

When Ringling Bros. sends in the clowns, four of them are gay.

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**TIPS FOR MARTHA:** Ray Hill weighs in on CBS, ABC. **Page 3**



**CORNYN ON FMA:** Gay marriage is like marrying a box turtle. **Page 10**



**NO HOMOPHOBES:** Ron Reagan on voting Democrat. **Page 10**



# U.S. Senate rejects gay marriage ban

## Vote seen as sharp rebuke to President Bush

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — Gay activists breathed a sigh of relief Wednesday when the Senate rejected a constitutional amendment to ban gay couples from marrying, preventing Congress from approving the measure this year and forcing its backers to rethink their strategy.

In a development viewed as a setback for its Republican supporters, including President Bush, the Senate voted 50 to 48 against bringing the amendment up for a direct vote following more than three days of heated debate.

Texas Sens. John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison, both Republicans, voted with their party leaders to end debate and allow the amendment to be considered.

Democrats had initially agreed to a direct vote on the amendment itself but changed strategy after Republican leaders announced they wanted to open up the proposed constitutional amendment to changes on the Senate floor.

Democrats, led by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.C.), said changing the wording on the floor would be akin to "amending the Constitution on the fly" and refused to go along with the request.

"The Republican leaders didn't want a direct vote on the amendment that they've been pushing for more than a year because they knew many of their own members would vote against it," said Winnie Stachelberg, legislative director of the



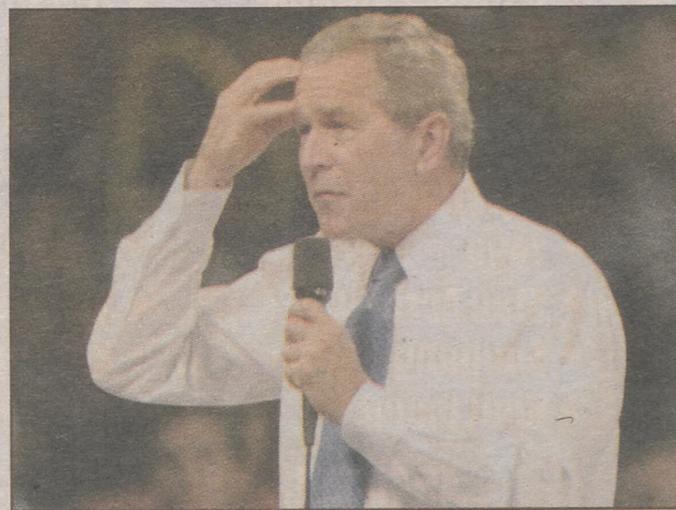
Republican Sens. **John Cornyn** of Texas (left); **Wayne Allard** of Colorado (center) and **Sam Brownback** of Kansas were among the most vocal supporters of the Federal Marriage Amendment. Allard introduced the measure in the Senate. (Photos by Leigh H. Mosley)

Human Rights Campaign, the national gay rights group that coordinated lobbying efforts against the amendment.

### Forty backed FMA

Capitol Hill observers with ties to both parties said a direct vote, rather than the procedural vote, would likely have resulted in only about 40 senators backing the proposed constitutional amendment on its merits.

Please see **FMA VOTE** on Page 4



President Bush last week said the word 'gay' in public for the first time since taking office. (Photo by AP)

# Bush says the 'G' word

## After nearly four years in office, president finally says 'gay'

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

President Bush publicly used the word "gay" for the first known time since becoming president last week during a campaign stop in Pennsylvania, where he called on the U.S. Senate to pass a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Bush's reference to the "G" word came as the Senate began a heated debate over the Federal Marriage Amendment, the proposed constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

Although the president first indicated his support for the

Please see **G WORD** on Page 5



### local life

Artist Kermit Eisenhut has created art cows and painted Mickey Mouse all for charity.

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### dish

George Michael proves truth hurts when he shuts down his Web site.

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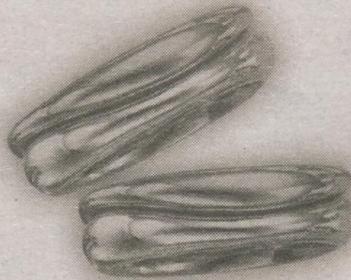
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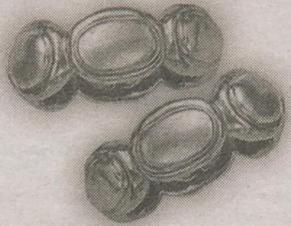
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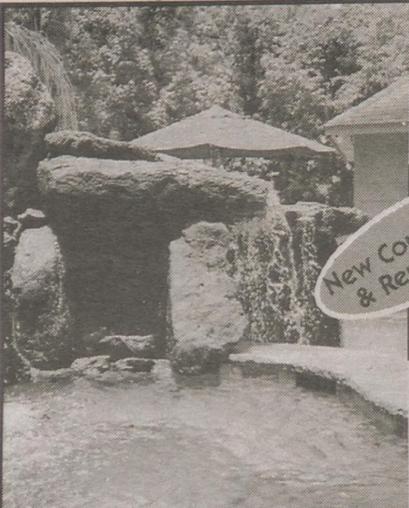
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## houston news

# CBS and ABC ask Ray Hill to help Martha cope in prison

Ray Hill's tips for Martha: keep your toilet clean and don't wear padded bras

By BINNIE FISHER

Activist Ray Hill, who spent just over four years in prison himself, is appearing on national TV these days to offer prison survival tips for Martha Stewart.

Hill, who has hosted "The Prison Show" on KPFT-FM, 90.1 for more than 20 years, said he was interviewed this week by both "CBS Evening News" and ABC's "Good Morning America" about Stewart's upcoming stint in federal prison.

Dan Rather's staff wanted to know whether Stewart would do her time in a penthouse prison.

"She's not going to a penthouse," he said. "They stopped the penthouses when [Richard Nixon's chief counsel] Chuck Colson got out."

Instead, Hill said, Stewart will go into a world unlike anything she has ever experienced.

"She'll be going into a society that does not recognize class," he said.

Hill said the movies that have been made about women's prisons are a little over the top, however.



Ray Hill, host of "The Prison Show," is offering prison survival tips for Martha Stewart on national TV. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

### Not like women's prison films

"This is not like the women's prison films," he said. "Devine is not walking around with a nightstick looking for someplace to put it."

The reality is, he said, a place where two distinct cultures exist.

"There are two cultures in prison, the keepers and the kept," he said. "They're all in there together."

Among the kept are those who will prey on Stewart, not necessarily for sexual favors, but for money.

"She's going in there as someone with a lot of money," Hill said. "She'll run into a lot of panhandlers. Most people in prison

are poor people."

The saucy attitude that Stewart is known for could cause her some problems once the steel door slams.

"She has a reputation for being haughty," Hill said. "The conclusion is that she has a tendency to rub people the wrong way."

If there is one place in the world where it is not advisable to be haughty, Hill said, it is prison.

When she enters prison initially, Hill said, Stewart will be observed by guards for a few days.

"They'll be watching every move she makes, how she gets along with people."

Most likely, he said, Stewart will be

assigned to a cell with one roommate. Along the lines of housekeeping, he said, his advice to her would be, "Keep your toilet clean."

First of all, Hill said, "She'll be sleeping with her head practically in the toilet. She'll want it to be really clean."

Secondly, he said, the toilet is really the only place with enough water for washing out bras and panties.

As for undergarments, Hill has advice in that area as well. "Don't wear padded bras. They take too long to dry."

In addition to hosting the radio show that is heard worldwide on the Internet, Hill works as a consultant to attorneys who want to prepare their clients for the shock of prison.

Hill, who was sent to prison for commercial burglary, said he has had good success in counseling people about what to expect in prison.

"No one I've prepared has been raped in prison, and no one has lost good time," he said.

Stewart, who is expected to learn today what her prison sentence will be, should already be talking with someone who can prepare her for what lies ahead.

Hill said Stewart will be assigned a job immediately. New inmates usually get the less glamorous tasks like cleaning toilets and mopping floors.

Eventually, he said, she may get to the kitchen.

"Her idea of preparing a meal may not be the same as preparing dinner for 400," he suggested.



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## news cover story

# Bush says amendment only 'temporarily' blocked

FMA VOTE, continued from Page 1

The procedural vote, on a motion to end debate, fell 12 votes short of the 60 needed to bring the proposed constitutional amendment up for a direct vote. The Senate vote fell 19 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass a constitutional amendment.

President Bush, who announced his support for the amendment in late February, joined conservative Republican leaders and an alliance of anti-gay and conservative religious organizations this week in urging the Senate to pass the amendment to protect "traditional marriage" from attack by "activist judges."

A coalition of gay civil rights groups, mainline civil rights organizations and religious groups mounted a vigorous campaign to oppose the amendment.

The primary strategy of those opposing the FMA was to question its necessity, given the Defense of Marriage Act that permits states to refuse recognition of gay marriage, and to criticize Senate Republicans for wasting the waning days of the congressional session on what they called a politically motivated effort.

"The Senate's vote is a well-deserved repudiation of this effort by President Bush and the Senate Republican leadership to divide the nation for political advantage," Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) said in a statement.

During the Senate debate, Kennedy expressed dismay that Senate backers of the FMA cited the ruling last year by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court legalizing same-sex marriage as one of the key reasons for the need for a federal constitutional ban on gay marriage.

