were gaunt and sickly, while sensationalizing gay men's sexual activities.

Thanks to the efforts of the gay and lesbian activists, and to vast improvements in AIDS treatment, those images have changed dramatically during the past 20 years, according to Kevin McClelland, regional media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in Atlanta.

It was the New York Post's negative, sen-

sationalistic coverage of the AIDS crisis that spurred the founding of GLAAD, McClelland said.

To protest the newspaper's depictions of gay men, he said, the founders of GLAAD charged the Post offices and threw dirty rags in the lobby. The action was GLAAD's way of calling the publication a "rag," he said.

Lack of education and information contributed to uninformed press coverage of the disease, McClelland added.

"It was something that no one knew about," he said. "If you look back, even at the LGBT press that covered it, it was a little more sensational. It was the result of the

> Continued on Page 12

## Legal matters matter more for gay couples

Contracts between same-sex couples are important in protecting both parties

by D.L. MURPHY

First comes love, then comes marriage... Nope, first comes love, then comes a visit to the attorney.

Gay couples must take carefully planned legal steps to insure they have anything resembling the legal protections and rights available to "family."

The thought and discussions each couple has in preparation for this visit should also be used to help the couple determine how day-to-day finances will be handled, how assets acquired during the relationship will be handled, what a person's wishes during illness are, and how your partner

Whether you live paycheck to paycheck, don't have a car, and have very little personal property, you must have a will. Without it, your partner will not have access to your last paycheck.

wants his or her remains handled after their death.

Rule Number 1: Put everything in writing. All agreements concerning money, property, dying and death must be put in writing. We all assume that this relationship will last forever, everyone will behave properly if it doesn't, and our families will honor our wishes once we are gone. Sadly, our community knows better.

Marriage contracts can be used to define any areas you and your partner want to clarify between the two of you. If you stay together forever, this contract can be a reminder about who agreed to change the litter box. Should you decide to part, you may find the most useful clause in this contract is one that requires arbitration prior to

anyone running off to the courts.

The complexity of financial documents depends largely upon the extent of assets, our previous (bad) experience, and just how anal we are about money.

Day-to-day finances can be set up in several ways, find one that works for both of you. A few things should be considered prior to making any agreements. Do you have very different spending habits? If so, consider joint accounts only for household expenses or you may find yourself subsidizing someone else's bad financial habits.

Did your partner fail to pay taxes, skip out on child support or default on any other debt? Keep your finances as separate as possible or you may find yourself paying

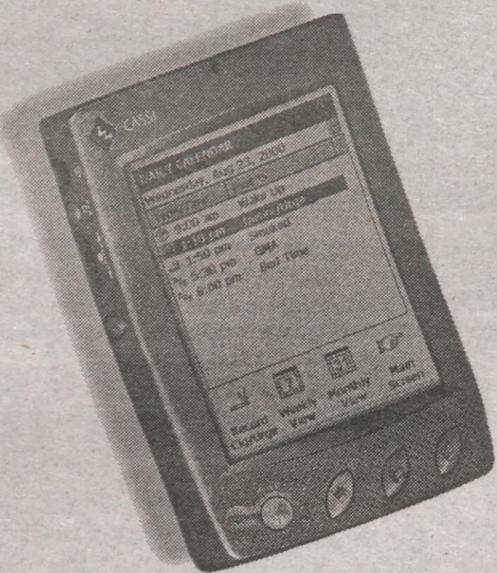
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## around the nation

### Man in MD gay couple adopts longtime partner to retain legal rights

SILVER SPRING, Md.—A Maryland man has adopted his gay partner of 32 years in order to establish a legal family relationship, the *Washington Post* reported. The petition, approved May 24 by a Montgomery County Circuit Court judge, gives the men the right to inherit each other's property and to make decisions about their medical care, said James Shrybman, attorney for the couple. Shrybman said the couple did not want to be publicly identified, and the court records are sealed, as they are in most adoption cases. Shrybman described the couple as two middle-aged men who met in the 1960s. The older man, a writer, was adopted by the younger man, a consultant, Shrybman said. The older man's parents are dead, according to the petition, and the court order consenting to the adoption requires that a new birth certificate be issued to him. "They wanted to establish familial relationships, which they're barred from doing in terms of getting married," Shrybman said.

### Monument to gay veterans killed in combat unveiled in CA ceremony

CATHEDRAL CITY, Calif.—The first monument for gay military veterans killed in combat was unveiled on Sunday, the *Palm Springs Desert Sun* reported. The monument is located in Cathedral City's Desert Memorial Park, a cemetery lined with palms and olive trees with a majestic view of the San Jacinto Mountains. It was approved by the Palm Springs Cemetery District after local activists began campaigning in January for the monument. "My generation, the World War II generation, is really never going to accept gays who served. I am a living link to the gay men who did service and died in the battlefield," Daryl James told the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*. Also present at the dedication was Dorothy Holman, mother of slain sailor Allen Schindler, 23, who was beaten to death for being gay in 1992 in Japan. "I know my son is very proud, and he is in heaven saying, 'Don't let this happen to any other mothers' sons,'" Holman said.



Veterans Franc Gaxiola (left) and Wally Straughn helped raise \$5,000 to create the first-of-its-kind gay veterans memorial, which was unveiled in California's Desert Memorial Park on Sunday.

### Jeffords' defection in U.S. Senate improves outlook for gay measures

WASHINGTON—The decision by Vermont Republican Sen. James Jeffords to become an independent and give Democrats control of the U.S. Senate creates an advantage for the gay civil rights movement on a number of fronts, according to gay civil rights activists and political pundits. With Jeffords' vote, the Democrats now have a 51-49 edge in the Senate, giving them the right to chair all Senate committees. The change on the Judiciary Committee, from Utah Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch to Vermont Democrat Patrick Leahy, gives the Democrats much more power to block conservative judicial appointments. And in the Senate's Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee, Massachusetts Democrat Sen. Edward Kennedy is expected to chair the committee with jurisdiction over the gay civil rights bill known as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and various AIDS programs. "The primary obstacle for our issues in Congress has been the Republican leadership. This changes that dynamic," said David Smith, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign.

### Army rejects last appeal of lawsuit from mother of slain gay soldier

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Army has rejected an appeal from a Kansas City, Mo., woman who sought to make the military pay for the beating death of her son at Fort Campbell, Ky. Patricia Kutteles filed the \$1.8 million wrongful death claim a year ago, contending an anti-gay atmosphere in the Army and a failure of leadership led to the July 1999 murder of Pfc. Barry Winchell. An Oklahoma soldier was convicted in his death. The Army rejected that claim, and Kutteles appealed to the secretary of the Army. "It was just devastating," Kutteles said of receiving the letter from Army's deputy general counsel rejecting her appeal. The appeal was Kutteles' last chance to seek redress under the Military Claims Act, since the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of the Armed Services in limiting claims against it.

### CO students do 'kiss-in' over exclusion of same-sex photo in yearbook

BOULDER—About 150 students, primarily girls, participated in or watched a same-sex "kiss-in" at Boulder High School in protest of a decision not to put a picture of two girls kissing in the high school yearbook, the *Denver Post* reported. Gay and straight students were encouraged to kiss one another for about an hour as part of the school's annual spring celebration. The picture of two girls was kept out of the yearbook by a faculty adviser, who said she wouldn't run the photo unless the staff of the yearbook got permission from the girls' parents. Student Rachel Stanley said the yearbook was guilty of a double standard because photos of male-female kisses were allowed to run without parental approval. Student Ty Whitney, 17, and his friend Dan Straigis, 21, were among the few males who kissed each other. "Our society thinks that if two girls kiss, it's sexual. But if two guys kiss, it is wrong," Straigis said.

—From staff and wire reports

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# police beat

## Defense attorney invoked 'gay panic' defense in MD priest slaying

GERMANTOWN, Md.—An attorney representing a man charged with murdering a Roman Catholic priest in the bedroom of a church rectory last June told a packed courtroom that the priest provoked his client into a rage by pressuring him to perform oral sex. Defendant Robert Lucas, 26, fatally stabbed Monsignor Thomas Wells, 56, after Wells' sexual advances prompted Lucas to experience "anger, shame, and humiliation," according to Brian D. Shefferman, the Montgomery County assistant public defender. "And that is not murder," Shefferman told the jury last week in his opening arguments. But Deputy State's Attorney Katherine Winfree said authorities have evidence to show Lucas stole personal belongings from Wells, including religious coins, a watch, and more than \$800 in cash. Police found Wells' body on the floor beside his bed, nude from the waist down, a witness testified at the trial. The area around his body was covered in blood, and his blood-soaked underwear had been tossed across the room.

## Authorities probe slow response in suspicious death of Dallas gay man

DALLAS—Two internal investigations are under way in the wake of the death of a Dallas gay man in April, the *Dallas Voice* reported. The body of Jacob Davidson, 30, was discovered two days after his apartment manager and neighbors placed frantic 911 calls reporting screams inside the apartment. Dallas Fire Department officials are investigating why the calls were given a low priority code that resulted in a two-hour delay in response time. Meanwhile, the Dallas Police Department is investigating the conduct of an officer who arrived at the scene. Neighbor Neil Clement said three calls were made to police between 2:35 p.m. and 3:40 p.m., but police did not arrive until about 5 p.m. "It sounded like someone was in terror and being tortured," Clement said. The police officer left within minutes of arriving, Clement said. Some neighbors wondered if the lackadaisical approach was prompted by anti-gay bias, since Davidson lived in the heavily gay Oak Lawn neighborhood. Authorities refuted that allegation.

## University of Florida athlete charged with battering ex-girlfriend

GAINESVILLE—University of Florida basketball player Naomi Mobley was arrested May 21 for domestic battery of her ex-girlfriend, the *Orlando Sentinel* reported. An Alachua



County Sheriff's Office arrest report said Mobley had an argument at her off-campus apartment about a laptop computer and allegedly punched the victim, also a UF student, in the face. The victim stated she was pushed to the ground and shoved into a wall. Under the conditions of Mobley's release, she can have no contact with the victim. Mobley will wait to see if the State Attorney's office will file charges. UF officials said the Student Judicial Affairs board and the University Athletic Association would review the case. Mobley, a 6-foot 2-inch junior from Jacksonville, Fla., led the Southeastern Conference in rebounding for the second season in a row.

**Naomi Mobley, a star basketball player for the University of Florida, was arrested last week after a confrontation with her ex-girlfriend.**

## 'Unsolved Mysteries' to air ID story about missing gay college student

MOSCOW, Idaho (AP)—The 1999 disappearance of an openly gay University of Idaho drama student has attracted the attention of "Unsolved Mysteries," an interactive TV show that recreates unsolved crimes. Wil Hendrick, 25, left a party where he had been drinking, first wandering into a stranger's basement apartment, where the tenant asked him to leave. His car was found later that night with the keys still in the ignition, but Hendrick never showed up for rehearsal nor did he ever cash his \$6,000 financial aid check. "Unsolved Mysteries," hosted by actor Robert Stack, has helped solve 280 crimes and reunited 93 people. "It is a story, a good story. One where we can make a difference, help out the police. That is what we like to do if we can," said Kathy Blake, field producer for the show. Hendrick and his partner, Jerry Schutz, Jr., were planning a commitment ceremony at the time of his disappearance. The show is expected to air sometime this fall.

