



Spring film preview

An array of gay-friendly independent features proves there is life after 'Brokeback'

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MARCH 10, 2006

REUNION: Kindred Spirits reunites clubbers for the fifth time. **Page 3**



VERDICT: Transgender teacher returns to classroom. **Page 5**



ATTACK: Soldiers use anti-gay slurs while beating a civilian. **Page 6**



Three Houston GLBT Caucus picks win in March 7 primary election

One candidate heading to runoff, gubernatorial pick fails to make November ballot

By ERIC ERVIN

Three of the seven candidates that were endorsed by the Houston GLBT Political Caucus won their political party's nomination during the March 7 primary election. Winners of the primary election will appear on the ballot for the Nov. 2 election.

"It's critical that the GLBT community support pro-equality candidates," said Maria Gonzales, president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus

One candidate is headed for a runoff election next month, and three others were defeated, including the Caucus pick for the Democratic gubernatorial nominee. The March 7 winners will appear on the ballot in the Nov. 2 general election.

Former U.S. Congressman and Houston City Councilmember Chris Bell defeated Bob Gammage in the Democratic primary for governor. Bell whipped Gammage, the Caucus pick, by 64 to 29 percent of the vote. Rashad Jafer rounded out the list of three Democratic candidates, receiving 7 percent.

Bell will face incumbent Republican Gov. Rick Perry in the November election. If independent candidates, including Controller Carole Keeton Strayhorn and musician Kinky Friedman, succeed in collecting 45,540 signatures each from non-primary voters, there could be four candidates on the ballot for the November election.



Former U.S. Congressman and Houston city councilmember Chris Bell celebrates his victory in the Democratic primary race for Texas governor.

Garnet Coleman

In other races, caucus-endorsed candidates fared well. Incumbent state Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston), who is a caucus favorite and long-time supporter of gay-rights issues, defeated Democrats Cheryl Armitige and Herschel Smith in a landslide win for the District 147 seat.

Coleman received 89 percent of the vote, compared to Armitige's seven percent and Smith's three percent. There were no candidates seeking the Republican nomination for the District 147 seat.

"You don't know what to expect," he said. "Just because you go around and people tell you you're doing a great job, that doesn't mean that some of my constituents think that."

Please see ELECTION RESULTS on Page 4



After the Houston gay newspaper identified City Council candidate Sue Lovell as a lesbian in a headline, she called to complain, 'It will be best not to have it laying around all over town in the newspaper that I'm a lesbian.'

Gay politicians having it both ways?

Many seek Victory Fund endorsement then downplay sexual orientation

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

A month before she was elected to the Houston City Council by a razor thin margin, community activist Sue Lovell complained about a headline in a local gay newspaper that identified her as a lesbian.

Lovell is widely known as a lesbian activist among politically active Houstonians and those active in the Houston gay community, and she and her supporters welcomed the endorsement and \$40,000 in campaign contributions she received from the Washington, D.C.-based Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund.

Yet Lovell, an experienced hand in Houston city politics, said

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local news
Four theologians to discuss why the concepts of homosexuality and spirituality are compatible.
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dish
Just because he wears a dress in 'Hairspray' doesn't mean John Travolta is gay.
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local news

PFLAG director pushing for a 'SEA' of change

Jody Huckaby makes stop in Houston to discuss three areas of interest

By ERIC ERVIN

Jody Huckaby, who is executive director of the national Washington, D.C.-based organization PFLAG, identifies three areas of interest he believes will help aid in the fight for equality for gay Americans.

Huckaby said organization officials must continue to work in the areas of support, education and advocacy in order to end discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. The head of the national organization was in Houston March 5 to speak at the monthly meeting of PFLAG's Houston chapter.

"We have to be the stronger and louder voice for change," Huckaby said.

The topic of Huckaby's speech was "PFLAG: The Real SEA Change for Equality. With the recent approval of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages in Texas, Huckaby believes the fight for gay rights is becoming more mainstream.

Other states are considering similar bans, and talk of a federal constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages is gaining momentum. Huckaby believes the recent approval of Texas's Proposition 2 by more than 76 percent of voters puts a face on discrimination.

"It said this is how many people disapprove of the lifestyles of gay people," he said.

However, Huckaby said the approval of the proposition does not end the fight for equality.

"It was not a lost backward, but a lost forward," he said. "It's not a matter of if equality for gay people will happen, but when."

Support network

Huckaby said having a support network could work wonders for a young person who is having problems dealing with their sexual orientation. He said it's important for them to have family and friends who accept and support them.

"It's critically important," Huckaby said. "Studies have shown that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender teenagers are four times as likely to commit suicide."

Although the organization has grown to include around 500 chapters across the country, Huckaby is concerned with gay youth in rural areas. He said most of these children don't have anyone to talk with about their sexual orientation and are at a high risk of becoming depressed or failing with the wrong crowd.

"I was just in Eunice, La. visiting my parents and they were telling me about their friends who have gay children in the area," Huckaby said.

PFLAG chapters in Lafayette and Baton Rouge are each about an hour away from Huckaby's hometown of Eunice.

In addition to providing a support network for gay youths, the organization also helps



Jody Huckaby, executive director of PFLAG, recently delivered a speech in Houston on support, education and advocacy of the gay-rights organization.

parents deal with accepting their children's sexual orientation. Huckaby said it's helpful for them to share their experience with parents who had struggled with the same issues.

"It's always been about providing support," Huckaby said.

He said it's a sometimes-difficult task for the parents of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender youths, as they might have had pre-arranged plans for their children.

"Some of them may have pictured their sons growing up and marrying a woman, or their daughters growing up and marrying a man," Huckaby said. "But we show them that there's light at the end of the tunnel."

Educating others

In May, the Houston chapter will sponsor a sensitivity seminar for 200 Houston Independent School District administrators. Huckaby said officials want to ensure that schools provide a safe working and learning environment for gay youths.

"It's just one more component of the diversity that exist in schools," he said.

He said many gay youths are afraid to reveal their sexual orientation due to fear of rejection from not only other students, but teachers and administrators as well. Also, he said children with same-sex parents live in fear of being discriminated against.

"Houston is fortunate in that officials are having this three-day planning weekend," Huckaby said.

Huckaby said the seminar will provide HISD teachers and administrators the information they need to be sensitive to issues affecting gay youth. Also, he said it will teach them to look out for warning signs that are evident in students who may be having problems with accepting their sexual orientation, such as a sudden drop in grades, withdrawal and behavior problems.

Gay-rights advocates

PFLAG officials aim to get members and others involved in the political process in order to bring about change. Huckaby urges people to lobby political officials on gay-rights issues.

"The important thing is to have town hall meetings with elected officials," Huckaby said.

One of Huckaby's goals is to increase the number of chapters by another 500. PFLAG's "Our House to the Courthouse" initiative informs members about political issues that will affect gay Americans, such as the nomination and election of Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court.

local news in brief

Kindred Spirits 'alumni' plan 5th annual reunion

Organizers have announced that this year's Kindred Spirits Celebration is set for April 29, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. at the Edwin Hornberger Center, located at 2151 W. Holcombe Blvd.

Kindred Spirits first opened in 1980 in a strip center shopping center just outside of Houston's West University neighborhood and was one of the country's first meeting places where gay women could enjoy each other's company in an uplifting, safe atmosphere. The facility expanded in 1985, moving to Richmond Avenue and the West Loop in Houston's upscale Galleria area. It closed permanently in 1989.

"Kindred Spirits was always a space where we could be a part of each others lives, where we could learn about each other, help each other out and have fun," said Marion Coleman, the club's owner.

The party, now in its fifth year, is not only a reunion of former patrons of the nightclub, but also an event for people who never had the opportunity to experience Kindred Spirits to honor one of Houston's most revered institutions. Those who attended the first four celebrations said that, in addition to the dancing and camaraderie, they especially enjoy the montage of photos that are projected on a large screen throughout the evening, highlighting some of the memories from the original club.

Terry Flores, owner of Bocado's Restaurant & Bar, will continue her role as the DJ for the celebration. As in years past, there will be also dance floor, with free video games and billiards. The evening will also feature a silent auction with items donated by area merchants.

Also featured that evening will be raffle for a Rainbow Ring valued at \$6,000, donated by Michael Kemper Coiffures. The ring is a suitable acces-



Planning committee members Sally Huffer, left, Cindy Durham and Iris Rodriguez prepare a mass mailing for the 5th annual Kindred Spirits Reunion Celebration. (Photo by Nancy Ford)

sory for either a man or a woman.

"When I first saw this ring, it took my breath away," said Coleman. "We thank Michael Kemper Coiffures for this generous donation."

Joe Cummins, owner of Keys West nightclub, will be honored at the celebration for his ongoing assistance to the reunion parties and Houston's GLBT community.

Four local organizations assisting Houston's gay and lesbian community are the evening's beneficiaries. They are AssistHers, Bering Support Network, Houston Buyer's Club and Lesbian Health Initiative.

Tickets for the event are \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door), and are available at the House of Coleman, 901 W. Alabama, or at Acadian Bakery, 604 W. Alabama; DaCapo's, 1141 E. 11th Street; Houston Buyer's Club, 3224 Yoakum; and Bocado's Restaurant & Bar, 1312 W. Alabama.

Organizers also stated that volunteers will be needed the night of the event.

For more information, call 713-523-2521, e-mail ksreunions@aol.com, or log on to www.KindredSpiritsHouston.org.

Pride Houston lends Texas flavor to national conference

This weekend Pride Houston plays host to the 2006 InterPride Regional Conference, offering community members and other Pride coordinators from throughout the U.S. the opportunity to network with their counterparts and become familiar with other what it takes to produce the largest GLBT Pride celebration in the Southwest.

Approximately 20 conference participants from Austin, Dallas, Detroit, Des Moines, Minneapolis, San Antonio, Southern California and St. Louis will take part in the conference, as well as Pride Houston members. Topics range from vol-

unteer management and event coordination to fundraising and technology.

A \$25 registration fee covers and conference workshops, a Texas BBQ dinner on Friday night and lunch on Saturday afternoon.

The weekend culminates in a trip to the Houston Rodeo, featuring a concert by Lee Ann Womack.

Interested parties need not be members of Pride Houston to participate in the conference.

For more information or to register for the conference, e-mail Jack@pride-houston.org or call the Pride Line at 713-529-6979.

From staff and wire reports

CORRECTION

In a March 3, 2006 story "AIDS Foundation Houston prepares for its biggest fundraiser of the year," it was incorrectly reported that AIDS Walk Houston is scheduled for March 11. The correct date is Sunday, March 12. The Voice regrets the error.

local news

Coleman strives to make policy changes

ELECTION RESULTS, continued from Page 4

Coleman, who will begin his ninth term in office, believes that public officials are most effective when they start fighting for policy changes that will affect people's lives. He strongly opposed the approval of last year's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages.

"My two opponents continue to use that (proposition) as a way—I guess—to override me," Coleman said.

On March 5, Coleman and his challengers were guests on a local radio show and spoke about gay-rights issues. Coleman reiterates his beliefs that everyone should be treated equally, without regard to sexual orientation.

"Garnet Coleman has been an ally of this community for many years in the Texas Legislature," Gonzales.

Other races

Incumbent state Rep. Kevin Bailey (D-Houston), who was endorsed by the

Caucus, received 70 percent of 1,295 votes cast to defeat challenger John Reyes in the Democratic primary for the District 140 seat. There were no Republican candidates on the ballot.

Incumbent Democratic candidate Zinetta Burney defeated William Bowers Jr. to win the Harris County justice of the peace Precinct 7, Place 2 post. Burney received 63 percent of the 9,858 votes cast, compared to Bowers' 37 percent.