## Both sides point to courts

Senators opposing the FMA also argued that the Constitution's "full faith and credit" clause, which requires states to recognize contracts and legal agreements made in other states, would not force states to recognize gay marriages from other states. Supporters of the FMA, led by Sen. Wayne Allard (R-Colo.), the amendment's lead sponsor, said the Massachusetts court decision demonstrated that "activist judges" would move to force gay marriage upon the nation, even though the majority of the people and nearly all elected legislators oppose it.

Several senators, including Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), said legal recognition of same-sex marriage, once mandated by "runaway" courts, would destroy the institution of marriage and bring about the destruction of the American family.

## Scandinavian arguments contested

Santorum, who was among the most impassioned of the Republican backers of



Human Rights Campaign President Cheryl Jacques spoke on Capitol Hill after the U.S. Senate rejected a constitutional ban on gay marriage Wednesday. "This was an attempt to divide Americans that backfired and divided Republicans," Jacques said.

the FMA, said studies show that legal recognition of same-sex relationships in the Netherlands and Scandinavian countries has led to a sharp decline in the number of people who marry there.

Although no senator sought to challenge the studies Santorum cited during the Senate debate, University of Massachusetts economics professor Lee

Badgett pointed to a paper she prepared for the Council on Contemporary Families and the Institute for Gay & Lesbian Strategic Studies, which contradicts Santorum's assertions.

"Heterosexual marriage rates in Denmark actually increased after adoption of same-sex marriage," Badgett said in a July 14 statement.

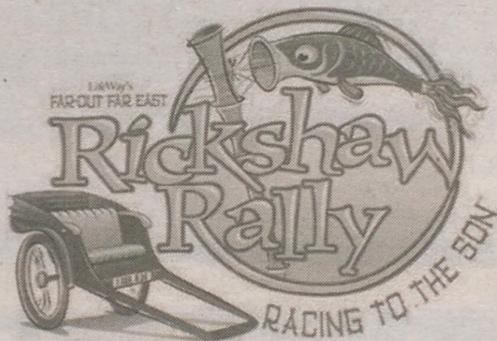
## Kerry, Edwards miss vote

Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.), the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, and John Edwards (D-N.C.), Kerry's chosen vice presidential running mate, were the only senators absent during the vote. Both issued statements saying they would have returned to Washington to vote against the FMA had it come up for a direct vote.

The two have said they oppose same-sex marriage but also oppose a constitutional amendment to ban it. In a statement released by the White House, President Bush said he was "deeply disappointed that the effort to pass a constitutional amendment affirming the sanctity of marriage as being between a man and a woman was temporarily blocked in the Senate."

Among the big name Republicans that broke ranks with GOP leaders to oppose the FMA was Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who opposes gay marriage but agrees with Democrats that the question should be left to the states.

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## cover story

# Bush prefers to say 'gender' instead of 'gay'

G WORD, continued from Page 1

amendment during his State of the Union address in January and announced his full support in late February, supporters of the proposed constitutional amendment had criticized him for not being aggressive enough in campaigning for it.

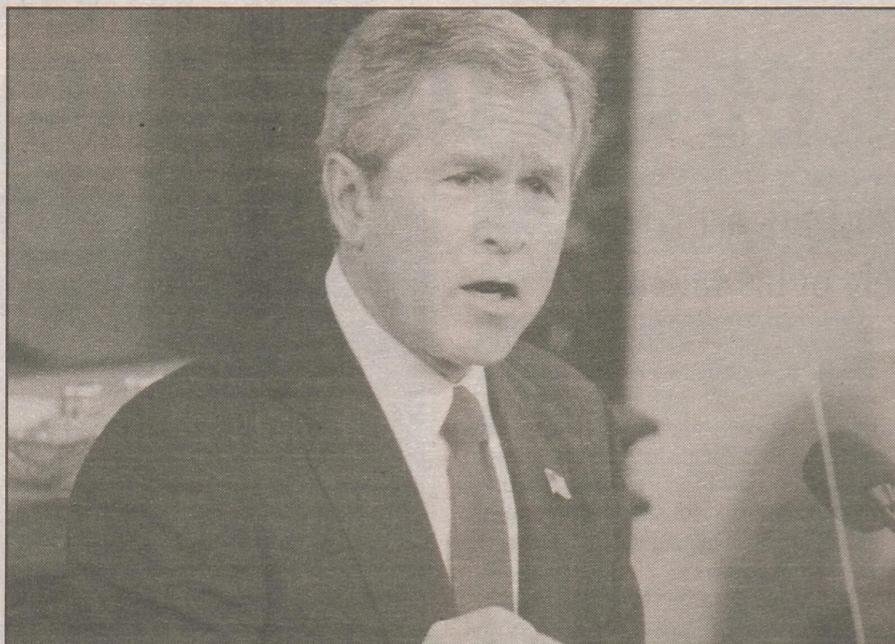
Bush appeared to heed those concerns in the past week by placing the FMA on the front burner of his re-election campaign.

In a July 9 campaign stop in Kutztown, Pa., someone asked Bush during a question-and-answer session what his plans were for making same-sex marriage illegal in all 50 states, according to a transcript of that appearance.

"Yes, he asked about gay marriage," Bush told the audience. "This is, first of all, a very sensitive issue, that people need to take a deep breath and debate with the ultimate respect, for starters," he said.

"I believe in the sanctity of marriage. I think it's — history has shown us that marriage between men and women has served society well, and any redefinition by itself will weaken marriage," Bush said.

The following day, Bush used his weekly radio address to promote the FMA, saying the "union of a man and a woman in marriage is the most enduring and important human institution."



Prior to last week, gay rights activists could not recall President Bush using the word 'gay' in public since 2000. (Photo by AP)

In his radio address, he reverted to the other "G" word he has used when referring to gay couples in his discussion about marriage since January — he used the term "gender" instead of gay.

"In Massachusetts," Bush said, "four judges on the state's highest court have

ordered the issuance of marriage licenses to applicants of the same gender. In San Francisco, city officials issued thousands of marriage licenses to people of the same gender, contrary to the California family code."

Prior to his use of the word gay at the July 9 campaign stop, some gay activists

have noted that the president had apparently not uttered the words "gay" or "lesbian" in public since he met with gay Republican leaders in Austin, Texas, during the 2000 presidential campaign.

At that time, Bush used the term "gay Americans" when he spoke to the media about his meeting with the gay GOP leaders, who became known as the "Austin 12."

"I don't recall Bush having mentioned 'gay' or 'lesbian' since taking office as president," said Christopher Barron, communications director for Log Cabin Republicans, a gay GOP group. Barron had not been aware of Bush's remark mentioning gays at the Pennsylvania campaign appearance last week.

The gay media watchdog group Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation said it, too, was unaware of Bush mentioning the word "gay" since Bush met gay GOP activists in Austin in 2000.

A search of press clippings and news programs over the past four years, up until Bush's July 9 campaign stop in Kutztown, did not turn up any reports or quotes of Bush using the words gay or lesbian.

White House press spokesperson Maria Tamburri said she would make inquiries about whether the president mentioned gays in his public appearances since taking office, but she did not provide additional information by press time.

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## From art cows to Mickey Mouse

Best known as the creator of the art cows, Kermit Eisenhut gives freely of his talent

By JOHNNY HOOKS

Kermit Eisenhut is fascinated with his smudgy fingerprints. He looks down at the glass table before him and laughs sheepishly

"Wow, look at all those fingerprints," he said. "Look how they reflect — man I love glass."

Welcome to the mind of one of Houston's most prolific and philanthropic artists. Art is not simply a passion for Eisenhut, but also a life long dream realized.

There are lots of artists who call Houston home, so what's his secret to success in the topsy-turvy art world?

"Well, I'm not afraid to apply the principles of marketing to my business," he said. "You have to record all your work, and I'm out there at events, creating art for charities, handing out business cards.

"I tell my students, you may think people won't notice your submissions at different events, but I'm here to tell you, they do."

When Kermit Eisenhut moved to Houston from Ohio in the early 1980s, it was his brother who said come west. Eisenhut was ready to make his first great life change, from his childhood home to Houston, city on the rise.

"I came and found a job from the Yellow Pages," he said, foreshadowing his cover work for the GLBT Yellow Pages cover work.

"I have always had an interest in art, taking my coloring books and pens and paper and lying in front of the TV when I was a kid, and just going at it. So around 1990, I broke a disc in my back and was unable to continue with what I was doing."

Eisenhut started taking classes at Houston Community College.

"The Fine Arts Building was brand new then," he said. "My teacher was

around my age and ironically, from Ohio. So we had a few things in common. He was the one who encouraged me to document my work, approach it with a business mind and to get involved with the community. I urge my students to do the same. Find something you're passionate about and go for it!"

And go for it Eisenhut did. The 1990s saw an explosion of work from Eisenhut much of it with a nod to his love of animals ("Many people, myself included consider our pets our children") and to AIDS outreach and advocacy.

He was ubiquitous in every DIFFA event: He created a chair for 1993's "Take a Seat."

His denim jacket brought the second highest bid for 1994's live auction with celebrity host Steve Guttenberg. He sold both his handmade vests in the 1995 InVestment, and wowed attendees at "Boxing Back" with his beautiful confection.

His artwork graced the covers of the Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages in cities such as Houston, Denver, New York, Phoenix and Atlanta to name a few.