## Judge won't move trial of CA brothers accused in arson, gay killings

SACRAMENTO (AP)—A federal judge refused to move the arson and hate-crime trial of two Northern California brothers out of Sacramento. U.S. District Judge Garland Burrell Jr. didn't hear arguments on the change of venue motions by attorneys for James Tyler Williams, 30, and Benjamin Matthew Williams, 32, at the hearing earlier this month. The Williams brothers are accused in the July 1, 1999, shooting deaths of two gay men in Happy Valley, Calif., as well as the torching the next day of three synagogues and a medical center which houses an abortion clinic. The brothers have pleaded innocent to 13 counts of conspiracy, arson, destruction of religious property and the use of fire to commit a felony in the Sacramento case. "I don't believe they can get a fair trial here," Robert Holly, attorney for Benjamin Williams, said following the hearing. The federal trial in the synagogue case is expected to last between five and six weeks.

ney for Benjamin Williams, said following the hearing. The federal trial in the synagogue case is expected to last between five and six weeks.

—From staff and wire reports



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## legislative news

### VT House votes to replace civil unions with reciprocal partnerships

MONTPELIER, Vt. —The Republican-controlled Vermont House narrowly passed a bill last week that would repeal the state's civil unions law and enact a new system extending marriage benefits to relatives as well as same-sex couples, the *Rutland Herald* reported. Following a second day of debate that rehashed many of the emotional arguments delivered during the civil unions debate last year, the House on May 24 approved the reciprocal partnership bill 72-69. If enacted, reciprocal partnerships would only be open to Vermont residents, would be registered with the state health department and would not be presided over by town clerks. Leaders in the Democrat-led state Senate have said they won't consider the bill; Gov. Howard Dean has said he will veto the measure if it ever reached his desk. Opponents of the measure said that supporters of the proposal were not trying to extend benefits to another group, but take away what was given to gay and lesbian couples through civil unions.

### HI governor decides to sign new hate crime in 'close call' decision

HONOLULU (AP)—Gov. Ben Cayetano said last week that he will sign the hate crimes bill passed by the legislature this year. The bill gives longer sentences for crimes motivated by a victim's race, religion, disability, ethnicity, national origin or sexual orientation. Cayetano called his decision to sign the bill a "close call" because he said Hawaii doesn't have a problem with hate crimes. "If someone is hurt in a crime, whether the person is a police officer, an elderly citizen or a person who is gay, the hurt and the harm is the same thing. A life is a life," Cayetano said before signing the bill. The hate crimes bill was supported by gay groups and several civil rights groups, including the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. It was opposed by the Public Defender's Office, the Honolulu Police Department and several religion-based groups.



Hawaii Gov. Ben Cayetano decided to sign into law a hate crimes bill recently passed by the state legislature, though he said the state doesn't have hate crimes.

### Anti-gay bias leads efforts to kill WA bullying bill a second time

OLYMPIA (AP)—Efforts to pass an anti-bullying bill in Washington state have hit another wall, as Republicans and Christian conservatives have killed the bill for a second time this year. Openly gay Democratic state Rep. Ed Murray has been working on passage of such a bill for over four years, a version of which has easily passed the Washington Senate twice this year. But Rick Forcier, executive director of the Christian Coalition of Washington, said his group feared the bill could be used to promote homosexuality in schools. "We already have about 37 laws on the book designed to deal with malicious harassment," Forcier said. The state House is evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans and the power-sharing agreement gives both parties wide latitude to block bills. Murray, who chairs a budget committee, said his support for the bill made it a target for conservatives. "Generally we don't mess with budget chairs, but it seems okay to mess with this budget chair on gay and lesbian issues," he said. Similar bills are pending in seven states, including Oregon and New York.

### NE senator wants real estate bill killed over gay-friendly amendment

LINCOLN, Neb.—A Nebraska state senator is asking the Senate not to pass a bill he sponsored because other legislators attached a clause to it protecting gays against housing discrimination, the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported. State Sen. Adrian Smith's pet project was a bill that would update real estate law for the first time since the 1970s. The Nebraska Real Estate Commission and the Nebraska Board of Realtors both have expressed support for the bill, even with the anti-discrimination amendment attached, but Smith is holding firm on his plans to kill the bill as long as the gay-friendly amendment is attached to it. State Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, who sponsored the amendment, is looking into ways to force the bill onto the Senate calendar.

### Texas ends 77th Legislative session, DOMA fails to pass

AUSTIN—After 140 days, Texas lawmakers ended the 77th Legislative session Monday. Hate crimes, the most divisive issue lawmakers have faced over the last two sessions, prompted tearful debate before it finally passed and was signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry. One of the measures that failed this session was a redistricting plan to draw new legislative, congressional and State Board of Education political boundaries. Another bill that failed was a Gay Marriage act to prohibited the state from recognizing same-sex civil unions, such as those created in Vermont. Even though the Defense of Marriage Act failed, the House approved three provisions, including one tacked on to a bill relating to the Employees Retirement System of Texas, that prohibit recognition of such unions.

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## CALENDAR

<b>Friday • June 1</b> Morning Prayer 10am	Movie Night 7:00pm "Pajama Game"
<b>Monday • June 4</b> Eucharist 7:30pm	<b>Saturday • June 9</b> Breakfast Club 9:30am
<b>Thursday • June 7</b> Potluck 7:00pm Speaker: PFLAG	<b>Monday • June 11</b> Eucharist 7:30pm
<b>Friday • June 8</b> Morning Prayer 10am	<b>Friday • June 15</b> Morning Prayer 10am



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# health news

## Irish health officials head to gay venues to stem rise in syphilis cases

DUBLIN—Irish health officials will begin a program that tests for syphilis at gay bars and bathhouses to try to forestall an outbreak of the disease among gay and bisexual men, the *Irish Times* reported. Medical staff will be available in bars, clubs and saunas at night to take blood samples from patrons who feel they might have been exposed to the disease. "Some people don't like going to clinics, but most don't mind being tested if it is easy for them to do it," said Dr. Leila Thornton, a public health official at the Eastern Regional Health Authority. The tests are conducted in a quiet area of the venue for confidentiality. After the blood sample is taken, people are given a reference number and a mobile phone number to get the results of their test. The number of syphilis cases in Dublin has jumped from five a year to more than 73 in 2000. Similar outbreaks have been found in Paris, Antwerp and Manchester in Europe.

## Some AIDS drugs cause hearing loss in male patients, new study says

DENVER—Researchers have discovered that the use of a certain type of AIDS drug can lead to hearing loss. The study, reported in the June 1 issue of *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, found that use of nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors such as ddC, ddI, and d4T, which are already known to cause nerve damage in the hands and feet, may also cause similar nerve damage that contributes to a loss in hearing. Researchers examined three male patients who had experienced noise-related hearing loss prior to being diagnosed with HIV. The hearing loss among all three stopped when they were no longer exposed to the stimuli, researchers noted. But once the patients began taking HIV medications, all three again reported ringing in the ears, and their hearing loss resumed. Two of the three stopped taking their AIDS drugs, and their hearing resumed.

## MS AIDS agency gets \$1 million grant to improve low-income care

GREENWOOD, Miss. (AP)—A Mississippi AIDS prevention agency has received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to provide primary care services for low-income individuals living with HIV. "I have a growing base of patients who are living with HIV," said Dr. Hamza O. Brimah, 40, who directs the program, called the Magnolia Medical Clinic/Greenwood Leflore Hospital HIV Program. "Back in 1997, when the Magnolia Medical Clinic opened, we had barely 10 patients. Today, we've seen almost 200," Brimah said. The program, which covers a nine-county region, aims to improve both the access and quality of health care available to people with HIV by encouraging HIV testing, providing transportation to clinics, and paying for clinic visits.

## NV legislature pushes toward medical marijuana despite court case



Nevada Assemblywoman Christina Giunchigliani said despite a recent U.S. Supreme Court case, she's pleased to see fellow lawmakers move forward with a medical marijuana plan.

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)—The Nevada legislature moved forward with its medical marijuana plan, despite an adverse ruling last week from the U.S. Supreme Court. The bill, called AB453 in the Nevada Assembly, passed unanimously out of the Ways & Means Committee and onto the floor of the Assembly, prompting Assemblywoman Christina Giunchigliani, the bill sponsor, to say she's glad her colleagues "understand that our mandate from the people of Nevada remains unchanged." In Nevada, voters by a 2-1 margin have approved medical marijuana. But a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that provides no medical exceptions for marijuana use could squelch laws in Nevada and eight other states that have passed laws allowing marijuana to be used in some medical circumstances. AB453 lets seriously ill Nevadans grow their own marijuana for pain relief, and eases penalties for anyone caught with small amounts of marijuana. A second bill, seen as a backup proposal, would make the drug available to a limited number of people for a marijuana research study program.

## Philly mayor comes out against state plan to track HIV with names

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Mayor John F. Street said last week that a state plan to collect the names of people infected with HIV would be counterproductive. The state's plan calls for doctors to report to county health officials the names of those who test positive for HIV. Street said in his weekly radio address that including names would hinder efforts to obtain reliable data and might even produce distorted data. People might avoid or delay HIV testing to keep their privacy, and that would mean an undercount of existing cases, the mayor said. Street said the state should consider adopting the code-based system that Philadelphia has been using for years. The system uses a set of symbols to identify people with HIV and protects their privacy, while providing demographic information to help the state channel funds to areas most affected by AIDS and HIV. Advocates of reporting HIV infection by name say it prevents duplicate reports.

—From staff and wire reports

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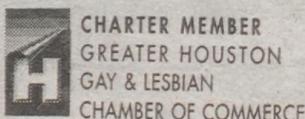
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## EDITORIAL

# Meaning of union should be defined long before ceremony

by ROBERT HENDERSON

In the 22 years I was a clergyman I officiated at 59 marriage ceremonies, but I did not marry anybody—that bit of personal foolishness had to wait for a setting quite outside my personal clergy role.

The fact is in each case the couple married each other. I did not marry them. The church did not marry them. The state did not marry them. God did not marry them. They married each other announcing the fact through a ceremony, announcing publicly the bonds they had privately developed.

Mothers-in-law and busybody aunts aside, marriage is not a ceremony. It is the commitment of two people to share their lives in an intimate relationship. Even mainline churches in public statements come to this conclusion although they have to be filtered to take out the heterosexual prejudice.

One such statement from 1970 (as filtered) says, "Marriage is a covenant of fidelity—a dynamic, lifelong commitment of two people in a personal and sexual union." With regard to recognizing the covenant of fidelity of gays and lesbians, the descendent body from which the statement came has engaged in a 31-year stall. "Further study" is the phrase of the stall.

Still some religious groups have come to grips with the covenant of fidelity recognizing gay and lesbian relationships. Two such groups are the Unitarian Universalists and the United Church of Christ.

The Reform movement of Judaism is also open to same-sex unions. According to Rabbi Avi Schulman of Missouri City each Reform rabbi has autonomy with regard to participation in such ceremonies. However he cautioned they also serve in a congregation so, if the ceremony is to be on the premises of a congregation, the rabbi has to consider the attitude of the congregation he serves.

If a ceremony of same-sex union is to be held off premises, the rabbi is more free to follow his own conscious without the concern of pastoral care of his congregation.

It is easy to get the impression in dealing with religious institutions the current appearance of universal revulsion for applauding gay and lesbian relationships has been so since the very beginning of the particular religious movement. Since I am Christian by heritage and intention, I do not boldly speak for any other religious group. The history of the church is far from monolithic in its revulsion to same-sex unions.

Probably the most recent definitive work on this subject is the 1994 John Boswell book, "Same-Sex Unions In Premodern Europe." Boswell did much of his research in the Vatican archives, until he was found out and subsequently banned. The Vatican seems to have a way of recommending literature by banning it. Although my Koine and Attic Greek are more rusted through than the Tinman, there is much to

be gained from the work such as samples of same-sex union ceremonies.

