

# houston VOICE

SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION

## Gearing up

The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce prepares for next weekend's Empower 2002. Pages 11-14



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SEPTEMBER 13, 2002

### INSIDE



Lesbian favorite Melissa Ferrick 'psyched' about taking the stage at the Houston Women's Festival.

Page 3



Organizers choose theme of 'Reflections' for this year's fund-raising Houston Black Tie Dinner.

Page 15



Fall has plenty of options for gay athletes, and a good start for spectators was the Texans' vs. Cowboys game.

Page 16

## Residents target second book

By PENNY WEAVER

Montgomery County leaders and residents continue to debate a proposed ban on a sex education book for young people, and some citizens now have asked that a second, similar volume be removed from the county's library system.

About 200 people attended the county's Commissioners Court meeting Monday to hear the debate on a proposed ban of "It's Perfectly Normal" by Robie H. Harris, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Some residents had asked that the volume be removed from county libraries, and critics on Monday asked that a second book by Harris, "It's So Amazing," also be banned. Several people have criticized the alleged "pro-homosexual" stance of both volumes.

Two weeks ago in Conroe, just north of Houston, about half a dozen residents complained to the court,

the governing body for Montgomery County, about material on homosexuality and abortion in "It's Perfectly Normal," a sex education book for young adults.

County Judge Alan B. Sadler said this week he had received hundreds of comments from residents and the community appears to be about evenly split on the issue.

"It frankly does not sway my feelings on wanting more control on what is on the shelves that is accessible to children in Montgomery County," Sadler told the Chronicle.

"We have to draw a line in the sand," Jim German, a Republican precinct chairman, told the Chronicle. "We are fed up with the liberals shoving immoral views down our throats."

Two weeks ago, complaints about "It's Perfectly Normal" spurred county officials to ask the library



Some Montgomery County residents who suggested that a sex education book by author Robie H. Harris (right) be banned have now targeted a second book by Harris, titled 'It's So Amazing.'



Please see BAN BOOK, on Page 6

## Miami-Dade gay rights ordinance upheld

Polling woes may spark appeals challenges, both sides say

By MIKE FLEMING

MIAMI — More than half of Miami-Dade voters Sept. 10 appeared to uphold a 1998 ordinance that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, lending, public accommodations and employment in the county.

"This is a historic and extremely satisfying vote, a new turning point for GLBT rights," said Jubi Headley, communications director for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, a gay advocacy group that set up camp in Miami to battle the repeal effort alongside Save Dade, a local anti-repeal group.

With 90 percent of votes tallied at press time, 53.2 percent of voters were against



Jubi Headley, communications director for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, called the defeat of a gay rights repeal in Miami-Dade County a 'historic' victory, despite rampant problems with polling machinery and alleged discrimination at the polls. (Photo by Clint Steib)

Please see GAY RIGHTS, on Page 7

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## local news

# Ferrick ready to rock Houston Women's Festival

Popular lesbian singer/songwriter makes stop as part of her Listen Hard tour

*Editor's Note: This is the third of several articles introducing some of the performers who will take the stage at the Houston Women's Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28.*

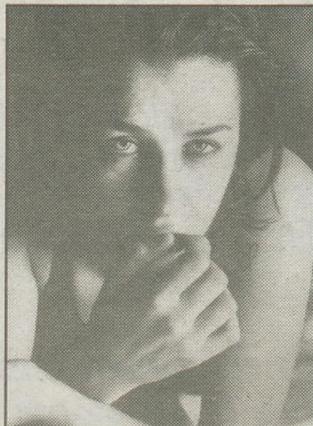
By SHARMAN PETRI

Melissa Ferrick, the gutsy, daring and driven Massachusetts singer/songwriter, is bringing her Listen Hard tour to the Houston Women's Festival this month and says she is really "psyched" about it.

"This will help me get exposed to the women's community and the songwriter's community that may not have had the opportunity to hear me play," she says.

Ferrick has built up a loyal grassroots fan base and regularly plays to sold out crowds across the country. She has won Boston Music Awards for Best Singer-Songwriter and Best Folk Rock Band. "When she steps onstage...she becomes infused with a power and sexuality that...drives audiences of hundreds of women to press themselves into a screaming mass at her feet," (Curve Magazine).

Ferrick says she knew early in life that she wanted to be involved in music. She



Singer/songwriter **Melissa Ferrick** participates in the Houston Women's Festival on Sept. 28, bringing her Listen Hard tour to the Bayou City.

began playing the violin at age 5. Throughout her childhood and well into her teens, she continued to play solely classical instruments. For a long time, she even had aspirations of becoming a symphonic conductor.

During those years, Ferrick says she wrote words but didn't realize they were song lyrics. It wasn't until the 1989 release of an Edie Brickell recording that Ferrick's current musical direction began taking shape. Brickell's music and lyrics deeply affected the teenage Ferrick until one day, something clicked. She says she thought to herself at the time, "Wow, I can do this! This is how I can be a musician."

She adds, "It wasn't pinned down until I picked up the guitar and started screaming in my dorm room in college that I knew

where I was going musically."

Since Ferrick found direction, she's been one of the hardest-working performers in the music business, releasing five albums since 1997. She says the fans and the pure enjoyment she gets from performing keep her drive fresh and alive. "I'm still moved by the audiences. I do it because I love it and for no other reason. When it's no longer fun, I should quit," she adds.

Quit she almost did when she had writer's block for nearly an entire year. "I just felt like I had nothing else to say; that I didn't have any songs left in me. I felt like everything I did sounded the same."

The block was broken with "Burn This Guitar," a song that is included on Ferrick's latest CD, Listen Hard. The song also marks a move into another songwriting direction. "With 'Burn This Guitar,' there was something else there — a more honest look at me," she explains. "I was done with the honest look at love. I was just sick of it!"

Today, Ferrick learns a lot about writing from listening to other artists and varied styles of music, including Lyle Lovett, whom she calls an exquisite songwriter. "I try to open myself up to inspiration a little bit more rather than being so self-contained," she explains. "Not being so self-involved does seem to be helping the writing. There are actually a couple songs on this record that aren't about me, which is a miracle!"

When she does write, she writes a lot and the songs flow fast and freely. "Most songs

take about 10 minutes to write if they're good songs, and always the lyrics come first; all at once from beginning to end. Then I hear the melody and find the chord."

Ferrick says her appearance at this year's Houston Women's Festival "is going to feel like I'm on home turf. All my girls are going to be there," referring to sharing the bill with her good friends Edie Carey, Anne Heaton and Michelle Malone.

"I love the unity when musicians hang out together and help each other out," Ferrick says. "You never know what might happen at this gig. I'm sure there will be a lot of guest appearances going on that day. We'll have some surprises!"

What is no surprise is that fans love Melissa Ferrick and she loves them. "Without the fans, I wouldn't be able to make records. That's as simple as it gets," she says.

Ferrick performs at 9 p.m. at the Houston Women's Festival. The event includes a full day of music on two stages, a multi-media art show, and a marketplace of vendors. The non-profit Athena Art Project organizes the fest.

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# around the nation

## Controversial chancellor axes gay support group in Boston

BOSTON (AP) — A support group for gay students at a preparatory school run by Boston University has been disbanded at the direction of university chancellor John Silber, who said he believes it encouraged “premature” sex. “We’re not running a program in sex education,” Silber told the Boston Globe. “If they want that kind of program, they can go to Newton High School. They can go to public school and learn how to put a condom over a banana.” Silber, who as a candidate for governor in 1990 was known for his controversial verbal outbursts, defended his opposition to the student-organized gay-straight group, saying it didn’t belong at the elite prep school for students grades 8 to 12. Gay rights activists reacted angrily, as did Newton North High School’s gay-straight alliance adviser. “Our gay-straight alliance is not about teaching safer-sex practice, it’s about providing a safe environment for any adolescent,” said Newton North’s Michael Quinlan. “It’s about acceptance, tolerance, and understanding differences.”



John Silber, chancellor of Boston University, ordered a gay student group shut down over his fears that it promoted ‘premature’ sex. (Photo by Olivia Gatti/AP)

## N.J. governor signs bill to curb anti-gay bullying in schools

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Gov. James E. McGreevey has signed into law a measure requiring school districts to take steps to discourage bullying among students, including anti-gay bullying. Under the law, school districts will be required to develop policies on bullying, harassment and intimidation at school or school-sponsored events. The law defines harassment, intimidation and bullying as any act that harms a student or damages a student’s property. The measure also covers any gesture or physical act motivated by race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and mental or physical disabilities. “This legislation strengthens New Jersey’s existing anti-discrimination law by specifically protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students against bullying and harassment that is all too common,” said Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network.

## Philly mayor says he’ll appeal court’s ban on ‘life partners’

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Officials will fight to keep a city ordinance recognizing same-sex “life partners” and will try to continue to grant them benefits in the meantime, Mayor John Street announced Sept. 3. “I also directed City Solicitor [Nelson A.] Diaz to seek a stay of the opinion in order to allow life partners to continue to receive benefits during the course of this appeal,” Street said in a one-paragraph statement. The mayor’s announcement follows a state appeals court decision that struck down the partnerships, saying the city had usurped the state’s power to regulate marriage. “We hold that the city was without authority to legislate in the field of domestic relations by defining and creating a new marital status,” Senior Judge Joseph Doyle wrote in the Commonwealth Court opinion. Since the ordinance, 295 couples have registered as “life partners” with the city’s human relations commission, making them eligible to seek benefits from the city and some private employers.

## L.A. court hears arguments in sodomy law fight

NEW ORLEANS — The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments Sept. 4 in the ongoing battle against Louisiana’s 197-year-old Crimes Against Nature statute, or sodomy law. Prosecutor John Rawls filed the pending case in 1994 on behalf of Louisiana Electorate of Gays & Lesbians and nine individual plaintiffs. The case has volleyed back and forth between Orleans Parish District Court Judge Carolyn Gill-Jefferson and the state Supreme Court twice since Gill-Jefferson originally ruled the sodomy statute unconstitutional based on the state’s right to privacy law in March 1999. In late 2000, the Supreme Court asked Gill-Jefferson to re-consider the ruling in light of an unrelated case, and in March 2001, Gill-Jefferson again ruled that the law is unconstitutional on 11 other grounds. That second portion of the legal fight has been pending in the Fourth District Court of Appeals since January 2001. Gill-Jefferson placed an injunction against prosecuting cases against oral and anal sex until both portions of the case are settled, and the Appeals Court sat on the right-to-privacy hearings until last week.

## Court clears way for gay student group in Ind.

INDIANAPOLIS — U.S. District Judge Larry McKinney ruled last week that officials at Franklin Central High School must allow students to form a gay-straight alliance club, the Indianapolis Star reported. But whether the club will now start remains unclear. Amy Obermeyer, a junior at the time, tried to start the club in 2001, but school officials refused, suggesting that students instead create a “Diversity Club” encompassing a broader range of issues. “The school wanted to dilute that message,” said Sean Lemieux, lawyer for the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, which represented the students. School officials now claim that the students who wanted the club have graduated, and they will appeal the judge’s ruling. “No one has asked for a club of any kind like that this year,” said Superintendent E.B. Carver.