The list of his contributions includes well-known names such as March of Dimes, Omega House, Special Olympics, Vivo y Positivo, PAWS, SPCA, Houston Grand Opera, Montrose Clinic and SEARCH.

### Cow Parade comes calling

As the millennium dawned, Eisenhut took on his most high profile commission to date. He created 14 different designs for the much heralded charity event the Cow Parade.

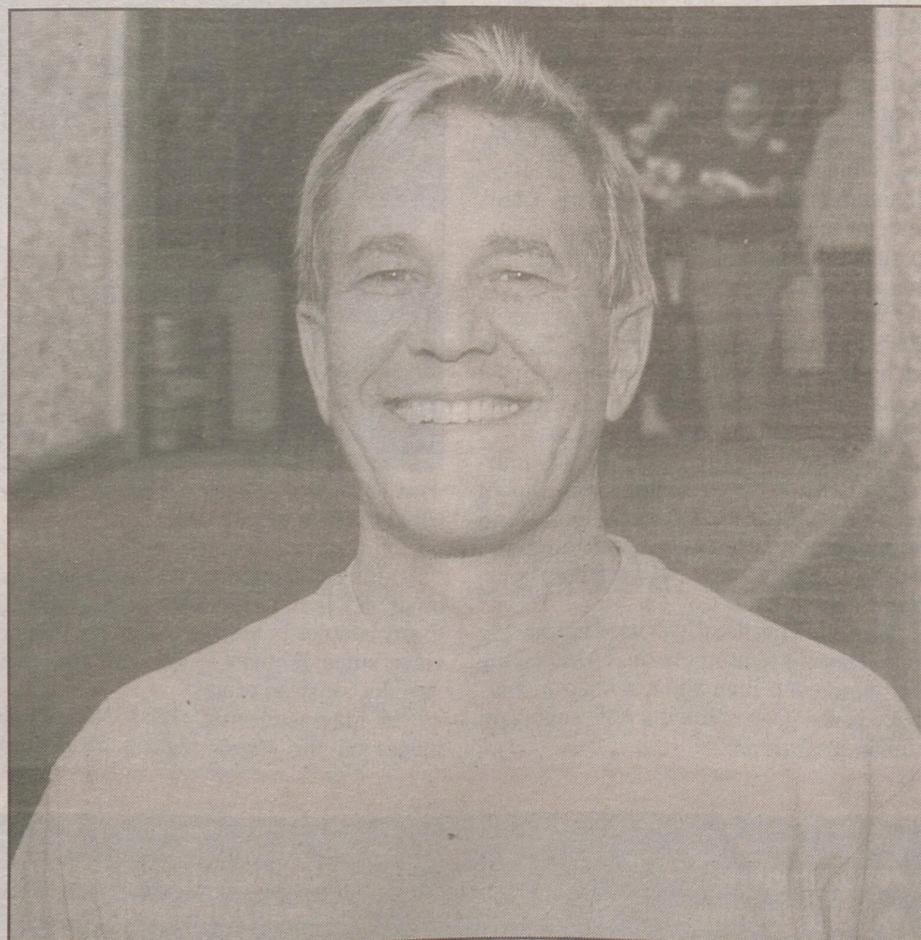
The individually decorated plaster cows were spread across Houston and eventually auctioned off for charity. Once again, this endeavor would foreshadow new roads and commissions in the life of Kermit Eisenhut.

When Mickey Mouse calls, Eisenhut said, you can't take a message. In late 2003, Eisenhut received that call.

His "Cow Artist" superstar status now preceded him and as fate would have it, he had a few pieces hanging in the Houston office of the local Disney AM radio.

Disney was calling with an invitation to paint one of the 75,700 pound, 6-foot-tall "Celebrity Mickey: 75 InSEARations" that would be fanning out across the U.S.

Divided into groups, the Mickey's are



Artist Kermit Eisenhut has used his talents to benefit many causes, from the famous Cow Parade, to a 6-foot-tall, 75,700-pound Mickey Mouse. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

on a national tour, and Eisenhut's Mickey benefits the Texas Children's Cancer Center. The unveiling is set for August, with the real Mickey here to assist Eisenhut.

Later, all the Mickeys will be auctioned at Sotheby's to benefit each artists designated charity. Eisenhut is hopeful someone in the Houston area will purchase his Texas Mickey and donate it to Texas Children's.

"I thought, what represents Texas? Big summer skies with billowing clouds, a field of bluebonnets, and Texas flag running shorts," he said. "I was going to have a yellow rose in Mickey's outstretched hand, but I really want the kids to be able to walk up and shake his hand. It is Mickey Mouse."

Eisenhut is also busy with an upcoming benefit for PAWS. Pets Are Wonderful Support is a charity that provides emergency boarding for people with life threatening diseases. PAWS also provides dog training in its "Rover Oaks Pet Resort."

"I painted a beautiful mural for them, you know Radar [the weather dog] from Channel 2, just finished his training there," Eisenhut noted. An upcoming

benefit at Jalapeno's on Kirby will donate 25 percent of opening night sales to PAWS. Eisenhut will be showing his latest works, pet portraits.

To round out his busy schedule, Eisenhut teaches at Artleague Houston for HIV-positive artists, a project very near and dear to his heart.

"I had a best friend/boyfriend diagnosed with AIDS in 1985. He died in 1987, and that's when I really started getting involved in galas and fundraisers," he said.

"Now, to be able to help these individuals deal with their frustrations in real way through their own art is simply amazing. It's become something I have had to fight for, funding for all the arts, and HIV for that matter is down all over. I'm out there hustling for every dollar I can get."

The program operates out of the Metropolitan Community Center on West Gray, and Eisenhut said.

Eisenhut laughs when asked what's next.

"Gosh, I have such a full life. I just love helping other people discover their own passions. Who knows, now that Mickey has called."

### MORE INFO

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# local life Softball playoffs and Christmas in July



The Toros are the Montrose Softball League's Division D champs. (Photos by Dalton DeHart)



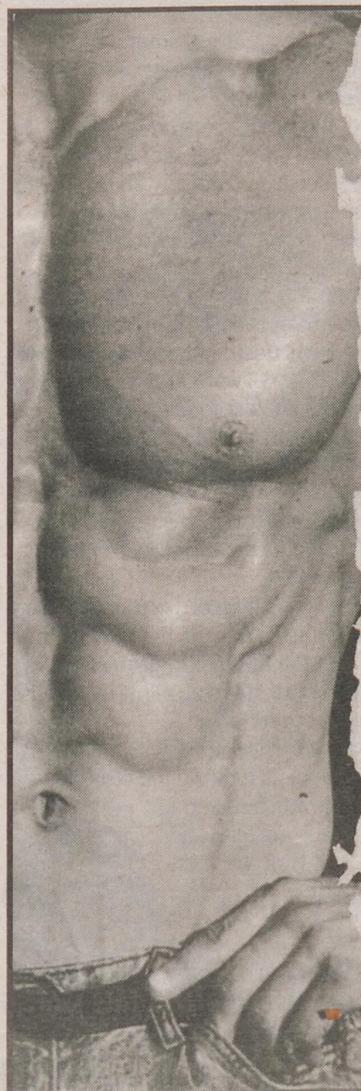
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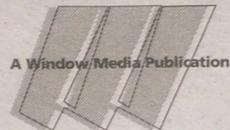
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## editorial

# Who will stand for marriage?

The marriage amendment was voted down only after a procession of senators promised there were easier ways to stop us from wedding. This is victory?

By CHRIS CRAIN

# S

CORE ROUND ONE FOR the Democrats.

Washington politicians generally can't help themselves when they see a chance to score political points, and the Democrats

in the United States Senate took full advantage this week in the debate over a constitutional amendment to ban gays from marrying.

The idea of using our lives as political footballs was originally the brainchild of Republicans, of course. First the president backed the Federal Marriage Amendment in a cynical ploy to energize his conservative base. Then the Republicans in the Senate rushed a vote on the measure to put moderate Democrats on the defensive just before their convention.

No doubt the Bush ploy succeeded in exciting social conservatives, whose friends in the GOP ranks in Congress seemed compelled in the debate to describe our pursuit of happiness with apocalyptic language predicting collapse of the Republic.

But on the whole, Republicans were cleverly outmaneuvered on the issue by Democrats, who devoted almost all their time during what was supposed to be a debate on marriage equality instead asking why the Senate was even discussing the question, since there are so many other issues out there of greater importance.

Barbara Boxer, a Democratic senator from California who has actually said she favors marriage equality for gays, talked at length about these more pressing matters, including Iraq, terrorism, overhaul of intelligence agencies, the economy, even transportation funding — it was a list only a C-SPAN addict could love.

Poor Wayne Allard, the soft-spoken Republican senator from Colorado who introduced the marriage amendment, was left pleading with his Democratic opponents to at least defend their foregone victory with

some arguments in favor of gay marriage.

He certainly came prepared to argue the "con" side, offering a litany of terribles should we be permitted to wed, including a curious reference to a marked increase in out-of-wedlock births in Scandinavian countries since they allowed gays to marry.

But if you expected to see Democrats actually rise up and defend our honor against such excoriations — did Allard mean to suggest that artificial inseminations for lesbian married couples are to blame for rising Swedish illegitimacy rates? — you were sorely disappointed.

INSTEAD, TO LISTEN TO THE Democrats during this week's debate, you would think the decision over whether to amend the Constitution to ban gays from marrying was about anything but whether we should be entitled to the same marriage rights as our heterosexual counterparts, much less whether our relationships were entitled to equal dignity under the law.