Beside having our covenants of fidelity recognized in a ceremonial way so people who would intrude in the union may be warned off, there is also a need of some sort of protection in civil law. Those who have lived in a covenanted relationship must be granted the full rights with regard to inheritance for one another, the right to make medical decisions for one another as desired when a partner is unable to make such decisions for themselves, making living wills with the authority of the one closest to us to carry it out, enduring powers of attorney and the like.

I believe gays and lesbians are "shooting themselves in the foot" when they insist on the term marriage. We live in a time of "family friendly" tyranny. With the exception of a few points of light, there is a legislative stampede to Defense of Marriage Acts. It is an act of heresy to question what is being defended—the 50 percent divorce rate?

We return to the title question—where do gay and lesbian relationships go from here? This is by no means a comprehensive list but I suggest the following four steps.

We must quit insisting on the term "marriage." It has become a part of the inflammatory vocabulary like "partial birth abortion." Those who use the later phrase are not talking about the birth process at all but rather later term abortions. Perhaps we should take the advice Shakespeare put in Juliet's mouth, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

I believe we should work for the legal acceptance of union, domestic partnership or whatever else would insure acceptance

at civil law. Some of the things to be included would be the right to legally bestow real and other property to our partner and other rights without regard to so-called blood relatives who may have had a long history of trying to pile disrespect on your relationship as well as interfere in it.

Take care of your partner through legal documentation as possible. The list could include joint tenancy with rites of survivorship, a will, an enduring power of attorney, medical power of attorney, living wills and living trusts. If you win the lottery make sure your partner will continue to get the payout if you haven't chosen the cash option.

Lastly, never let the church forget they carry prime responsibility for the violence against gays and lesbians. Until the 1930s the word homosexual did not exist. Gays and lesbians were named after the infamous city in the protohistory of Genesis, Sodom. Biblical scholars for at least the last 100 years have identified the sin of Sodom, not as same-sex activity, but as lack of hospitality. Who is the real sodomite of a church inhospitable to gays and lesbians?

Sometime ago, I was interviewing Rabbi Stuart Federow, a Reform rabbi serving a Conservative congregation, on an unrelated subject. I asked him about Sodom's lack of hospitality. He said their treatment of guests could have caused the Marquis de Sade a momentary blush. If you were too tall for their bed, they simply cut your legs to fit. If you were too short, they stretched you to fit.

The church continues to trim and stretch gays and lesbians to fit their heterosexual beds.

Once again, who are the sodomites? Never let them forget.

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VIEWPOINT

# It's been a very good year—for gay unions

by RICH ARENSCHIELDT

I love weddings. As a sometime musician I've been involved in about 300 of them and have seen things a girl ain't supposed to see.

I've seen men who cried so hysterically they couldn't say their vows, I've watched women leave men at the altar, I've witnessed jittery pint-sized ring bearers vomit on the same train the bride was to walk down nanoseconds later.

I've been in a church full of people where the opposing families acted more like Israelis and Palestinians, never saying a word to each other, darting daggers across the aisle.

In spite of all of this, there have been a handful of ceremonies within the last 12 months that are etched in my mind.

This weekend, 100 guests and I attended the wedding of two friends, Candy and Steph. My best friend was the token set of gonads in the wedding party. In discussing his attire, I thought he should wear a midnight blue, off the shoulder crepe de chine ensemble. He unwisely ignored my advice and attended the lezbo social event of the month in a snazzy tux.

Invited as a mere guest, it was intriguing to study a species similar to me, "Homosexualis Matromonis" on such an occasion. The majority of the crowd were women, and most appeared to be paired up.

I had met several of the attendees previously at events that were much more casual than this one, usually at the

behest of my buddy, who didn't want to be the "only penis in the room." At these gatherings many women wore the de rigueur sporty femme baseball cap and other required accessories of normal dyke drag.

Imagine my surprise when I arrived to see a gaggle of some of the most elegant folks within the city limits. Several ladies I previously met, came up and greeted me. I looked into their lip-sticked faces topped with coifs worthy of a Cosmo magazine cover, unable to recognize most of them.

Gone were the shapeless coveralls and baggy tees now replaced by yards of satin and silk fitted snug and strapless. The racks at Tootsies must have been bare!

The wedding ceremony was about to begin and transformation in the room continued.

A gentle Unitarian preacher officiated—he did a great job despite the fact that he felt compelled to mention every one of the world's 567 religions at some point during the ceremony. The sun set, the downtown billboard for margarita mix served as a perfect backdrop; all was in readiness. The processional was heard—Candy and Steph entered and they were both ravishingly beautiful.

It was a warm Texas evening but the crowd didn't mind. This ceremony is the result of one of the longest courtships and most elaborate planning periods in human history. Most of guests would have endured it seated on crushed glass in order to see this cautious duo finally tie the knot.

Candy's Mom stood to read—she

looked like an elegant small town Sunday school teacher. Her spry husband, complete with cowboy hat, resembled a retired oilman. How can these two "American Gothics" unconditionally support their gay daughter and her new spouse? Wholeheartedly, that's how.

Their planned generosity has made this exquisite celebratory evening possible.

From my vantage point, I could observe most of the others in the room. The service continued and I noticed that many of those in attendance were drawing closer to each other, many tacitly renewing their vows in tandem with Candy and Steph. Mascara became smudged (except for my best friend's—his was holding up well).

I was busy trying to be butch and not blubber. Suppression was futile and served only to rearrange all of my internal organs, causing me additional concern about other unflattering bodily functions, inappropriate to the occasion.

Simple and beautiful vows are exchanged and sealed with a kiss. Everyone present is in tune with these women; something truly communal is taking place. Though this wedding is like hundreds of others I have seen, it is dramatically different. Rather than attending and thinking "I can never have this, this is out of my realm of possibility."

It now occurs to me that this is something I, and my gay brethren can do. We can have the flowers, the music,

the divine seal and the support of those we love. I can select an extravagant event or opt for a simple but breathtaking Vermont mountain top ceremony as others in my "family" chose almost a year ago.

Echoing the words of Candy's parents, they state that those who have endured this process, the solemnization of a union, have been pioneers for the rest of us. All involved in the execution of this event (even the coordinator who scurried about like a flea-bitten Yorkshire terrier) were incredibly professional.

Nary a sideways glance was observed. This specific gay rite of passage has finally entered mainstream society.

Perhaps the best thing about this particular set of nuptials—the reception—was a real diversion from normal. Usually, my assigned place is next to a distant Aunt Minerva who possesses bad breath and hair in all the wrong places. Our polite conversation quickly degenerates into, "Oh, you're single? Let me introduce to my grand niece, Heliopetria—she's just received her PhD in animal husbandry and has just been fitted with a new detachable limb."

Sunday night was an exception. At this fabulous party I was seated between a pair of very cool women and a Richard Gere look-alike.

I wonder how he'll look in a tux?

*Arenschioldt is a freelance writer who wishes Candy and Steph, Susan and Jesi, and Marie and Chester all the best.*

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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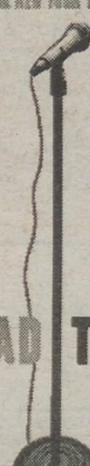
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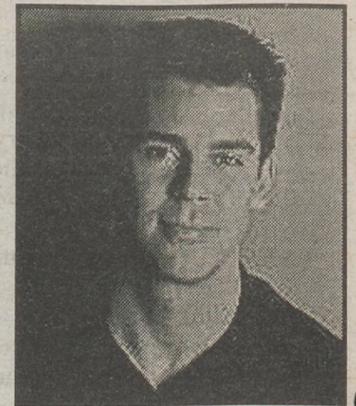
compiled by REX WOCKNER

"For the past year and a half, I have been having an affair with a pro baseball player from a major-league East Coast franchise, not his team's biggest star but a very recognizable media figure all the same. ... There is more than a little irony in the editor of the nation's largest-circulation gay magazine skulking around with someone so deep in the closet."

—Brendan Lemon, *Out* magazine editor in chief, writing in the May issue

"I think it's very disappointing that someone from the gay community is pushing a ballplayer off the plank. What that editor did was an extremely vindictive act. It doesn't seem like something someone involved in a loving, caring relationship would do."

—Billy Bean (right), a former major league baseball player, who came out in 1999, four years after he retired, in an interview with the *Arizona Republic*



"*Wall Street Journal* columnist Kara Swisher is accused by some colleagues of 'blatant conflict of interest' for writing about AOL Time Warner at the same time the media giant is providing financial backing for her lesbian lover's Web site. One *Journal* scribe grumped that Swisher writes 'mostly flattering' stories about AOL, which has invested in Gay.com—in which Megan Smith, Swisher's 'wife,' has a 'huge stake.' Smith was a founder of Planet Out, a rival Web site bought by Gay.com last year. 'At the same time [Swisher] is providing [AOL] with favorable coverage, her partner is hitting them up for money,' the source said."

—The *New York Post*, May 17

"If turning straight makes these soul-seared fanatics feel better about themselves, why shouldn't they give it a whirl? As to whether they're really turning straight or deluding themselves, who cares? Reparative therapy, much like a cult, is to be discouraged. But there will always be desperate people in this world, and there's just no reason for the gay community to be threatened by their peculiarities."

—Syndicated *San Francisco Bay Times* newswriter Ann Rostow, May 23

"All these rumors about [Tom Cruise] being gay—I don't believe it. I don't believe it for one minute. He hasn't been to one of my shows."

—Bette Midler (left) at a recent New York City appearance as quoted at Salon.com, May 24



"So long as the U.S. has an ambassador to the Vatican, that person should be gay. It is high time those men in cassocks at the Vatican secretariat met a gay man who is not repressed, closeted or a hypocrite. It might be a new concept for them."

—Syndicated gay-press columnist Paul Varnell, *Chicago Free Press*, May 30

"I don't think [being gay] was an issue. The fact that I was very honest with it from the beginning kind of neutralized it. In fact, it might have been an asset, which is something I would tell anyone out there who is gay. For all the detractors, there are a lot of people with open arms who are willing to help you."

—Singer Rufus Wainwright (right) to the *Los Angeles Times*, May 27



# HIV infections continue in young

**CDC release infection figures for 22-29 gay, bi men**

by WILL O'BRYAN

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report released Thursday, in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the AIDS epidemic, shows that 4.4 percent of gay and bisexual men in the United States between the ages of 23 and 29 are infected annually with HIV.

For young, black gay men, the rate rockets up to 14.7 percent. The report is published in the CDC's current Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, the same publication that in 1981 reported the first cases of what later became known as AIDS.

"This study has documented the dramatic impact HIV is having among gay and bisexual men of all races and the urgent need to expand our prevention efforts for these men, particularly in these African American communities," Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the CDC's

National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, told MMWR.

Wayne Turner, coordinator of ACT UP/D.C. made his own haunting observations about the 20th anniversary of

venues in Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York and Seattle.

"We must address the urgent prevention needs of African American and Latino gay and bisexual men, especially

Velez, adding nonetheless, "Some of their data shows some staggering numbers, especially for young gay African American men."

Velez sees the HIV rates as high across the board, but he cautions that the scope of AIDS within communities of color is generally underestimated. "When we're talking about 'young people,'" said Velez, "people think the term means white high school adolescents. ... It's young men and women of color."

To prevent new infections, Velez explained that the mix of being gay, a racial minority, and young demands a very targeted response.

"We can't forget that their behavior is affected by both homophobia and racism," said Velez.

