

Gay Houstonians cope with the effects of 9/11/01, one year later. Page 15



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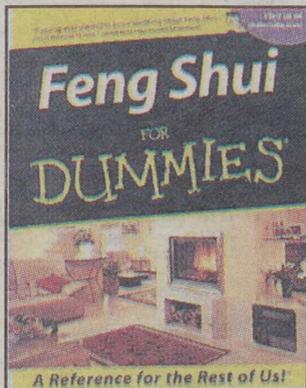
After-hours Club Nsomnia closes its door permanently as AIDS Housing Coalition Houston restructures.

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Midwestern singer/songwriter Kristie Stremel makes her first appearance at the Houston Women's Festival later this month.

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With the right research, a few forms and a compass, anyone can try the feng shui method of home decorating.

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# 'A time to mourn, then start to recover'

A year after terrorist attacks, survivors and activists reflect on how Sept. 11 changed their lives and gay advocacy

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

David Brandhorst-Gamboa would have turned four years old this year. No doubt he would have celebrated with his Daddy and Poppy, who would have smiled proudly as the son they adopted at birth gleefully blew out the candles on his birthday cake.

But the candles lighted for David this year will be at memorials for the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The plump-cheeked preschooler and his



David Brandhorst-Gamboa died with his two fathers, Daniel Brandhorst and Ronald Gamboa, when United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the World Trade Center.

two fathers, Daniel Brandhorst and Ronald Gamboa, were returning home to Los Angeles from a vacation at Cape Cod on United Airlines Flight 175. They died together as it slammed into the World Trade Center:

Eugene Clark, whose partner's daugh-

ter affectionately called him her "step-queen," worked for Aon Corporation in the World Trade Center.

Mychal Judge, a gay Catholic priest who served as a chaplain for the New York City Fire Department, was giving last rites to an injured firefighter when the Twin Towers collapsed, killing them both and many others.

Mark Bingham, a gay rugby player, helped fight back against terrorists on United Airlines Flight 93, causing it to crash in a rural Pennsylvania field instead of reaching its target in Washington, D.C.

Sheila Hein, a Maryland resident who left behind her partner of 17 years, was working in the Pentagon when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into it.

And gay pilot David Charlebois, who

Please see SEPT. 11, on Page 6

# Newspapers take new look at gay union announcements

New York Times joins nearly 70 newspapers in recognizing gay couples; Houston Chronicle drafting new policy

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE and PENNY WEAVER

NEW YORK — When Harlan Pruden and Patrick J. O'Hare planned their commitment ceremony two years ago, the New York couple knew they didn't have the same option that heterosexual couples often do: announcing their union in a local newspaper.

Pruden, a project coordinator for SpeakOut at the New York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community

Center, then turned his attention into action, volunteering with a pro-gay marriage lobbying group and urging the New York Times to begin publishing same-sex union announcements like the paper does for heterosexual weddings.

Late in August, his efforts with Marriage Equality New York received a boost when Howell Raines, executive editor of the Times, announced that beginning in September, the paper would include same-sex union announcements in its Sunday Styles section and on occasion, profile a gay couple in its Vows column.

The announcement makes the Times the largest paper in the country to run same-sex unions. The newspaper, with a daily circulation of about 1.2 million, joins an estimated 70 other papers in publishing gay union announcements in paid or

unpaid sections, according to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, a media watchdog group.

"It is a great first step," Pruden said. "The New York Times is sending a signal that they will treat gay couples the same."

Shortly after this move, The Houston Chronicle made an announcement regarding same-sex union notices. In its Aug. 30 issue, the Chronicle stated, in part, "The Houston Chronicle, which runs wedding announcements as paid advertising, is putting together a policy that allows same-sex 'Celebration' announcements. The policy does not allow same-sex marriage announcements, noting that same-sex marriages are not considered legal in Texas."