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local news

# 'It's So Amazing' offers sex ed for youth

BAN BOOK, continued from Page 1

review panel to examine the book. That group would then make a recommendation to Library Director Jerilynn Williams.

Williams received the formal complaint, which starts the review process, during Monday's meeting, the Chronicle reported.

Several people spoke to the Commissioners Court on Monday; many were members of the Republican Leadership Council, the Christian Coalition of Montgomery County and area Christian churches, the Chronicle reported. Some called for Williams to be fired, for the creation of a citizen review panel and for the county's withdrawal from the American Library Association, according to the Chronicle.

Some people did speak in favor of the books. These included members of the Northwoods Unitarian Universal Church of The Woodlands, who asked commissioners to keep the volumes in the county library, the Chronicle reported.

"What is at issue is the attempt by certain individuals to impose their views on the rest of the county," said K.E.S. Palmisano of The Woodlands, reading a statement from the church, according to the Chronicle. "It is con-

trary to the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech, press and religion. We are free to decide for ourselves what to read and review."

The 89-page "It's Perfectly Normal" devotes three pages to discussing homosexuality and two pages to laws and legal rulings regarding abortion.

"That book tries to minimize or even negate that homosexuality is a problem," Sadler said. "This is clearly a book for children about sexuality, and it clearly tries to steer the child toward being pro-homosexual or at least neutral."

"It's not sex education," said Frances Brown, a Cut and Shoot resident. "It's pornography. It's horrible."

Many of those who spoke during the Commissioners Court meeting were concerned about the illustrations in the book. The book uses cartoon-like drawings to illustrate various issues dealing with puberty, sexual intercourse, masturbation and pregnancy.

While "It's Perfectly Normal" is aimed at middle-school age youth, "It's So Amazing" is written for children age 7 and up, or grade 2 and up. According to its publisher, Candlewick Press, "It's So Amazing" is "A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families."

The publisher's description of the volume states: "How does a baby begin?

What makes a baby female or male? Why are some babies twins? How is a baby adopted? Children sure have lots of questions about reproduction and babies — and about sex and sexuality too. 'It's So Amazing!' provides the fascinating answers — with fun, accurate, comic-book style artwork, and a clear, lively text that reflects an elementary-school child's interest in science and how things work. Throughout the book, a curious Bird and a squeamish Bee help tell the amazing story of how a baby is made — from the moment an egg and sperm join, through pregnancy, to birth.

"It's So Amazing!" also addresses, in a reassuring and age-appropriate way, related topics such as love, sex, gender, families, heterosexuality, homosexuality, sexual abuse, and HIV and AIDS — while giving children a healthy understanding of their bodies," according to Candlewick.

A 1999 review by Contemporary Sexuality, which dubs itself "The International Resource for Educators, Researchers, and Therapists," says of "It's So Amazing": "The book's strongest message is that sexual development is normal, and that sex is a healthy part of happy, loving lives."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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## national news

# Activists: Miami win fraught with voting problems

GAY RIGHTS, continued from Page 1

repealing the ordinance and less than 47 percent favored a repeal. If passed, the repeal would have made Miami-Dade the only major South Florida county to have no protections for gays, according to the Miami Herald.

"This vote has proved to be a barometer on how the GLBT movement has progressed and gained acceptance based on discrimination of any kind rather than just a gay issue," Headley said. "Twenty-five years after Miami's first gay rights law was repealed, we have found a new way of organizing, and have found that basic, direct voter education and direct confrontation of our opposition's illogical rhetoric works."

An ordinance similar to the existing gay rights law was repealed in 1977 amidst a nationally recognized morality crusade by orange juice spokesperson, singer and former beauty queen Anita Bryant. The existing ordinance was passed in 1998.

"We were very hopeful, but cautious until this point," said Heddy Pena, Save Dade co-chair. "Now I think we can safely say that people against discrimination of any kind have prevailed."

Take Back Dade, an arm of the far-right

and virulently anti-gay Christian Coalition, led the effort to get a repeal measure on last week's ballot and heavily lobbied voters through election day to support the group's cause.

"We are dead set against special rights for homosexuals and will continue our efforts to repeal this unnecessary and immoral ordinance until we win," said Eladio Jose Armesto, the Take Back Dade spokesperson whose Spanish-language newspaper El Nuevo Patria calls gays "perverts" and "multi-sexual extremists."

But the apparent gay rights victory may be marred as Florida polls suffered another debacle reminiscent of the 2000 presidential election. Several polling places were unable to have voting machines operational by the 7 a.m. state-mandated poll-opening time, and accusations flew that "no" votes were counted as "yes" votes, and vice versa.

NGLTF also reported individual experiences of uneven treatment of pro-repeal and anti-repeal canvassers, especially in Jewish and gay areas of Miami that were considered the strongest opponents of the repeal.

"Almost 25 percent of our strongest precincts opened late, at least two of them as late as one o'clock," Headley said. "That means some people simply

**'We are dead set against special rights for homosexuals and will continue our efforts to repeal this unnecessary and immoral ordinance until we win.'**

**— Eladio Jose Armesto**

missed their opportunity to vote, and we have reports of poll staffers taking away pro-gay literature and pushing pro-gay canvassers away while letting anti-gay canvassers actually inside polling places."

About 2 p.m. on voting day, Gov. Jeb Bush signed an executive order to have polls remain open until 9 p.m. to make up for the late starts in some precincts.

Even with the extended hours, problems at the polls caused advocates on both sides of the gay rights issue to predict official challenges to the vote.

Even before election day, Take Back

Dade accused Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas and County Elections Supervisor David Leahy of rigging the vote, charges both politicians called "ludicrous," according to the Miami Herald.

Several Take Back Dade staffers were arrested in August in connection with allegations that the group fraudulently attained petition signatures that put the repeal on the ballot. That investigation continues.

After the vote and the polling confusion, Armesto confirmed his group's intent to challenge the vote.

"The votes could not have possibly been counted accurately in this kind of climate," Armesto said. "We will definitely file a challenge to the vote so that the true voice of Miami can be heard."

NGLTF and Save Dade acknowledged that the "true vote" may not be known, but said the wrongdoing they saw worked against gay advocates, not the repeal initiative.

"We were the people upon which these errors were perpetrated," Headley said. "If anything, mistakes were in their favor, and they still lost. That made what looked to be a landslide victory into a closer race."

"We will not call for a challenge of the outcome," Pena said.

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Issue 1142

# Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2002

PAGE 8

## viewpoint

# Bagpipes from a distance

In the aftermath of 9/11, public officials like Rudy Giuliani and George Pataki stood by the gay survivors. Now it's George W. Bush's turn.

By MATTHEW A. HENNIE

**N**EW YORK, SEPT. 11 — THE haunting sounds of bagpipes are difficult to escape. I wanted to avoid the images that were bound to be shown today. The planes flying into the World Trade

Center. The smoke and flames rising from the Pentagon. The decimated remains of a plane that crashed into a Pennsylvania field.

But it couldn't be done.

My view of Sept. 11, 2001, came from a distance last year. Fortunately, I can say that my direct ties to the tragedy were similar to that of most other Americans — remote.

A close friend narrowly escaped death in the Pentagon crash. A colleague in New York worked without phones and through other difficulties to cover the events unfolding around her. My brother-in-law was shipped overseas to take part in the war against terrorism. It could have been worse for me, with a much higher personal toll.

I fought my morning ritual of flipping on the TV and tuning to CNN. But as 8:46 a.m. neared, the exact moment a year ago that the first plane struck in New York, I grew uncomfortable with the thought of not taking a few moments to reflect on a national tragedy.

The night before, I watched some news coverage of the anniversary events. When I had seen enough, I turned the channel to a TV drama to clear my head.

That didn't work. Besides being a news junkie, I'm also a fan of cop shows, like NBC's "Third Watch." And last night, in its syndicated run on A&E, the rerun was of one of this season's first episodes, which focused on the aftermath of the terrorist attacks.

It chronicled how the show's main characters — a group of firefighters and police officers, New York's bravest and finest — dealt with the attacks.

So much for a few minutes of distraction. When morning arrived, I didn't want to watch. But I didn't want to forget. I

turned on the TV and tuned in to CNN.

With some warnings from one of the anchors, the network broadcast a report recapping the attacks, complete with clips of the two planes flying into the towers, the smoke rising in the aftermath of the attack on the Pentagon, and the small pieces of wreckage in Pennsylvania.

Then a view of Ground Zero, with hundreds of people gathering for the memorial service, glimpses of people holding pictures high of the loved ones they loved.

And the stream of bagpipe players, some of whom had been marching for four hours, coming from all five of the city's boroughs, to join one another in the pit left by the felled towers. Hearing a bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace" brought back the tears.

### THE AGONY OF THE DAY WAS CLEAR

on the face Alice Hoglan. The mother of Mark Bingham, perhaps the most well-known openly gay victim of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, spoke softly to a CNN anchor this morning as they sat overlooking the field in Pennsylvania where her son died. She struggled to hold back the tears while recounting Mark's life and his heroic actions aboard United Flight 93.

Her effort at fighting back the emotions didn't work. The grief on her face spoke more powerfully than her words.

The interview, though, provided a glimpse into one of the bright lights in this national tragedy: An increasing acceptance, by and large, of gays and a mourning for gay victims, the same as for the thousands of others.

Media reports have identified some two-dozen gay victims of the attacks, from Sheila Hein, who worked in the Pentagon, to David Charlebois, first officer on American Airlines Flight 77, the flight that killed Hein. From Luke Dudek, a restaurant worker in One World Trade Center, to Mychal Judge, the gay chaplain for New

York's fire department, killed while administering last rites to a fallen firefighter.

As the identities of the dead surfaced, most media outlets included mention that Bingham, and others, were gay. Those victims, and the tireless work of a handful of national gay organizations, showed that gays suffered like any other group in the country.

Pointing out the gay angle in such a massive story brought criticism from some — gay and straight — who argued that it separated us from the rest of the nation, which was trying to unite. But putting a gay face on the tragedy explained that gay surviving partners of the attacks, unlike most others, faced a new tragedy: their access to local, state and federal compensation was not unfettered.

Slowly that changed. New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani pushed for equal access to benefits and New York Gov. George Pataki issued an executive order requiring the state's Crime Victims Board to equalize requirements for gay partners and married spouses.

The New York state legislature also passed a handful of laws that specifically acknowledged gay partners of Sept. 11 victims.

The American Red Cross, the nation's largest private disaster relief agency, revised its guidelines to specifically include gay partners.