Houston lawyer David Murff was defeated by schoolteacher Jim Henley in the race for the District 7 seat of the U.S. House of Representatives. Murff, who was endorsed by the Caucus, received 33 percent of the vote, compared to Henley who received 67 percent.

Incumbent Republican candidate John Culberson ran unopposed for the Republican nomination.

Democrat Al Bennett was defeated by incumbent state Rep. Al Edwards (D-Houston) in the race for the District 146 seat. Edwards received 48 percent percent of the vote, compared to Bennett who received 19 percent. Placing second



Houston city councilmember Ada Edwards (left) embraces Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston), at a post-election party March 7.

in the race was businessman Borris Miles, who received 33 percent.

Runoff for Ankrum

Ted Ankrum will face fellow Democrat Paul Foreman in an April 11 runoff for the 10th Congressional District to face Republican Michael T. McCaul in November. Ankrum received 37 percent of the vote, compared to Foreman who

i MORE INFO

Houston GLBT Political Caucus
P.O. Box 66664
Houston, Texas 77266
713-521-1000
www.hglpc.org

MARCH 7 PRIMARY ENDORSEMENTS

Governor: Bob Gammage (D)
State Representative, District 140:
Kevin Bailey (D)
State Representative, District 146:
Al Bennet (D)
State Representative, District 147:
Garnet Coleman (D)
U.S. Representative, District 7:
David Murff (D)
U.S. Representative, District 10:
Ted Ankrum (D)
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 7:
Zinetta Burney (D)

received 36 percent. Democratic challengers Sid Smith and Pat Mynatt received 15 percent and 12 percent respectively.

Sexual orientation 'seldom relevant' in political campaigns

VICTORY FUND, continued from Page 1

she was uncomfortable about stepping out too far in the midst of an election campaign.

"I just think it will be best not to have it laying around all over town in the newspaper that I'm a lesbian," she said in a phone call to the editor of the Houston Voice, a publication affiliated with the Washington Blade.

Lovell's concern about being identified as a lesbian in headlines drew attention to a dilemma faced by the Victory Fund, a national group that has raised millions for openly gay candidates running for public office on the local, state, and federal levels.

The Victory Fund, in turn, seeks donations under the theory that having openly gay public officials will result in policy changes that improve the lives of gay Americans.

"Every victory can lead to a major breakthrough," said Victory Fund Executive Director Chuck Wolfe in an e-mail accompany the release of the group's annual report last month. "It is through the bravery and passion of an unstoppable few that society, and in fact the world, evolves."

But Lovell, and many other openly gay candidates, does not necessarily sound like the sort of "revolutionary figure" that Wolfe said receives every Victory Fund endorsement.

Lovell now says she had no objection to the media identifying her as a lesbian but objected only to the Houston Voice placing the word "lesbian" in a headline rather than her name, for a news story about her

advancement to a run-off election for the City Council seat she won in December.

"The smarter thing to do was not to put lesbian in the headline because that word was not on the ballot," Lovell told the this week. "My name was on the ballot."

Lovell said that placing the word lesbian in a headline provided more ammunition for anti-gay supporters of her opponent to attack her. She noted that a hostile radio talk show host repeatedly accused her of pushing a "lesbian agenda" while praising her opponent as a "family man."

Lovell said she wants to set the record straight.

"I have never, never been uncomfortable stepping out as a lesbian on any issue at any time, nor have I ever said I was uncomfortable," Lovell said, speaking to the Houston Voice on March 9.

"I simply asked my community newspaper to use my name in the headline so that my community would know who to vote for. Facts don't lie, and the fact is that I've been fighting as an out lesbian for LGBT equality for more than 25 years, on television, radio and in mainstream newspapers as well as in the LGBT press."

The Victory Fund, which runs candidate training school, has been credited with helping to increase the number of openly gay public officials in the United States from 49 to more than 300 during the past 14 years.

Although the Victory Fund aggressively promotes its endorsed candidates as openly gay in its fundraising campaigns aimed at gay donors, some of the candidates are less enthusiastic about highlighting their

sexual orientation in their own campaigns.

"Every year we have at least one candidate who is attacked because of his or her sexual orientation," said Victory Fund spokesperson Dave DeCicco.

Among the 23 openly gay candidates the Victory Fund has endorsed so far in 2006, 14 have launched websites for their campaigns or for the public offices they hold as incumbents. Of those 14, only seven have identified themselves as gay or lesbian on their websites — usually in biographies that describe their backgrounds and accomplishments.

Six of the seven candidates that identify themselves as gay or lesbian on the web also include information about their positions on gay-related issues.

Playing it safe?

Six of the Victory Fund-endorsed candidates with websites make no mention of their sexual orientation or gay-related issues on the sites.

They include Jackie Biskupski, a member of the Utah House of Representatives who is running for re-election; Julia Boseman, a member of the North Carolina Senate who is running for re-election; David Cicilline, mayor of Providence, R.I., who is running for re-election; Christine Kaufmann, member of the Montana House of Representatives who is running for re-election; Jim Roth, member of the Oklahoma County Commission in Oklahoma City who is running for re-election; and Kathy Webb, a candidate for the Arkansas House of Representatives.

As with Lovell, the 23 candidates

i MORE INFO

Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund
1705 DeSales St., NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036
202-VICTORY
www.victoryfund.org

endorsed by the Victory Fund have publicly acknowledged their sexual orientation in various ways before they announced their candidacies.

An informal Washington Blade survey of their campaigns sought to determine the degree to which they would disclose and discuss their sexual orientation and gay issues on their websites, which have become one of the leading tools in modern-day political campaigns. The survey did not determine whether the Victory Fund-endorsed candidates that have yet to set up a website plan to do so, or if they plan to identify themselves as gay on those sites.

Among the candidates endorsed by the Victory Fund this year is gay Massachusetts State Senator Jarrett Barrios, who is running for the post of Middlesex County District Attorney. Barrios lists gay-related issues on his campaign website but does not disclose his sexual orientation, even though he is well known throughout the state as a gay lawmaker.

In Illinois, lesbian Debra Shore, who is a candidate for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, identifies herself as gay on her website but does not discuss any gay-related issues on the site.

national news

N.J. teacher to return to classroom after sex change

EAGLESWOOD TOWNSHIP, New Jersey (AP) — To students at Eagleswood Elementary School, she used to be Mr. McBeth. Now, after undergoing a sex change, 71-year-old Lily McBeth is ready to return to teaching as Miss McBeth. Despite criticism from parents, the school board last week stood by its decision to allow McBeth to resume working as a substitute teacher. After two hours of public debate and a private meeting with McBeth and her lawyer, the board took no action on calls by several parents to bar McBeth from returning to the school where she taught for five years before becoming a woman. "It was magnificent," McBeth said afterward. "You saw diversity in action." McBeth, a retired sales executive who was married for 33 years and had three children, underwent gender reassignment surgery last year and re-applied for her job under her new name. Several parents said children in the school — which consists of kindergarten through sixth grade — were not old enough to understand the concept of changing one's gender. "I, as a parent, am appalled to have this issue brought into my child's psychology," Steve Bond said.



Despite objections from some parents, transgender teacher Lily McBeth will return to teaching after her male-to-female gender reassignment surgery, a New Jersey school board decided.

GOP leaders remove hate crime language already passed by House

WASHINGTON — House Democrats, including gay Reps. Barney Frank and Tammy Baldwin, chose not to call for a roll call vote March 8 over a parliamentary move by House GOP leaders to prevent a hate crimes amendment from reinstatement to a child safety bill that calls for monitoring convicted sex offenders. Judiciary Committee Chair James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisc.) single-handedly removed the hate crimes language from a redrafted version of the child safety bill that he introduced directly to the House floor without a hearing or "markup" vote in committee. The redrafted bill omitted hate crimes bill language that the House passed 223-199 as a bipartisan amendment to the earlier version of the child safety act last September. Conservative religious groups, including the Family Research Council, waged an aggressive lobbying campaign to have the hate crimes bill language removed from the child safety bill.

Mo. parents complain about book on two male penguins

SAVANNAH, Mo. (AP) — A children's book about two male penguins who raise a baby penguin has been moved to the nonfiction section of two public library branches after parents complained it had gay undertones. The illustrated book, "And Tango Makes Three," is based on a true story of two male penguins, named Roy and Silo, who adopted an abandoned egg at New York's Central Park Zoo in the late 1990s. The book, by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, was moved from the children's section at two branches. Two parents had expressed concerns about the book last month. Moving the book to the nonfiction section would decrease the chance that it would "blindside" readers, said Barbara Read, the library's director.

Domino's founder retreats on Catholic restrictions in new town

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Domino's Pizza founder Thomas S. Monaghan, who is helping to bankroll the creation of a Florida town and university, backtracked last week from comments that he'd like the community to be governed by strict Roman Catholic principles. His ideas about barring pornography and birth control, he said, apply only to the Catholic university. Both the town of Ave Maria and its Ave Maria University, the first Catholic university to be built in the United States in four decades, are set to open next year about 25 miles east of Naples in southwest Florida. The town is being developed through a 50-50 partnership with the Barron Collier Co., a real estate firm. Barron Collier executive Blake Gable said gays will be welcome despite the church's belief that homosexuality is a sin.

Chicago-area park board OKs Gay Games rowing event

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill. — Members of the Crystal Lake Park District Board voted 3-2 March 7 to overturn their initial rejection of a request for a rowing competition to be held in the lake as part of the Gay Games in Chicago, the Chicago Sun-Times reported. The board rejected the request last week by a 2-2 vote, but Commissioner Jerry Sullivan, who was vacationing in Mexico and missed the meeting, said he wanted to vote on the issue. More than 80 people spoke out at the meeting preceding the second vote, ranging from gay rights activists to critics who said the gay event defied God and would promote promiscuity. After casting the tie-breaking vote, Sullivan told the Sun-Times the decision "shows our openness as a community and our fairness."

From staff and wire reports

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Nelson Vergel, a former chemical engineer, is a 23-year HIV+ survivor and leading treatment advocate in HIV disease in the US. He is co-author of "Built to Survive: A Comprehensive Guide to the Medical Use of Anabolic Therapies, Nutrition and Exercise for HIV-positive Men and Women," founder of the Body Positive Wellness Clinic in Houston, and a nationally recognized speaker on HIV treatments, side effects management and quality of life.



He is currently active as a board member of the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (www.atac-usa.org) trying to advance HIV drug research and access in the US.

For more information, please visit www.medibolics.com and www.facialwasting.org

national news

Soldiers charged in Savannah beating

Victim missing; police unsure if late-night attack was hate crime

By DYANA BAGBY

Five Fort Stewart soldiers remained jailed March 8 after being charged with aggravated battery for allegedly beating a man in front of a Savannah gay bar over the weekend.

But because the victim, David Bennett, 37, cannot be found by police, it was unknown at press time whether the charges against the soldiers would be prosecuted, according to a spokesperson for the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department.

Bennett was severely beaten by the five soldiers at about 3:15 a.m. March 5, according to a Savannah police report. One of the soldiers, Sidney Swift, "spontaneously stated, 'Yes, I beat that motherfucking faggot up. I was buying him drinks all night,'" the police report said.

The other soldiers arrested were Clinton Little, Derrick Fritz, Rocco Sorma and Adam Pittman. They were denied bond at a March 7 hearing, said Lt. Mike Wilkins of



Fort Stewart soldier **Sidney Swift** is one of five soldiers charged in the beating of a man outside a Savannah gay club. (Photo courtesy Savannah police)

the Savannah police department.