Please see ANNOUNCEMENTS, on Page 5





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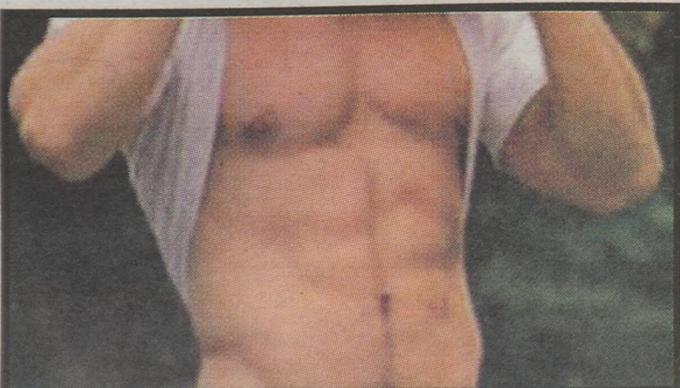
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Thank you!

## local news



Singer/songwriter Kristie Stremel plays the Houston Women's Festival for the first time this year. She also will lead a guitar workshop during the fest.

## Midwesterner to rock Houston

'Crushworthy' Kristie Stremel returns to Bayou City for women's fest

*Editor's Note: This is the second 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

A rising star from America's heartland who continues to win new fans in Houston, singer/songwriter Kristie Stremel makes her debut at the Houston Women's Festival this year.

Stremel was featured at the Houston Pride kick-off party at Sonoma restaurant this summer. Her Sept. 28 stint at the festival will be her first at that annual event.

A guitar player since age 12, Stremel has dipped her musical toe in many waters before finding her niche. "It's been an ongoing process finding the Kristie Stremel sound," she says. Stremel has gone from punk to alternative pop to folk and country and on to rock.

Now working on her third solo effort, with the help and direction of producer Lou Whitney, the Kansas City, Mo.-based recording artist has had the luxury of taking more time and putting more thought into the production of her latest work, "Gas Station Roses," she says. Projected for an early 2003 release, the new CD features a guest appearance from Texas' own Patrice Pike, who is a friend and performer Stremel looks up to and has learned from.

Stremel says she's inspired by Pike's tenacity to keep on going despite many roadblocks.

Producer Whitney, a 30-year veteran of the music business, taught Stremel to think more about her delivery of the words when performing and that has resulted in a cleaner sound, according to the artist. He, above all else, encouraged her to keep on playing her music and writing her songs, she explains.

Writing since the age of 12, Stremel believes her songwriting has evolved more lyrically and into a kind of storytelling style on this upcoming release. But her gift of writing and performing could have been cut short had Stremel not had what she calls "an awakening."

"If you abuse it, you can't use it: The one thing I had to learn to survive the music business is to stay away from the drugs and alcohol," she related. "I've seen it take a lot of bands down."

Stremel's positive attitude and love for an

audience won't let that happen. Whether she plays to a sold out crowd or a sparse audience, it's all about getting her music out there, she says. In fact, she admits with a smile, "I've actually left bars owing them money!"

Like most new performers, the media has compared her to several different mainstream artists. While that makes her somewhat uneasy, preferring to let her sound stand on its own, she's comfortable and flattered by one such comparison.

"Someone once said that if Tom Petty and Joan Jett had a love child, their voice and style would sound like Kristie Stremel. That, I can live with," she says.

She dismisses the notion that women don't get promoted as well as their male counterparts.

"There's just so many bands out there [that it's hard for anyone]," she muses. "I do think more and more women are realizing that they can play guitars, that they can rock out and that they can write songs. As long as girls keep picking up guitars, it's just going to get better."

"The only thing I can do as an artist is to keep playing and show people that women have the gift of music," Stremel adds. "Any woman who comes to a show, I'll sit down and teach them a chord."

True to her word, Stremel will host a guitar workshop at this year's Houston Women's Festival following her acoustic set, which, by the way, "doesn't necessarily mean quiet," she notes.

Stremel has been named by Female Musician magazine as one of the top 10 performers to watch in 2002. Pitch Weekly writer Danny Alexander says of Stremel: "Her sexy looks, leather pants, tough-chick demeanor and general coolness make Kristie Stremel crushworthy in a rock-star-bad-ass kind of way."

The Houston Women's Festival is a celebration of music, art, culture and community, according to organizers. The fest is the largest annual event for women in Houston.