To the contrary, we were treated to a procession of Democrats who took to the podium to note for their record that they, too, believed marriage ought to be limited to that sacred union of a man and a woman. But not to worry — the Defense of Marriage Act would protect the country from the scourge of married homosexuals.

For some reason, these same Democrats, whose voices rose in indignation as they shamed their Republican colleagues for wanting to "write bigotry into the Constitution," never stopped to explain how it is that their beloved DOMA wasn't writing that same bigotry into federal law.

To hear gay Democrats talk, we should be patient with these senators for not defending our relationships because their position on our marriage was "evolving." This week's debate was a sober reminder that the vote on DOMA would probably be much the same today as it was eight years ago, before it was signed into law by that legendary defender of marriage himself, Bill Clinton.

In fact, Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) made a point of reminding us during her Senate speech this week that she had done her fair share on the marriage defense front, before she went on to praise marriage as a uniquely heterosexual institution.

THIS IS THE SAME HILLARY CLINTON who was feted at this year's Human Rights Campaign's black-tie dinner in New York, where the group's brand new leader, Cheryl Jacques, talked inspiringly about our need to stand up for ourselves in this critical "marriage moment."

Then she sat down, but not before offering an irony-free introduction for gay marriage opponent Hillary, who gave the keynote.

President Bush has spoken memorably about the "soft bigotry of low expectations." The movement for marriage equality, "led" by HRC, is unfortunately suffering from the "soft activism of no expectations."

It's hard to say when we will actually witness our full equality — including marriage equality — be defended in Congress by the men and women who are elected with our dollars and our votes. But it will certainly come later rather than sooner if we don't actually ask it of them.

The Democrats certainly won Round 1 of the great gay marriage debate, but what about Round 2?

If "pro-gay" senators won't defend our equality or our dignity even when they have the votes in the bag, what can we expect when their arguments about the Defense of Marriage Act don't work anymore? Because someday soon, DOMA will be struck down; or marriage laws will be opened up to gay couples in other states on their own.

The Human Rights Campaign squandered more than \$1 million — that's million — on advertisements that never even mentioned the "G" word and instead tried to change the subject to taxes and Iraq.

At some point, the debate finally will get around to the legitimacy of our relationships and our equality under the law. Precious opportunities to engage the public are passing us by, and scarce dollars are being wasted.

Yet there is no sign of political courage on the horizon. In four of the five Senate races where the FMA has become an issue, Democrats neutralized it by promising to vote in favor of it.

We will not trick our way to equality, while everyone is looking the other way. The case for our freedom to marry is a strong one, and it's way past time we started making it.

@ Chris Crain is executive editor of Houston Voice and can be reached at ccrain@houstonvoice.com.



# letters

## Be true to the cause or read about it later

To the Editor:

Re "Don't cry for gay Hill staffers," editorial by Chris Crain, July 2:

Closeted aides on Capitol Hill are fretting and biting their nails because they're concerned about being outed. I'm not one to generally support "outing" anyone.

I was outed and know firsthand the pain, heartache and loss of job that an outing entails. But let's face it, when you work as closely as so many aides do that's a risk you take. You don't have a private life.

My concern however is that so many of these aides don't want to be outed because they're worried about losing their jobs and status on the Hill, and rightly so.

But is it OK to flit from party to party, to mix with the high and mighty, to actively collaborate in the research and promotion of legislation that will ultimately end up hurting gay men and lesbians?

Have any of these aides stood up to their bosses? Have any of them advocated a more tolerant position? Have any of them shared their lives with the DeLays of the world even if it means doing so at great personal risk?

It seems not. Why else would they be in a panic?

ACT-UP didn't always go about things the right way, but let's face it, they were

in part responsible for focusing attention on the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in the '80s.

Capitol Hill aides can't have it both ways. Find a way to support fellow gays and fight the Federal Marriage Amendment or read about your life in the newspapers.

**JOHN CLASSEN**  
Houston

## Closet hurts our image worse than outing

To the Editors:

Lynden Armstrong and Mat Young defend closeted gay and lesbian Hill staffers by arguing, "An individual's sexual orientation should not be an issue for employment and by outing staff to their employers, these activists reinforce the notion that there is something wrong with being gay or lesbian." ("Don't out gay Hill staffers," op-ed, July 2)

I'm sorry, but I'm lost. If being queer "should not be an issue" for employment, then why don't the closet cases come out and stop letting it be one?

And surely hiding in the closet that reinforces the notion that there is something "wrong with being gay or lesbian" more so than coming out of it.

Yes, each of us "must be allowed" to come out at a pace we find "comfortable," but whether we are out or not, the fundamental question remains:



Why do some of us continue to advance the careers of homophobes who would abuse public office to deny us our basic civil rights?

Can self-loathing run any deeper?

**YASSIR ISLAM**  
Washington

## Outing Hill staffers could ruin lives

To the Editors:

Re "Don't cry for gay Hill staffers," editorial by Chris Crain, July 2:

I think it's deplorable that any gay newspaper would even consider printing the names of closeted gay Hill staffers under the auspices of journalistic integrity. If you follow through on your threat, I hope you lose readers.

Crain is playing politics, which is his right, but to possibly ruin the lives and careers of people doing their jobs is deplorable.

This may not be 1954, but we should be far beyond this type of hateful journalism.

**PATRICK NELSON**  
Washington

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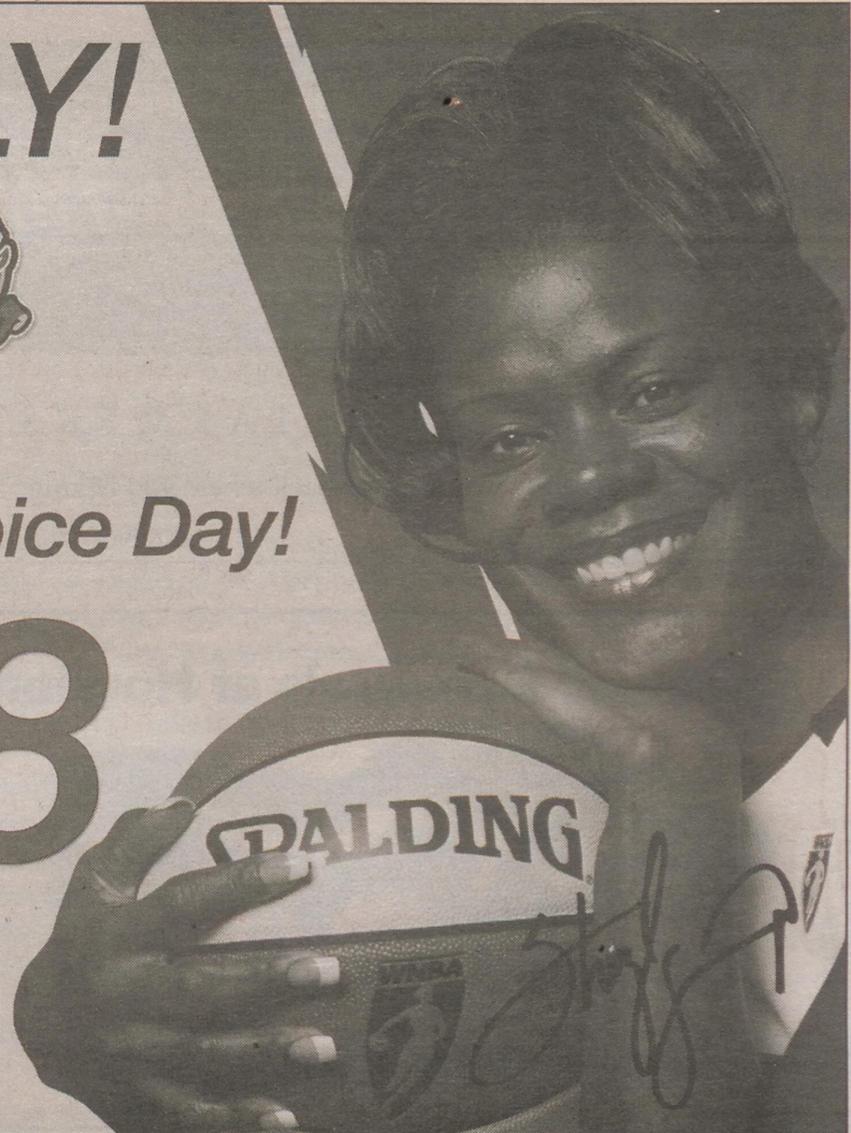
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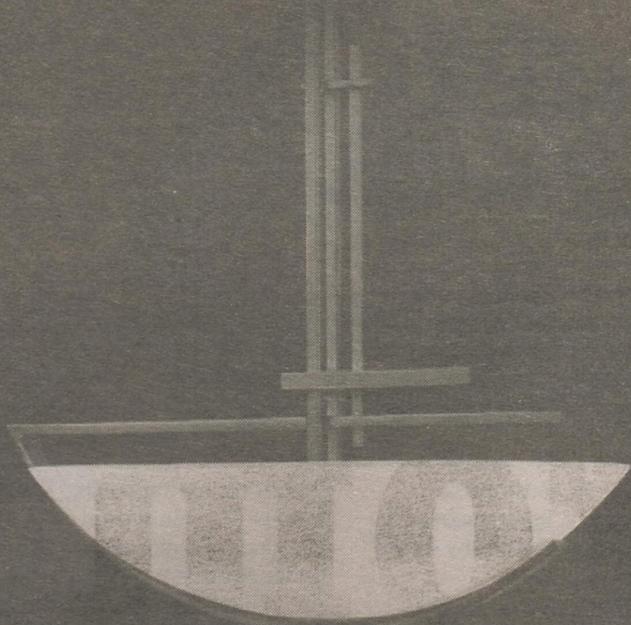
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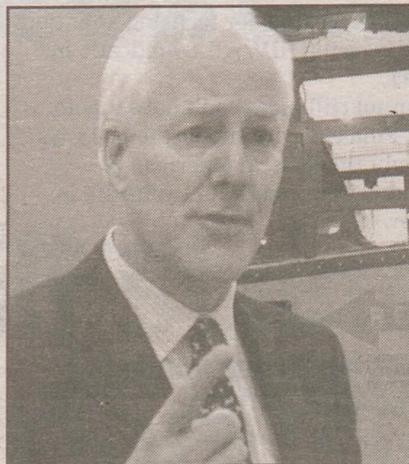
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## on the record



"It does not affect your daily life very much if your neighbor marries a box turtle. But that does not mean it is right. ... Now you must raise your children up in a world where that union of man and box turtle is on the same legal footing as man and wife."

*Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) in a speech to the Heritage Foundation (Washington Post, July 12); Cornyn's press secretary later told blogger Andrew Sullivan that the quote was contained in the written text of the speech but that Cornyn did not use it.*

"If courts create their own arbitrary definition of marriage as a mere legal contract, and cut marriage off from its cultural, religious and natural roots, then the meaning of

marriage is lost, and the institution is weakened."

*President Bush (National radio address, July 10)*

"You can say I'm a hater. But I would argue I'm a lover. I'm a lover of traditional families and children who deserve the right to have a mother and father."

*Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), in the floor debate on the Federal Marriage Amendment (Washington Post, July 14)*

"I don't support same-sex marriage. I believe that marriage should be between a man and a woman. The people of my state voted on this on a ballot in the year 2000 and sustained that. Once you have a ballot measure like that, I'm clearly here to carry out the intentions of a majority of the state."

*Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-Calif.), on her opposition to gay marriage; she is also opposed to the Federal Marriage Amendment ("CNN Late Edition," July 11)*

"First of all, to be clear that people should be free to enter into their relationships that they choose. And, secondly, to recognize what's historically been the situation, that when it comes to conferring legal status on relationships, that is a matter left to the states."

*Lynne Cheney, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney and former head of the National Endowment of the Humanities, suggesting she opposes the FMA; the Cheneys' younger daughter Mary is gay and in a long-term relationship ("CNN Late Edition," July 11)*

"In some cultures, sexual intercourse is so elaborate that condoms are a hindrance." *Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, speaking at the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok (Washington Times, July 13)*

"[The Federal Marriage Amendment] is taking a group of people and saying 'You don't deserve to have equal rights.' That's homophobic, and I cannot wrap my mind around why someone would support that."

*Jacob Wilcock, 19, a former intern of Colorado Sen. Wayne Allard (R), primary sponsor of the FMA; Wilcock, who is gay, was awarded a PFLAG college scholarship in a ceremony presided over by Allard (The Coloradoan, July 11)*

"Heck, I'd write him a recommendation, and I'd rehire him, too. It wasn't an endorsement of his lifestyle. It was an endorsement of the education process and a recognition that he wanted to continue his education."

*Republican Sen. Wayne Allard of Colorado, on Jacob Wilcock, a 19-year-old former intern who was openly gay during his time in the office (The Coloradoan, July 11)*

"Nothing less than the future of our society, and the course of constitutional government in the United States, are at stake."

*Edwin Meese III, attorney general under President Reagan, and Matthew Spalding of the Heritage Foundation (Washington Times, July 13)*

"I couldn't join a party that, frankly, tolerates members who are bigots for one thing, homophobes, racists."

*Ron Reagan, Jr., on the Republican Party (Washington Post July 10)*



# Straight talk from



## We want to make our position perfectly clear.

This election year, there's a lot of national debate on issues that are important to the GLBT community, including the Federal Marriage Amendment. And, as a political candidate, Pete Coors has expressed his personal position on this issue. Coors Brewing Company's position on this issue differs from Pete Coors'. Coors CEO Leo Kiely outlines the company's official position as follows:

"We do not support discrimination against the GLBT community—via legislation or otherwise."

**Let's be clear. We don't support amending the Constitution.**

That attitude is in keeping with our actions since 1978, when we adopted an inclusive nondiscrimination policy that recognized the rights of GLBT applicants and employees. We took another important step forward in 1988 and provided corporate support to important GLBT community groups. Today, we're proud to back the efforts of the HRC, GLAAD, GPAC and numerous AIDS organizations.

And we've continued our efforts to be not only a better corporate citizen, but a better place to work as well. More than 10 years ago, we created our Lesbian and Gay Employee Resource Council (LAGER) to provide an employee support network and regularly advise our senior management. We even made history in 1995, when Coors became the first major brewery in America to offer same-sex partner health benefits.

Many people have responded positively to these efforts. In 2001, we received the Colorado Human Rights Campaign Award. And we just received the highest score possible from the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index—100. So, while we're not perfect, we're clearly working hard to be a better company.

**It's simple.** At Coors, we believe supporting the rights of the GLBT community is good for our customers and our employees. And, above all, it's the right thing to do.

**Coors.**  
**Now's the time.**

Thanks for listening.

Give us your feedback: [str8talk@mergemediagroup.com](mailto:str8talk@mergemediagroup.com)



**Diesel straight talk**

All that gossip was just wishful thinking

Page 18

## Ringling Bros. Circus has lions, tigers and gay clowns

Send in the clowns? Don't bother, they're here and they're queer

By BURTON BAGBY



When the 4,065-ton Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus train rolled into town this week, four openly gay clowns came along with the lions and tigers and bears.

Bo Allen, Jesse Highley, Dean Kelley and Alan Ware are gay members of the contingency of 15 professional clowns that will invade the Bayou City for nine days of performances. They will don size 23 and a half shoes and use more than 185 pounds of powder to set their makeup.

All four have spent their lives dreaming of performing under the big top.

"I don't know why I'm a clown, but I'm definitely enjoying it," said Allen, a Ringling Bros. clown and a native of Waterproof, La.

"I was totally blown away the first time I saw a Ringling Bros. show. I thought, 'Wow, these people really are performers.' It was a form of theater that I had never seen or experienced before."

Allen, a graduate of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La., was a performer with the Big Apple Circus, doing character comedy after finishing college.

"I got in touch with the right people at Ringling Bros. and they hired me," he said. "I came here scared — because this is a really big show. Everything I learned was from Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College graduates who were here at the circus." Allen has been with Ringling Bros. for four and a half years, his entire clowning career.

"Ringling Bros. is the biggest show on earth and is a family show," Allen said. "But that doesn't only mean middle class, heterosexual families. We want our gay and lesbian community to come

and feel comfortable knowing that they are a part of us. We want to reach all of the public."

Like many children, some clowns start out in life being afraid of clowns.

"I was scared to death of clowns as a child," said Ware, a Los Alamos, New Mexico native who has been with Ringling Bros. for five and a half years and has worked for 22 years in physical comedy.

"The only concept I had of clowning was watching the movie 'The Greatest Show on Earth' over and over," Ware said. "In the late 1970s, Charlie Chaplin was on television a lot, and the Shields and Darnell Show was on PBS. I got hooked on mimes."

Ware started performing in 1982, working as a department store mannequin and serving as director of a mime troupe in high school. He also worked as a mime at Sea World in San Diego for three years, where his boss was a graduate of the Clown College.

### Hooked on mimes

Ware then moved home to New Mexico and threw himself into theater, specializing in farce and physical comedy.

In 1994 he began studying with Marcel Marseau and subsequently graduated from the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre.

"It was there that I learned the skills I needed to be a performer, as opposed to learning to be an actor," said Ware.

After finishing Dell'Arte in 1996, Ware received a scholarship to Clown College. He was awarded a contract with Ringling Bros. and started touring.



A campy sense of frivolity is a prerequisite for circus clowns. (Photo courtesy of Ringling Bros.)

Kelley went to his first Ringling Bros. circus when he was 4.

"I turned to my grandparents and said 'That's what I want to do when I grew up' and they thought I would grow out of it," said Kelley, a native of Kansas City, Kan.

"I went every year to Ringling Bros. I had to teach myself," said Kelley, who started working at birthday parties and parades at age 12. By 16, had an agent getting him work at corporate events.

"Another agent got wind of me," Kelley said, "so I had two agents working in the Kansas City metro area. Unfortunately, they closed the Clown College in 1998."

In July 2002 Kelley auditioned, and producer Kenneth Feld hired him on the spot. Kelley signed a contract days later.

"It goes back to my childhood," said Highley. "I grew up going to see Ringling

Bros. circuses every year. My whole family was always in front row seats because I got there first to buy tickets. It became a childhood dream to work as a clown at Ringling Bros. — the clowns were the magic makers for me in the show."

"I was always hoping to meet and get an autograph from one of the clowns," said the Kansas City, Mo. native. "Before the Three Ring Adventure, that was as close as you could get," he said.