The soldiers are members of the Army's Third Infantry Division based at Fort Stewart and just recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, according to Wilkins.

Calls to the public affairs office at Fort Stewart were not returned.

The Savannah Morning News reported March 6 that Bennett was leaving Blaine's Back Door Bar, a gay bar located at 13 East Perry Lane, when the soldiers attacked him.

But Wilkins said the incident started at a nearby bar, McDonough's Restaurant & Lounge, and Bennett was chased to Blaine's, where he had been earlier in the evening. McDonough's, located at 21 East McDonough St., is not a gay bar.

Gay activists are already citing Bennett's beating as one more reason why Georgia needs a hate crimes law, but Savannah police said they are unsure the crime was committed because of Bennett's sexual orientation.

"I think there is the inference a gay man was beaten, but right now there is no indication [Bennett] was gay," Wilkins said March 7. "The encounter didn't start at the gay bar, and we can't confirm the assault occurred simply because [Bennett] was gay."

Victim missing

Police have been unable to locate Bennett to proceed with the investigation, and there are reports he is homeless, Wilkins said. Bennett also faces four felony warrants for parole violations in Florida, Wilkins said, but he could not identify the violations.

Without Bennett, prosecutors are unlikely to proceed with the case, Wilkins added.

"Bennett checked out of the hospital against medical advice [after receiving treatment in the early hours of March 5], and we have not been able to locate him," Wilkins said. "If the victim never comes forward — well, you have to have a victim to prosecute. If you don't have a victim, then you can't proceed."

Calls to the Chatham County District

Attorney's office were not returned by press time.

Allen Craighead, a bartender at Blaine's, said that Bennett is openly bisexual and frequently visits the gay bar.

Bennett was asked to leave Blaine's at about midnight on March 4 because he was becoming a nuisance to other customers by "hitting them up for drinks," said Craighead, who was working that night.

When Craighead was taking out the trash at about 3 a.m. on March 5, he said he saw Bennett running around the corner with five men chasing him. Craighead said he immediately rushed inside the bar, shut the door and called 911.

After the call, Craighead said he opened the door and found Bennett lying on the sidewalk bleeding and wounded badly.

"You could tell he took a fist to the right eye," Craighead said.

The police report states Bennett was hit, kicked and was "bleeding profusely from lacerations along his right side, a cut near or on the right eye. He was barely conscious."

Craighead said Blaine's employees are unnerved by the beating at the doorstep of the gay bar and plan to be more careful, especially late at night.

"I don't plan on taking the trash out anymore by myself," he said.

Joey Holliday, a bartender at McDonough's, was at McDonough's March 4 and said the five soldiers who were arrested were very drunk and disruptive, and they were asked to leave the bar that night.



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Rotko Chapel to host forum on religion and gay issues

Panel discussion will include four gay and lesbian theologians

By ERIC ERVIN

Throughout the years, the largest opposition on gay-right issues has come for a place where some might least expect: the church.

During last year's campaign to approve Proposition 2, a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages, some religious leaders supported the measure arguing that it would preserve the family unit. The proposition was approved by more than 76 percent of Texans who went to the polls.

Houston's Rothko Chapel will host the discussion "The Struggle for Truth: Voices from the Margins" on March 15. It will feature a panel of four gay and lesbian theologians, including Rev. Irene Monroe, Dr. Robert Gloss, Dr. Mark D. Jordan, and author and gay-rights activist Gabriel Blau. Jeffrey J. Kripal, who is chair of religious studies at Rice University, will be moderator.

"I'm just absolutely overjoyed," says Alice McCarthy, director of community relations. "These people have all stayed with their faith — their denomination — and are working within the system to change the system for us."

The March 15 discussion is the latest in a series of lectures and panel discussions sponsored by the chapel that focus on different aspects of religion. The series, "Preserving Spiritual Values in the Face of Religious Differences: A Series of Encounters," consist of ten programs that will run each month through June.

"The idea of it is to examine religious issues," McCarthy says. "They (panelist) are radical in the sense that they go to the roots of the problem."

MORE INFO

**The Struggle for Truth:
Voices from the Margins'**
March 15, 7 p.m.
Rothko Chapel
1409 Sul Ross
Houston, Texas 77006
713-524-9839
www.rothkochapel.org

Come together

She says the multiracial and multi-denominational panel speaks volumes in the efforts by different groups to come together for the sake of gay rights. She also believes the discussion will help open the lines of communications between gay and straight Houstonians.

"I think that if there is a large number of people here that it will get the churches talking," McCarthy says. "I think it is going to be an opportunity for straight people to see with gays and lesbians think about the church."

Kripal's participation as moderator of the discussion already shows a beginning to starting talks between gay and straight Houstonians. His teachings have focused on the history of religions, erotica and ethics of mysticism, psychology of religions, along with colonial, modern and western Hinduism.

As a result of open discussions about sexual orientation, McCarthy says many churches across the country have started hosting meetings where both gay and straight people can come together and share their concerns and ideas.

Monroe, an openly gay black ordained minister, theologian, writer and motivational speaker, believes officials in many black churches have waged a war against same-sex marriages. She says her columns "The Religion Thang" and "Queer Take", which are published in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender newspaper, "In Newsweekly", and "The Witness" call attention to how religious conservatives groups aid in perpetuating discrimination.

Monroe says she writes her columns "because homophobia is both a hatred of the other and it's usually acted upon in the name of religion."

The religion professor and director of multicultural and spiritual programming at Pine Manor College in Massachusetts, believes the state of gay rights is act a critical time in history.

"Our birth, as individuals and as a LGBT movement, mirrors that of Jesus," she says. "It comes at a time when there is neither room nor tolerance for us at a difficult time along the human timeline."

Ending hatred

Goss, who is co-founder of AIDS Outreach, an AIDS service organization based in St. Louis, Mo, has written many



Alice McCarthy, who is director of community relations at the Rothko Chapel, hopes an upcoming discussion featuring four gay and lesbian theologians on religion and sexual orientation will open the lines of communications between gay and straight individuals.

books on gay issues and the church.

The senior pastor at Metropolitan Community Church in the Valley in North Hollywood, Calif. believes churches should welcome everyone regardless of their sexual orientation.

"For the last several years, I have lectured on homosexuality and Christianity to some 20 community groups, churches, and universities per year," Goss says. "It is a personal commitment to end homophobia in the U.S."

Goss has taught religion and was chair of the Religious Studies Department at Webster University. He was also co-chair of the Gay Men's Issues in Religion group at the American Academy of Religion.

Jordan's interest focuses on religious identities, Christian teachings on sex and different theological rhetoric. He has authored the books "The Invention of Sodomy in Christian Theology," "The Silence of Sodom: Homosexuality in Modern Catholicism," "The Ethics of Sex" and "Blessing Same-Sex Unions."

Jordan is a religion professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.

Blau is founder of the God and Sexuality conference at Bard College in New York. He has given many lectures to

students on the issues of religion and sexual orientation.

McCarthy is eager to welcome each panelist to next week's event. She praises their activism in fighting for gay rights, and admires their personality.

"They call us to action to love each other," McCarthy says. "Just in the correspondence I've been having with them, I can tell that they're lovely people."

Continuing mission

McCarthy says back in the 1980s during the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, the 32-year-old chapel was the only facility in the city to allow memorial services for victims. She believes the discussion will continue the chapel's mission of offering free to the public, programs that target people of different backgrounds.

"I think it's really particularly appropriate that this program be held here," she says.

The Rothko Chapel was one of many endeavors undertaken by Dominique and John de Menil. Before their deaths, the two were both avid art collectors and philanthropist.

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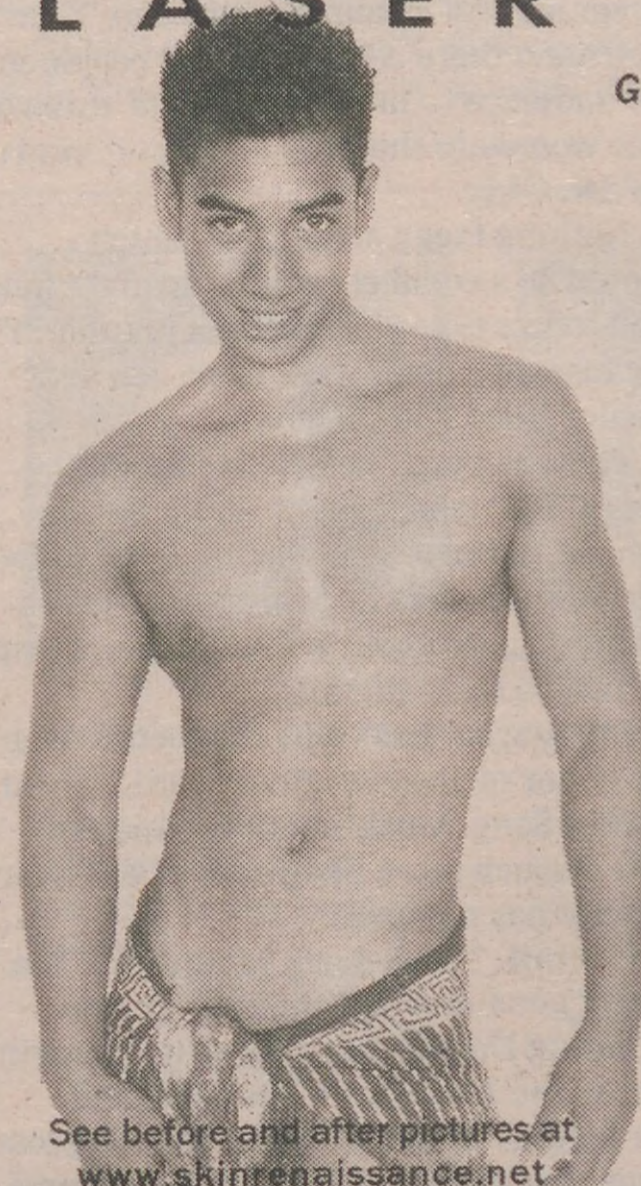


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Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

MARCH 10, 2006

PAGE 10

editorial

Forget the Oscars, heed the message

Though not best of show, the big gay cowboy movie still wins big

By NANCY FORD

IT'S ALL OVER EXCEPT for vacuuming and rolling up the red carpet 'til next year.

Oscar's 78th outing, touted as the year Hollywood went gay, disappointed

many when "Brokeback Mountain" lost the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences' Best Picture honor to "Crash," a movie examining race relations and the importance of carrying liability insurance.

But three wins out of eight nominations isn't bad, is it?

I wasn't one of those good queers who ran out to see "Brokeback Mountain" the first week it was released. I figured if I wanted to see hot man-on-man action in the great outdoors, I'd just drive through the city park and save the eight bucks.

I finally saw the film at a matinee screening just a couple weeks ago. That afternoon there were about 100 people in the audience — mostly parties of three or four women in their 50s and 60s — kind of Golden-Girly.

Nothing faggy about that, which should be a comfort to those straight folk who refuse to see "Brokeback Mountain" because they don't want to sit in a dark theater filled with homos.

Those nervous non-Nellys needn't worry. The uber-straight Willie Nelson himself performs the closing song, called "He Was a Friend of Mine." And there's nothing queer about Willie Nelson, except for maybe those pigtales.

But maybe that's why the picture won the honor of Best Original Score instead of Best Song. Music about two men in love is much more likely to win an Oscar when it has no lyrics.

Overall, "Brokeback Mountain" is a pretty good movie, I thought. It's no "Finding Nemo," but I liked it. The winner of the Academy's Best Adapted Screenplay honor provides lots of great lines that queers will adopt as cultural mantras, and not just, "I wish I could quit you."