"We do a lot of very feel-good programs, but we need to do more targeting," he added. "A very broad message may not impact the people with the highest risk. An abstinence brochure for heterosexual teens is not going to reach this population. ... Just giving someone a brochure or a condom one time is not going to do it. Young gay men need a lot of support, we all know that."

There should still be huge bowls of condoms at gay bars. How many gay men under 30 think, 'This isn't going to bother me'?

—Wayne Turner, coordinator of ACT UP/D.C.

AIDS a day before the release of the CDC report.

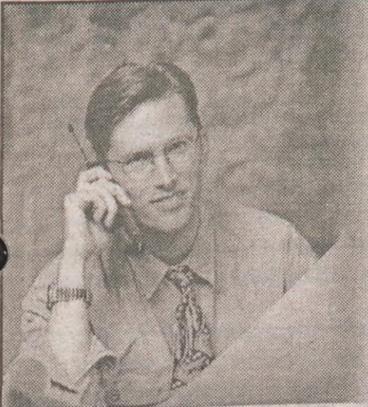
"I think the real tragedy is that I see the same cycle being repeated," observed Turner, 36, of the current state of the epidemic. "There should still be huge bowls of condoms at gay bars. How many gay men under 30 think, 'This isn't going to bother me'?"

Researchers conducted the study among men who have sex with men, screening 2,942 people in six cities. Led by Linda Valleroy, a CDC epidemiologist, researchers studied men at public

young men," Gayle said. "Efforts must continue to be tailored to the specific needs of these men, expanded where needed, and embraced by the affected communities in order to be effective."

Carlos Velez, acting director of communication at the National Minority AIDS Council in Washington, is part of that effort Gayle points to. He scanned the data released by the CDC Thursday morning, and said he was not surprised by the numbers.

"We're not surprised by the data, the data has been around for a while," said



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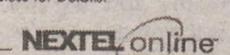
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# AIDS reaches an anniversary no one wants

> Continued from Page 3

need at the time in the LGBT press to make people wake up and take notice of it."

Thurman said that during the early days of the epidemic, the public assumed that people living with AIDS and HIV were gay or used drugs.

"I think that's changed over the years," she said. "Certainly with the advent of the new therapies, our vision has changed from people who are thin and gaunt and sickly to being much healthier—living with HIV as opposed to dying of HIV."

Improvements in treatment of AIDS and increased social acceptance of gays can be credited for the changing image of people living with AIDS, activists said.

"In the '80s we saw the face of AIDS being people like Rock Hudson whose images were shown in the media," McClelland said. "[They] were ravaged by the disease, and that's how people in the mainstream culture viewed people with AIDS. I think in the '90s we've seen that change and we look at people like Greg Louganis and Magic Johnson who are strong athletic figures [and] people with AIDS."

McClelland said the difference reflects a shift in American culture that has been played out in mainstream entertainment.

"As a movement, we started to see a lot of gay characters come up in the '80s and all of them—almost all—were tragic characters who had to die, who were HIV-positive, who contracted AIDS and who died, and it was almost exclusively that kind of portrayal," he said. "I think now as we've progressed as a culture... people with HIV in the movies reflect the real world. They're not seen as tragic figures anymore but as people who are living with a disease."

But public health officials don't want people to assume that contracting HIV is

"Certainly with the advent of the new therapies, our vision has changed from people who are thin and gaunt and sickly to being much healthier—living with HIV as opposed to dying of HIV."

—Sandra Thurman, executive director of the International AIDS Trust in Washington

not a significant health risk.

The Food & Drug Administration recently reprimanded HIV drug makers for portraying people with HIV as overly robust in direct-to-consumer advertising. The move came in response to San Francisco activists, who expressed concern that overly positive images of HIV-positive people could contribute to a rise in unsafe sexual practices.

"On the one hand, we want people to know they can live well with HIV, but we don't want them to think... it's a picnic," Thurman said.

## A global pandemic

As the image of AIDS patients in the U.S. has shifted, an epidemic that was specific to gay male Americans 20 years ago has become a global health crisis.

That doesn't mean there isn't a significant amount of HIV transmission still happening in America, Feinberg said.

And Thurman is quick to point out that numbers of HIV infection in some U.S. populations are just as high as those in Africa. Commenting on recent data that shows one in three gay African-American men are infected with the virus, Thurman said, "Those are the same numbers we have in Botswana, and we ought to be up in arms. This is just unacceptable in this country."

American policymakers began concentrating more heavily on the international AIDS crisis in 1998, when Clinton sent Thurman and others to Africa as part of a bipartisan delegation.

Thurman raised the issue with him after

she realized that America funded its international AIDS efforts at \$125 million per year for several years, despite a 300 percent increase in the incidence of HIV worldwide.

"There were some really disturbing reports coming out of Africa and around the globe," Thurman said. "One of the ones that stuck out in my mind was that 40 million children in Africa would be orphaned in the next decade."

She and other AIDS leaders reported back to President Clinton and Congress after the visit to Africa. As a result, Clinton requested an additional \$100 million for international AIDS programs, Thurman said.

"And the rest is history," she added.

The CDC has monitored the international spread of AIDS since the discovery of the disease in the 1980s, said Dr. Ronald Valdiserri, deputy director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention. But since the increase in funding, the agency has been working with Africa and other nations to help develop prevention services, he said.

The National Intelligence Council, a division of the Central Intelligence Agency, also released a report that stated AIDS is a stability and security issue in Africa, Thurman said.

She said the report predicted that the AIDS epidemic will hit India and the former Soviet Union hardest in the coming 15 years.

Twenty percent of the adult population is HIV-positive in several African countries, according to Thurman. When those people

die, she said, the social and economic effects will be "devastating."

The NIC's warning has spurred further U.S. interest in helping African countries battle the epidemic. President Bush recently pledged \$200 million from the U.S. to support a new global fund to fight the disease.

But Thurman said public health officials are encountering formidable obstacles in Africa.

Those include the continent's lack of health care infrastructure and education system. Cultural taboos on frank discussion of sex make prevention efforts especially difficult, Thurman said.

"The stigma [of HIV] is probably the greatest stumbling block for all of us and I think that's why we haven't had the kind of leadership [we need]," she said. "People literally are stoned to death, women are thrown out of their houses, completely abandoned—women and men."

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INFO

# Same-sex unions should be sealed with a contract

> Continued from Page 3

for their past debts.

Credit cards can be your single largest problem. Remember that any debts incurred on your credit account are your debts, even if your partner's name is on the card. Also, remember to cancel any extra cards on your account the second the relationship ends, or you will find yourself "paying reparations" based on your ex's bitterness, vindictiveness, and use of shopping as therapy.

Major purchases, such as a home, should not be undertaken until you both prepare a will. Again, your attorney should prepare contracts concerning individual financial responsibilities and how the property will be handled if you break up.

Prepare for the worst in case of illness. You can prepare very specific documents concerning what decisions you want made about your health care and who is to make

these decisions. These documents can insure that your partner will have the right to see you if you are ill, make decisions about what specific care you will receive, and decide (based on your previously defined wishes) when it is time to let go.

Also, discuss with your attorney the best way to insure that your affairs are properly handled should you be incapable to do so. Durable powers of attorney can be two-edged swords, so discuss these with your attorney prior to signing them.

If you wonder if you need estate planning, you probably do. Don't think you need estate planning? Add up the equity in your home, that life insurance policy you have from work, the value of your car, and the value of any other assets you may have. You may be very surprised by the size of your estate. Again, consult your attorney for help in this area.

Rule Number 2: You must have a will.

Whether you live paycheck to paycheck,

don't have a car, and have very little personal property, you must have a will. Without it, your partner will not have access to your last paycheck. Your partner may even find your family trying to take his furniture simply because he has not kept the receipts for 10 years.

Prepare the paperwork to insure your partner has the right to determine what happens with your remains. You say you don't care what happens to you once you're dead? Your partner does.

At the very least, such documentation can insure your partner has the right to attend your funeral. Families can, and have, refused to let long term partners attend their beloved's funerals.

Write out any specific instructions concerning your cremation, funeral and/or memorial service. Try to buy enough life insurance to cover the cost of these arrangements. Many a partner has had to agree to family wishes simply because they did not

have the cash to pay for what their partner wanted.

Lastly, keep your personal papers in impeccable order. Information concerning bank accounts, brokerage accounts, your 401(k) from work, life insurance, creditors, past tax returns, birth certificate, social security number, and on and on. Your attorney can provide you a list of the information needed to probate your estate. Try to make sure all of these documents and information are available in one organized place.

All too often we don't want to "waste the money" to see an attorney to help us prepare the documents we need to insure our rights if our relationship goes sour or our spouses' rights once we are gone. If this is you, listen to the horror stories you can hear any night in any bar in town.

Protect yourself. Protect your spouse. Prepare the documents now.

## ExxonMobil: No need to mention specific groups in policy

➤ Continued from Page 1

[W]e're a company that doesn't discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation."

But Kim Mills, education director of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political organization, said, "They think they're doing the right thing, and we think they're being intransigent."

Mills, who represented HRC, a co-sponsor of the resolution, at Wednesday's meeting, said, "If they really prohibit this kind of discrimination and harassment, put it in the EEO [Equal Employment Opportunity] statement. Don't write it in a proxy statement that we're all going to throw away."

In the resolution, the sponsors noted that ExxonMobil competitors Chevron, Sunoco, Atlantic Richfield, BP Amoco and Texaco all explicitly bar discrimination based on sexual orientation.

These and hundreds of corporations with similar policies protecting gay employees, sponsors said, "have a competitive advantage to recruit and retain employees from the widest talent pool."

But in its proxy statement urging shareholders to reject the resolution, ExxonMobil wrote that the company prohibits "any and all forms of discrimination or harassment, including that based on sexual orientation."

The battle to get Exxon to explicitly include sexual orientation in its written

EEO policy dates back to before its acquisition of Mobil. The 1999 merger accelerated the effort because the new ExxonMobil dropped the protection for gays that Mobil had had in its EEO policy and revoked Mobil's domestic partner benefits program for gay employees, infuriating gay groups and activists.

The institutional sponsors of the resolution, in addition to Trillium Asset Management and HRC, were the New York City Employees' Retirement System, the New York State Common Retirement Funds and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Four individual investors affiliated with the Equality Project, a group that applies shareholder pressure to corporations to gain gay-friendly workplace policies, also sponsored the resolution.

Following the meeting, New York City Controller Alan Hevesi (D), trustee of the city's Employees' Retirement System, said he was pleased that support for the resolution rose to 13 percent.

"I guarantee," Hevesi said, "that we will be back again in Dallas next year and will continue to fight for the rights of ExxonMobil's lesbian and gay employees."

Alpern said that since the last shareholder meeting, supporters of the resolution expanded their outreach to attract new support.



For example, she said, Hevesi wrote to members of the Council of Institutional Investors, which includes the largest public and private pension funds, seeking their backing. Support was also sought from mutual fund managers and individual investors.

While the shareholder vote tally does not indicate who voted for and against the resolution, Alpern said she was certain that pension funds representing state employees in Connecticut, California, Florida and New York state voted for it.

According to HRC's Mills, ExxonMobil is the only U.S. employer that has ever rescinded both domestic partner benefits and a nondiscrimination policy covering sexual orientation.

"For that reason," Mills said, "we feel that we must use every tool available to try to win protection for its employees."

In refusing to alter its EEO policy, ExxonMobil—the country's biggest corporation with some 120,000 workers worldwide—is bucking a nationwide trend.

HRC, which tracks workplace policies, says the majority of Fortune 500 companies,

the nation's largest firms, expressly ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; 41 of the Fortune 50 do so.