And Tuesday, Keith Bradkowsky and his gay attorney were on hand when California Gov. Gray Davis signed into law a measure that provides partial inheritance rights for registered domestic partners in California. Bradkowsky's partner, Jeff Collman, was a flight attendant on American Flight 11.

Still left murky, though, are regulations for the federal Victim Compensation Fund and how the claims of surviving gay partners will be handled in the distribution of awards that average \$1.6 million per victim. While the special master in charge of the fund, Kenneth Feinberg, has said he's "determined not to discriminate" against the surviving domestic partners, there's one other Republican that can step up and make a difference.

President Bush should take the lead, as did his GOP counterparts Giuliani and Pataki, in advocating for the fair and equal treatment of surviving domestic partners of the Sept. 11 attacks. That would be compassionate conservatism at its best.

And maybe that's where life returns to normal. While never forgetting the tragedy, the emergence of lobbying, political fighting, and advocating for equal treatment means that slowly, the impact of Sept. 11 is giving way to a return to the normal.

When the sounds of the bagpipes fade today, we can continue the struggle to carry on, the fight for civil rights, and the push to remember, but not forget.

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viewpoint ELLA TYLER



Candidates still try to dazzle voters, and many continue to take to the streets thanks to mentors like the late Billie Carr

# Political 'Pomp and Circumstance'

ONE OF MY FAVORITE POLITICAL memories is of the 1969 University of Texas Young Democrats club election, when my friend Malcolm McNeil was managing Jim Parker's campaign for president.

Malcolm had a flair for the theatrical, and Jim's entry into the auditorium was to a somewhat scratchy recording of "Pomp and Circumstance." My friend Anne and I preceded him, strewing rose petals. After his speech we had a "spontaneous" demonstration, marching around the hall to the song "I Stand For Motherhood, Honesty, and a Hot Lunch for Orphans" from "Hello Dolly."

I hadn't thought of this in years, but several recent political commercials brought it to mind. Except they aren't this substantive.

"Vote for me because my opponent is a sleazy smirking jerk, whom lots of people have said bad things about," won't get my vote. I'm of the "if it's true, it's not mud-slinging" school of politics, but I think that any candidate who puts the spotlight on his opponent doesn't do himself any good.

And there's the one that tells us something along the lines of "call Ron Kirk

and tell him to reject Hillary Clinton's liberal ideas." Which liberal ideas is Kirk supposed to reject? The ones that earned Clinton a 100-percent rating on the Human Rights Campaign scorecard?

I checked out the HRC ratings for Texans, and found that Sen. Kay Hutchison has the highest score of the Republicans, with 40 percent. Rep. Kay Granger came in second with 17 percent. The rest of the Republicans, Sen. Phil Graham and the eight remaining representatives, got 0 percent.

In contrast, of the Democrats, only one, Rep. Charlie Steinholm, got 0 percent. Rep. Chet Edwards got 33 percent. Eight scored 100 percent and four scored 87 percent.

So, look behind the message. If the candidate telling you he or she is for "Truth, Justice and the American Way," or for "Texas Values," find out just what that means.

MANY OF MY POLITICAL MEMORIES are connected to Billie Carr, who died Monday afternoon.

The first time I met her, in 1968, she was already an important figure in Texas — and maybe national — politics, but what she was

doing at that moment was organizing her precinct card file. That was a brief meeting, but I got to know her when she taught us to organize for McGovern in 1972 and I spent several years as part of her crew of volunteers.

The last time I saw her, in March, we talked about who from her precinct could replace her on the local executive committee. She had chosen Sue Lovell to replace her on the Democratic National Committee, making Sue the first gay DNC member from Texas, but hadn't found her precinct replacement yet.

Billie became seriously involved in politics somewhere around 1950 after a trip to Austin for steelworkers' wives, sponsored by her husband's union. They toured the State Hospital, and she was appalled by the conditions. When she met the governor, who was probably Alan Shivers, she said he should do something about the conditions there. He said, "Little lady, I hold this state in the palm of my hand," and continued with something to the effect that he didn't care about the State Hospital.

It was at least 25 years later when I heard her tell that story, and it still made her mad.

Billie used to tell us that some project she wanted us to do would "be fun." We fell for it every time. One year Billie sent me and a friend to Waco in the middle of the night for an early morning meeting with some liberal activist, who, in a major case of crossed wires, never met us.

Then we went to Dallas to spend the night on someone's couch, got up to go to a meeting at a place that we didn't know the address of, just a "follow me" — at 70 miles an hour during rush hour on Dallas freeways — and then drove to Austin to file the documents we had been entrusted with. And, while not exactly fun, it was an experience.

The block by block, precinct by precinct way to campaign that Billie



taught thousands of political activists, including a young Bill Clinton, is returning to popularity. Candidates aren't spending less money on TV commercials, but they are finding that voters are less influenced by them than they used to be.

I don't think Billie ever made a TV commercial, but she did write a little booklet about organizing, called "Don't Agonize, Organize," as I recall.

Even though she influenced thousands of voters, her own vote was very important to her. She had a heart attack several years ago, and when I saw her, while she was still in the ICU, she was worried that her absentee ballot would get lost in the mail. So I went to get one.

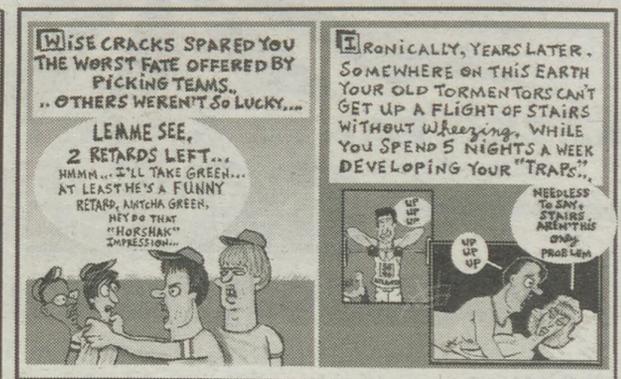
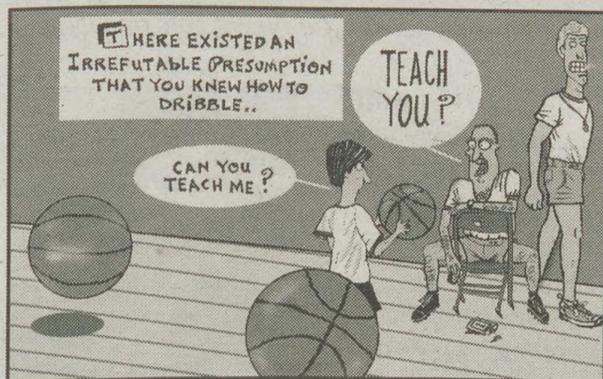
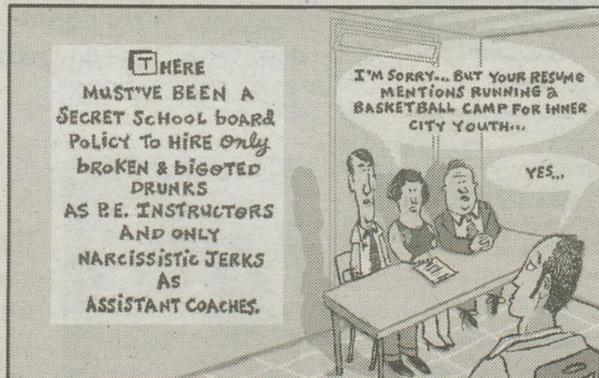
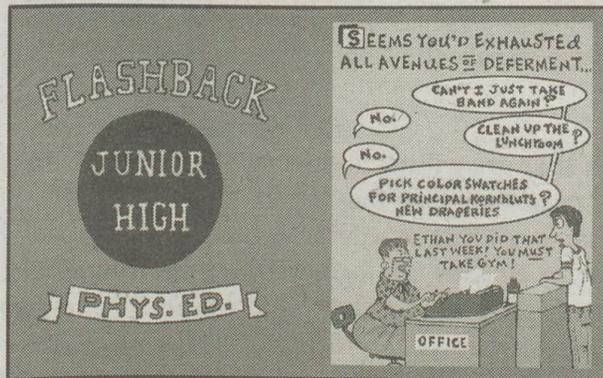
Billie's advice for dealing with difficult people: "As Mrs. Randolph (Mrs. Frankie Randolph, Billie's mentor) used to say, 'Just leave 'em where Jesus flung 'em,'" is possibly the best advice an activist can get.

Billie was someone who really did change Texas politics. She wasn't rich or well educated, but she was smart, dedicated, passionate, and committed to people. I'm glad I knew her.

@ Ella Tyler is a freelance writer for Houston Voice and a longtime political activist in Houston. She may be reached via editor@houstonvoice.com.

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of ETHAN GREEN...

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Hey, I'm recovering from a frigging slipped disc. Hope you won't mind revisiting some of my old favorites. Back in October with more on Seth and Peter (The hunky zoologist from Atlanta) Eric O.

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## on the record



"I don't think the answer to the question is obvious: Can a Republican who is pro-choice and pro-gay rights, because that is the way it would be viewed, succeed nationally? I don't know. I think more of a chance now than there would have been five or six years ago."

*Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, speculating on a political future that some say could include a run for New York governor or even the White House (New York Times, Sept. 10)*

"She loves him very much and he loves her. I don't think you could live with him for 10 minutes, but she really worships him. He's not the easiest person in the world. That's just the way he is, and that's why we all love Rudy. He takes no prisoners. But he's lovable."

*Howard Koepfel, a gay New York car dealer who has shared his Manhattan apartment for months with Rudy Giuliani, on the former mayor's relationship with his ex-aide, Judith Nathan (New York Times, Sept. 10)*



"They already have their own personalities. Jacob can be moody. Taylor is the alert one. Tristan's quiet. And Michael is in between."

*Thomas Dysarz, who is caring for month-old quadruplets that he and his partner, Michael Meehan, the biological father, adopted through a surrogate mother (Lexington Herald-Leader, Lexington, Ky., Aug. 28)*

"I think it's ironic that the gay community thought I was the bigot of the year and yet this minister that's running against me is trying to tag me with 'pro-homosexual.'"

*Georgia state Sen. Phil Gingrey, chief sponsor last year of an unsuccessful "Defense of Scouting" bill, on charges by his GOP primary opponent that Gingrey is committed to the "gay agenda" (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Aug. 30)*

"I'm a decorated combat veteran from World War II with an honorable discharge. I'm a parish pastor. And I'm a gay man."

*Robert Wood, 79, who with cane in hand stunned a campaign crowd into silence with the question he asked Rep. John Sununu (R-N.H.), a candidate for the U.S. Senate, about his positions on same-sex marriage and gays in the military. Sununu said he opposed extending marriage rights and saw no "reason to change the ban on gays in the military" (The Hill, Sept. 3)*



"If they are willing to turn from sin, the same as any individual, than they can be ex-homosexuals, the same as an ex-murderer or thief or ex-anybody."