There's "If you can't fix it, you've got



Lesbians got their cinematic back broke way back in 1985, with 'Desert Hearts.'

to stand it." My favorite line is when Ennis tells Jack, "You may be a sinner, but I ain't had the opportunity." And then Jack gives him the opportunity.

But the very first line of the movie clues us in to what we should expect in the coming two hours. In just one speech, Randy Quaid's ranch owner character refers to Ennis and Jack's asses as being both "scrawny" yet "tender" and then tells them to go pitch a tent.

If that isn't a prelude to a gay kiss, I don't know what is.

We can thank Oscar's pick for Best Director, Ang Lee, for the occasional inside joke. Like when a bear tries to come between the men, despite the fact that it is obvious that they are in a committed relationship. Apparently everybody knows, even Lee, that bears will go after anything in a tight pair of Levis.

Bottom line, "Brokeback Mountain," or, as some call it, "Gay & Gayerer," serves its purpose, which is, literally, the bottom line. Gay and straight audiences are still flocking to see it, box office numbers show, and not just in the more culturally tolerant blue states. Nationwide, it's already grossed almost \$80 million since its Dec. 9 opening.

Multiple awards, including BAFTAs (the British Oscars), Golden Globes, Writers Guild of America, Producers Guild of America and Los Angeles Film Critics Association honors preceded "Brokeback Mountain's" eight Oscar nominations, cementing its reputation as a solid artistic contender despite the Best Picture snub.

ASKING AROUND, I'VE LEARNED THAT lesbians as a group are perhaps not

quite as moved by the movie as our gay guy friends. Maybe that's because we got our cinematic back broke, so to speak, back in 1985.

That film was called "Desert Hearts." It, too, was a same-sex love story; it, too, featured western wear and lots of whiskey. No bears, though.

Coincidentally, I saw "Brokeback Mountain" in the very same theatre where I'd seen *Desert Hearts*. Now will someone please explain to me why, today, more than 20 years later, a same-sex love story is still a shocking and novel idea?

All in all, "Brokeback Mountain" is far more than just "Same Time, Next Year" with sheep. It is a lesson for everybody: gay, straight, male and female.

It teaches that when you find yourself lucky enough to find love — real love — you better grab it by the horns, drag it down, tie it up and sit on it 'til it quits squirming. Carpe Amore. Seize the love. Exalt it from the rooftops. Don't squander it.

Otherwise, one day you may find yourself alone and empty, emotionally broke, back mountin' every pretty little thing with a pulse. And that, my friends, is the true lesson of "Brokeback Mountain": Seize the love.

Well, that. And if you're gay, stay out of Wyoming.

@ Nancy Ford is editor of the Houston Voice and can be reached at Nford@houstonvoice.com.



viewpoint KEVIN NAFF



It was a bumby night for gay film fans, as Ledger, Huffman and even Dolly failed to bring home a statue.

'Brokeback' goes bust at the Oscars

IT'S HARD OUT THERE FOR A GAY film fan.

First, "Brokeback Mountain's" Jake Gyllenhaal lost to George Clooney for Best Supporting Actor. Then Michelle Williams was beat by Rachel Weisz in the Best Supporting Actress category.

The unsinkable Dolly Parton lost to something called Three 6 Mafia for Best Song. Heath Ledger lost the Best Actor award to Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Then Felicity Huffman, an accomplished stage actress nominated for "Transamerica," lost to the ever-grinning and non-threatening Reese Witherspoon for Best Actress.

Perhaps those results didn't come as much of a surprise. But it was what happened at the end of this week's Academy Awards telecast that left the audience stunned and gasping.

When Jack Nicholson announced "Crash" as Best Picture, the guests at a gay-hosted Oscar party I attended went silent. Not a person in the room picked "Crash" to win. Odds makers, film critics and pundits didn't either.

So what happened? Was there too much "Brokeback" hype? Did the buzz

peak too early? Were Academy voters, many of whom live in Los Angeles, predisposed to support a film about their hometown? Or did anti-gay bias creep into the balloting?

Most likely the answer is a combination of all of the above. And it's a huge disappointment because the best film of the year didn't take home the Oscar. "Brokeback Mountain," by far the year's most celebrated picture, lost to an unoriginal retread of a movie about intersecting lives in Los Angeles.

"The everyday lives of a number of Los Angeles residents are the subject of this loosely-knitted collection of short stories." Does that tagline sound familiar? It sounds a lot like a description of "Crash," but it was actually written 13 years ago about the brilliant Robert Altman film "Short Cuts."

LIKE "CRASH," "SHORT CUTS" ALSO featured an ensemble cast of big Hollywood stars in cameo or supporting roles. Even the title of the winning film isn't original — it was recycled from a 1996 film about car crashes.

As London Free Press columnist Dan Brown pointed out, "Hmmm ... a troubled

L.A. cop. You mean like the nervous cop played by John C. Reilly in "Magnolia"? Or was he more like the crooked cop played by Tim Robbins in "Short Cuts"? ... Repainting the same horse ridden by previous directors is not the mark of a strong storyteller."

Unlike "Brokeback," which won near-unanimous praise and swept the earlier awards, "Crash" received decidedly mixed reviews. The Miami Herald wrote, "Contrived, obvious and overstated, 'Crash' is basically just one white man's righteous attempt to make other white people feel as if they've confronted the problem of racism head-on."

The hometown newspaper, the L.A. Times, described "Crash" as, "A grim, histrionic experiment in vehicular metaphor slaughter."

THERE WERE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FOR gay film fans at this year's Oscars. Hoffman's portrayal of gay author Truman Capote was a deserving win. Ang Lee, who was named Best Director, mentioned gays in a long-overdue shout-out during his acceptance speech.

"[Ennis and Jack] taught all of us who made 'Brokeback Mountain' so much about

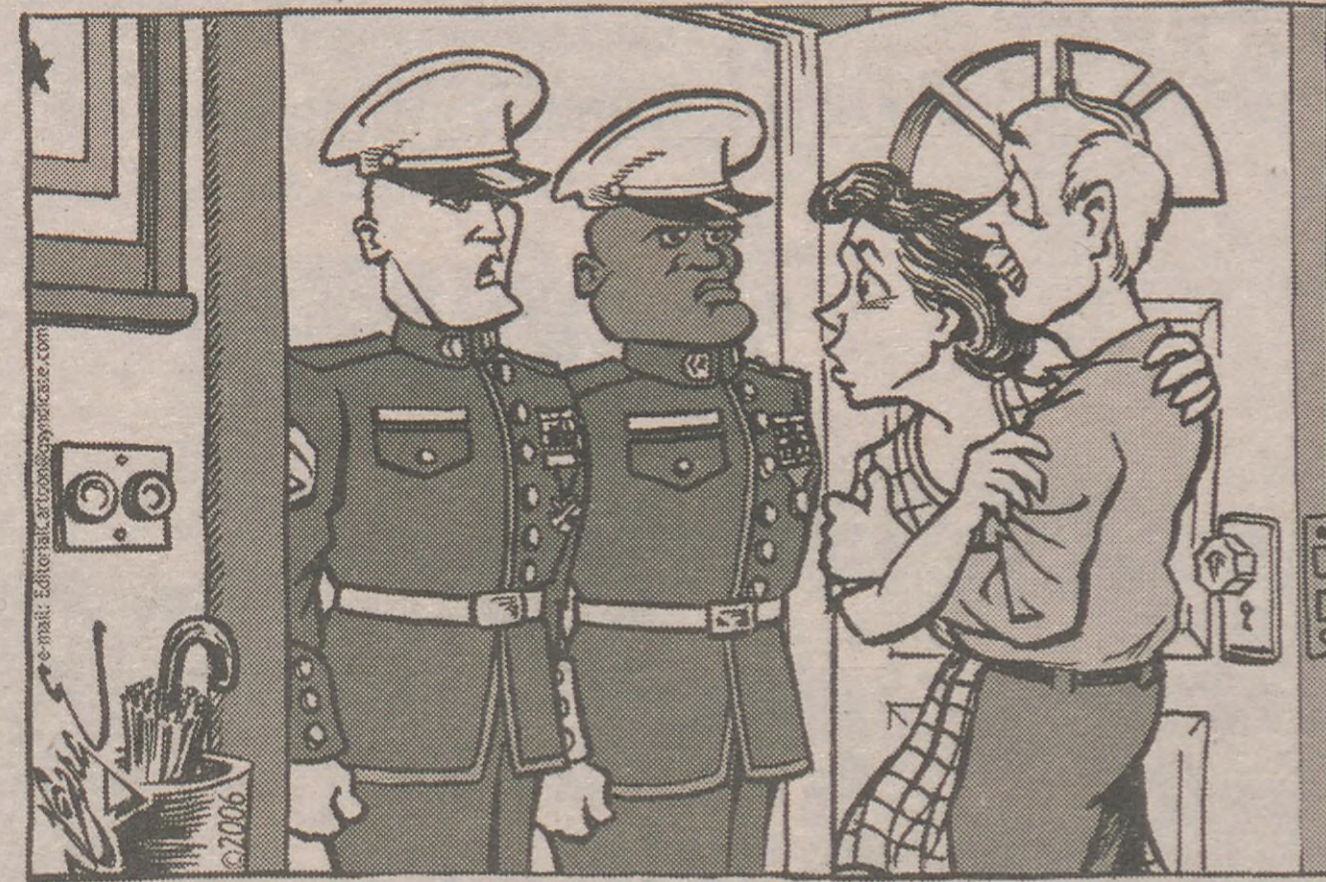
not just all the gay men and women whose love is denied by society, but just as important, the greatness of love itself," Lee said.

"Brokeback" also won the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay, begging the question: How does a movie win awards for director and screenplay but lose Best Picture?

Maybe "Brokeback" was a victim of its own hype, but it's more likely that too many straight Academy members either didn't vote for the film or didn't even bother to see it because of the overt gay love story and much-talked-about pup tent sex scene.

As "Brokeback" screenwriter Larry McMurtry told reporters backstage, "Americans don't want cowboys to be gay." Sadly, the groundbreaking film was slighted and its powerful message reduced to a series of tired, predictable gay jokes during the telecast.

It was an unfortunate finish for a film that will be remembered by many filmgoers, gay and straight alike, as the best of 2005.



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@ Kevin Naff is managing editor of the Washington Blade and can be reached at knaff@washblade.com.

THE Q

What changes would you like to see made to Houston's gay club scene?



It's a shame that everything has become so generic and any attempt at something new gets little or no support from the community. I'd lift to see people try something different for a change. Who knows? They just might love it.

TOM THOMPSON, 33
Business owner



I would like to see more bars adopt a no smoking policy. I would also like to be able to hear the women I am trying to talk to; please turn the volume down.

GINA GILSTRAP, 35
Houston
Law student/clerk



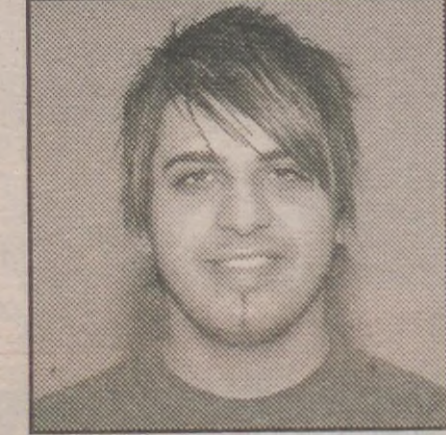
I would like a club that I have to fight to get into. There are too many people in the club that really should have been stopped at the door because of their outfit.