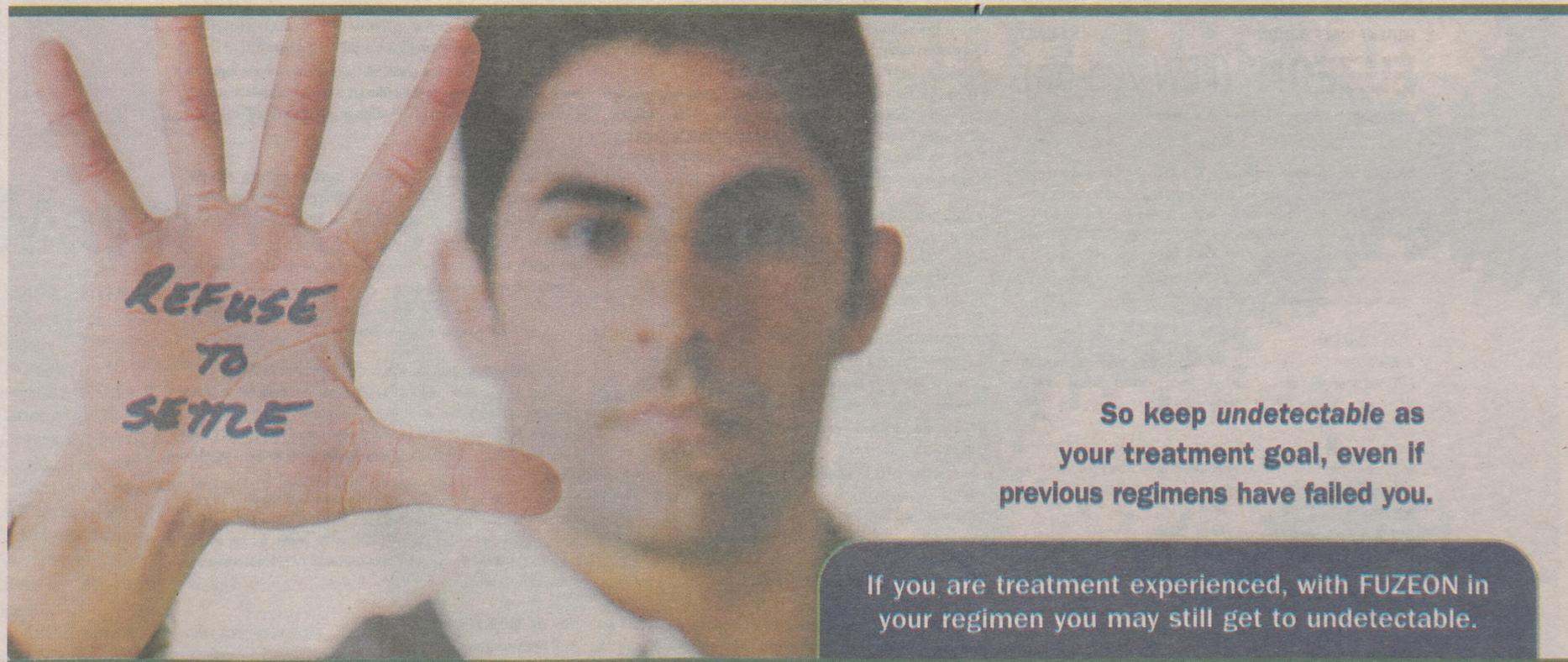
While the circus is in town, all ticket holders may come to the show 90 minutes early to experience the Three Ring Adventure, where the public gets personal with performers and animals.

Highley, a graduate of Central Missouri State University in

Please see **CAMPY CLOWNS** on Page 16

**HARVEY MILK'S WORLD:** Award-winning documentary about Harvey Milk is now on DVD. Page 15

**BRANDO OUTED:** Now that he's gone, Marlon Brando's gay past comes out of the closet. Page 18



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**Important Safety Information**

**Injection Site Reactions (ISRs):** ISRs are the most common side effect seen with FUZEON use. Almost all people taking FUZEON (98%) get injection site reactions. 3% of patients quit taking FUZEON because of ISRs. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Signs/symptoms may include pain and discomfort, hardened skin, redness, bumps, itching and swelling. 9% of patients had ISRs that required them to take over-the-counter pain medicine or limit their usual activities.

**Pneumonia:** Patients taking FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not taking FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing. Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they have a low number of CD4 cells, have a high viral load, use intravenous (injected into the vein) drugs, smoke or have had lung disease in the past.

**Allergic reactions:** Allergic reactions have been seen with FUZEON and can occur if FUZEON is restarted. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include rash, fever, nausea and vomiting, chills, shaking, low blood pressure and increased liver enzymes. Other adverse events that may be an immune response and have been reported in patients taking FUZEON include serious immune system reactions, severe breathing difficulties, inflammation of the kidney and Guillain-Barre syndrome.

**Other Side Effects:** The side effects seen most often in patients taking FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines were diarrhea (26.8%), nausea (20.1%) and fatigue (16.1%). These side effects were seen less often than in patients taking anti-HIV medicines without FUZEON: diarrhea (33.5%), nausea (23.7%) and fatigue (17.4%). This list of side effects is not complete because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your healthcare provider.



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FUZEON® is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. FUZEON does not prevent the transmission of HIV. For additional details on FUZEON, please see the accompanying summary of complete product information.

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## PATIENT INFORMATION

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This leaflet contains important information for patients and their caregivers about FUZEON. Please read this leaflet and FUZEON *Injection Instructions* carefully before you start using FUZEON. Always read the section "Changes since the last version of this leaflet" at the end of this leaflet each time you get your FUZEON prescription refilled. There may be important new information about the use of FUZEON.

This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical conditions or treatment.

**What is FUZEON?**

FUZEON is a medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) fusion inhibitor. FUZEON is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat adults and children aged 6 years and older with HIV infection. FUZEON is not used by itself to treat HIV infection.

FUZEON blocks HIV's ability to infect healthy CD4 cells. When used with other anti-HIV medicines, FUZEON can reduce the amount of HIV in the blood and increase the number of CD4 cells. This may keep your immune system healthy, so it can help fight infection.

**FUZEON does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** The long-term effects of FUZEON are not known at this time. People taking FUZEON may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that can happen with HIV infection. **For these reasons, it is very important that you remain under the care of your healthcare provider while taking FUZEON.**

**Does FUZEON lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?**

**FUZEON does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through unprotected sex, sharing needles or being exposed to your blood.** For your own health and the health of others, it is important to continue to practice safer sex. Use a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood. Never use or share dirty needles. Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

**Who should not use FUZEON?**

Do not use FUZEON if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in FUZEON. See the end of this leaflet for a list of ingredients in FUZEON.

**Tell your healthcare provider:**

- if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. We do not know if FUZEON can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if FUZEON is right for you. If you use FUZEON while you are pregnant, talk with your healthcare provider about how you can be in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- if you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if FUZEON can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby.
- about all your medical conditions.
- about all the medicines you use, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. FUZEON has not been tested with all medicines.

**How should I use FUZEON?**

Before you use FUZEON, make sure you understand all of the information in this leaflet and the FUZEON *Injection Instructions* that come with your medicine. You or your caregiver should be trained by a healthcare provider before injecting it. If you do not understand all the information, talk with your healthcare provider about your questions or concerns.

- Use FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines. **Do not use FUZEON as your only anti-HIV medicine.**
- FUZEON must be injected. FUZEON does not work if it is swallowed.
- Do not mix other medicines in the same syringe with FUZEON.
- FUZEON is given under the skin by injection (a "shot") in the upper arm, upper leg or abdomen two times a day. See the FUZEON *Injection Instructions* that come with your medicine for step-by-step instructions about how to inject FUZEON.
- Do not inject FUZEON in the same area as you did the time before. Do not inject FUZEON into the following areas: around the navel (belly button), scar tissue, a bruise or a mole, or where there is an injection site reaction.
- Do not inject FUZEON if you see particles floating in the FUZEON vial after you mix it.
- You can use FUZEON whether you have eaten or not. Food does not affect FUZEON. However, you must keep taking your other medicines the way you did before.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking FUZEON without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- See your healthcare provider regularly while using FUZEON.
- When your FUZEON supply runs low, be sure to have it refilled. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. If you miss or skip doses of FUZEON, HIV may develop resistance to FUZEON and become harder to treat.
- If you miss a dose of FUZEON, take the missed dose as soon as you can and then take your next dose as scheduled. If you have missed a dose of FUZEON and it is close to the time when you are supposed to take your next dose, wait and take the next dose as regularly scheduled. Do not take two doses of FUZEON at the same time.

If you take too much FUZEON, call your healthcare provider right away. We do not know what can happen if you take too much FUZEON. You will be watched very carefully if you take too much FUZEON.

**It is important that you put your used syringes into a special sharps container after injecting FUZEON.** Your healthcare provider will give you more instructions about the safe disposal of your used syringes. **Do not put them in a trash can.**

If you do not have a sharps container, call your healthcare provider or pharmacist to get one before using FUZEON.

**Can FUZEON be used with other medicines?**

FUZEON does not affect other anti-HIV medicines or the medicine rifampin (also known as rifampicin and manufactured under the brand names Rifadin® and Rimactane®). You can take FUZEON at the same times or at different times than your other anti-HIV medicines.

**What should I avoid while using FUZEON?**

- Avoid doing anything that can spread HIV infection, since FUZEON does not stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
- Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood.
- Do not drive or operate heavy machinery if FUZEON makes you feel dizzy.