In May, Home Depot, facing a shareholder resolution filed by the Unitarian Universalist Association, dropped its opposition to including sexual orientation in the company's EEO policy. The resolution was then withdrawn.

But ExxonMobil shows no indication of changing. Indeed, Cirigliano insists that it is actually "discriminatory" to name specific groups in a company policy.

In its worldwide EEO policy, Exxon names no groups while asserting it administers its employment policies "in a nondiscriminatory manner."

In its proxy statement, diversity materials, and on its Web site, Cirigliano says, "[W]e have no problem with putting in writing that we won't discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

"What we have a problem with is ... when you're writing an EEO policy, or a policy on discrimination, it's our belief that no groups should be broken out for special treatment ... because that's discrimination."

But supporters say that unless sexual orientation is named along with other categories in ExxonMobil's formal EEO policy, it doesn't have the force of company law.

## Egyptians, Romans, Greeks all celebrated same-sex ceremonies

➤ Continued from Page 1

er, nose to nose, one's arm around the other's back in intimate embrace usually depicted as between man and wife. There are seven such scenes of them up close and personal. Even their names have been written together to read "joined in life, joined in death."

To top it off, both men were "chief overseers to the King's manicurists." What more proof is needed! It couldn't have been more fortuitous if they had been pharaoh's hairdressers.

In the quiet dusty propriety of Egyptian antiquity, this Saqqara tomb from 2400 BC has been quaintly designated the "Tomb of the Brothers," although no interior inscription even hints at a family relationship.

Greg Reeder, who has done extensive research into the homosexuality of the ancient world—a field in dire need of extensive study—believes that Niankhkhnum and Khnumhotep were lovers and portrayed themselves as such to be together for eternity. Why else would they be nuzzling and touching, acts which are only shown as the exclusive province of a married couple?

The ancient world was inundated with sex, filled with an amoral, non-judgmental attitude that decidedly blessed and favored the male. In Greece, homosexual sex was part of growing up, an initiation rite for the sons of the elite where the older gentleman admirer initiated the youngster into all realms of adult life: sex just happened to be one of the lessons to be taught the teen.

Sex, male or female variety, was no-bigthing. Yet, there were numerous occasions

of long-term bonding between peers, not just man and boy, but between man and man.

Aristotle in his "Politics," recalls Philolaus and his Dioclese. This is a classic case of brains and beauty. Philolaus was a respected Theban legislator who fell for the hunky Olympian athlete. They met, fell in love, and remained together all their lives. Their joint tomb was one of the busiest tourist attractions in ancient Athens.

The Greeks had a passion for such hero couples: Achilles and Patrocles, Pelopidas and Iolaus, Epaminondas and Asopichus, and celebrated these two-somes in epic verse where their deeds and love would be extolled into the centuries. Love between same-sex equals was noble, fair, perfect.

When the known world was swallowed up by rapacious Rome, the "Greek practice" followed, although in the hothouse Mediterranean world it didn't need any push or a special name. Gay sex, although in the minority even in hedonistic Rome, was never sanctioned, punished nor ostracized. No laws proscribed it, no one condemned it. Often, especially in the romance literature of the Empire, it was extolled as "above the love of women."

"The Satyricon" of Petronius has a same-sex couple as its protagonists who finally triumph over failed love affairs and amorous advances from both sexes, tumbling into each others' arms at tale's conclusion; Iamblichus in his "Babyloniaca" includes a rare lesbian couple, Berenice and Mesopotamia, who actually get married

when they're reunited after a long absence; in Lucian's dialogue, "Affairs of the Heart," gay love is equally weighed in value to straight love.

Julius Caesar, though probably not in a marriage, per se, nevertheless had a torrid youthful affair with Nicomedes, King of Bithynia. Caesar's soldiers called their leader the Queen of Bithynia—not to his face, though.

Most of what we can decipher about ancient lives come skewed from the paternalistic point of view. Only in Egypt were women the equal of men, about which Herodotus grumbled in his "History," the world's first tour book. In the powerhouse empires of Greece and Rome, though, the women—even noble born—were viewed as property and married off for dynastic reasons, never for love, an extremely modern concept. They weren't important enough to be talked or written about. The exceptions were the extreme: Hatshepsut, Cleopatra, Poppaea, Sappho, but everyone else fit into a man's world.

Perhaps, the most intriguing discovery has been the rediscovery by eminent medieval scholar John Boswell of liturgical ceremonies from Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches that sanctioned—and sanctified—same-sex partnerships in the early medieval world. Strikingly similar to heterosexual marriage ceremonies, these rites, which include prayers, sermons and blessings, consecrate gay love with bountiful inclusiveness.

Even the ritual of a wedding feast was practiced by gay couples, as an illuminated

manuscript clearly shows Byzantine Emperor Basil I partying with his male lover at their "brotherhood ceremony." According to the modern conception of marriage, as Boswell points out so clearly, this same-sex union was a voluntary, permanent, emotional union acknowledged and recognized by the community. It's a personal relation, undertaken for personal reason, but with society's blessing and the imprimatur of ecclesiastical force.

By 1300, because of seismic social changes brought about through the Crusades and its accompanying mass xenophobia and Christian intolerance, homosexuality was fairly stigmatized throughout Europe.

It had taken the Church almost 1,000 years to drive it underground. This time, the pagans went into the catacombs. But the same-sex union ceremony persisted. In 1908, sexologist P. Nacke witnessed a ceremony in Albania. Yet, by the time anthropologists and scholars came round to studying these crinkled manuscripts, they only saw what they wanted to see: "artificial kinship" or "collateral adoption." Please, they said, no sex.

Gay marriage will never be the same thanks to John Boswell's pioneering, exemplary work. With his steamroller archeology he unearthed our fascinating history that had lain willingly forgotten or untranslated. Sadly, he died of AIDS in 1994, but his exceptional work in gay historical studies has brought us all out of the closet. We await the next intrepid discoverer.

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# Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • JUNE 1, 2001

## I'll marry you—What do we do now?

Advance planning is key to success of union ceremony



Sean Carter and Jeral McNeil chose Wortham Center as the site for their commitment ceremony on Sept. 17, 2000. When it comes to planning your wedding, consider nontraditional as well as time-honored customs to make the ceremony unique to you.

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT

You've just taken the helm of the matrimonial Starship Enterprise, going where none have gone before. There are no maps to follow, not many of your friends have done this, your parents, for the first time in your life, have no advice to give. This leaves you floating in commitment never-never land.

One of the most basic problems with planning a gay marriage/union/commitment ceremony is that most of us feel compelled to make it fit into some preconceived idea of what such a thing should be and how it should look.

Here are a few hints that will help you plan your celebration, enabling you to do so without straining your budget or your relationship.

*Suggestion Number One: Throw out everything you ever knew about marriage ceremonies and start over.*

Sure, some of us may want that wonderful wedding scene from the "Sound of Music" where Maria marries Captain von

Tramp. A few may desire the cathedral, the choir, the candles, the wedding train that arrives at the altar 10 minutes after the bride. However, we should not feel bound by those centuries old Christian-rooted traditions.

This is marriage in the second millennium and it requires a new paradigm of thought.

It is best to begin the mental planning well in advance of the actual celebration. Sit down with your partner and brainstorm a list of things that are important. Above all, the ceremony should reflect both of you and parts of it should mirror your individual wants and desires as well. Figure out those characteristics that are unique to your relationship and how they would best be manifested in your union ceremony.

Weddings are all about pointing out the obvious—make yours special by bringing forth the understated and unknown aspects of your partnership. Many couples admit that their ceremony

> Continued on Page 17

## Book offers tips for nontraditional weddings

'I Do' includes history of wedding customs as well as guide to planning ceremonies

by ELLA TYLER

If you are planning a wedding, don't take another step until you read "I Do," by Sydney Barbara Metrick. This book examines the customs and conventions of traditional wedding ceremonies from a variety of cultures with an eye to helping the nontraditional couple create a ceremony that is uniquely theirs.

The book promises to include same-sex couples in its scope, and does a masterful job, from the cover to the last page. The cover shows three couples in wedding attire, two men, two women, and in the middle, a mixed couple—one man and one woman. By page 12, a same-sex wedding is described in detail. More importantly, almost all of the ceremonies

described use words like partner, spouse or couple rather than husband and wife, and in a way that seems like this terminology is second nature to the writer.

The book delves deeply into the history that drives wedding customs even today. Metrick notes that most wedding customs originated in the Middle Ages and are completely outdated today. Some, she says, "like the use of groom's men or the giving away of the bride are derived from traditions that today might actually be offensive."

She explains, for example, that the traditional function of attendants was to protect the couple from an attack by angry relatives who want to reclaim the bride, who had been kidnapped in the first place. Metrick looks at ways the traditions can be modernized if a couple wants to retain them.

After the discussion of customs, Metrick launches into the chapters about planning the ceremony. She includes a set of detailed questions that will help refine the values of each member of the couple about the ceremony.

One interesting list is the symbolic meaning of many of the objects used in traditional weddings, which accompanies Metrick's words encouraging couples to use their own symbolic elements in their ceremony.

The book also includes a lengthy and thoughtful chapter about sustaining the commitment and one about celebrating anniversaries and reaffirming vows.

There are plenty of sample ceremonies, rituals and vows to inspire any couple.

One of the real values of this book for the same-sex couple is that Metrick sees a

great deal of spiritual and psychological value in ritual. If you doubt whether you want to have a ceremony honoring your relationship, Metrick will convince you of the value of doing it. She will also give you a way to have a ceremony that is meaningful to you and your partner.

One of the difficulties of planning an alternative to a traditional wedding is that there is no example to work from. This book gives several models of complete ceremonies that don't look at all like something that would happen at Second Baptist.

INFO

I Do

Sydney Barbara Metrick

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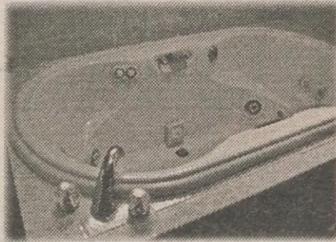
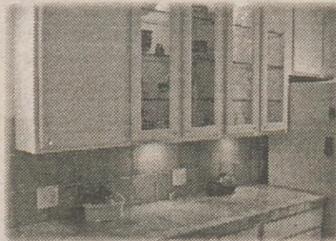
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## Wedding blossoms

Floral arrangements for union ceremony don't have to be expensive

by ELLA TYLER

Wedding flowers can be stunningly expensive. There are good reasons for this. Bouquets, boutonnieres and corsages are both time-consuming and tedious to make.

During wedding season, popular wedding flowers can be in short supply, and therefore, more expensive.

Also, some florists do not like this work, and charge a premium to discourage orders.

There are ways to reduce the floral bill without looking cut-rate. Remember that the florist's job is to sell flowers and every suggestion he or she makes may not fit the style of your event. If you order every arrangement the florist suggests, the bill will add up quickly.

Do your mothers really want corsages? Does the buffet table need a floral arrangement or is the food enough? How many arrangements does the church really need? Walk through the place the event will be held with your list of flowers and visualize it full of guests and food.

Do you need as much decoration?

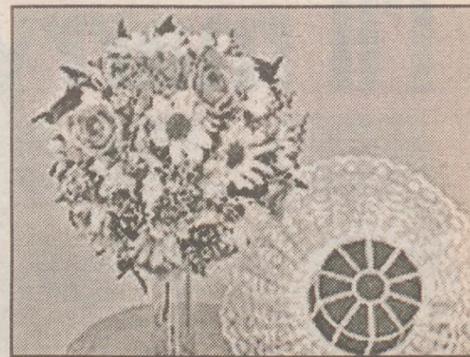
Be frank with the florist about your desire to reduce costs. He or she can suggest less expensive flowers. This is not a traditional wedding, so there is no need to have any rose called "Bridal Pink." Chose flowers that make you and yours feel like a celebration is in progress. Your florist will enjoy the challenge and chance to do something different.