The festival is open to all friends of the women's community and 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. Last year's event was the most successful festival to date, with 1,406 tickets sold and an additional 300 people participating as vendors, volunteers, artists and guests, according to organizers.

### For info

2002 Houston Women's Festival  
1 p.m. to midnight • Saturday, Sept. 28, 2002  
Garden in the Heights • Tickets: \$10 advance, \$12 door  
www.hwfestival.org

## Gay after-hours club closed permanently

AIDS Housing Coalition Houston shifts its focus to emergency shelter

By PENNY WEAVER

Long popular among gay Houstonians, the after-hours Club Nsomnia has closed its doors for the final time.

A project of AIDS Housing Coalition Houston, Inc., Nsomnia raised funds for AHCH and its Montrose Cottages, which provided assistance for HIV-positive clients.

"Club Nsomnia is closed. The lease has ended on the building. We're not going to re-activate Nsomnia," Matt Locklin, AHCH executive director and co-founder, and Nsomnia CEO, said this week.

"Since we opened the club, we've more than recovered our initial investment," he added. "We've subtletted to another business. We'll continue to get a portion of the proceeds."

The after-hours "Bring Your Own Beer" or BYOB Club Nsomnia was operated by the nonprofit AHCH, an AIDS charity organization, as a fundraiser. Its clientele included a number of gay Houstonians. Proceeds from the club benefited AHCH programs, organizers said, including low-income housing for HIV/AIDS patients.

In July, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents raided Club Nsomnia. The TABC alleged illegal activities at the club, and Nsomnia operators alleged "illegal search and seizure" by law enforcement officials.

Without funds generated at Nsomnia, Locklin said, AHCH could not continue its operations. There is only one client left in Montrose Cottages, he said this week, and the group is refocusing its efforts.

"We're applying for private foundation grants and requesting assistance from the general public," Locklin said.

Organizers want to operate Harris County's only emergency shelter program, Locklin said. While Montrose Cottages were transitional housing, the new plan would be for immediate and temporary housing.

"There's a need for up to 50 beds here in Harris County for emergency shelter use, same-day or next-day entry type situations," Locklin said. "Our goals are set on that sight. We're looking for a cooperative landlord. It all just takes time."

The group's leftover debt from the struggling Nsomnia is not overwhelming, according to Locklin. He once had stated that without Nsomnia, the



Club Nsomnia CEO Matt Locklin said this week that even though AIDS Housing Coalition Houston is out of funds, the group is attempting to begin a new mission. (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

coalition might be forced to file bankruptcy.

"We've been able to collect our debts, liquidate equipment and, even though we do have some remaining debt, it's a manageable situation," he said. "However, we have no funds."

Coalition leaders hope to find other avenues of support to continue offering a service to HIV-positive and AIDS clients.

"The problems of the city don't stop," Locklin said.

In the July TABC raid, up to 10 TABC agents — with backup from Houston Police Department officers as security — entered Nsomnia to issue tickets for alleged alcohol violations. No one was arrested, according to law enforcement officials.

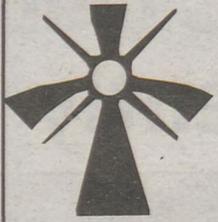
Locklin disputed the TABC's version of events. The club's organizers said law enforcement officials unfairly targeted Nsomnia. Locklin alleges that peace officers "entered the facility illegally, without warrants, and targeted the gay customers in a mixed club environment," according to an AHCH press release.

"[Officers and agents] began harassing the patrons who looked gay and issuing \$25 tickets for drinking in public, inside the building," according to Locklin. "Straight-looking patrons were allowed to leave without being detained."

AHCH, established in 1994, has helped more than 400 residents through the transitional and emergency housing programs it sponsors, according to Locklin.