*Anita Bryant, the former Miss America and anti-gay activist, in a speech more than 20 years ago calling for the repeal of Miami-Dade's gay rights ordinance; the repeal then was successful, but a new rights ordinance survived a repeal vote this week*

"We have come a long way since the Anita Bryant days, and we are going to overwhelmingly reject this effort by extreme groups in our community who are trying to roll the clock of time back. It is not going to happen."

*Alex Penelas, mayor of Miami-Dade County, on his leadership in defeating the anti-gay repeal effort ("Donahue," MSNBC, Sept. 6)*



# empower 2002

## Houston poised for Empower

GLBT Chamber presents annual event Sept. 21 and 22, with new entertainment and returning favorites

By KAY Y. DAYUS

For gay Houstonians, being empowered can mean a lot more than being heard — it can be just plain fun, too.

Empower 2002, the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce's flagship event, is slated for Sept. 21 and 22 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston. In this, its sixth outing, the event promises to be bigger and better than ever, with more than 100 booths from the private sector and non-profit groups, according to organizers.

Although the number of exhibitors is about the same as last year, the additional crowd-pleasing activities such as the pet area, the climbing wall and interactive games for kids have increased the physical size of Empower, says Coy Tow, executive director of the chamber.

"We're about as big as we were last year, but we're about to exceed our floor plan. We are bigger space-wise," he says.

The Chamber begins the event with a kick-off party on Friday, Sept. 20, at Meteor from 6-9 p.m. Everyone is invited to this event to meet the entertainers, vendors and sponsors.

At 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, just before Empower officially begins, the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center is hosting a round table to discuss community strategy for better cooperation and collaboration among the many gay organizations in and around Houston. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Throughout the two-day Empower, a variety of seminars, vendors and plenty of entertainment will be on tap. For the first time,

there is an admission charge, but in exchange for that \$3 fee, Tow says, attendees will receive a coupon book that includes a number of offers from local businesses.

Saturday, the expo will run from 3-6 p.m., and Sunday, hours are from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The seminars, ranging from personal to business development, are open to everyone.

Joan Ifland, author of "Sugars and Flours: How They Make Us Crazy, Sick and Fat and What to Do About It," will demonstrate how many foods people eat cause health problems such as weight gain, fatigue, diabetes, infections, allergies and depression. She says many are directly linked to over-consumption of sugars and flours and, on average, Americans eat a pound per day of refined carbohydrates. And, says Ifland, the effects can be disastrous.

Personal coach Mattison Gray will help each seminar participant discover opportunities for self-improvement and ongoing personal development.

Another seminar, hosted by Karen Seaborn of Seaborn-Solomon Public Relations & Marketing, will address ways in which businesses or non-profit groups can enhance their message and market their organizations or businesses.

Anyone looking for new job will be interested in Empower's job fair. Hewitt Associates, a global outsourcing and consulting firm, is sponsoring the job fair both days of the expo. Hewitt also will offer a seminar on how to conduct an effective job search and another on diversity in the workplace.

Tow notes that Empower is a great place for gay Houstonians to look for a new job because the participating firms are focusing on diversity in the workplace.

In a lighter vein, plenty of entertainment is slated over the two days, emceed by local singer and entertainer

**the chamber**  
the greater houston glbt chamber of commerce

Marsha Carlton.

Entertainers include the Planet Funk Dancers, a local but nationally known group of hip-hop dancers. Barandua Band, another Houston-based group, takes the stage on Sunday. The band plays progressive Latin American music.

Girls with Guitars, a popular duo, will perform, as will the Rainbow Ranglers, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, the Metropolitan Dance Co., the Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church choir and more.

A favorite of Empower attendees in the past, the Basic Brothers Fashion Show, returns. Tow says this is a great, professional show that shouldn't be missed. Neither should the Classic Car Show presented by Houston's Classic Chassis Car Club, he adds.

According to Tow, Empower is being held in September instead of October this year because it is hard to schedule such an event without overlapping another event, since there are so many gay functions in the autumn. The first day of the expo coincides with one major event, but Empower organizers have planned ahead.

"Although it is scheduled for the same weekend as Miss Camp America, we will close at 6 on Saturday so that people can still go to that event," Tow says. "It's a perfect weekend for out-of-towners. They can come to Empower and then go to Miss Camp America."

Exhibitors range from non-profit organizations and volunteer organizations to municipal entities such as police and fire and religious organizations, oil companies, airlines, the media and other small and large businesses.

Tow is looking for a good turnout at the expo, which he says is a great place to meet people.

"Empower is about giving people the opportunity to connect with the greater community," he says. "Instead of picking up the Yellow Pages, they are interacting instead. It gives the companies more credibility."

## Fun, fun, fun

Empower 2002 offers new activities to add element of recreation to annual business expo

By KAY Y. DAYUS

This year's Empower 2002 is offering more and different types of entertainment, says Coy Tow, executive director of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce.

"We've really concentrated on providing more opportunities for people to interact and have fun," says Tow, listing entertainers, the dog area and other first-time activities at the show as examples.

The Chamber also boasts new corporate faces at this annual exhibit for gay Houstonians, and they include Dow Chemical, Continental Airlines, Chevron-Texaco and Green Mountain Energy.

"We're really excited that these companies are willing to participate in our community. Dow Chemical, for instance, has a local GLBT organization with around 130 members within the company," says Tow.

It's all due to networking, he adds.

"We have these bigger players coming to push our show to its next level and that is a show of top-rate entertainment and major speakers," Tow explains.

A first for Empower is a Pet Area complete with pet adoption, pet vendors and tips on training. Dogs will be put to the test on an obstacle course, which includes jumping through hoops and traversing through tunnels. Dogs also will be showing off their retrieving skills.

There will be a climbing wall for the adventurous humans who want to show their rock climbing skills or lack thereof. Daredevils will be fitted with a climbing harness and let loose to see if they can get over the wall, according to Empower organizers.

"We'll have a wedding and holy union art exhibit," says Tow. "Basically, it's an interactive art exhibition where you can read and interpret the art. You then write down your feelings and what you write down will become part of the art show later on."

A special presentation titled "Voices of Courage" will be staged at 4:45 on Saturday. The presentation is dedicated to community members from all walks of life and political activists who have the courage to speak out and continue to work for a better community for everyone, Tow explains.

Also new this year is the series of seminars on personal and business improvement, conducted by Joan Ifland, Mattison Gray and Karen Seaborn.

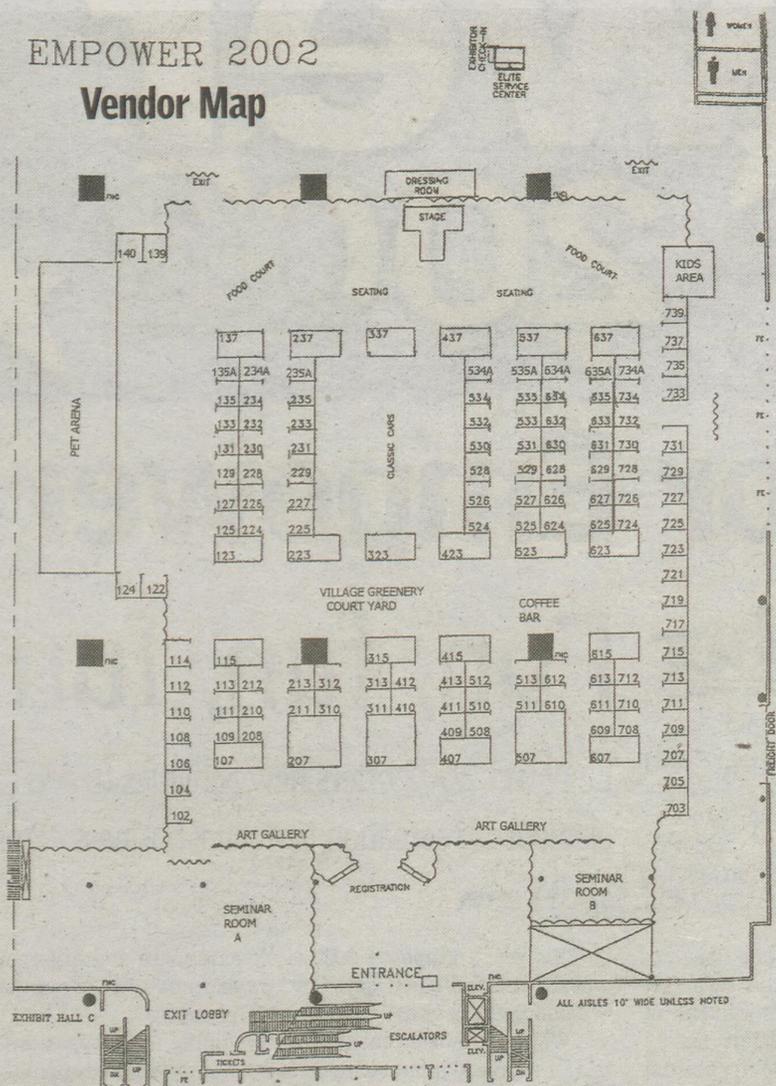
Finally, interactive games for children of all ages will be offered in the first-time kid's area. Tow says organizers hope people from all walks of life and of all ages will find something of interest thanks to the addition of these new Empower features.