There is also the option of doing some or all of your own flowers. If you have any artistic talent and a modicum of manual dexterity, it is not difficult to make arrangements and corsages. It does require patience, time and the proper materials. And room in the refrigerator.

I took classes from Houston School of Floral Design and Houston Community College, but my friend Deb Chwalek learned how to make corsages and bouquets from books. Deb, with the help of Voice writer Deb Murphy, made the arrangements for Jessica and Robin Wicks' wedding last summer. Deb C. sat in the back seat of the car and wired roses all the way to San Antonio.

In brief, almost any floral design that is worn or carried is made by cutting the flower's stem very short, stabbing a wire through the base of the flower, and wrapping the wire with florists tape. This is a paper tape that sticks to itself when stretched, not the very sticky waterproof plastic tape florists also use.

Each flower and sprig of foliage is wired



Bouquets like the one above can be created on a budget with the clever use of wire and floral tape.

individually and then they are taped together. After that, the stems might be wrapped with ribbon. The flowers must be sturdy enough to last without water.

Roses, carnations, chrysanthemums, orchids, daisies and other flowers with similar substance will satisfy this requirement. After the corsage or boutonniere is made, it should be misted with water and stored in the refrigerator. Cut flowers still respire, so the cool temperature slows down the rate they lose water.

Bouquets can be made with flowers that are wrapped and taped or can be made in a floral foam holder. Floral foam is easier to use and the flowers keep better. Floral foam—Oasis is one popular brand—is a material that holds water, but also keeps flowers in place. Put a block in a basin of water and let it absorb water until it sinks, then cut it to fit the container.

The floral supplies can be bought at some hobby supply stores, Hobby Lobby for example, or a florist supply house. These places are wholesalers and you must have a tax resale permit to shop at most of them.

Buying flowers wholesale requires a nursery license issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture. It is not especially expensive, \$60 a year for the smallest operation, and the major reason for licensing is so places can be inspected. No one cares that you don't have a flower shop, but agriculture is very important to Texas, and plant inspection is an important part of keeping diseases from spreading.

Sam's Club and the flower shops or Fannin sell bunches of flowers and some upscale grocery stores have a good selection of single stems of flowers. Stem by stem, they are expensive, but this is a good solution if you do not need lots of flowers. If you have a regular florist, he or she might order flowers for you.

You might be able to pick some of your flowers or greenery from your back yard, and don't overlook your local nursery. Pots of blooming plants can make very nice decorations with the addition of an attractive pot cover.

# Enlist help of friends in planning union ceremony

> Continued from Page 15

"gave a voice" to their relationship. This can be the most rewarding and challenging part of the process.

*Suggestion Number Two: Ask the important question: "What do we want to accomplish?"*

Be honest about your motivations for undertaking this endeavor. Is this a quiet intimate event among only the closest of friends or a whiz-bang affair with a broader sense of purpose? There is no right or wrong way to accomplish this.

Setting some mutually agreed upon results before planning occurs can maintain focus and keep everything on track. A certain amount of velvet-gloved single-mindedness is helpful, especially when dealing with family and friends with agendas different from yours.

*Suggestion Number Three: Realize that there are going to be some bumps along the way and that others may feel differently than you do.*

This is the "lightening rod factor." You and your partner have become targets as the result of trying something exciting and new. Family members and friends will react with certainty—some will support you and others wouldn't dream of doing so. Accept this and prepare for it by gradually introducing the idea to familial allies who will then approach others you care about.

Generally, they will get used to the idea or they won't. You are unable to control people's responses, but you can present options in as sensitive a manner as possible.

Family is a dynamic concept, change can and does occur.

*Suggestion Number Four: Prepare for support from unexpected sources and the reverse*

Issue-oriented items like gay and lesbian unions tend to polarize people. Many who have planned events have been surprised by who steps forward to help. In some cases biological family is no where to be found, however other parent-like figures sometimes come out of the woodwork.

In some cases parents can't fit the square peg of matrimony into the round hole of homosexuality. Many family members may feel self-conscious at the prospect of participating in a union, but will privately offer emotional and financial support. Respect this and acknowledge it as a more subtle validation of your relationship.

Don't be afraid to openly express your genuine need to have those you care about involved. As a rule, if your family decides to attend, they will have reached a certain comfort level once they show up, let them work out how that process happens.

If some choose not to participate, try to understand their reasons and let them know that this is not a "litmus test" of their love for you. Do not close off an avenue of their acceptance of you and your mate at some point in the future.

*Suggestion Number Five: Do as much of it yourselves as possible—but include those you care about*

Once you have faced some of the hurdles

regarding the "idea" of a commitment ceremony, it's time to get to work. The scope of the endeavor and its budget dictates how many people will be involved and what they will do.

There will be those that will be excited at the prospect of your union—utilize their energy. Once the overall framework of your celebration is set, enlist the help of others to accomplish highly specified tasks within a workable but somewhat ironclad time frame.

Match duties to those with appropriate talents; establish firm budgetary guidelines for each major endeavor. If your budget is small and you can't afford to feed 50 people, get creative and request that everyone bring their favorite dish as a potluck instead of a present.

If a facility rental is not feasible, send the word out to friends and family for alternative spaces. If an engraved invitation is too pricey, call on an artist friend to help. Most artists, musicians and photographers would much rather offer their personal talents as your gift rather than go to Pottery Barn for a tacky knick-knack.

The key to success is to ask for help and respond to those who offer it. Give people specific instructions but allow them to inject their creativity into the final result.

*Suggestion Number Six: Keep it as simple as possible and plan for change*

Remember, you are not the Princess Of Wales. Conceptually many have delusions of

grandeur that are fine in theory but not in practice. Determine which parts of the celebration are most important to you and allocate your time and resources to those things first.

You want to avoid getting midway through this process only to find yourselves in a morass of details and unforeseen expenses. Start with the simplest ideas and then embellish them.

If you have to back pedal from your initial plan, painful decisions have to be made about what is left out, and someone's feelings usually get hurt.

Planning an event is a lot like planning for the weather—you can guess at how it's going to be, but until it actually happens you have an element of uncertainty. Know that things will change as the process evolves.

Realize that no one is going to remember if your name was misspelled on an embossed cocktail napkin but they will remember the emotional spirit of your event.

Throughout this process, many things will happen; you and your partner will face new challenges. You will realize what has brought you together and what will keep you together.

Though commitment celebrations are becoming more common, they are still very much an unknown quantity. That newness allows us incredible latitude in the shape they take and the message they give to the rest of our community.

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# Bayou Calendar

**"Glory Box"**

Tim Miller's one-man show explores love, gay marriage and bi-national immigration rights, of which he knows quite a lot since he's been battling to have his Australian partner declared his spouse. Once lauded and excoriated as one of the NEA 4, who lost then regained then sort of lost his individual artist grant for being a bit too lewd or gay or artistic or something—you know how fickle those government agents are—Miller brings a lifetime of political savvy, outrage, and just a touch of nudity to his theatrical cause celebre.  
June 1, 8:30 p.m. June 2, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.  
Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo Street  
713-868-7516

**"Pride Day at AstroWorld"**

Start off pride month with motion sickness. Yeahhh! Come get chewed up and spit out on those state of the art carnival rides. But it's all for fun, right? If you happen to hold a Pride Committee ticket, you're in luck: free BBQ buffet, free admission to Rich's on Saturday night, and a free pass to WaterWorld on Sunday. Great, now you can be sick and wet. Your magic ticket also gets you into the park an hour early. Oh, boy, 60 more minutes of projectile vomiting. Guess who else will be there?

The Village People! Yes, the fabulous gay six are the headline entertainment Saturday, along with disco divas Evelyn "Champagne" King and Grammy-winner Thelma Houston. Tickets are available at Basic Brothers (1232 Westheimer) or call 713-529-6979.  
June 2, 10 a.m.  
Six Flags AstroWorld, 9001 Kirby @ 610 Loop

**"Dame Edna: The Royal Tour"**



Okay, possums, the great one herself is here. After her Tony-award winning pit stop in NYC, Dame Everage has packed all those countless awards, her cat-eye sequined glasses, and those fabulous gowns and taken her show on the road. Madge is no help at all to her any more, she refuses to leave the bathroom. Calling all Friends of Kenny (you know who you are) and anyone with or without a prostate, here's your chance to laugh yourself silly. Catch a gladdie and make a wish.  
June 5-10  
Jones Hall 615 Louisiana  
713-629-3700

**"Night and Day"**

Tom Stoppard among the savages. Granted, this could be anywhere when the glib, utterly clever Mr. Stoppard tackles a subject, but this play from 1978 strands us in Africa amidst the terror of political revolution. Like most of his work, there are multiple themes and multiple viewpoints. Here, the smug western newspaper men end up in a figurative cauldron when their responsibility in covering events becomes entangled with their limited personal views. They're also entangled with Ruth, who gets to air her

views directly to us. Then, there's the Idi Amin-like despot, President Mageeba, who has his own skewed view of what freedom of the press means.  
June 7-30  
Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd.  
713-524-6706

**"Giselle"**

The pinnacle of romantic dance, this 1841 "fantastic" ballet has happy peasants, a callow Count, a village maid (Giselle) who goes mad when her lover deserts her for another, and the Willis, too (doomed spirits of jilted brides) who get their revenge by making all males dance until they drop. The title role is challenging indeed: Giselle's got to act in Act I, then float ever so lightly in Act II, pretending she doesn't weigh an ounce. Tell that to her Albrecht who has to lug her all over the stage. The not-too-atmospheric music's by Adolphe Adam, the staging is Peter Wright's from Stuttgart after the classic version by Coralli and Perrot as rechoreographed by Petipa.  
June 7-17  
Houston Ballet Wortham Theater Center, 500 Texas  
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-D.L. Groover, Houston Voice

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-Lee Williams, Houston Press

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# Going to the chapel...

Houston offers wide range of options for union ceremonies

by ELLA TYLER

You've decided to have some sort of event formalizing your relationship and presenting it to your community of friends and family. Now what?

Do you want a formal Holy Union ceremony with a minister presiding? Perhaps a less formal ceremony, with or without a minister? Or you may feel that an event formalizing your relationship is redundant, but an anniversary party would be fun.

If you want a religious ceremony, talk to your own minister. If you aren't a member of a church, this may provide an impetus for you to find one.

The *Voice's* community calendar and the listing of churches in the Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages will give you an idea of some of the churches in the area that will welcome your membership.

This does not always mean that the minister will perform a wedding. Denomination rules may prohibit him or her from doing so, in fact, this is an exceedingly divisive issue for many national church groups. However, your minister may be able to suggest someone who can perform a ceremony.

If you don't belong to a church, the First Unitarian Universalist Church can arrange for

a retired minister to perform a service either at their church on Fannin or elsewhere.

People who are Friends, also called Quakers, don't have clergy. They organize into "meetings" and a wedding occurs when two people, in the presence of the meeting, announce their vows to each other. This may fit in with your beliefs.

There are hundreds of wonderful places for a wedding, beginning with your own home. If you've just bought a house together, a housewarming party could substitute for a wedding, and is a public affirmation of your commitment to each other.

However, a wedding ceremony at a house isn't as simple or inexpensive as it sounds. There should be room that is big enough for everyone to congregate to witness the vows. If you plan to use the garden, it takes at least six weeks to get a garden looking really good for a party and there needs to be a plan for rain. If the event is catered, everything needs to be brought in.