### For info

AIDS Coalition Houston, Inc.  
2450 Louisiana Floor 400, Suite 228  
Houston, Texas 77006  
713-302-2417



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# CALENDAR

Friday • Sept. 6  
Morning Prayer 10am

Monday • Sept. 9  
Eucharist 7:30pm

Wednesday • Sept. 11  
"We Remember 9/11"  
Prayer Service 10am

Friday • Sept. 13  
Morning Prayer 10am  
Movie Night 7pm  
"Dragonfly"

Saturday • Sept. 14  
Breakfast 9:30am

Monday • Sept. 16  
Eucharist 7:30pm

Friday • Sept. 20  
Morning Prayer 10am

## local news

## Three Texas papers open to printing same-sex nuptials

ANNOUNCEMENTS, continued from Page 1

The New York Times ran its first announcement this week of a same-sex commitment ceremony, celebrating the union of the vice president of GE Capital and the founder of a public affairs consulting firm.

The civil union ceremony of Daniel Gross, 32, and Steven Goldstein, 40, by a judge in Vermont, ran along with the couple's photo in the newly retitled "Weddings/Celebrations" feature Sunday.

"Ten years ago, none of this would have been possible," Goldstein said during an exchange of Jewish vows at the Musee des Beaux-Arts in Montreal. "Dreams do come true."

"In making this change, we acknowledge the newsworthiness of a growing and visible trend in society toward public celebrations of commitment by gay and lesbian couples — celebrations important to many of our readers, their families and their friends," Raines said.

The gay and lesbian couples featured in the Times are selected by editors using the same criteria as used for weddings: the newsworthiness and accomplishments of the couples and their families.

Gross, a Fulbright scholar, is a vice president of GE Capital in Stamford,

Conn. Goldstein founded Attention America, a New York public affairs consulting firm.

"We didn't make this any kind of political statement, we didn't threaten to boycott or feel like it was anything unusual other than simply writing a letter to the society page," Gross said Monday on NBC's "Today" show. "Our union, and civil unions like this, are in fact part of what is truly happening in the world."

Reaction to the Times' decision has been muted, with "a limited number" of emails and phone calls evenly split between pro and con, according to Toby Usnik, a spokesperson for the New York Times Co.

"We recognize that the society remains divided about the legal and religious definition of marriage, and our news columns will remain impartial in that debate, reporting fully on all points of view. The Styles pages will treat same-sex celebrations as a discrete phenomenon meriting coverage in their own right," Raines said in a statement.

The move to publish gay union announcements came just three days after the New York City Council approved legislation that gives limited benefits like hospital visitation to same-sex couples visiting New York, if they have entered a legal civil union

or have registered their relationship in other jurisdictions.

Usnik said the paper's announcement was in response to long-running internal discussions, not the City Council vote or lobbying from outside gay activists.

But the decision by the Times, long considered an industry leader by journalism experts, will impact how other news organizations handle the matter, according to Michael Wolff, media columnist for New York magazine.

"Once they do this, the effect is that it makes it all that much easier," Wolff said. "At this point it is very clear that same-sex marriage has arrived officially. If the New York Times says so, it is so."

GLAAD maintains a list of papers currently publishing the announcements on its Web site, [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org). The list also includes newspapers that have indicated to GLAAD that they would be willing to publish such announcements if asked by a reader.

That list includes the Chronicle, the Austin American-Statesman and the El Paso Times. Officials at the Dallas Morning News also have said that they are drafting a new policy for same-sex union "Celebrations."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.



The New York Times, an industry leader and one of the largest daily circulation newspapers in the U.S., recently announced that this month it would begin publishing same-sex union announcements. The newspaper printed the first of such pieces this week. (Graphic by John Nail)



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## 9/11 anniversary

## Attacks changed public perception of gay families

SEPT. 11, continued from Page 1

lived in Washington with his partner and beloved border collie, served as first officer on that flight.

The total number of gay victims of the Sept. 11 attacks — from passengers on the hijacked planes to workers and visitors in the buildings they targeted — may never be known.

But on the first anniversary of the attacks, one thing is clear, activists and survivors say: Gay families, like the rest of the nation, will never be the same.

"With the change from August to September, and the Labor Day holiday, I certainly remember this time last year and how well things were going in our lives," said Tom Hay, Charlebois' partner of almost 13 years.

"It holds a lot of fond memories for me, and the anniversary is going to be tough," he said.

As cities around the country gear up for Sept. 11 memorials, some survivors of gay victims say they just want the day to be over.