Coy Tow

# empower 2002 vendors

## EMPOWER 2002 Vendor Map



- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Booth # COMPANY NAME</p> <p>230 2 Girls Cleaning</p> <p>535 A Christmas Songfest</p> <p>625 AIDS Foundation Houston</p> <p>512 Alley Theatre</p> <p>310 American Express Financial Advisors-LaVera Twine</p> <p>735 American Veterans for Equal Rights</p> <p>109 Artisan Wedding Cakes &amp; Specialties</p> <p>724 AssistHers</p> <p>729 AVES-Amigos Volunteers in Education &amp; Service</p> <p>229 Bartlett Tree Experts</p> <p>515 Basic Brothers</p> <p>530 Bavarian Bakery</p> <p>525 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church</p> <p>732 Bering Omega Community Services</p> <p>234 Brinks Home Security</p> <p>613 Brooks Ballard Mortgage Corp.</p> <p>423 Champions Electrolysis</p> <p>611 Chevron Texaco</p> <p>708 City of Houston-administration</p> <p>710 City of Houston-Fire Dept</p> <p>712 City of Houston-Police Dept</p> <p>533 Clark Warthen Realty</p> <p>323 Classic Chassis Car Club</p> <p>717,719,721 Climbing Wall</p> <p>212 Community Gospel Church</p> <p>511,513 Concierge Travel</p> <p>312 Continental Airlines</p> <p>628 Cornerstone Empowerment Center</p> <p>528 Dow Chemical</p> | <p>633 EMPOWER Performing Artists &amp; Speakers</p> <p>526 EPAH (Executive and Professional Association of Houston)</p> <p>727 Fitness Exchange</p> <p>705,707,709,711,713 Fred Haas Toyota</p> <p>215 Gay &amp; Lesbian Yellow Pages</p> <p>634 Gay Men's Chorus of Houston</p> <p>113 Gingiss Formal Wear</p> <p>407 GLBT Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>409 GLBT Chamber of Commerce/Corporate Networking Group</p> <p>508 GLBT Chamber of Commerce/New Year's Gala</p> <p>631 Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church</p> <p>115 Green Mountain Energy</p> <p>223 Green/White Advisors</p> <p>313 Gulf Coast Archives and Museum</p> <p>529 Harris County Democratic Party</p> <p>607 Hewitt Associates</p> <p>507 Hewlett Packard Company</p> <p>637 Holiday Inn Select</p> <p>106 Holiday Inn Suites Galleria</p> <p>537 House of Coleman</p> <p>111 House of LaFabula Travel Agency</p> <p>723,725 Houston Aeros Hockey Team</p> <p>629 Houston Buyers Club</p> | <p>630 Houston Lesbian &amp; Gay Community Center</p> <p>413 Houston Outdoor Group</p> <p>531 Houston Pride Band</p> <p>626 Houston Public Library-Downtown</p> <p>733 Houston Transgender Community</p> <p>437 Houston Voice</p> <p>612 Human Rights Campaign</p> <p>412 Image Cleaners</p> <p>527 James W. Doyle Investments</p> <p>307 JP Morgan/Chase Bank</p> <p>235 Karen Derr &amp; Associates</p> <p>224 KB Homes</p> <p>Art Gallery Kermit Eisenhut - Artist</p> <p>726 Lesbian Health Initiative</p> <p>532 Lesbian/Gay Immigration Rights Task Force</p> <p>210 Mary Kay Cosmetics (Joanna Elliott)</p> <p>728, 730 Massage Group</p> <p>608 Metro Transit Authority</p> <p>734 Montrose Clinic</p> <p>123 Montrose Vet Clinic</p> <p>415 Moore &amp; Hunt Attorneys</p> <p>137 Mortgage Associates</p> <p>127 Mr. K's Halfway House for Hounds and Kitties</p> <p>237 New Idea Homes</p> <p>610 Nightingale Employment Services</p> <p>225 Office Depot</p> <p>107 Outsmart Magazine</p> <p>226 Ozarka Springs Water Co.</p> <p>131 PAWS-Pets are Wonderful Support</p> <p>231 Pella Window and Doors</p> | <p>410 PFLAG-Parents &amp; Friends of Lesbian &amp; Gays</p> <p>237 Premier Fine Flooring</p> <p>411 Premier Paging &amp; Wireless</p> <p>627 Pride Committee</p> <p>311 Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club</p> <p>737,739,741,743 Resurrection Metropolitan Church</p> <p>232 Rob Schmerler - Farmers Insurance</p> <p>125 Robin Robinett, DVM</p> <p>108,110,112 Ron's American Limousine</p> <p>624 Ryan White Planning Council</p> <p>635 Seaborn Solomon Public Relations</p> <p>207 Shell Oil Company</p> <p>135 Sit! Stay! Pet Sitters</p> <p>129 SNAP - Spay Neuter Assistance Program</p> <p>213 South Shore Harbor Resort &amp; Conference Center</p> <p>523 Statscript Pharmacy</p> <p>211 Stonewall Law Assoc.</p> <p>524 Tech-Star Accounting</p> <p>208 The Grand 1894 Opera House</p> <p>623 The Skin Renewal Center</p> <p>534 Theatre Under the Stars</p> <p>337 US Construction &amp; Services</p> <p>Courtyard Village Greenery</p> <p>510 Warwick Hotel</p> <p>102,104 Weddings &amp; Holy Unions Art Exhibit</p> <p>228 Wells Fargo Home Mortgage</p> |
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## empower 2002 schedule

### EMPOWER 2002 Community Exposition

**Friday, September 20, 2002**  
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**Meteor**

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6 pm to 9 pm

Meet the entertainments, sponsors and vendors and it's free.

**Saturday, September 21, 2002**  
**Community Round Table -**  
**Hosted by the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center**

George R. Brown Convention Center  
2 pm  
Exhibit Hall C - Free Admission  
\$2.00 if you stay for EMPOWER 2002.

The Roundtable invites all who care to develop and discuss community strategy for better cooperation and collaboration.

**EMPOWER 2002 -**  
**GLBT COMMUNITY EXPO**

George R. Brown Convention Center  
3 to 6 p.m.

Exhibit Hall C - \$3.00 Admission per person  
Includes: Arts and Entertainment, Business Expo, Health Fair, Home & Garden, Job Fair, Pet Area, and Seminars.

**Job Fair Seminars: Sponsored by Hewitt and Associates**

3 and 4:30pm

Are you in the job market? Wanting a new career? Gain some insight into job search strategies and ways to find companies and small businesses that value diversity and include GLBT workforce policy and benefits.

Main Stage: Local celebrity and vocal Talent, Marsha Carlton will emcee and entertain as she hosts numerous individuals and groups of local talent throughout the EMPOWER open hours.

**Special Presentation: 4:45 pm "Voices of Courage"**

Honoring community members and political activist who have helped shape a better society for all of us and who continue to have the courage to speak out and work for a better community for all.

The show closes at 6 p.m. — just in time for all of us to rush home and change or continue our evening with Dinner and the Miss Camp America show. Order tickets: www.mcaf.org

Miss Camp is at Cullen's Performance Hall at the University of Houston at 8:00 p.m.

**Sunday, September 22, 2002**  
**EMPOWER 2002 -**  
**GLBT COMMUNITY EXPO**

George R. Brown Convention Center  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Exhibit Hall C - \$3.00 Admission per person

**Main Stage: Live Entertainment - All Day!**  
Marsha Carlton will again emcee and introduce many well known as well as little known artists scheduled throughout the day.

**Featured Artists:**

**1 p.m. PLANET FUNK DANCERS**

Planet Funk Dancers, under the direction of Shawn Weiling, have been around since 1991 performing locally and nationally. From the gravity-defying break dances to high-flying acrobatics, to amazing street-jazz dance routines and hip hop choreography; the "Jam Squad" has set the trend for powerful and motivating urban dance shows.

**2 p.m. BARANDUA BAND**

Houston based award-winning band, playing progressive Latin American folk and flamenco music. Audiences love "the new Latin sound" and proclaim that the band plays "music that melts the mind and body."

**3 p.m. BASIC BROTHERS FASHION SHOW**

This return favorite at EMPOWER, features great models and fashions for the coming seasons. Enjoy the presentation, the models and the fashion and support a long-standing member of the GLBT business community.

**4 p.m. GIRLS WITH GUITARS**

This featured musical duo combines tight harmonies, acoustic guitar and original music that are reminiscent of Indigo Girls with lyrics that capture the very heart and soul of the listener.

Other entertainers appearing throughout EMPOWER include the Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club, The Gay Men's Chorus Ensemble, Metropolitan Dance Company, Jonathan Arceneaux, David Barron, scenes from the upcoming production of "Soap Opera" by Midtown Art Center, and many more.

**Seminars:**

11:15 a.m. — Karen Seaborn of Seaborn Solomon Public Relations and Marketing discusses ways to enhance your message and deliver the results you want in marketing your organization or business.

12:15 p.m. Mattison Gray and 3 p.m. — Personal Coach Mattison will help each participant discover opportunities for self-improvement and ongoing personal development. Become the best you!

1:15 p.m. Joan Ifland — Author and leading carbohydrate expert, Joan will discuss why sugars and flours make us crazy, sick and fat, and what we can do about it.

**Pet Area:**

Starting at 12 Noon — Fly Ball Competition & Dog Agility Demonstrations — Pet Adoptions, Tips on pet training and more.

**Special Events:**

An interactive Holy Union and Weddings Art Exhibit that allows participation and self-expression by each participant.

Classic Car Show — Classic Chassis Car Club

Climbing Wall: Test your physical and climbing abilities by getting over the wall.

Free Massage Therapy

Kids Area: interactive games for kids of all ages.

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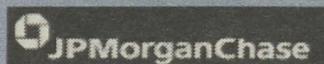
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**3-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21**

**11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22**

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- Live Entertainment
- Artists
- Seminars
- Job Fair
- Health Fair
- Sports & Outdoors
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**Combining Commerce with Community**

**SPORTS:** Gay Houstonians may be pumped up to join local amateur teams after the Texans' big victory over the Dallas Cowboys. **Page 16**

**DINING:** La Vista serves up artful Italian dishes in a casual dining experience that satisfies. **Page 17**



HOUSTON VOICE  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2002

# Out on the Bayou

## 'Reflections'

This year's Houston Black Tie Dinner offers up comic relief to raise money for good causes

By ELLA TYLER

**H**OUSTON'S BLACK TIE DINNER, A MAJOR fund-raiser for local gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender charities, is a month away, but Chris Lewis, president of the group, is already optimistic about the event's success.

"Our tried and true large table buyers have all come through, and we're very glad about that, because the economy here is worse than it was last year," he says.

Lewis adds that invitations to individuals will be sent out over the weekend, "So watch your mailbox!"

"Once people have their invitations and know more about the event and beneficiaries, we hope they will buy sponsorships and donate items for the silent auction, in addition to buying their tickets," Lewis says.

Dinner tickets begin at \$175. A variety of sponsorships are available also. Tickets and sponsorships can now be bought online, Lewis says. Tickets can still be ordered by phone, though, he adds.

One change from previous dinners is that there will not be a featured speaker.

"Instead, performances from three comedians — Vickie Shaw, Cory Kahaney and Monique Mavez — will be woven throughout us during the evening. We thought people need to be entertained this year more than they needed to hear speeches," Lewis explains. In the past, speakers such as Roberta Atchenberg, the highest-ranking gay member of the Clinton administration, and David Mixner have addressed the crowd.

According to David Greiff, entertainment chair, Shaw lives in Chicago, but is well known to many Houstonians. She is from the Beaumont area, and has family here, so she performs here often. She recently returned from performing for Olivia Cruises.

Kahaney is from New York City, Greiff says. She has had her own talk show, and works the comedy club circuit in New York. She also does cruises.

Mavez is openly heterosexual and lives in Los Angeles. "I first heard her performing at an Aspen Gay Ski Weekend, and she is truly funny," Greiff says. Mavez was in Houston recently to perform at Spellbinders.

"I want to warn people that they'll have to place their silent auction bids early, because they won't want to leave to do that when these women are talking," he adds.

The dinner will be at the new Hotel Intercontinental, which is the former Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza on the West Loop.

"They have done a complete renovation, and it is just beautiful. It has a spectacular two-story lobby," Lewis says. "I think we are the first big community event at the hotel, so we hope some people will come just to see the new place."

The beneficiaries for this year are Bering-Omega Community Services, H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals), Lesbian Health Initiative, Montrose Counseling Center, Montrose Clinic, People With AIDS Coalition, and Houston Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church. This year, for the first time, dinner

## 2002

## reflections

## LEGITIMOUS

Bering-Omega  
Community  
Service

H.A.T.C.H.