If you want a homey feel, but not at your own home, consider a bed and breakfast. There are several in the Heights. The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center is also available for rent.

If you want a garden wedding, one of the prettiest gardens around is at Baba Yega on Grant Street. Their Jasmine Room, which overlooks it, is available for private parties. It looks like it could accommodate 50 people happily.

The Rose Garden at Herman Park is a popular site for weddings and the adjoining



DALTON DEHART

When picking a location for your union ceremony, consider non-traditional sites like the Magnolia Ballroom in downtown. The ornate decor inside will eliminate the need for much elaborate decorating for the ceremony.

Garden Center is also available for rent. Both facilities are heavily booked. To make reservations, call 713-284-1986.

Other parks which are popular for weddings are Sam Houston Park at 1001 Bagby and Bell Park on Montrose. Both these parks are short walks from places a reception could be held. To reserve any Houston park, call 713-845-1003.

Before we let go of the floral theme, consider the Magnolia Ballroom, all the way downtown at 715 Franklin. It was the old Magnolia Brewery, and is a beautiful space for a large crowd. Decorating requirements are minimal, since it has ornate carved paneling on all the walls. There is also a back room that overlooks Buffalo Bayou. Caterers may find it a challenge.

Your favorite restaurant might have a

party room available and/or be able to cater at some other location.

Consider, also, the idea of renting a boat for the ceremony. There are boats that sail on Clear Lake, off Galveston, and on Lake Conroe. Wouldn't a sunset cruise be romantic?

The current edition of *Houston Bride* has a list of 100 sites for a wedding and the yellow pages has hundreds of suggestions. The possibilities are endless. As you call places that you are considering for this event, it may be a good idea to be very clear at the beginning that you are planning a same-sex wedding. If the person you talk to isn't immediately welcoming, you'll save a lot of time.

Don't forget that the Rothko Chapel is now available for same-sex weddings. However, it has a number of rules to protect the paintings.

# Romantic get-aways aren't far away

Sea gay B&Bs offer special honeymoon packages

by KAY Y. DAYUS

Just as important as planning the ceremony itself is the planning of the honeymoon. And where do gays and lesbians go for the all-important honeymoon?

For those who want to stay close to home there's Galveston Beach, which is a popular spot for honeymooners, says Bob Wilkins, co-owner of the Hollywood Inn, the island's "first gay resort."



For a close-to-home honeymoon, the Lovett Inn in the Montrose offers a special honeymoon package that includes chocolate-dipped strawberries, champagne and bubble bath.

"We have a lot of honeymooners and if we know it's a commitment ceremony, we throw in a bottle of champagne," says Wilkins.

Hollywood's honeymoon room has a king-size four-poster bed and breakfast is included. Cost of the room, says Wilkins, is \$129 per night during the week and a Friday/Saturday night package is \$399.

For more information, call 888.899.0899 or [www.Galveston.com/Hollywood](http://www.Galveston.com/Hollywood).

A little further afield is San Antonio, and what could be more romantic than a stay at The Painted Lady Inn on Broadway? This beautiful neo-classical inn was built in the 1920s and is only five blocks away from the River Walk and the Alamo, and is perfect for honeymooners, says co-owner Linda Shankweiler.

"We have a great honeymoon suite with two rooms, a king-size bed, fireplace, wet bar, microwave and coffee maker," says Shankweiler.

And you don't even have to leave your room; there is even a two-person whirlpool bath surrounded by mirrors. The best is yet to come; breakfast is delivered to your room.

Shankweiler says they also have the Oscar Wilde Suite, which is perfect for honeymooners. Although smaller than the Honeymoon Suite, it has the same amenities.

"We've also got an area for a little brunch or gathering and a hot tub on the roof under the stars which can be reserved," says

Shankweiler.

She says both suites are popular for honeymoons, both gay and straight. "Straights have found us too, but we market only to the gay community."

The rooms rent for \$199 and \$169 respectively. For information, call 210.220.1092 or [www.thepaintedladyinn.com](http://www.thepaintedladyinn.com).

If you prefer to stay closer to home, honeymoon packages are available at the Lovett Inn at 501 Lovett Blvd. in the Montrose.

Two honeymoon suites are offered for \$175 each and for an additional \$100 those rooms or any that the inn offers can be provided with a special honeymoon package. The deal includes strawberries dipped in chocolate, fresh flowers, a sparkling alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage presented in a sterling silver service and a scented bubble bath basket. Call 713-522-5224 for details or visit [www.lovetinn.com](http://www.lovetinn.com).

For couples that have more time to spend relaxing, your best bet is to check with a travel agent. There are many popular gay and lesbian honeymoon spots says Andrew King of Uniglobe travel, an agency that caters to gays and lesbians.

"We get honeymoons all the time," says King. "They are big business." The most popular place right now is Hawaii, he says.

"You can't get more gay friendly than Hawaii, but you need a week minimum to

go there," says King. He says Hawaii has become more popular since Continental began non-stop service from Houston.

Other destinations in demand include Key West and Miami, Provincetown, New England, San Francisco and Seattle, according to King.

Mexico is another favorite spot, especially gay-friendly Puerto Vallarta and Acapulco, says King.

"Acapulco is very much a gay-friendly environment. It's like Miami on steroids. Puerto Vallarta has lots to do and there's a small gay beach," says King.

Where you choose for that special spot depends on your "comfort zone," according to King. It all depends on whether you want to hold hands and not be stared at or have fingers pointed at you.

If sailing the seas is your idea of romantic places, don't forget to check out cruises. There are many agencies that cater solely to the gay community. Check out [www.Atlantisevents.com](http://www.Atlantisevents.com), [www.Outandaway.com](http://www.Outandaway.com), or [www.Rancomirage.com](http://www.Rancomirage.com) for more information.

Whatever your choice, there is a place and King can find it for you. He says there are many gay-friendly resorts and hotels in all these locations. For information, call King at 713-669-1171, or any of the other travel agencies listed in *Houston's Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages*.



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# on stage

THEATER PREVIEW

## Tim Miller inside his 'Glory Box'

One-man show about  
gay unions, activism  
playing at Theater LaB  
June 1-2

by D.L. GROOVER

If there's such a thing as a political activist performance artist, then that would describe Tim Miller, who's current one-man show **GLORY BOX** plays this weekend at Theater LaB. He is passionate, cause-driven, thought-provoking, and his work challenges his audiences with his witty, bitchy take on gay American life and times.

At once, his soapbox can be sequined or plain pressboard, but it's always sturdy enough to stand on, witness "Cost of Living," "Stretch Marks," "My Queer Body," "Fruit Cocktail," and "Shirts & Skin."

You may remember him as one of the notorious NEA 4, the solo performance artists lumped together in 1990 who were awarded then denied their National Endowment for the Arts grants. It was a cause célèbre and a national disgrace. Whether these artists merited public grant money for future work wasn't the issue. The argument was that the work was deemed pornographic, upsetting the standards of decency which can be used as a criterion for public funding.

Although Miller teaches performance at UCLA and Cal State, and is co-founder of two prestigious performance spaces in the United States: Performance Space 122 on Manhattan's Lower East Side and Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica, Calif., he keeps a rigorous tour schedule and is in constant demand.

His shows are noted for: the depth of his commitment, wicked humor, social commentary, political outrage, and at some point in the show, he will get naked. It's part schtick, and part '90s deconstruction.

While drawing on the exterior, his work truly focuses on his own life and times. Miller's 42, out since high school, and a performance artist for 24 years. There's always something going on. Now in his life, he has a new quest, a great new theme: bi-national gay and lesbian marriage.

Miller's Australian partner, Alistair, is about to lose his student visa. When that happens next year, Alistair will be deported. Miller is not about to lose his lover. When the Australian goes, Miller goes, too. He's researching relocating to Canada where they can live in at least some sort of civilized, legalized gay partnership. Miller is aghast that in America in the new millennium partners in love can be separated. "I hope we'll eventually join the 20th century; I'll never live to see the 21st."

Hence, "Glory Box," his current work, a sexy and funny politically charged probe, if



Tim Miller's 'Glory Box' performance June 1 at Theater LaB is a benefit for the Houston Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force.

you will, of same-sex marriage and the struggle for immigration rights for lesbian and gay bi-national couples. A glory box is an Australian hope chest, and he wants each of us to have our own, to know we're worthy of having love fulfilled.

As he tours the show, Miller is constantly amazed at the inspiration he draws from the love and commitment these bi-national couples manage in spite of the constant threats of deportation. It helps him keep up his own spirits. Tonight's performance at Theater LaB is a benefit for the Houston Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force. Chapter members from Dallas and Austin will also attend.

Miller is but one fighting for the passage of the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, and "Glory Box" is his battle cry. The more members of congress he can have sponsor the bill, the greater chance of its passing. He knows he has his work cut out here in Texas, since there's not a Congressperson signed on.

"As a performer," Miller said, "I want to do a good show that's funny and moving and sweet and emboldening, but I also want people to get on the phone on Monday and call their Congresspeople and ask why are we kicking our citizens out? Why are we forcing our gay and lesbian citizens to leave this country and seek rights elsewhere? This is wrong."

INFO

#### "The Glory Box"

June 1, 8 p.m.; June 2, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.

Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo

713-868-7516

# on stage

THEATER REVIEWS

## Houston, we have some winners

### Theaters offer up fabulous fare

by D.L. GROOVER

Dick Dudgeon may be a scoundrel, a rapsallion, a reprobate, a prodigal son, but in G.B. Shaw's most American play, **THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE**, he is the hero of heroes.



JIM CLADWELL

The Alley Theatre closes its current season with George Bernard Shaw's 'The Devil's Disciple,' starring Ty Mayberry and Laura Heisler.

He mocks convention, degrades motherhood, rebuffs religion, scoffs at propriety, yet is the most moral, principled, and upstanding citizen of this 1777 New Hampshire town beset by the invading British forces during the American revolution.

He is one of Shaw's most likable characters in one of his lost likable plays. Granted, "The Devil's Disciple" is minor Shaw, but even a lesser work by this major writer warrants a visit, and here the Alley does him proud. If you've not seen the 1959 film version with Olivier, Kirk Douglas and Burt Lancaster, here's an even better chance to acquaint yourself with Shaw and his cranky, beautiful view of the world.

This play must have been quite a shock to the Edwardians of 1897, since Shaw mercilessly mocks the Puritan ethos, showing them up for the hypocritical bigots they were, in turn mocking his own society. That Shaw also mocks the English military establishment must have been especially galling to their stiff upper lips.

Although the play meanders and loses focus before its work is done, it's still extremely amenable due to the characters of Dick and gentleman Johnny Burgoyne, the commander in chief of the British forces in America, and the ironic, ever-so-Shavian ending. Dick is the epitome of American pluck, courage, and moral fortitude. No one else measures up.

### Houston Ballet Spring Repertory

Although the Lila York world premiere was touted, the revivals held this program

together and give it sass.

First up was Trey McIntyre's joyous 1996 "Second Before the Ground." This gen-X "Rite of Spring" wowed the staid British during the Ballet's recent London tour, and continues to slap audiences awake. This clever celebration of tribal life and love with its hip wiggles, nose rubbing, scimitar-shaped leaps, and dancer interplay is McIntyre's most mature work.

It has an infectious sense of fun, excitement, and tom foolery as these perky young adults, not yet fully aware, test their sexual powers and see the effects. It is a work full of joie de vivre, and the dancers danced the hell out of it.