DOMINICK SOLIZ, 23
Houston
Retail sales assistant manager



A lot more diversity in the music. Some of the foundations of homosexual culture are open mindedness and diversity, so why is it that the vast majority of our clubs only play over-tech-no'd pop culture songs?


CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL, 19
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Retail sales associate



Better safety and security and more parking.

REZA NOURI, 25
Houston
Hair stylist

"Nothing ended, nothing begun, nothing resolved."
 ~ Annie Proulx's Brokeback Mountain




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on the record



"Mom, you know that they say you are gay?"
Lourdes Leon Ciccone, the 9-year-old daughter of Madonna, who said she was teased over her mother's much-publicized 2003 MTV kiss with Britney Spears (Out, April 2006)

"I am the mommy pop star, and she is the baby pop star. I am kissing her to pass my energy on to her."
Madonna's response to Lourdes (Out, April 2006)

"[Ennis and Jack] taught all of us who made 'Brokeback Mountain' so much about not just all the gay men and women whose love is denied by society, but just as important, the greatness of love itself."

"Brokeback Mountain" director **Ang Lee** during his acceptance speech after winning the Oscar for Best Director (March 5)

"Americans don't want cowboys to be gay."
 "Brokeback" screenwriter **Larry McMurtry** to reporters backstage after the heavily favored film lost to "Crash" for Best Picture (March 5)

"In terms of the themes of the films, they were much more interested in 'Crash.' The membership [of the Academy] is older and more conservative than some of the other groups, and I think it was reflected in the choice that they made."

Peter Guber, chair of Mandalay Pictures, on why "Brokeback Mountain" lost out for Best Picture (New York Times, March 7)



"No one dares to harm Jews or to challenge Jewish claims about the Holocaust, nor even to insult homosexuals. The Prophet Muhammad, prayers be upon him, and Jesus Christ, peace be upon him, are not sacred anymore, while Semites and the Holocaust and homosexuality have become sacred."

Al-Qaida No. 2 leader Ayman al-Zawahri, criticizing the West over the recent Muhammad cartoon controversy in a video broadcast late last week (Associated Press, March 5)

"The real problem, which this litigation has tended to obscure, is that the military, even while fighting two wars, continues to root out Americans who wish to help by maintaining a policy that bars anyone who is openly gay. It robs itself of much-needed talent by way of their humiliation and exposure while forcing those in uniform to hide who they are."

Washington Post editorial advocating repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" following the U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the Solomon Amendment, which compels universities receiving federal funds to grant campus access to military recruiters (Washington Post, March 7)

"He can't be a drug addict. He can't be a Communist. It's politically incorrect to say so, but he can't be gay, because he may not produce any children."

Sir Benjamin Slade of Somerset, England, on the criteria for his search for an heir to his \$13 million estate, which no relative is willing to take on (New York Times, March 7)

"Dancing is my favorite thing to do."
George Clooney, attempting an unscripted answer without knowing the question, which **Matt Damon**, his "Syriana" costar, then asked: "What's your favorite thing about the gay nightlife?" (Moviefone.com)



"It happened while I was skydiving."
Matt Damon's unscripted answer without knowing the question **George Clooney** would then ask: "When did you first fall for Brad Pitt?" (Moviefone.com)



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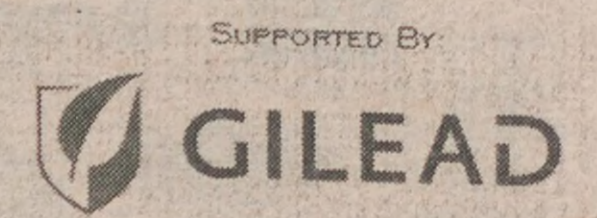
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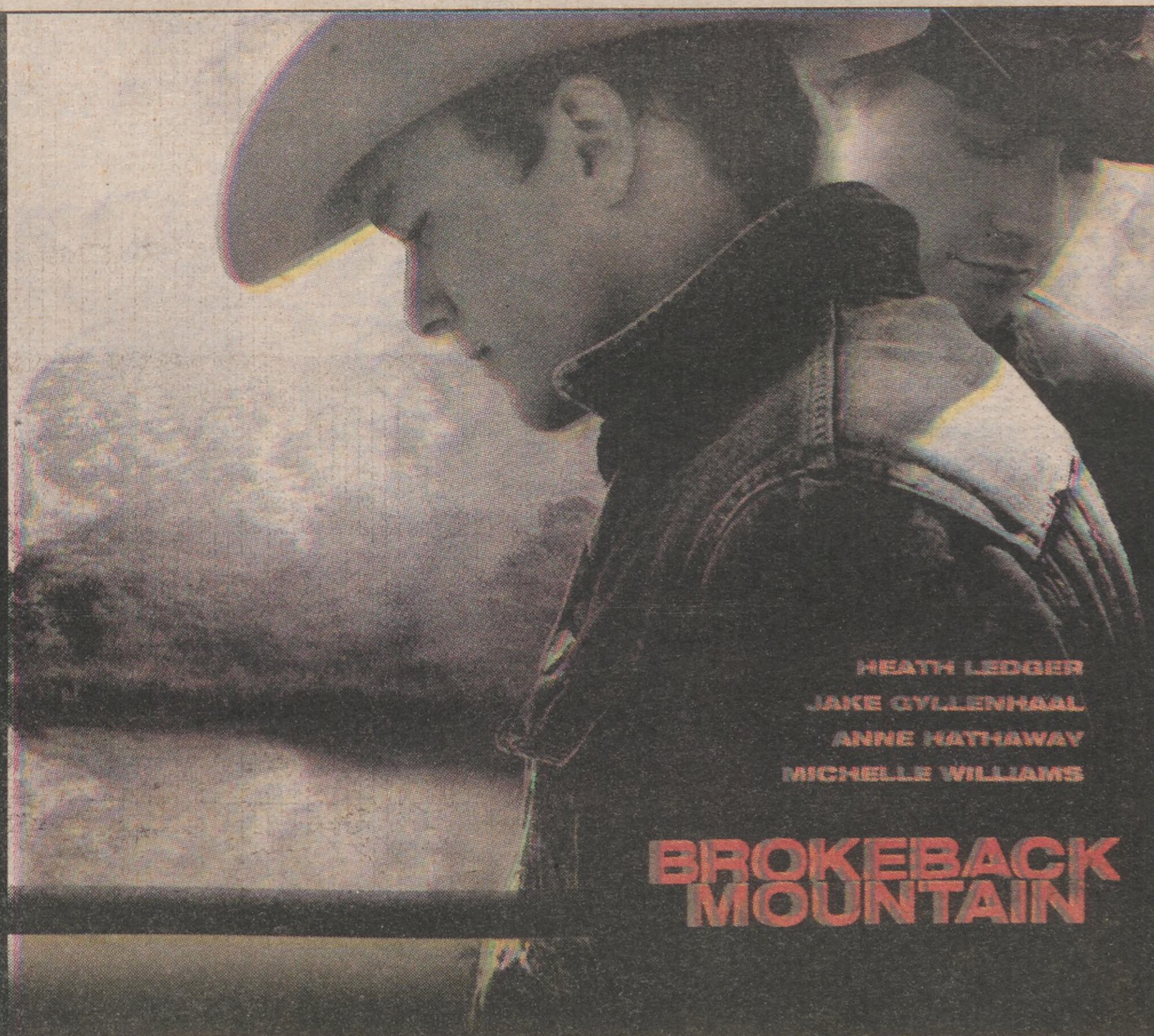
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REYATAZ[®]
(atazanavir sulfate)

Individual results may vary.

Ask your doctor how REYATAZ, in HIV combination therapy, can help you

fight HIV your way.

INDICATION: Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Reyataz has been studied in 48-week trials in both patients who have taken or have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

Reyataz does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed[®], Halcion[®], Orap[®], Propulsid[®], Camptosar[®], Crixivan[®], Mevacor[®], Zocor[®], rifampin, St. John's wort, AcipHex[®], Nexium[®], Prevacid[®], Prilosec[®] or Protonix[®]. Do not use Viagra[®], Levitra[®], Cialis[®], Vfend[®], Advair[®], Flonase[®], or Flovent[®] while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider. This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **Rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking Reyataz, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Other side effects of Reyataz taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, dizziness, trouble sleeping, numbness, and tingling or burning of hands or feet.

You should take Reyataz once daily with food (a meal or snack). You should take Reyataz and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

Once Daily REYATAZ is a protease inhibitor (PI) that is taken in HIV combination therapy.

- ◆ Can help raise your T-cells
- ◆ Can help lower your viral load to undetectable*
- ◆ Low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)
- ◆ Two pills taken once a day (with a snack or meal)

* Undetectable is defined as a viral load of less than 400 or 50 copies/mL (depending on the test used).

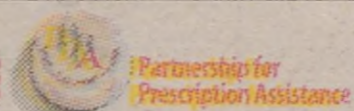
REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea. People who have taken anti-HIV medicines before usually take REYATAZ with ritonavir once daily as part of their HIV combination therapy.

REYATAZ[®]
(atazanavir sulfate) 150mg/200mg capsules

Please see Important Patient Information about REYATAZ on the next page.

WWW.REYATAZ.COM

If you or someone you know needs help paying for medicine, call 1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-888-477-2669). Or go to www.pparx.org



Bristol Myers Squibb

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Sept. 2005

F1-K0201M

PATIENT INFORMATION

REYATAZ[®] (RAY-ah-taz)

(generic name = atazanavir sulfate) Capsules

Rx ONLY

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ. Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.**

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?**Do not take REYATAZ if you:**

- are taking certain medicines. (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?**Tell your healthcare provider:**

- if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- if you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- if you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- if you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- if you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- About all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
- For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.
- For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR[®] (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA[®] (efavirenz) or with VIREAD[®] (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR[®] (ritonavir).
- Always take REYATAZ with food (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not open the capsules. Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- If you are taking antacids or VIDEX[®] (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you miss a dose of REYATAZ, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is not complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- rash (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- yellowing of the skin or eyes. These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.

- if you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate).
- some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- changes in body fat. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines*?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT[®], MIGRANAL[®], D.H.E. 45[®], ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE[®], and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION[®] (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- VERSED[®] (midazolam, used for sedation).
- ORAP[®] (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID[®] (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR[®] (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIVIVAN[®] (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIVIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR[®] (lovastatin) or ZOCOR[®] (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE[®], RIFADIN[®], RIFATER[®], or RIFAMATE[®], used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AcipHex[®] (rabeprazole), NEXIUM[®] (esomeprazole), PREVACID[®] (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC[®] (omeprazole), or PROTONIX[®] (pantoprazole).

Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR together.

- VFEND[®] (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- CIALIS[®] (tadalafil), LEVITRA[®] (vardenafil), or VIAGRA[®] (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPITOR[®] (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE[®] (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN[®], QUINIDEX[®], and others).
- VASCOR[®] (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN[®] (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL[®] (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN[®] (desipramine), SINEQUAN[®] (doxepin), SURMONTIL[®] (trimipramine), TOFRANIL[®] (imipramine), or VIVACTIL[®] (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE[®] or NEORAL[®] (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE[®] (sirolimus), or PROGRAF[®] (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL[®] and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (ADVAIR[®], FLOINASE[®], FLOVENT[®]), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR[®].

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- FORTOVASE[®], INVIRASE[®] (saquinavir).
- NORVIR[®] (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA[®] (efavirenz).
- VIDEX[®] (didanosine) or antacids.
- VIREAD[®] (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN[®] (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM[®] or TIAZAC[®] (diltiazem), COVERA-HS[®] or ISOPTIN SR[®] (verapamil), and others.
- BIAXIN[®] (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID[®] (nizatidine), PEPCID AC[®] (famotidine), TAGAMET[®] (cimetidine), or ZANTAC[®] (ranitidine).

Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception. REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

Remember:

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.**


This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-321-1335.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active Ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive Ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Princeton, NJ 08543 USA

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eclipse

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www.houstonvoice.com

MARCH 10, 2006



Digital diva

Audra McDonald examines the ups and downs of romance on the World Wide Web in Houston Grand Opera's double-header.

Page 20

Gays on film

After a stellar winter for gay movies, independent features rule the spring

By GREG MARZULLO

BIG STUDIOS GAVE GAY THEMES THE green light in 2005. "Brokeback Mountain" and "Capote" found critical and box office success to the delight of gay film fans. Even Oscar got in on the act last week, recognizing both films and sending them both to certain DVD success in '06.

This year is off to a slow start in terms of gay pictures from big studios, but smaller, edgier movie companies are stepping up to fill the void.

The production elements in independent films can be less slick, but the themes are often more challenging and reflective of a wide range of gay experiences.

Still, a few big studios are releasing movies of interest. Few so far are about specifically gay characters, but some do integrate gay men and lesbians into broader stories.

As if she didn't create enough turmoil the first time around, bisexual novelist

Catherine Tramell (Sharon Stone) returns in "Basic Instinct 2," which hits theaters on March 31. Tramell is again suspected of a crime, and this time enchants a psychiatrist (David Morrissey) sent by Scotland Yard to investigate. Stone promises there will be as much girl-on-girl action in this one as in the first installment.

In 1992, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation protested the release of the original, saying it portrayed lesbians and bisexuals as psychologically damaged killers. So far, there is no organized opposition to the sequel.

From Universal films, "Flight 93" is a semi-fictional account of the 9/11 flight that crashed in Pennsylvania. Mark Bingham was a 31-year-old gay publicist and former college rugby player who reportedly joined three other men in helping to bring down the plane. Gay actor Cheyenne Jackson plays Bingham.

Mixed gender identity is the theme of a romance film in Dreamworks' "She's the Man," a modern, teen adaptation of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." Viola's

SPRING
PREVIEW
2006



'She's the Man'

(Amanda Bynes) brother Sebastian (James Kirk) wants to escape to London to sing with a band. He asks his twin sister to cover for him at his English boarding school, disguising herself as him.

Bynum cross-dresses and passes. Trouble ensues when she falls in love with her gorgeous roommate (Channing Tatum). He is infatuated with the lovely Olivia (Laura Ramsey). But once Viola-in-drag arrives, Olivia falls in love with the new "boy." In the Shakespearian classic, homoeroticism laces every interaction between the two, but you might not see that in a mainstream film aimed at the teen audience.

Arriving in April, decked out in thigh-high patent leather heels, Miramax's "Kinky Boots" promises to be a feel-good film. Charlie Price (Joel Edgerton) is hoping to get out of his English industrial town, but his father suddenly dies, leaving Charlie a teetering factory specializing in clunky, sensible shoes. Charlie soon meets Lola (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a drag queen with a heart of gold, and when worlds collide, dreams come true.

The two go into business together, creating fabulous shoes for female impersonators. The company takes off, and the factory workers are transformed through the experience.

A HANDFUL OF SMALLER-SCALE movies are also due for spring release, so keep your eyes glued to the marquee at your local progressive movie house.

Funny Boy Films, the gay movie studio that created the wildly successful "Latter Days," tries to replicate its success with "Adam & Steve," which played at Out On Film in November and sees another run at Midtown Art Cinema beginning on March 31.

Adam (played by the film's director and writer, Craig Chester) meets Steve (Malcolm Gets), and the pair falls crazy in love, even though they don't remember the horrible one-night stand they shared 15 years earlier. Their friends, including the hilarious Parkey Posey and Chris Kattan, conspire to keep them together.

Here are a few other indie hopefuls this season:

"Summer Storm" (titled "Sommersturm" in German), a film from 2004 that also played November's Out on Film, gets an official U.S. release this month and starts touring the art houses. A young man on a rowing crew faces his own desires when the gay crew team comes to town.

"Red Doors," starting its tour on April 7, shows the struggle of a Chinese-



'Kinky Boots'

Please see FILM PREVIEW on Page 22

NIGHTLIFE: FotoFest celebrates female pugilists with exhibit of boxing photos. Page 19

BITCH: If you don't have anything nice to say, this is where you should say it. Page 26

nightlife JOHNNY HOOKS



FotoFest, the acclaimed photographic

exhibition, opens and the Lone Star

Volleyball Association crowns its queen.

Rapp walks, boyz boogie

THIS WEEKEND OUR CITY WELCOMES a wide array of out of town guests to one of those uniquely Houston events, the biennial FotoFest. Every two years, artists, photographers, and a who's who of art world notables descend on Houston for premier exhibitions, auctions and parties.

OF SPECIAL NOTE FOR QUEER ART lovers are FotoFest's Friday, March 10 openings of "Women Boxers: The New Warriors" a series of photographs by **Delilah Montoya** at Project Row Houses, 2521 Holman St.; "Urban Cathedral" from Houston's own **David Brown**, creator of spacemaker.org at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway; "Absorbtion + Transmission" from hot twin artists **Doug and Mike Starn** at the New World Museum, 5230 Center St.; and gorgeous gay artist **Daniel Kayne-Edwards** at Gallery M2 (pronounced M squared) 325 W. 19th St. For a complete list of venues and events go to www.fotofest.org or call 713-223-5522. FotoFest runs through April 23.

SINCE WE ARE ON THE SUBJECT OF art, 2005 Houston Voice readers' choice award winner for best art gallery, Sippora Gallery, is throwing open their doors on Friday, March 10 for "Mother Earth" a modern and abstract twist on everyday earthy and organic subject matter such as landscapes, sunsets, bonsai, and more. The featured artists are **John Mercado, Salli Babbitt, Crystal Owens, Azar Halabi-Fisher** and **Christopher Turnbow**. All the artists in this show are local and are abstract and modern painters except for Turnbow, who is bringing in some of his bonsai trees that he has been growing for the last 20 or 25 years. All the art and the trees will be for sale. Reception hours are 6 'til 9 p.m. at the gallery, 234 W. Gray St. Call 713-520-1085 or click on www.sippora.com for more info.

OF COURSE THE 18TH ANNUAL AIDS Walk is Sunday, March 12, and this year, **Anthony Rapp**, original Broadway cast member of "Rent" (who also starred in the wrongly-maligned film version), is serving as the walk's grand marshal. Rapp recently authored a book, "Without You: A Memoir of Loss, Love" and you can meet him and have him sign your very own copy, on Saturday, March 11, 11 a.m. at **Borders Books**, 3025 Kirby Dr. The 2006 AIDS Walk takes place at Sam Houston Park, 1000 Bagby St., on Sunday beginning at 8 a.m.

ALSO ON SATURDAY BEFORE HEADING out, get your carb fill at the third annual

HoVo on the go-go

Oodles of Noodles fundraiser, benefiting the Bering Support Network. The event runs from 5 until 8 p.m. at Bering Memorial, 1440 Harold St., and includes all-you-can-eat pasta, salad and garlic bread and a silent auction. Then check out **Houston's Lone Star Volleyball Association** presenting the fabulous **Miss Opal Essence**, reigning Miss LSVVA and this year's court of amazing contestants to be crowned Miss LSVVA 2006 at South Beach, 810 Pacific St. The event raises funds for the Lone Star Volleyball Classic, a large international invitational gay volleyball event that is presented during Easter Weekend in Houston. Proceeds of the event are distributed to this year's beneficiary, Camp Hope of AIDS Foundation Houston. For more information, please visit www.lsva.org.

HOTGG HAS A BEEF, AND WE FEEL like sharing. **Charles Soloman's** BEYOND Entertainment and his Spoiled Boyz throw cool monthly parties that regularly bring out some of Houston's hottest men, who dance and grind (both their teeth and their bodies) away until dawn. How can it be that both last year and this year, Soloman chose the night before the AIDS Walk to host his bash? On March 11 the boyz present, "Lucky Charms", which features the Texas debut of LA's producer and DJ Alexander at Hue, 202 Tuam St. at Helena St. Green attire and accessories are encouraged. \$15 Advance tickets are available at M2M Fashion, 3400 Montrose Blvd.

It's ironic to HotGG that while thousands of Houstonians are raising money and walking to help stop the ongoing epidemic, in a smoky bar hundreds of gay men are acting like it's 1979. We don't begrudge a good time for anyone, but what's more important? Why not wait a week, for the traditional St. Patrick's Day weekend Bacchanal, when you can have your clover and eat it too, so to speak? If you plan on attending Soloman's event, thereby making it almost impossible to participate in AIDS Walk Houston, please consider writing a big fat check, to alleviate your guilt to one of the many needy teams you can find at www.aidswalkhouston.org.



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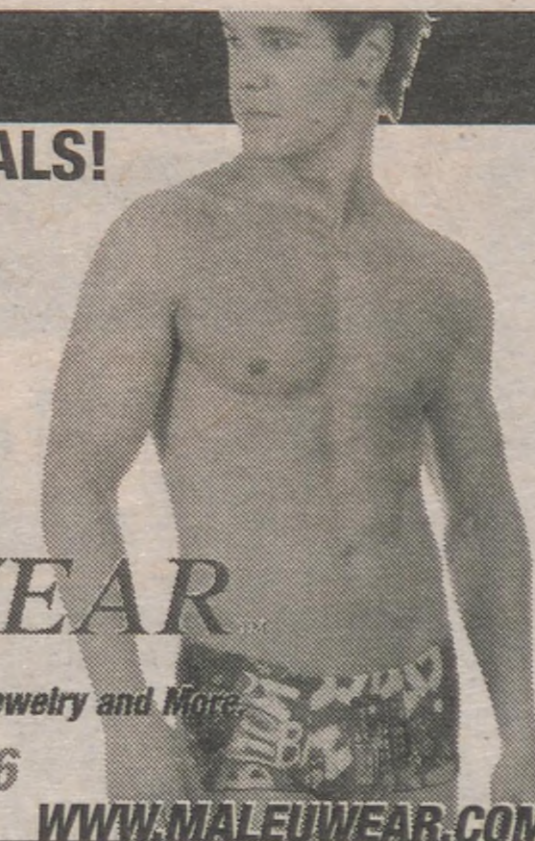
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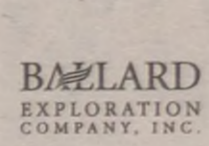
Photo from TUTS 1993 Production



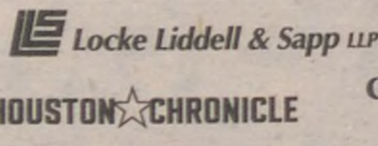
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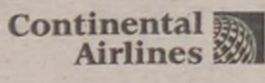
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Houston Grand Opera's double header with soprano **Audra McDonald** mixes old and new themes for an interesting vocal palette.

You've got e-opera

Some enchanted evening!
Houston Grand Opera successfully combines a bit of Broadway with some French postmodernism music from a gay composer that results in two poignant performances by four time Tony award winner and Juilliard graduate Audra McDonald.

Programmatically, this is one of the most interesting and innovative productions HGO has offered in recent memory. The evening is divided into two one-woman operas with common vocal and thematic threads.

The first piece, entitled "Send (who are you? I you)" is an HGO world premiere commissioned from composer and librettist Michael John LaChiusa. This completely accessible and charming work chronicles a woman's search for love on the Internet.

McDonald portrays a young, foxy, single woman with a good career and a snazzy retro style apartment. After receiving an e-mail response from a guy who expresses interest in her, she gives him her phone number and waits for his call. And waits...and sings...and acts...and waits.