"Once we get past Sept. 11 and the nation can mourn and we can mourn, perhaps we can start to recover," said Peggy Neff, Hein's partner of 17 years. "I hope there will be more closure."

## The fight for recognition

For Hay, Neff and other partners of gay victims, Sept. 11 meant more than just the loss of their loved ones: It meant the start of an ongoing fight to have their relationships recognized that would be unimaginable to heterosexual spouses.

Hay and Charlebois fell in love at first sight at a party more than a decade ago.

"It sounds mushy, but we saw each other from across the room, and that was it," Hay said. "He was the first and only person I ever had a serious relationship with."

But that doesn't mean government and relief agencies immediately recognized their relationship, although Hay reports being treated generally well and receiving "outstanding" support from American Airlines, Charlebois' employer.

"It doesn't mean it has been easy. You still have to explain yourself," Hay said. "I think one of the big lessons to learn is the value of our relationships and the need to continually push for their recognition."

For gays who didn't live as activists before the terrorist attacks, being thrust into the spotlight can be difficult.

A veteran who had left the military but was working at the Pentagon as an analyst, Sheila Hein, 51, "never hid, but she was never blatant," Neff said. "Everyone knew she lived with a woman, but whether anyone had bothered to look deeper, I don't know."

Neff and Hein met in 1983, when Hein's marriage and Neff's previous relationship were ending.

"We moved in together simply as roommates and it evolved from there," Neff said. "All I can say is the best way to start



Although Mark Bingham (second from left) was lauded as a hero of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania, some initial press reports did not acknowledge that he was gay. Peggy Neff (far right) is fighting to be included in the federal victims compensation fund after the 'love of [her] life,' Sheila Hein, was killed in the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon.

any relationship is to be friends first, so when the romance starts to give way, you always have that.

"She was my best friend," she said.

Although the military bans openly gay service members, Neff said she has been treated "wonderfully" by Pentagon officials who helped walk her through the process of procuring Hein's death certificate and applying for relief.

"I'm unfortunate in that I lost the love of my life, but I'm fortunate in how I've been treated," she said.

But Neff was denied Hein's worker's compensation by the state of Virginia, and whether she will receive benefits through the federal victim's compensation fund remains to be seen.

"I have turned in the application, and there won't be any problems from Sheila's family, and I am the person of record, so I don't anticipate any problems," Neff said.

Federal officials declined to specifically include gay domestic partners in guidelines for dispensing the funds, referring the decision instead to state laws, which mostly do not recognize gay couples.

Those with the best chance, gay attorneys say, are couples who had wills, powers of attorney and other documents clearly showing their relationship to each other.

"If there is one crusade or soapbox I get on, it's 'damnit, make a will,'" Neff said. "Life changes in a heartbeat, and how well we all know that now."

## Gay groups reprioritize

While the gay people most clearly affected by Sept. 11 are those who lost partners or other loved ones, gay groups also faced dramatic changes in the aftermath of the attacks.

Some — like New York City's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center and the New York headquarters of Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund — faced immediate impact,

because their offices lay close to Ground Zero.

Located within two miles of the World Trade Center, the gay community center "was on the route of people walking up from that area," said Rosalba Messina, chief financial officer and operating officer. "We set up a station to give them water, and we were walking up and talking and offering counseling as well."

The center also offered space in its building to neighboring St. Vincent's Hospital, although it wasn't used when the hundreds of expected injured proved to be fatalities instead.

And in the days and weeks following the attacks, the center's mental health and social services department provided drop-in support groups and provided counseling to a higher than usual number of clients.

"In a community that is already under stress and discrimination and seeking mental health services, to have something like this tragedy happen on top of that exacerbates the situation," Messina said.

At Lambda's Wall Street office, despite going weeks without basic services such as phones, Internet access and mail delivery, attorneys immediately went to work to make sure gay victims would be included in relief plans.

"The need was so obvious and critical that we had no choice but to respond to it," said Michael Adams, Lambda's director of education and public affairs.

Aided by other attorneys and staff members, Lambda attorney Jennifer Middleton spent the first six months after Sept. 11 working directly on the issue, from aiding individual gay survivors for lobbying for inclusion of gay partners in relief awards from charities and government agencies.