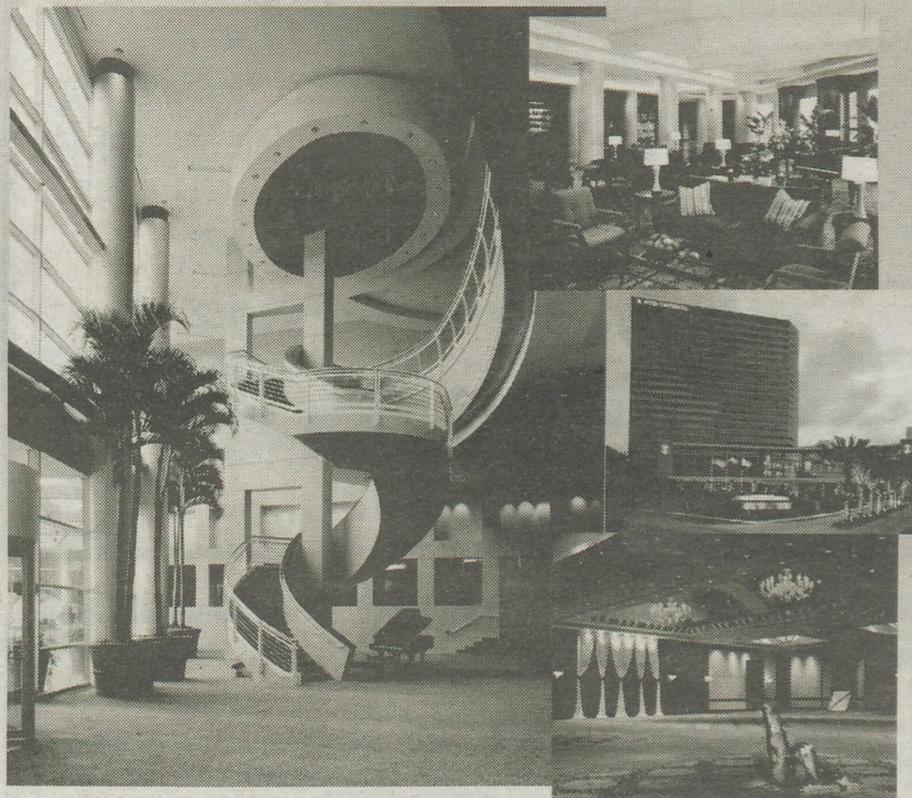
Lesbian Health  
Initiative

Montrose  
Counseling  
Center

Montrose Clinic

People With  
AIDS Coalition

Houston  
Resurrection  
MCC



The new Hotel Intercontinental will be the site of this year's Houston Black Tie Dinner.

proceeds will be divided equally among the beneficiaries. In the past, ticket buyers designated which charity or charities would receive the funds from their ticket.

Sandy Clough, who chairs the beneficiary committee, says that the change in the method of allocating proceeds came at the suggestion of some of the beneficiaries.

"We had a meeting in February with them, and asked what they liked about the event and what they didn't, and they suggested this change. They told us 'We're all in this together, so we don't need to compete against each other for funds,'" she explains.

Last year's dinner was held in November, the Saturday before Thanksgiving, and was not as financially successful as previous dinners had been.

"However, we were pleased that we were able to give as much to our beneficiaries as we could, and our beneficiaries were grateful for the money," Lewis notes.

Since 1993, when the Black Tie Dinner was incorporated and became an annual event, it has distributed more than \$1,200,000 to charities.

"After last year's, event we realized that the George R. Brown, where we had moved because the dinner had gotten too big for a hotel, is not a cost effective place for us," Clough notes. "Everything must be bought from the concessionaire, and donations, such as of wine or flowers, are not allowed. So we went back to a smaller event, and cut the number of beneficiaries from 15 to seven."

Lewis adds, "We tried to get a good mix of groups,

large and small, and find organizations that ticket buyers will happily support. The groups that weren't chosen say they aren't offended since they know they may apply again next year."

Lewis expects about 800 people to attend the dinner but says the hotel can accommodate more if needed. The event opens with cocktails and a silent auction, followed by dinner.

The first Houston Black Tie Dinner was organized in 1988 as a fund-raiser for the Human Rights Campaign Fund by Jay Hollyfield, with the help of Gene Harrington, Monte Frost and Scott Holman. The dinner was held in Tony's Wine Cellar for a small group. It grew over the years until, in 1999, there were about 1,200 guests. No hotel was large enough, so the event moved to the George R. Brown. In 2000, nearly 1,300 guests attended.

"All we want is for everyone to have a chance to mingle with friends, a wonderful dinner and an entertaining evening, and to raise some money for important work in our community," Clough says.

### For info

Houston Black Tie Dinner • Oct. 12  
Tickets: \$175 and up • Hotel Intercontinental  
2222 West Loop South • 713-523-9611  
[www.houstonblacktiedinner.org](http://www.houstonblacktiedinner.org)

# Howdy Partner!

Won't y'all join us for the 7th Annual



**Benefiting People With AIDS Coalition-Houston**  
 Round up yer herd and boot scoot it out to  
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## sports LEE DAVIS

Houston's own NFL team beats Dallas, while gay Houstonians have even more fall opportunities to play sports

# Cheers for the Texans

### Fall's a ball

The Montrose Softball League (MSL) begins its Fall Fun League Sunday, Sept. 22, and play continues through Sunday, Nov. 3. Games will be played in a period of six Sundays, with one weekend allowed for rainouts.

Teams will face off at Tim Hearn Field, located near Memorial and Waugh Drive. Teams are typically co-ed, open to all skill levels, are chosen by random draw, and give athletes a great opportunity to meet new folks from the community.

Not only do you have the opportunity of six weeks of fun, but you may also substitute for absent players on other teams, according to MSL organizers. The cost for joining is \$30. Contact Jerome Banasik via MSL's Web page at [www.montrosesoftballleague.com](http://www.montrosesoftballleague.com). TEXANS...19, COWBOYS...10!

### Atta boy

Gay rugby is rapidly becoming a reality in Houston! Recently joining the already existing teams in London, Manchester, Australia, New Zealand, Washington D.C. and San Francisco were Seattle, Los Angeles and New York City. Still more teams are forming in Phoenix, Chicago, Boston and Vancouver.

No rugby experience is necessary and newcomers will be treated with the utmost in care. Men of all shapes and sizes are welcome. For information, e-mail [kevinw@houston.rr.com](mailto:kevinw@houston.rr.com). TEXANS...19, COWBOYS...10!

### Rosy Portland?

The 2002 NAAAA Softball World Series proved not so kind to our representatives from Houston; however, the community and Houston Voice congratulate all of our teams who traveled to Portland — you are all champions!

Open "A" Division was won, again, by the L.A. Straycats, with L.A. Fever in second, San Diego Rich's at third and Atlanta Power at fourth. Open "B" Division toppers were the Fort Lauderdale Alibi Demons taking first, Seattle R Place Monarchs in second, Toronto Woody's Rhinos in third and Dallas Round-Up Bandits in fourth. Norfolk Cavaliers won the Open "C" Division, with Boston Fritz Southenders at second, San Francisco Renegades at third and a tie for fourth place between the Atlanta Packers and San Diego Shameless. Open "D" Division honors went to Chicago MSA Little Dog Properties at first, San Francisco Comets at second, Portland Silverado Titans at third and another tie for fourth place between the L.A. Bandits and Seattle Thunder Thumpers.

The Women's Competitive champions were Portland's own Mixed Fruit, while second went to Atlanta Blaze, third to South Florida Alibi Blaze and fourth to Dallas Front Runner Sports. In the Women's Alternative Division, the champions were the San Francisco Pilsner Panthers, while second went to San Diego Powerhouse Gym, third to Phoenix Xtreme and fourth to San Diego Jump Girl Sports.

As you are aware, I have been reporting

that the Montrose Softball League was in the running to host the World Series in 2004; however, Dallas won the bid as announced at the board meeting in Portland. TEXANS...19, COWBOYS...10!

### Any level

The Lone Star Volleyball Association (LSVA) announced its new season beginning Aug. 18 at the Jerabeck Center on the campus of the University of St. Thomas. Games for the Women's Division and Intermediate Division are played from 4:30-7 p.m. The Competitive and Power Division play from 7-9:30 p.m. For more information, contact the LSVA at 713-717-LSVA (5782) or visit the group's Web site at [www.lsva.org](http://www.lsva.org). TEXANS...19, COWBOYS...10!

### Skates for days!

Want great fun and an opportunity to skate like Tai and Randy, Dorothy Hammill, or even Rudy? Whoever your skating idol is, join the Lambda Roller Skating club while getting great cardio stimulation. They can be found at <http://www.neosoft.com/lrsc> or reached via e-mail at [lrsc@neosoft.com](mailto:lrsc@neosoft.com). TEXANS...19, COWBOYS...10!

### 2004 Hopefuls?

The Montrose Soccer Club of Houston is open to men and women who have experience playing soccer. For more information, send an e-mail to [MontroseSC@soccer.com](mailto:MontroseSC@soccer.com) or go to <http://www.geocities.com/MontroseSoccer>. TEXANS...19, COWBOYS...10!

### Slam?

The Houston Tennis Club meets on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. They also meet on Sundays from 9 a.m. until noon. For more information, contact the Houston Tennis Club at 713-692-2701 or e-mail [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com). TEXANS...19, COWBOYS...10!

### Three holes

Not in Houston! Don't forget there are many opportunities out there for all levels of bowling. Contact Tom O'Dell at 713-861-1187 or 713-220-5700, extension 331, for information on the Inner Loop Alternatives (four-person mixed teams) at palace lanes on Sundays at 7 p.m. Tom's also in the know for the 9 p.m. Monday, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, and 9 p.m. Thursday leagues.

Call Pat at 281-437-6218 for information on the Monday Night Women's League. Bowling begins at 6:45 p.m. at the Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarneff. Go roll a few. TEXANS...19, COWBOYS...10!

### Touch and down

The Houston Women's Flag Football League begins a new season. For more information, call 713-981-6753. TEXANS...19, COWBOYS...10!

### Did I mention...

In the event you haven't heard...our own Houston Texans defeated the Dallas Cowboys 19-10 last Sunday in their first ever regular season NFL game. I had the opportunity to meet with Texan David Carr at the UH-Rice football game a few weeks ago, and he is genuinely a very nice, composed gentleman. Go root for our Texans!

**dining** TRAYCE DISKIN

Restaurant's Italian cuisine not perfect,  
but worth a try nonetheless

## La Vista satisfies

IT'S EASY TO NOTE, UPON PULLING up to La Vista, is that there's absolutely no "vista" to speak of, unless of course you count the sleepy strip center lot that's nearly the size of a small body of water. Fortunately, however, the neighboring grocery, shipping and liquor stores manage to not detract from La Vista's relaxed, unpretentious sidewalk café atmosphere.