During the ensuing 37 minutes, McDonald captivates us bringing forth a fantasy that encompasses love, marriage, children and old age with a man she has yet to meet. LaChiusa's score reeks of innovation while holding fast to the lyric and dramatic elements best suited to the soprano voice.

The onstage orchestra, daringly conducted by Ted Sperling (who was behind McDonald, unable to see her at all) added an element of realism and urgency to the proceedings. James Noone's imaginative set design complete with lighted portraits of McDonald's imagined cyber partner, a perfect accompaniment to the music and action.

McDonald provides dramatic realism unencumbered by operatic tradition, doing all kind of stuff onstage that "typical" divas would never do. She eats — actually chews the food and swallows it. She smokes, (OK, so Carmen did that, too) and drinks, as well.

The intimacy of the Wortham's Cullen



Audra McDonald talks with her imaginary lover in the world premiere of Michael John LaChiusa's 'Send (who are you? I love you)' at Houston Grand Opera. (Photo by Brett Coomer)

Theater makes you feel as though you are onstage and engaged in the action. So supple is this actress that you feel as if she is simply speaking to you through the musical form. Every aspect of this production draws you into a situation that most audiences can relate to. There is joy, sexuality, love, rage and hope in LaChiusa's brief but poignant work. Unencumbered by the usual operatic plot based on some monolithic fairy tale (where a hermaphrodite marries her sister and then eats her), "Send" speaks with real relevance and impact.

THE EVENING'S COMPANION PIECE to "Send" was, in its own time, groundbreaking. As the first opera composed for a single soprano voice, gay French composer Francis Poulenc's "The Human Voice" also illuminates the usage of technology as it relates to romance. This lyric tragedy is more visceral in action and outcome but shares some common elements—the work focuses on phone conversation taking place between a mistress and her married amour.

Gone are contemporary conventions and references. Composed in 1959, this work recalls an entirely different era — one where women were identified and validated by the men they were coupled with. McDonald handles the turn-about adroitly. Poulenc's character is profoundly insecure, apologetic, and temperamental — willing to subordinate herself entirely to her mate.

Musically, this work is filled with exclamation marks, interruptions, outbursts and professions of passion.

The two programs speak the language of love. McDonald interprets both works with inspired skill.

i MORE INFO

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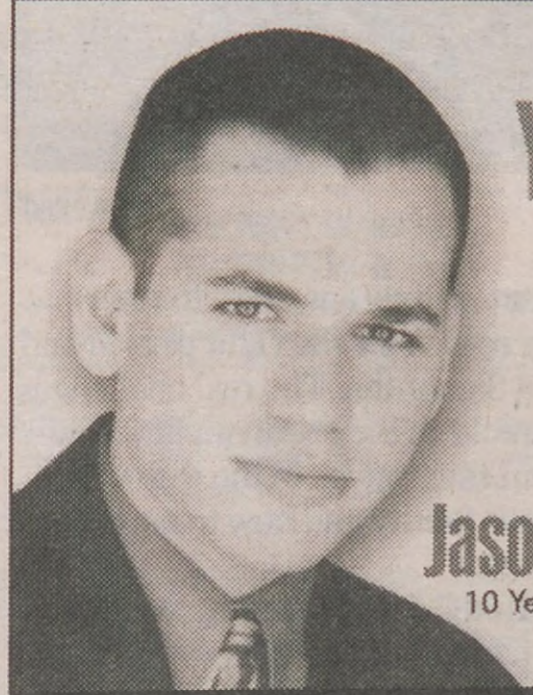
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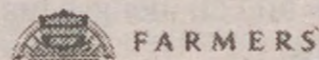


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dish There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

In Divine's shoes

John Travolta does drag, Jacko goes wacko and Dennis Rodman attends a gay porn party

IT'S TIME FOR A DISH QUIZ: YOU'RE a movie star with gay rumors following you since birth. What do you do?

A. Join a church noted for its miraculous conversion of gays to straights.

B. Dance a lot in movies, looking really fey in tight pants.

C. Choose to play a woman in an upcoming movie musical.

D. All of the above.

If you're **JOHN TRAVOLTA**, please circle "d."

Travolta signed to play Edna Turnblad in the newest screen version of **JOHN WATERS'** movie-turned-musical-turned-movie "Hairspray." Edna is the mother of Tracy Turnblad who becomes a dance sensation on television even though she's a little zaftig. Originally played by Waters' drag muse **DIVINE**, Edna was most recently brought to life by fabulous gay actor **HARVEY FIERSTEIN** in the 2002 stage version of the 1988 film.

The highly anticipated new movie is scheduled to start shooting in September for a release in summer 2007. The movie is led by gay director and choreographer **ADAM SHANKMAN**, whose credits include "The Wedding Planner," "Cheaper by the Dozen 2" and "The Pacifier."

Also part of the new "Hairspray" cast is **QUEEN LATIFAH**, no stranger to gay rumors herself. She'll be playing Motormouth Maybelle, the co-host of "Negro Day" on the "Bandstand"-style TV program at the center of the story.

The gay producers of the Academy Award-winning "Chicago," **CRAIG ZADAN** and **NEIL MERON**, are helming "Hairspray," adding to the film's gay glut.

On our team?

In what could be a PR nightmare for gay people, **MICHAEL JACKSON's** brother is due to publish a book in which he fuels the gay rumors about the King of Pop.

JERMAINE JACKSON, one of the famed Jackson 5, is finalizing a tell-all book, according to the New York Daily News. Jermaine's publishers sent a sensational outline to the media shortly after Michael's arrest in November 2003 on child molestation charges.



Michael Jackson



John Travolta fuels those gay rumors by dressing in drag to play Edna Turnblad in the upcoming film remake of John Waters' 1988 movie 'Hairspray.' (Photo by Jennifer Graylock/AP)

As part of the outline, Jermaine says the Jackson 5 was constantly hounded by women who fell in love with the young Michael. "But Michael, well, he wasn't interested," reads Jermaine's outline. "We used to quietly say that we couldn't have a gay brother."

How about we can't have an accused child molester, plastic-surgery-addicted, one-man freak show for a brother?

Also included in the outline were accounts including an incident where Michael was found holding his nephew in a more-than-inappropriate manner. Then there's an ode to anti-Semitism, as Michael is said to hate **STEVEN SPIELBERG**, **JEFFREY KATZENBERG** and **DAVID GEFFEN** for stealing his idea for Dreamworks Studios.

Just what the gay world needs — an alleged anti-Semitic pedophile who spends countless dollars trying to look like **DIANA ROSS**.

After party

After going to Ash Wednesday mass, we here at Dish usually pray and begin our spring fast, so we'll look gorgeous for the beach hotties this summer. But retired NBA star and non-retired bad boy **DENNIS RODMAN** didn't slow down for Lent. Instead, he headed out to a gay club last Wednesday, according to the New York Post.

The cross-dressing, hair-dying, womanizing basketball icon was seen at New York's gay super club Splash on Ash Wednesday, along with gay porn stars **OWEN HANK** and **MATTHEW GREEN**. The two were supposedly dancing naked during the club's weekly party, "Spunk'd."

Rodman does not identify as gay or bisexual, but he told Sports Illustrated in 1995 that he has fantasized about sex with another man.



Dennis Rodman

eclipse



'Robin's Hood'

New DVD releases should keep gay film buffs busy

FILM PREVIEW continued from Page 18

American family to stay functional during the maturation of the family's three daughters. The middle daughter, an ultra-serious medical student, throws caution and her studies to the wind when she falls in love with a lesbian actress. The director won an award for the script at 2005's OutFest, and the movie won Best Narrative Feature at the Tribeca Film Festival.

For all the kids who were scorned by hateful jocks during gym class, "Guys and Balls," another Out on Film hit from Germany, tours a limited number of theaters beginning next month. Ecki is kicked off his soccer team once his teammates realize he's gay. With the help of his sister, he cobbles together an all-gay team and challenges his old homophobic mates.

THE COMPLEXITY OF GAY LIVES IS A significant theme in much of queer cinema, and DVDs set for release this spring bring together some of the best examples.



'Three of Hearts: A Postmodern Family'

"Three of Hearts: A Postmodern Family" is a documentary that released March 14 from Think Films. Sam and Steven spent many happy years in a gay relationship, but one day, they both realize



'Unveiled'

they want to include a woman in their lives. They search for the right person and finally find Samantha. The real challenges begin to unfold as they contemplate how to represent themselves in the world as a polyamorous family and how to negotiate child rearing.

"Unveiled," distributed by Wolfe Video, is scheduled for release on DVD on April 18. Directed by Angelina Maccarone, this German film tells the story of an Iranian lesbian who flees to Germany seeking asylum in her home country. Her application is denied, so she takes on the identity of a recently dead man who was also seeking asylum. Dressed as a man and hiding out at a provincial youth hostel, Fariba meets Anne (Anneke Kim Arnau) and begins to develop a close relationship. Fariba tries to negotiate the dangerous waters of this budding relationship as she clings to the tenuous safety afforded by her new country.

Also coming from Wolfe Video on May 9 is "Robin's Hood," a modern lesbian retelling of the classic fable. Robin (Khahtee V. Turner) is a social worker in Oakland, Calif., who soon meets and falls in love with Brooklyn (Clody Cates), a French thief. Brooklyn steals from the rich, so Robin can give the goods to the poor.

@ Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com

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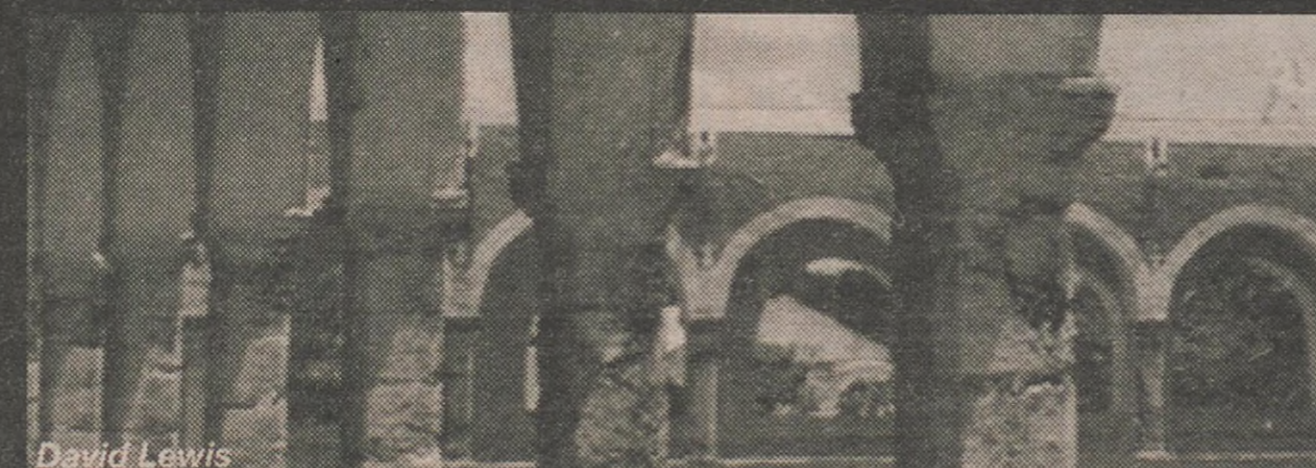
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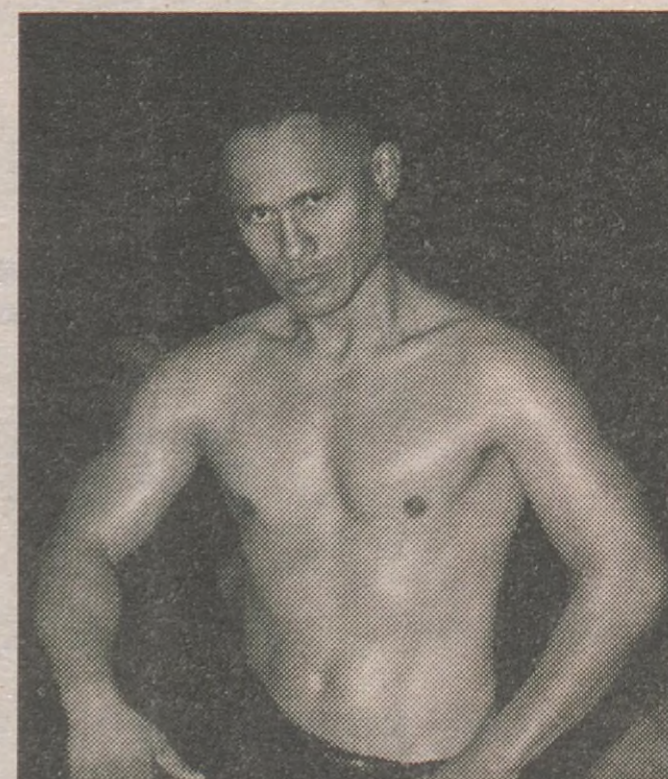
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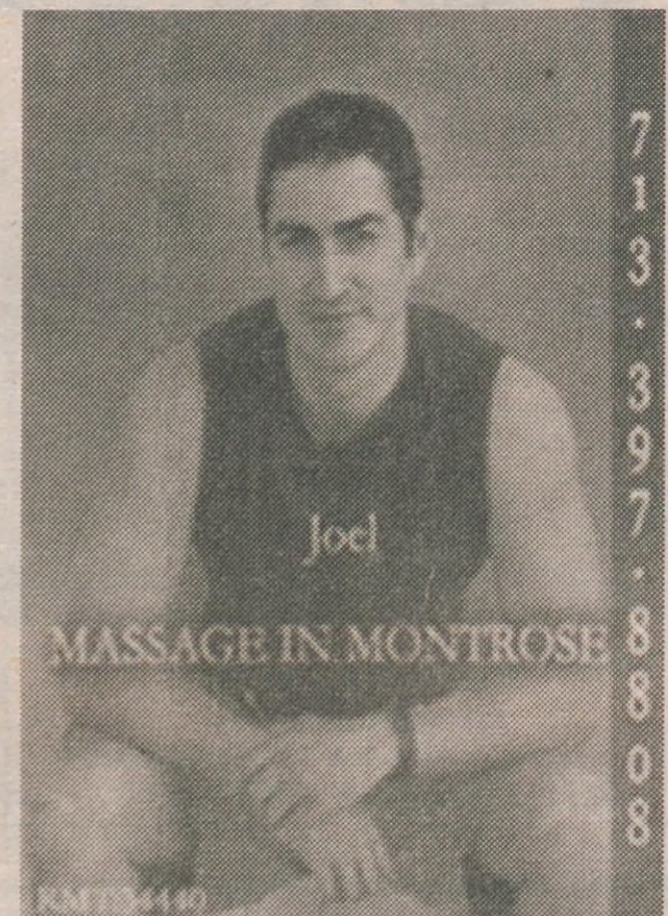
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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

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bitch SESSION

Why can't straight men shop for their own underwear? I'm tired of browsing the racks with ugly, middle-aged women.

IT'S NOT P.C. OR TRENDY TO ADMIT to liking bears, but someone is keeping all of those bear-oriented businesses, clubs and websites afloat.

FOR ALL YOU SEXUALLY ACTIVE GAY men who think HIV "isn't my problem": I hope for your sake that the money and efforts of those who do care result in a vaccine and cure before you catch it. In the meantime, enjoy your blissful ignorance.

AS A TRICK YOU WERE PRETTY undistinguished, even when you took my bottle of lube. It was when you took my acne medication and a partially used tube of athlete's foot cream that you elevated your status to true freak.

TO THE STRAIGHT MAN WHO ASKED, "What is one voice going to change?" Where would civil rights be if Rosa Parks or Martin Luther King, Jr. thought that way?

YOU GOT IT WRONG. IT'S US GUYS IN our 30s who fall into the black hole of neither old nor young enough.

WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH GAY MEN telling women that they are straight at a gay bar? Come out already.

TO THE QUEEN WHO SAID TO STOP calling after a month: You shouldn't have given out your number in the first place or I would know you're not interested. Or you could answer the phone and tell me yourself.

YOU WON'T BE THE FRESH MEAT IN town forever. So quit taking all the boys and leave some for the rest of us.

TO BITTER TRANNIES: WHY DO YOU hate women yet pay for injections of female hormones? I also don't get why males that like trannies swear they aren't gay.

TO THE BITCH WHO DOESN'T CARE what the leather daddies say: Why, then, should they care what you say?

TO BITCH BOY, WHO IS PARTIAL ON which posts he chooses to publish: Hey, give others a chance. Sounds like it's the same ole drama. Post some new stuff.

TO THE DUDE WHO SAID, "HEY BITCH Boy, send me your number, I want to date you": Speaking of numbers, take one and get in line, bitch!

SO A MAN MARRIED WITH CHILDREN who happens to be a pedophile interested in boys is automatically labeled as gay but when the same man is interested in another man who also is married and has kids like in "Brokeback Mountain," the men aren't really gay? What bullshit logic is that?

WHEN DID "BIG MAN" BECOME A synonym for "fat man"? I thought a big man was one who could bench-press his own weight, not eat his own weight.

WHY ARE THE CLUBS FULL OF NELLY queens who think they have a vagina between their legs? If you're not a tranny, stop fooling yourself.

TO THE LESBIAN WHO WANTED TO know why lesbians financially use each other and leave when the money runs out: Twenty-one years ago, I got taken for \$36,000. I have remained single ever since. Surprised?

I'M IN LOVE WITH BITCH BOY AND HIS rapier-like wit. Too bad I am a lesbian. He would be one of the smartest girls in town. And I bet he doesn't have a mullet. Bitch Boy responds: No but I am all business up front and a party in the back!

NEXT TIME YOU DECIDE TO GO JOG- ging at night, how about giving them fair warning. You idiot, that's a good way to get shot!

TO THE LESBIAN LOOKING FOR "GOD- fearing" women: What? Now I have to be afraid of God as well as the Bushies and terrorists? This is too much for one decent, attractive woman who is not into drinking and drugs.

FOR THE 23-YEAR-OLD CONCERNED when folks say he looks good for his age: Who are these venom-tongued vipers? They're just worried about their own Tina and 'roid worn-out asses and trying to bring you down.

WHY ARE SO MANY MIDDLE-AGED guys so obsessed with getting the attention of twinks? Think back to when you were a young'un; did you give a second look to the "older" guys?

THANKS BITCH BOY! THE MORE "Bitch Session" I read, the lesser a bitch I become!

IF YOU'RE ONLY INTO "STRAIGHT acting" guys, you should remember that acting is being something you're not. Take it up with your therapist or direct your anger where it belongs: toward your mother. I'll take a confident "sissy" over a fake fag any day!

Editors' note: These are real bitches, sent in by real readers, about gay life's little annoyances, and the big ones, too. Got a bitch? Call 1-800-858-8088 or e-mail: bitch@houstonvoice.com

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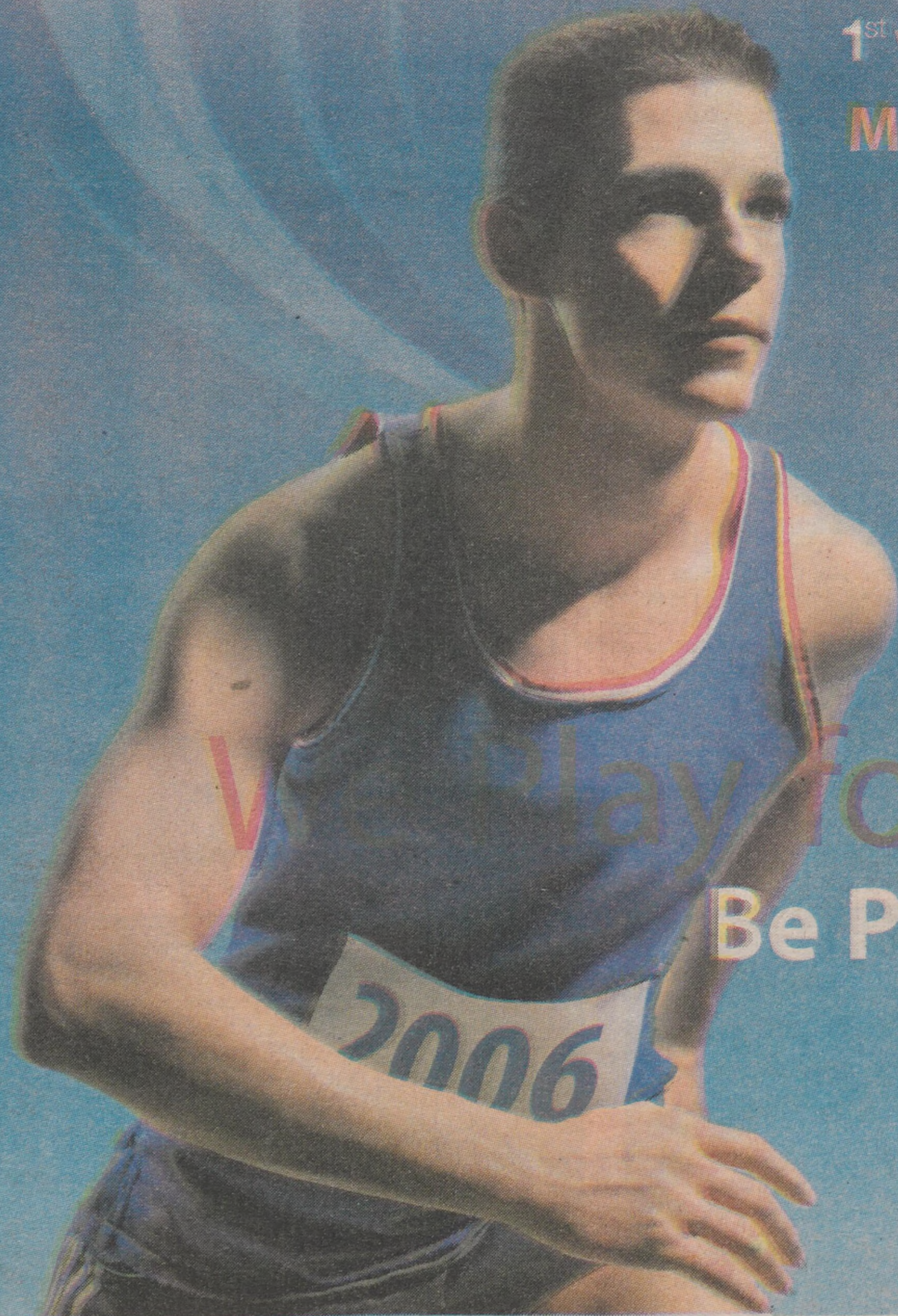
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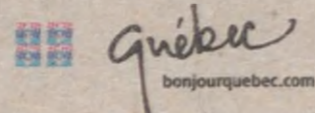
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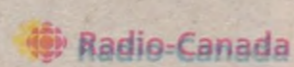
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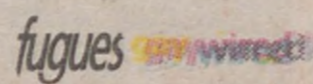
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