**What are the possible side effects of FUZEON?****Injection site reactions**

**FUZEON causes injection site reactions.** Almost all people get injection site reactions with FUZEON. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Reactions on the skin where FUZEON is injected include:

- itching
- swelling
- redness
- pain or tenderness
- hardened skin
- bumps

These reactions generally happen within the first week of FUZEON treatment and usually happen again as you keep using FUZEON. A reaction at one skin injection site usually lasts for less than 7 days.

Injection site reactions may be worse when injections are given again in the same place on the body or when the injection is given deeper than it should be (for example, into the muscle).

If you are worried about the reaction you are having, call your healthcare provider to help you decide if you need medical care. **If the injection site reaction you are having is severe, call your healthcare provider right away.** If you have an injection site reaction, you can discuss with your healthcare provider ways to help the symptoms.

An injection site can get infected. To lower your chances of getting an injection site infection, it is important to follow the FUZEON *Injection Instructions* that come with your medicine. **Call your healthcare provider right away if there are signs of infection at the injection site such as oozing, increasing heat, swelling, redness or pain.**

**Pneumonia**

Patients with HIV get bacterial pneumonia more often than patients without HIV. In clinical trials, patients taking FUZEON with other HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not receiving FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. **You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing.** Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they had a low number of CD4 cells, increased amount of HIV in the blood, intravenous (injected into the vein) drug use, smoking or had experienced lung disease in the past. It is unclear if pneumonia is related to FUZEON.

**Allergic reactions**

**FUZEON can cause serious allergic reactions.** Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include:

- trouble breathing
- fever with vomiting and a skin rash
- blood in your urine
- swelling of your feet

**Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of these symptoms.**

**Other side effects**

The following side effects were seen more often in patients using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines than in patients not using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines:

- pain and numbness in feet or legs
- loss of sleep
- depression
- decreased appetite
- weakness or loss of strength
- muscle pain
- constipation
- pancreas problems

These are not all the side effects of FUZEON. The list of side effects with FUZEON is not complete at this time because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. **Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will tell you what to do and may be able to help you with these side effects.

**How is FUZEON stored?**

FUZEON vials not mixed with sterile water can be stored at room temperature (59° to 86° F). FUZEON should be refrigerated if it cannot be stored at room temperature. The Sterile Water for Injection (diluent) may be stored at room temperature (59° to 86° F).

After FUZEON has been mixed with the sterile water, the vial can be stored in a refrigerator for up to 24 hours.

Do not use FUZEON or sterile water after the expiration date on the vials. Do not keep FUZEON that is out of date or that you no longer need.

**General information about the safe and effective use of FUZEON**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use FUZEON for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give FUZEON to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep FUZEON and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about FUZEON. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or see the section, "Where can I get more information about FUZEON?" in this leaflet. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about FUZEON that is written for healthcare professionals.

**What are the ingredients in FUZEON?**

Active Ingredients: enfuvirtide

Inactive Ingredients: Mannitol, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid.

FUZEON comes packaged as a convenience kit containing the following:

- 60 vials of FUZEON (2 cartons of 30 each)
- 60 vials of Sterile Water for Injection (2 cartons of 30 each)
- syringes for mixing (3 mL/cc)
- syringes for injecting (1 mL/cc)
- alcohol pads
- injection instructions

**Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you need more supplies.**

**Where can I get more information about FUZEON?**

The best source for more information about FUZEON is your healthcare provider. More information about FUZEON is located at [www.fuzeon.com](http://www.fuzeon.com) and 1-877-4 FUZEON (1-877-438-9366).

**Changes since the last version of this leaflet**

This is the first version of this leaflet; it was written in March 2003. Please check this section when your medicine is refilled for any important new information about FUZEON.

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**dvd** MATTHEW FORKE

The life of San Francisco's first openly gay supervisor is eloquently revealed in the Oscar-winning 'Times of Harvey Milk.'

## Mayor of Castro Street

IN ONE OF THE FUNNIEST PASSAGES from the exhilarating documentary "The Times of Harvey Milk," political consultant Tory Hartmann recalls when the gay (and Jewish) politician rendered evangelist Ruth Carter Stapleton utterly speechless following her promise to "turn Milk heterosexual" should he convert to Christianity.

"I'm surprised you shook my hand," Milk said when he met the sister of then-President Jimmy Carter. To her bemused response of "Why?" he cheerfully replied, "Because you never know where my hand has been."

"Dumbstruck" grossly understates poor Stapleton's aghast expression during her first (and only) encounter with the titular city supervisor.

Now available on DVD from New Yorker Video, the Oscar-winning "Times" explores the remarkable life of the first openly gay local elected official in San Francisco. Milk's too-brief political career ended when an unstable former colleague, Dan White, fatally shot him and beloved San Francisco Mayor George Moscone at City Hall on November 27, 1978.

Through rare television reports, photographs and interviews with eight well-chosen friends and associates (including San Francisco Board Supervisor Tom Ammiano and the effervescent Hartmann), we witness an emotional and articulate account of a man whose role in history became far greater than his self-proclaimed title as the "Mayor of Castro Street."

THE PUCKISH, IRREVERENT MILK WAS born in Woodmere, Long Island, on May 22, 1930. A New York City stock analyst and theater producer early in his career, Milk eventually emigrated to San Francisco and opened a camera shop on Castro Street. There, he became increasingly involved in neighborhood politics. He ran three times for a seat on the city's Board of Supervisors and three times he lost.

Milk's fourth campaign, however, proved victorious. In 1977, the advent of district elections (rather than citywide ones) created new political opportunities for all types of marginalized groups and voters also elected as supervisors the city's first ERA feminist, the first black woman and the first Chinese American.

These sweeping changes in government appeared threatening to newly elected



Tom Ammiano, a current member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, said feeling good for Harvey Milk (left) 'meant you were feeling good for yourself.' Here, Milk and then-President Jimmy Carter greet.

board Supervisor Dan White, a former fireman who believed his traditional values were under attack because the budding gay rights movement was gaining strength.

In haste, White resigned from the Board without notice, thus torpedoing his political career and providing a brief glimpse into his unbalanced psyche. Later in the same month, he shot Moscone and Milk.

The fateful series of events, including the "White Night Riots," that followed the subsequent slap on the wrist White received for the murders (based on the so-called "Twinkie Defense") should leave viewers saddened, outraged but also proud of the relatively recent gay history that helped make Americans more tolerant of differences today.

NEW YORKER VIDEO LAVISHES ON DVD extras in the 20th anniversary collector's edition of "The Times of Harvey Milk" that would make even Criterion Collection envious. They include filmmaker commentary, interview outtakes, footage from the Castro Theater and an entire series of 25th anniversary events.

Fans of really enormous hairdos and shoulder pads can catch Kathleen Turner presenting co-directors Rob Epstein ("The Celluloid Closet") and Richard Schmiechen with the 1984 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

Supplements aside, though, the movie itself is required viewing. From its dramatic opening newsreel footage of a shell-shocked Dianne Feinstein (a current U.S. senator) announcing the deaths of fellow supervisor Milk and Moscone amid the cries of stunned reporters, the intensely moving film grabs its audience and refuses to let go.

### **i** MORE INFO

The Times of Harvey Milk  
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## eclipse



Bo Allen and Alan Ware, out of costume and out of the closet, are part of a contingent of gay circus clowns with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. (Photo by Leigh H. Mosley)

## A campy sense of frivolity is trademark of circus clowns

CAMPY CLOWNS, continued from Page 12

Warrensburg, did some clowning as a child, including performing in hometown parades. All of his juggling, unicycling and stilt-walking were self taught.

After graduating with a degree in theater, he went to work for Walt Disney World and Tokyo Disneyland.

"After four years at Disney, I sent an audition tape to Ringling Bros. to see if I could live out my childhood dream," said Highley.

### A clown love story

And that's where the love story begins. Highley had performed with Kelley back in 1995, when they were both doing clowning work as children.

"Dean and I were performing at a Kansas City police circus," Highley said. "We were the youngest participants. We hit it off and became instant friends, but because we lived in different states, we lost touch after a while."

"I went into theater and he went his way," said Highley. "Then I saw the show in Orlando and a friend of mine pointed out one of the clowns who I later learned was Dean. My friend pointed him out as 'the really cute clown.' During the Three Ring Adventure Dean had approached me on the floor and drew a happy face on

my finger and we posed for a picture — all the while I was thinking he was just another clown."

"A year later I sent an audition tape, and I got assigned to Dean's unit — the red unit," said Highley.

"When I saw Jesse's name on the cast sheet, I finally made contact with him and we really got in touch," said Kelley.

Highly started rehearsals, and discovered Dean was also gay.

"Sparks started flying, and we started innocently flirting," says Highley. "This past New Year's Eve, at the end of the countdown, he kissed me. Everyone else seemed to know it was going to happen except me."

"Wow, the circus brought us together again," said Highley.

Ware contends it was fate that brought them together.

"We happen to be four homosexual males," said Kelley, "and of course people won't come here and see us as gay clowns, but we want the gay and lesbian community to come here and know there are homosexuals out here doing cool things. It's harder to get a job here than in the NFL."

Ware wants people to know that Ringling Bros. has a long history of supporting gay causes.

"Ringling Bros. became the first business in history to have a fund-raiser for an AIDS cause when we had an event benefiting Gay Men's Health Crisis."