Outside, the cluster of small, wiry tables are placed intimately adjacent to the curbside row of plastic white chairs intended for diners waiting for a table. Inside, a cheery burst of orange paint enlivens the cramped but cozy dining space, which is filled with bustling servers going in and out at lightning speed.

And while the other shops are usually closed by dinner hours, the liquor store stays open to fulfill that ever utilitarian purpose — La Vista is a BYO establishment, and will happily uncork your inexpensively purchased wines for \$2 a bottle.

The menu mainly favors Italian standards such as Ravioli in Vodka Sauce (\$6), Chicken Capellini (\$10), and Eggplant Parmesan with Penne Marinara (\$11), but these well-executed dishes will barely draw your attention away from that often pedestrian starter and Italian staple — bread. La Vista's version, Figgy Oval Bread (\$3-\$12), is not only the bread that eats like a meal, but a gorgeous collage of aromas and flavors. Sweet, grainy figs, fragrant sprigs of rosemary, caramelized onions, and silky fontina cheese sit upon a pillowy oval bread, garnished with toasted pecans.

While the texture and serving style may be more akin to "fig pizza," the dish defies categorization due to the subtle mingling of ingredients that luckily don't overpower the plush bread.

The Marinated Tomato Salad (\$7) is just as artful with its juicy tomatoes, artichoke hearts, sweet white onions, black olives, and basil. The two small but thick slices of Italian bread soak up the sweet, lemony marinade, and we loved how the salad items were colorfully spilled over them.

The Shrimp Salad (\$9) comes on a bed of greens, and the mere two or three jumbo grilled shrimp are deliciously drowned in a salad of crumbled feta, mint, roasted peppers, and lime vinaigrette. The lime juice lends a piquant kick to the sweet shrimp, and the glossy red peppers deepen the other flavors with their own smoky marinade.

LA VISTA'S MENU SECTIONS REFLECT its artful simplicity with its three wry headings, "Not From the Grill," "From the Grill," and "Pizzas." Although you might expect to find the most hearty and winning entrees under the "Grill" section, don't overlook the above-mentioned pasta entrees, the Potato Gnocchi (\$12), tender beads of pasta in a steaming veni-

son ragout, or the anomalous Enchiladas (\$7) stuffed with goat cheese and eggplant in a light creamy tomato sauce.

The Angel Hair Diavolo (\$14) features a spicy marinara enhanced by its chunky green olives, but both times I tried this dish the pasta was tough and of mediocre quality. The well-informed servers will let you know if mussels aren't available, but even with this warning, the lone shrimp fail to excite the dish.

The Grilled Lamb Rack (\$20) makes a good case for leaving the pastas for another evening, as the mélange of pears, tomatoes, and bourbon shiitake sauce glaze the meat with a fruity, almost tropical saviness. The accompanying sweet potato fries are crispy and peppery, and also come with the Big Fat Grilled Chicken Breast (\$15), which features juicy meat seasoned with basil, oregano, and pepper.

LA VISTA TAKES ITS PIZZAS AS SERIOUSLY as its other dishes, and most varieties transcend the mozzarella and sauce version with fresh grilled meats, steamed veggies, and smooth, rich cheeses. The Garden Pizza (\$7-15) is a feast with cherry tomatoes, olives, summer squash, red onions, and fat bulbous mushrooms drowned in a somewhat gloppy mozzarella. The eggplant version is a better choice, with gently sautéed eggplant and garlic that yield a more Mediterranean than Italian essence.

La Vista is one of those unassuming restaurants that represent what is best about casual Houston dining. Even in a strip mall parking lot, it's possible to combine fresh ingredients, culinary talent, and discount wine from next door into one relaxing and wholly satisfying experience.



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Service: ●●●●●●●●  
Value: ●●●●●●●●  
Scene: ●●●●●●●●

☛ = Stay home and eat cereal  
●●●● = Well, if you really must  
●●●●●● = Fine for all but the finnick  
●●●●●●●● = Worth more than a 20-minute drive  
●●●●●●●●●● = As good as you'll find in this city

## appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

## SPECIAL SATURDAY, SEPT. 14

The First Semi-Annual Rainbow Donkey & Elephant Rummage Sale & Barbeque will be hosted by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Other community organizations can reserve space to sell items. A percentage of the proceeds from sales will benefit the center. Throughout the day, center volunteers will also sell soft drinks to raise funds. For more information or to reserve space, contact Don Brown via e-mail at donbrown@alltel.net.

## UPCOMING

The Texas Lesbian Conference will mark its 15th anniversary with a first-ever conference at sea from Oct. 17-21. Attendees will board the Carnival ship Celebration in Galveston and cruise to Cozumel, Mexico, for four days of entertainment and conference activities. The conference theme is "What Lesbians Really Want." Speakers and workshops are planned on-board. Tickets start around \$475 per person. For more information, view TLC's Web site at www.texaslesbianconference.org.

## FILM SATURDAY, SEPT. 14

"The Pink Panther," directed by Blake Edwards, made Peter Sellers a sensation via his portrayal of bumbling Inspector Clouseau in this smash comedy caper set at a Swiss ski resort. 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14. Tickets: \$6. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Caroline Wiess Law Building, corner of Main Street and Bissonnet/Binz. 713-639-7515. www.mfah.org.

## GALLERIES ONGOING

"20 x16, MIXTURE," a group exhibition of paintings, is being held at Cafe Pepe at 1421 Richmond Ave., through Sept. 20. The show is being curated by San Francisco artist Ted Vanson and contains a variety of artists' interpretations with a focus of the use of two colors on a 20-inch by 16-inch canvas.

Gulf Coast Archives & Museum of GLBT History Satellite Exhibition. The first exhibition from the GCAM collection presented at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center honors the NAMES Project Houston. Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Positive Art Workshop Photography Exhibition. Artists living with HIV/AIDS created these pictures with accompanying text. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

"Escape the Artist," the new one-man exhibition by J. Palmer, is on display at Betz Gallery. Palmer is the popular young painter known to most people as John Palmer. Some proceeds from the show, which continues through Oct. 5, will benefit the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Betz Gallery, 1208 West Gray. 713-523-3765. www.betzgallery.com.

# community calendar

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

AssistHers. Meeting. 713-521-4628.

Houston Area Bears. Social, 9 p.m. 713-867-9123. www.houstonareabears.com.

Men's Gathering of Houston. Dialogue meeting, 6:30-9:30 p.m. "Black and Gay in the '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s and NOW." Community Gospel Church, 4305 Lillian. Church phone: 713-880-9235. Men's Gathering of Houston: 713-528-4461.

## EVERY SATURDAY

All-Spanish Worship Service/Noche Espiritual. 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-3409 or 713-861-9149.

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 1-4 a.m.

Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. at Viviana's. 713-830-3000.

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.

Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.

Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in, noon-5 p.m. • First Semi-Annual Rainbow Donkey & Elephant Rummage Sale & Barbeque, hosted by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Benefits several community organizations. • First Unitarian Universalist volunteer Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. • Queer Generation X meeting, 7 p.m. Donations requested to support the center. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

PFLAG-Galveston. Meeting, 2 p.m. 713-867-9020.

## EVERY SUNDAY

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.

Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Community of Kindred Spirits in Beaumont. Worship at 6 p.m. 1575 Spindletop Ave., Beaumont, Texas. 409-813-2055. E-mail: cksrev3@netzero.net

Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.

Emerson Unitarian Church. Adult education, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. Lunch at noon. www.emersonhou.org.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education, 11:30 a.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch at 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 9 p.m.-midnight at Club Inergy. 713-830-3000.

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930.

GLOBAL. Gay Lesbian Or Bisexual Alliance. University of Houston GLBT student group meeting. 2 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.uh.edu/~global. E-mail: global@bayou.uh.edu.

Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m.-noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. 10 a.m. service. 3333 Fannin, Suite 106. 713-528-6756.

Resurrection MCC. Services, 9 and 11 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School, 10 a.m. Children's service, 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 7:45 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 8:55 a.m.; Education hour, 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist, 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.

Sunday Brunch. For HIV-positive men. 11 a.m. Riva's, 1117 Missouri St. Paul, 713-880-0690. e-mail: PoznBuff@aol.com.

The Women's Group. Meeting and discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Adult discussion, 9 a.m. Service, 11:15 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service, 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifty), 2 p.m. • Team Houston/Gay Games VI meeting, 2 p.m. • BlackExplo2002 meeting, 6 p.m. • Dinner at the center potluck, 6 p.m. Donations encouraged to support the center. • STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys), 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Loss of Relationship group. Deals with adjusting to the end of a relationship due to divorce or separation. Facilitated by Melissa Beason-Smith, LPC-I, through Bering Support Network. Begins for six consecutive sessions. To sign up beforehand, contact BSN Director Ken McLeod at 713-526-1017, ext. 208.

## EVERY MONDAY

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 9 a.m.-noon at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight. Keys West. 713-830-3000.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom, 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydadshouston/

Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, ext. 208.

Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.

Queer Voices Radio Show. 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Center for AIDS. Men's mixer, 7 p.m. 1407 Hawthorne. 713-527-8210.

## EVERY TUESDAY

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang, 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

Gay youth. New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support group. 7 p.m. Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. No partner needed. Beginner 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Support Network Pot Luck Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Various support groups, 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Mary's; 9 p.m.-midnight at Ripcord; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJ's; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal, 7-9 p.m. 1307 Yale. 713-528-4379.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:00-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in, 2-9 p.m. • Houston Black Lesbian, Gay, Transgender Coalition office hours 10 a.m.-noon • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • S&M (Snacks and Movies), 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Gulf Coast Archives & Museum. Meeting. 713-227-5973.

### EVERY THURSDAY

BiNet Houston. Group for bisexuals, everyone welcome. 7:30 p.m. Hobbit Café, 2240 Portsmouth. www.flash.net/~bihouse. 713-467-4380.

Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. Also 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Gallery Medical Clinic, 5900 North Freeway, and Club Toyz from 9 p.m.-midnight. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at The Outpost; 8 p.m.-midnight at Brazos River Bottom and Cousins; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021. Web site: http://home.swbell.net/larathon/hour.htm.

E-mail: larathon@swbell.net.

GLOBAL. Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston-Central Campus. Weekly meeting, 6 p.m. e-mail: nguyen0023@hotmail.com.

Hep C Recovery. Support group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.

Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. No partner required. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

Recovery From Food Addiction (RFA). Meeting for 12-step program open to all. Noon-1 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama St. RFA: 713-673-2848. www.geocities.com/rfa77235/. E-mail: rfaworldservice@aol.com.

Spanish Charla Conversation Group. Café Agora, 7 p.m. E-mail: charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.

Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop in 2-9 p.m. • Houston Black Lesbian, Gay, Transgender Coalition office hours 10 a.m.-noon • Community center board of directors meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Eye Candy. Women's social and charity event, hosted by Eye Candy Promotions, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$10 cover charge. A portion of the \$10 cover charge goes to the charity selected by popular vote at the previous party. Sonoma, 1415 California St. For information, call 713-977-3777; e-mail iam@PDQ.net; or go to www.EyeCandyPromotions.com.

### EVERY FRIDAY

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Meatrack; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJ's and at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting, 7-10 p.m. 713-942-7002.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:00-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub.org

Kolbe Project. Morning prayer, 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.

Mishpachah Alizim. GLBT Jewish congregation. Sabbath services at 8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Baby Barnabys, 602 Fairview. Monthly study groups with Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood. Mishpachah Alizim, P.O. Box 980136, Houston, TX 77098. 866-841-9139, ext. 1834.

Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • An Evening of Art & Music, hosted by The Art Group, with an exhibition of work by local artists, a performance by folk singer Teresa Kolo, and refreshments. \$15 donation with all proceeds benefiting the community center. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

Gay & Lesbian Help Line. For gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Staffed by volunteers of all ages. 6-11 p.m. Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 888-340-GLBT.

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston. Volunteers offer a friendly ear to callers in need of information, nonjudgmental support, crisis intervention and referral services, emergency shelter and advocacy services to crime survivors who may need someone to accompany them to a hospital for medical attention or assistance in filing a police report. 713-529-3211.

HoP-ON. Anyone can join this non-profit moderated e-mail announcement list that helps facilitate advocacy work and organizing efforts for gay Houstonians. Quantity of postings is strictly limited. Postings include press releases and action alerts from national, state and local gay and allied organizations. For info or to join, access www.groups.yahoo.com/group/HoP-ON/.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Volunteers perform a variety of critical tasks which include staffing the information desk during drop-in hours; helping with Center programming and events; working on community outreach efforts, fund-raising and publicity. Card players, writers and artists in particular are needed. 713-524-3818.

Peer Listening Line. Youth only. Staffed by GLBT youth for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday. 800-399-PEER.

@ To list an event, call 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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# houston classifieds

**Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at 11 a.m.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NIGHT IN BLACK LEATHER 2003

Saturday, March 22, 2003, 7 p.m. at Rich's. Benefiting Houston Buyers Club. For more info, contact Don Gill at 713-521-0911. Silent auction item donations welcomed.

HOUSTON WOMEN'S FESTIVAL - Saturday, September 28, at Garden in the Heights! Great Music • Beautiful Art • Fun Market Place • www.hwfestival.org

### FOOD EMERGENCY HOU. HUMANE SOCIETY

The cupboards are bare at HHS. They need puppy and kitten food • Any kind • Any quantity • Drop donations at 14700 Alameda Rd. or send monetary donations to:

Houston Humane Society • PO BOX 450428 • Houston, Texas 77245-0528 • For information, call 713-434-5555.

### DAY SHELTER

Needs new or used clothing and shoes in good condition • Contact Etalia or Ruth at 713-528-5667 • 402 Pacific

## EMPLOYMENT

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Lesbian/Gay Community Service Center of Greater Cleveland is a proactive human rights organization dedicated to providing advocacy & support for the LGBTI community in Greater Cleveland and beyond. We are seeking a dynamic leader who embodies our values of diversity, empowerment & equality through advocacy & collaboration. This skilled fundraiser & manager will be a visible & compassionate advocate for the LGBTI community. For a complete job description, visit www.lgsc.org. Salary commensurate with experience. To apply, e-mail your resume, salary requirements & details of your community experience to jfarna@lgsc.org by Sept. 20. No calls/faxes please. The Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### LVN

Montrose Clinic has an opening for a Bilingual LVN. Please fax resume to Clinical Director @ 713-830-3023.

## PERSONAL ASST.

2-3 Hrs Daily to help w/errands, dog walking, cleaning, shopping, etc. Must be reliable, detail oriented, organized & conscientious. Flexible hours & competitive pay. E-mail background & references to DSanders6@houston.rr.com.

Montrose Clinic has an opening for a Social Worker medical to work in a Montrose area HIV Clinic. LSMW Required. HIV experience & bilingual a plus. Please send resume to Director of Social Services, P.O. Box 66308, Houston, Texas 77266-6308 or fax to 713-830-3023.

## ESTATE SALE

### AUCTION!

Carolyn Roberts' Estate Sale \* Auctioned by Larry Crawford \* Saturday, Sept. 21, 2002. Start time: 9:00 a.m. - 7534 Carew St. - Between Beechnut & Bissonet off Hwy-59.

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## WESTBURY GARDENS

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# Q Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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## "War Is Not the Answer"

### Across

- Randy Shilts' area
- Anchor Kmetko
- "Dancing Queen" band
- Remember Mychal Judge, perhaps
- Like a Craven movie
- Walk like you're fagged out
- Wearing red patent-leather platform boots, e.g.
- More vanilla
- Idol of the Rattigan Society for Gay and Lesbian Objectivists
- "Peaceful" songwriter?
- Circuit party, for some
- Radcliffe's lady
- "Peaceful" playwright?
- "Fixer Chao" author Ong
- You can click your mouse while using them
- Cary Grant's CIA job in "Charade"
- Andy and Barney's prisoner
- Trade watchdog (abbr.)
- Freaks out, perhaps
- "Peaceful" author?
- Robert Redford's " \_\_\_\_\_ Daisy Clover"
- "Thing" in Evan Wolfson's briefs
- "Icicle" singer Amos
- Constellation over Sydney or Rio
- Nutty \_\_\_\_\_ fruitcake
- Summons (abbr.)
- "Peaceful" pop artist?

- Response to Lou Sheldon
- Governor who named Audre New York State Poet Laureate
- "Peaceful" British royal?
- Burke's call before batting, perhaps
- Billy Elliot portrayer Bell
- Junior Vasquez is this kind of jockey
- Source of homosexuality, according to some
- Tickle pink
- Pronoun for Proust
- Puts it to
- "The \_\_\_\_\_ of Harvey Milk"
- Gay TV dad

### Down

- Nobel prize winner John
- Sound in a Star Canyon restaurant?
- Sandra Scoppettone output
- Hardtop
- "The Golden Gate" author Vikram
- Lions, Tigers, or Bears
- Woman's name embraced by hermaphrodites?
- Birthplace of philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein
- Always, to Emily Dickinson
- Month of the National Day of Silence
- Edmund to Colette?
- Beat it with your hand

- Changed from a pair to a threesome
- Suck the energy from
- Bloody Mary's favorite nuts, in "South Pacific"
- Shrek's girlfriend
- Native American tongue
- \_\_\_\_\_ angle (not straight)
- Roman orator of note
- \_\_\_\_\_ -fi (Samuel Delany's field)
- Madras Mr.
- Rainbow flag sticker site, often
- Earhart concern (abbr.)
- Cold-blooded one in an Elton John song title
- Garr of "Tootsie"
- Hissy by a prissy sissy
- "My Own Private \_\_\_\_\_"
- GLSEN member's org., perhaps
- Acid neutralizer
- Prez who shared a bed with Joshua Speed
- Frieda Kahlo, to friends
- Tom, Dick, and Harry
- Like 32-Across, often
- "Blow me down!"
- More queer, but not less straight
- Muslim holy man
- "Nick at \_\_\_\_\_"
- Marlon Riggs' pair
- Man, as a cruising goal
- Put the top on the cake
- Shark foe in "West Side Story"

Answers on Page 21

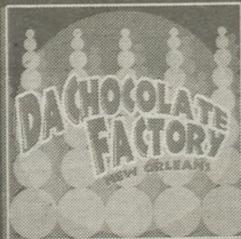


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**astrology** JILL DEARMAN



**My Stars!**

September 13 - 19



**ARIES (March 21 to April 20)**

The full moon on Sept. 21 falls in your most mystical and soulful house. Deep reflection is called for, baby. I know you're the Action Queen, but slow down and think awhile. A Pisces can inspire you spiritually.



**TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)**

Venus is passing through your house of love during this cycle, which means that you should open up your heart a little more. Someone with whom you've had an on-off relationship wants to get it "on" again. A Virgo is longing for you.



**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)**

Jupiter is transiting the social sector of your chart and bringing you new paramours to flirt with. Be a mini-whore, darling. You don't have to cross over totally to the dark side, even though a Virgo would like you to.



**CANCER (June 22 to July 22)**

The Sun and Mars are both transiting the most social area of your chart. This means that you need to stop pushing people away and start opening up to them. Accept invitations while you can. A Leo wants your attention.



**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)**

The Sun and Mars are both transiting your materially oriented second house, which means that you can get the bucks and the big gigs that you want. However, you will need to balance out the other areas of your life, sweetie. A Taurus needs some wooing.



**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)**

Drama in your personal life is a given during this full moon week. Things should peak with the moon on Sept. 21. Make a decision about what your real needs are on the love front. A Taurus wants to give you what you want.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)**

This is a great time for you to pursue something spiritual and meaningful in your life, darling Libra. You need to find the significance beneath the surface. An Aries promotes growth in your life.



**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)**

The full moon on Sept. 21 falls in your house of creativity. Do a ritual to bring some of your artistic talents to the fore. You are about to become unblocked. Another Scorpio will help to loosen you up.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)**

You need to express what you want directly and succinctly on the job. Stop beating around the bush, you passive-aggressive thing, you! A Pisces will come through for you just when you most need an ally.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)**

This is a good time for you to pursue something esoteric or cerebral (i.e., not just about sex or money, you shallow whore). If life and lovers have been uninspiring lately, it's time for you to inspire yourself. Another Capricorn could help you.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)**

You're going to find what you need in love — you just have to keep the faith and keep pushing through the hard stuff. Your need for distance is a problem, sweetie! Another Aquarius relates to your quandary.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)**

The full moon on Sept. 21 falls in your sign and puts you at the center of all good things, especially concerning matters of the heart. You can get the attention you crave from an Aquarius — just don't act so desperate.

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail [QScopes@aol.com](mailto:QScopes@aol.com).



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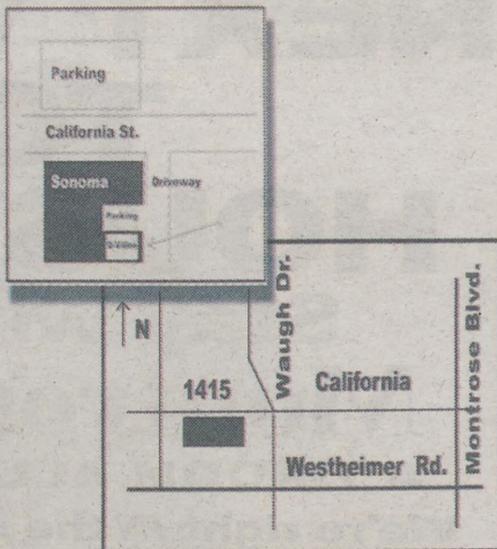
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