It's almost sacrilegious to think that Marilyn Monroe would have been 75 years old had she not been so ineffably sad and no doubt crazy. She would have liked Ben Stevenson's "Image," his tribute to what fame can and can not do for someone who's so lost.

Set to Mahler's aching post-romantic "Symphony #10," this expressionistic work tells the tale of a forlorn woman who discovers her self in a blond wig and gold dress. That these trappings don't bring comfort is fame's curse, and she remains the lost girl enmeshed in a mental net all her own. White hot Barbara Bears was tailored for this role, bringing dramatic intensity and empathy to this searing portrait.



GEOFF WINNINGHAM

Barbara Bears pays fitting tribute to Marilyn Monroe in Ben Stevenson's 'Image,' part of the Houston Ballet's Spring Repertory.

### 'Unmerciful Good Fortune

Who would have thought that the best theater around town is now in the grunge space of Unhinged Productions on La Branch? I challenge you to find a more worthy production, a more poetically written play, or finer performances any time soon.

Unfortunately, the magic continues only through this weekend, so get down there. Edwin Sanchez' steamroller of a drama concerns the Hispanic assimilation with all its attendant road bumps and pot holes:

machismo, racism, bruja (witchcraft), self doubts, magic realism, and the ultimate liberation of the human heart.

Directed by Ann James in hypnotic style, the three lead females don't make one false step. It's a triple tour de force of blast furnace intensity, dramatic detail, and right-on observation. Maritza Cruz



(Yvonne Aguirre) is stuck as one of many dead end assistant D.A.'s in the Bronx. She's stopped fighting the Man, but doesn't have much to show for it.

This cat and mouse game has enough variation and emotional tug to keep interest percolating up to the final haunting image. An incredibly riveting evening in the theater.

### "The Devil's Disciple"

Through June 17  
Alley Theatre, 615 Texas  
713-228-8421

### Houston Ballet Spring Rep

Through June 3  
Wortham Theater Center  
713-227-ARTS

### "Unmerciful Good Fortune"

Through June 2  
Unhinged Productions, 3304 La Branch  
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# community

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Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama.  
713-528-6665.  
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.  
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.  
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.  
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
TMC Lambda BBQ/Pool Party. 1-5 p.m. tom@centerforaids.org.  
Asians and Friends Houston. Dinner & a movie. 713-626-6300.  
Bears on the Beach II. Houston Area Bears. 713-867-9123.

### sunday, june 3

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.  
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.  
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.  
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.  
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.  
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.  
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.  
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.  
Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930

Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.  
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Bisexuality. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.  
Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center 713-692-2703.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours 2 to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
PFLAG-Houston. Monthly meeting & support group. 713-867-9020.

### monday, june 4

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.  
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
HIV testing, STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.  
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.  
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.  
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017. Ext. 208.  
gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.  
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

### tuesday, june 5

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.  
HTGA Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.  
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.  
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.  
Bering Support Network: Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

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# calendar

Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.  
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 633-2555.  
Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.  
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
Lesbian Health Initiative. 713-603-0023.

## wednesday, june 6

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.  
STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E's. 713-830-3000.  
BINet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380  
Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.  
Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.  
Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.  
Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 713-880-0670.  
Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.  
Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.  
Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.  
Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.  
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.  
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne • 713-524-3818.  
Classic Chassis Car Club. Monthly meeting. 7 p.m. 713-797-8615.

## thursday, june 7

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.  
Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.  
Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.  
STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.  
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.  
Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.  
FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.  
HIV Art Therapy Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.  
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.  
Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition 6:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
Gulf Coast Transgender Community. Meeting. 713-780-4282.

## friday, June 8

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.  
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.  
STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.  
Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.  
Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.  
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.  
Movie Night, Kolbe Project. 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.  
Houston Outdoor Group. Rafting trip. 713-529-6661.  
To list an event, call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Friday at 5 p.m.

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June 10<sup>th</sup> "Experiencing Our God-Given Purpose" Rev. Janet Parker

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# Classifieds

## Announcements

### Computer Pro Volunteer

Advisor needed to help set up Quick Books 2001 • AIDS Housing Coalition of Houston • 713-521-1613.

### GAY WALKERS

Saturday mornings • <http://members.aol.com/morningclub/index.htm> • 281-437-0636.

### EROTIC MASSAGE WORKSHOP

Celebrating the Body Erotic welcomes pioneering men of all ages and types who want to relearn human sexuality as sacred, transcendent & healthy. • June 9 & 10 • 713-426-5196 or visit [www.bodyelectric.org](http://www.bodyelectric.org).

## Auditions

Ashland Street Theatre Company is looking for 5 males for upcoming Summer blockbuster "Blue Boys." Three 25-30 yo, one 40ish and one 18-22. Show will feature an adult film star • Call 713-426-3019.

### Theatre New West

Looking for one actor or actor wanna-be to play a "Buffed Swede Go-Go Dancer." 713-522-2204.

## Employment

Resurrection MCC seeks a part-time Pianist. Responsibilities include 2 Sunday Worship Services, Choir rehearsals and Special events • Will work with Dir. of Music, Worship and Organist • Experienced in church music. Excellent piano skills • Play different styles of music. • Send resume and references by June 21 to Resurrection MCC, 2025 W. 11th, Houston, TX, 77008. Attn: Mark Unbehagen. For information call 713-861-9149 X 110 or [marku@neosoft.com](mailto:marku@neosoft.com).

### Ware House

#### Assistant

Part-time • Good driving record required • HIV/AIDS awareness preferred • Hours: 1-5 p.m. Mon-Fri. • Fax resume to PWA Coalition • 713-522-2674.

### GRAFFITI ARTIST NEEDED

Interesting project • 713-409-0587.

### COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR

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### SFX THEATRICAL

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### COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Flexible hours • Graphics designer with Pagemaker 6.0/6.5 for IBM • Layout weekly service leaflets & news bulletin • Artistic with other projects • Fax resume to Christopher Thomas @ 713-222-2412 or [cthomas@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:cthomas@christchurchcathedral.org).

### NEW CLUB ON FANNIN

Looking for Floor, Door, Bartenders, and barbacks. Call Robert @ 713.526.3333, noon-6pm.

### MILAM HOUSE

Housing assistance needed for transitional living program • Knowledge in the areas of HIV/AIDS, substance abuse (recovery) preferred • Fax resume to 713.522.2674.

### BERING MEMORIAL UMC

Church-based AIDS Spiritual Support Network serving a diverse community including GLBT and minorities seeks Program Director. Qualifications: Creative, dynamic professional with experience in community outreach, GROUP and individual counseling program development and management • LPC or MSW-ACP preferred. Interested individuals should forward resume and qualifications to: Bering Memorial UMC, c/o COSM, 1440 Harold, Houston, Texas 77006. • No phone calls please.

### CLUB NSOMNIA

Now hiring part time floor help • Please call 713.521.1613

### EJ's

Now accepting applications for Bartenders, Barbacks, Clean-Up and Door Security • Applications accepted Monday through Friday, 2:00-4:00 pm only • Recent photo helpful • Absolutely no phone calls, please • Apply in person at 2517 Ralph

### MIDTOWN SPA HOUSTON

Apply in person • Start at \$6.50 per hour

Nightingale ADC offers free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals • Including job preparedness training, resume development, job search assistance • For more informations call 713.981.1543

The Club Houston is now accepting applications for Certified Personal Trainers • Apply in person at 2205 Fannin or at [www.the-clubs.com](http://www.the-clubs.com)

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Community Center, 803 Hawthorn at Stanford. Dimensions are 14' x 12'6". Nonprofit glbt organization preferred as tenant partners but all inquiries are welcomed. Contact Tim Brookover for rate and details. 713.524.3818, [brookover@ev1.net](mailto:brookover@ev1.net) For Lease • 1700 sq.ft. • Great Heights location • Call 713.443.9494

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# Occasions

## Birthdays

Belated birthday wishes to *Houston Voice* writer Bob Henderson.

Asian's and Friends members Lam N. & Ted D. sneak in birthdays this week.

Classic Chassis Car Club members William S. (6/4), Ken S. (6/4) and Joe M. (6/5) watch that birthday odometer roll over this week.

Guava Lamp owner and wiener dog lover Woody toasts to his June 3 birthday.

Happy birthday hugs to George Trash...er, Tresch on his June 7 birthday.

Houston Area Bears Richard B. & Kirk B. share the birthday limelight on June 7.

Belated birthday hugs to Missy, co-founder of the Bradwatchers Club and owner of Wiggy the Wonder Dog (who happens to be best friends with our pet of the week, Violet).

## Anniversaries

Bob (Mary Todd) Meyers and Empress (Barry Petree) celebrate another year together on June 7.



My name is Violet. My new mom adopted me from the SPCA, and now I live with her and her roommate, the *Houston Voice's* own graphic designer, Natasha Marquez. I'm so happy now that I have a loving family, a big back yard to play in, and a song named after me!

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# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



## YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

June 1 - 7



### ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)

The moon's close proximity to your ruler, Mars, on June 6 brings you luck if you are willing to gamble. Playing it safe is against your nature, anyway. But don't rush into the next important cycle of your life. You need to savor this middle phase. A Leo wants to savor your body.



### TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)

Your perspective is a little depressive right now, babe. Why are you so obsessed with money and security? Don't worry—there's money to be made in early June. In romance, why bother to play the field when you know you are longing for that one true thing? A Sag may be a compulsive liar. Do a background check!



### GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

A small money problem could escalate if you don't take care of it right now. At the same time, your love life is peaking (thanks to the full moon on June 5). You're sexy and in demand. Be brave enough to finally go after what you want—starting with a Cancer.



### CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

Make decisions based on logic, not desperate emotion, around the time of the full moon on June 5. And here's a hint: focus on the thing that scares you the most. A Taurus isn't as tough as you think. Go ahead—move in closer.



### LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

It may be time to admit that you're a little bit more conventional than the rest of the folks you hang around with. So what's wrong with that? With hardworking Saturn in your eleventh house, you may find more jobs than you can handle. Spread yourself thin—you need the money. And spread 'em for a Pisces. You need to relax, too.



### VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)

It's time to let go of an illusion about love that no longer serves you. You're better off going it alone. Maybe this is the week to start dealing with some old childhood issues instead of repressing them even more. Do you want to heal yourself or develop another eating disorder? Ask a Leo.



### LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)

Make a choice among the career options you have. Don't wait for some non-existent dream job to come along. Try to be this realistic in your romantic life, too. A menage of some sort with your steady squeeze and a slutty Scorpio could be in the works. But at the same time, you may be questioning your own feelings about monogamy.



### SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)

Pay homage to the bizarre sides of your nature, darling. You've been trying to be too normal and it just isn't playing. Do what makes absolutely no sense but that you know is right. An Aquarius will still respect you in the morning.



### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

Move at a slow, methodical pace where your career is concerned. Too many planets are opposing you. You need to ingratiate yourself to the powers that be. Stop being so defensive around the person you love most. Be kind to Aries people. They are more patient with you than they have to be!



### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

Take advantage of a business situation and move a few chess pieces in your favor, babe. You know you can get away with it, and you know you're not hurting anybody, either. Everyone can see right through you when it comes to your lusty nature, especially a Libra, who matches your ardor tit for tat.



### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

It's time to figure out what you want to be when you grow up, honey. Instead of placing so much importance on your mind, why not focus on your heart, too? Explore what you really want in your love life, instead of just perpetually reacting to other people's dramatic motivations.



### PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

Things may seem intense where a family member is concerned, but remember—your relatives are drama queens. Make a strong decision about money during the full moon on June 5. A Virgo is turned on by you when you act like a grown-up. Of course, we know you're just acting!

Jill Dearman is the author of "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women." For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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