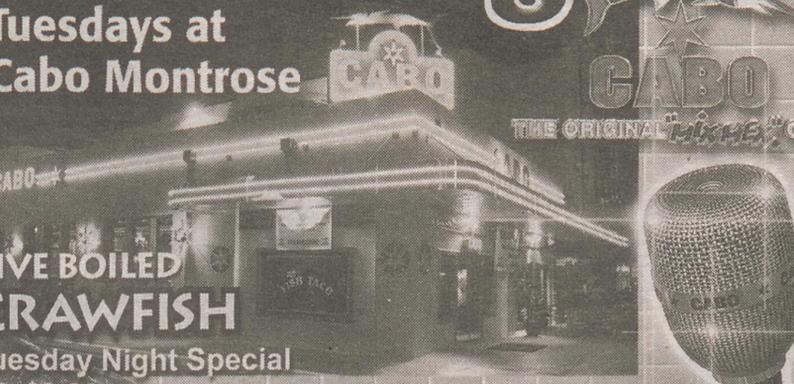
He added, "As gay men, we're known for our sense of frivolity and camp and for not taking life too seriously, embracing a sense of humor especially in dark times. Laughter is the best medicine. As gay men, it's important to share your gift."

### **i** MORE INFO

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

# Tunnel of lust

Rumors squashed about Vin Diesel, Brando's wild (gay) side, and George Michael disses critics

For a while now, gay men and straight women have lusted after "Chronicles of Riddick" movie star **VIN DIESEL**. But now it seems that members of only one demographic group have a chance of getting the reclusive actor in the sack.

"I am going to report information that suggests a major star might actually be straight," gay gossip guru **MICHAEL MUSTO** recently wrote about Diesel in his Village Voice column. "Just the thought of this sort of thing kills me."

Apparently, Musto got the info from author and former club kid **JAMES ST. JAMES**, who wrote the book "Disco Bloodbath" about gay club kid killer **MICHAEL ALIG**.

The book was turned into a documentary as well as the feature film "Party Monster."

St. James knew Diesel when he was a bouncer at the Tunnel, a famed New York nightclub.

"I hear the gay rumors too; he does look the part," St. James told Musto.

But, he added, "Vin was *always* straight. And believably so. He would sing show tunes and flirt outrageously with me and the other drag queens, but he wasn't overcompensating — he was totally comfortable with his heterosexuality."

St. James says he remembers the women Diesel slept with, and those he didn't touch.

"Every queen at the Tunnel was always after him, and I would have heard it if one of them finally had him," he said. "Of course he was only 19 — and maybe he's come out. But I really think he's straight."

Well, at least St. James kept some of the dream alive.

### A low blow

Now that screen legend **MARLON BRANDO** has gone to that great big actors' studio in the sky, more naughty details about his personal life are oozing out of the closet.

New York Daily News gossip hounds Rush & Molloy report that Brando biographer Peter Manso has a copy of a picture showing the actor giving another man what Dish likes to call "oral pleasure."

"There is no question it's Marlon," Manson told R&M. "My sense is that it was



Vin Diesel, the former doorman at the Tunnel nightclub in New York, was comfortable with drag queens — and with his heterosexuality.

posed, that he did it for the shock value."

Brando, who died on July 1 at age 80, never kept his man-on-man action a secret.

"I, too, have had homosexual experiences and am not ashamed. Deep down I feel ambiguous," he told biographer Gary Carey for his book "Marlon Brando: The Only Contender."

In the Internet age, it's surely just a matter of time before the photo becomes as ubiquitous as the **PARIS HILTON** sex tape.

Luckily for us, the snapshot seems to have been shot in the mid- to late-'50s, when the legendary actor was still as beautiful as he was talented.

### King George

Speaking of the Internet, gay pop singer **GEORGE MICHAEL** launched a forum for fans on his official Web site, [www.georgemichael.com](http://www.georgemichael.com).

But when critics began posting negative comments about the 41-year-old singer's appearance and talent, instead of saying how fabulous, sweetie, *fabulous* he is, the forum was shut down.

Some critics said Michael looked old and overweight, and that his new music wasn't all that hot, the Associated Press reports.

Before shutting down this component of the Web site, Michael got in the last word, of course.

"Those of you that want to carry on the media's work will have to do it somewhere else I suppose.

"Sorry guys, but that's the way it goes ... Peace and Love ... or nothing at all."



Marlon Brando



George Michael

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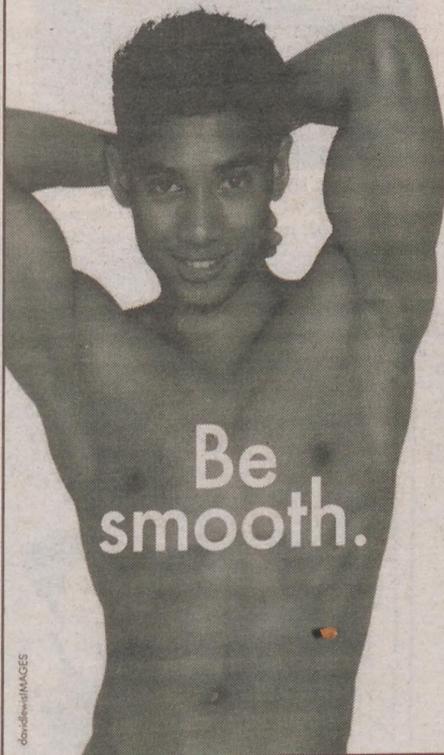
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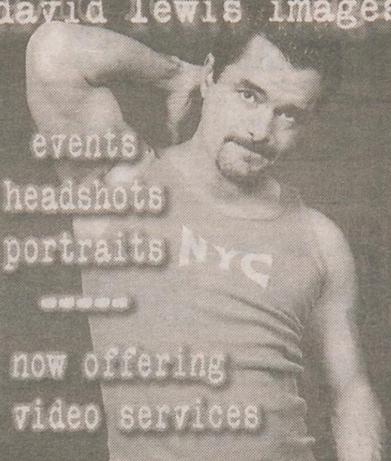
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These are real bitches, sent in by real readers about gay life's little annoyances, and the big ones, too.

**I'M SICK OF EVERYONE** thinking me and my boyfriend are so cute as a couple, but then every time we turn around, those same people are trying to get with one or the other of us. If we're so cute together, then leave us alone so we can be happy.

**HAVING A PICTURE OF YOUR** penis or your butt online and then saying you're only looking for something serious is a bit ridiculous.

**WHY ARE QUEENS SO AFRAID** and so hateful when they see someone else doing well?

**HOW ABOUT YOU PUT DOWN** that application to the Vidal Sassoon Academy and get your ploughed little butt into college?

**IT'S REALLY ANNOYING** when my boyfriend says he needs to "take some time" so he's not influenced by my decisions, so he goes and hangs out with his friends and is influenced by them instead!

**ISN'T IT TRAGIC WHEN YOU** pass out on the floor of a leather bar in your kilt with no underwear and then defecate on yourself?

Attitude is what we usually accuse other people of having when we're afraid to approach them.

**DOES ANYTHING LOOK LESS** sexless than a gay guy wearing shorts with milquetoast legs?

**THANKS FOR THE FOUR YEARS.** Thanks for lying to me. Thanks for my doctor telling me you gave me syphilis.

**YOUR ATTITUDE REMINDS ME** of where I work. If the employees have a complaint, it's bitching. If management has a complaint that we don't have Barbie doll smiles, it's constructive criticism.

**WHY IS IT THAT IF AN OPEN** and proud gay male doesn't agree with "Pride" events or the "gay pride" festivities, he is automatically labeled a self-hater? I'm also Catholic, white, and 6-foot-1. Where are the parades for those characteristics of my life?

**CAN WE AT LEAST HAVE** one good place to dance? No more disco. You don't have to be Tony Moran, but play some circuit music.

**WHY IS IT THAT SO MANY** twits out there feel that beachwear is acceptable attire in the bars? Bars have themes for a reason. Please leave your cargo shorts and flip flops at home! You don't two-step in flip flops!

**WHO CARES WHAT THE BIBLE** says about homosexuality or anything else? I've read better novels!

**NO MATTER HOW MUCH GEL** and pomade you soak in that hair, it does not change the fact you have a junior-sized penis.

**YOU FAGGOTS OUT THERE** have your fuckin papers out there whining about how you can't get married. Well fuck off, you cock-sucking faggots!  
**Bitch Boy responds:** You kiss your wife with that mouth?

**I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHEN GAY** people are going to stop drugging, drinking and screwing long enough to realize that we really are

treated like second-class citizens.

**THOSE WHO BITCH ABOUT** others are only exposing their insecurities and perpetuating a gay stereotype. It's easy to bitch; try suggesting a solution while you're at it.

**FOR PEOPLE WHO COME** into a bar and expect free drinks: I don't care who you are, who your friend is, or who you're having sex with; don't give me attitude for not giving away free drinks. Would you go into a K-Mart and ask for free Fruit of the Looms?

**I LOVE THE COMMENT ABOUT** men who don't care about relationships because they need to have sex everyday with different guys. People need to know how wonderful it is to have someone beside you in the morning to say "good morning" sealed with a kiss.

**IF YOU WANT ME TO RIM,** please don't wash first. I don't want to lick soap.

**WHY DO CLOSETED GAYS** always say, "I'm really uncomfortable being seen in public with a guy?" Don't you ever go out in public with your straight buddies?

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