Working with groups like the Empire State Pride Agenda, New York's statewide gay political group, Lambda helped successfully lobby the American Red Cross, the nation's largest private disaster relief agency, to revise its guidelines to specifically include gay partners.

But lobbying for the massive federal

compensation fund continues. "In terms of support for gay and lesbian survivors, that remains a question mark," Adams said.

## Different political landscape

Despite ongoing battles for federal recognition of the survivors of gay victims, in California and New York — the two states home to many on the doomed cross-country flights — visibility of gay victims translated into direct changes in the law.

A bill awaiting signature from California Gov. Gray Davis would include domestic partners in inheritance laws so that if a gay person dies without a will, his or her partner would automatically be the beneficiary in a manner similar to spouses — a direct result, according to ESPA spokesperson Joe Tarver, of the case of flight attendant Jeffrey Collman, a California resident whose partner, Keith Bradkowski, must now battle for inheritance rights with Collman's parents.

The New York City Council last month passed a law recognizing legalized same-sex unions — such as Vermont's civil unions, gay marriages from the Netherlands and domestic partners from the U.S. cities that maintain registries — for the purposes of hospital visitation and receiving death certificates, Tarver said.

At the state level, New York Gov. George Pataki issued an executive order requiring the New York 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, including a measure providing state worker's compensation benefits to domestic partners of gay victims, legislation setting up a World Trade Center Memorial Scholarship Program for which gay partners and their children will be eligible, and an act encouraging the federal compensation fund to include gay survivors.

"Before Sept. 11, there wasn't an elected official in this state that wanted to talk about gay relationships and public policy in front of an open microphone," said Joe Grabarz, ESPA executive director. "That has definitely changed since Sept. 11."

Still, the measures passed in New York have been limited to Sept. 11 survivors, Grabarz noted. "There are definitely opportunities for expansion in the future, and we have had discussions with government officials about making the changes for Sept. 11 permanent," he said.

On the federal level, whether government officials will "do the right thing" by including domestic partners in federal compensation fund awards "is very much an open question," according to the Human Rights Campaign, the Washington, D.C.-based gay rights lobby that joined ESPA and Lambda in advocating for gay victims.

It's also "too early to tell" whether increases in public awareness of gay families brought about by Sept. 11 will translate into increased support of gay issues in

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## 9/11 anniversary

## Tragedy brought some acceptance to country

SEPT. 11, continued from Page 6

Congress, said David Smith, HRC communications director.

Prior to Sept. 11, HRC's focus for this year's Congressional session included passing gay-inclusive hate crimes legislation and lobbying for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a federal bill to ban anti-gay job discrimination.

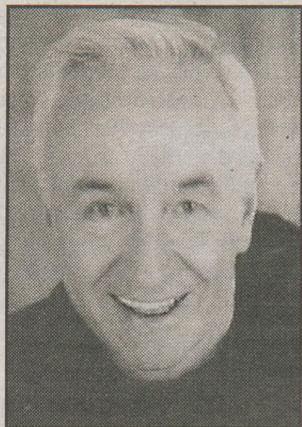
While it is "safe to say" votes on both would have already taken place in the Senate if not for the attacks, HRC remains hopeful both measures will see a Senate vote before the end of the year, Smith said.

## Changing public perception

Although the direct political impact will continue to play out over the next year, if there is a silver lining to the dark cloud of tragedy cast by Sept. 11, activists say it is the increased mainstream recognition that gay people are part of the American life — from families and religion to sports and jobs.

In the hours following the Sept. 11 attacks, the gay sports Web site www.outsports.com broke the news that Mark Bingham, one of the possible heroes of Flight 93, was also a gay man.

Outsports founders Jim Buzinski and Cyd Zeigler met Bingham when their Los



**Mychal Judge**, the gay New York chaplain killed during the attacks, may have paved the way for firefighters to be more open about their sexual orientation.

Angeles flag football team played Bingham's San Francisco team.

"You couldn't help but notice this guy, on and off the field — he was a very engaging person," Buzinski said. "When we heard how he died, it was clear to us Mark would have been one of the people who rushed the cockpit — he was a man of action."

Media stories that acknowledged Bingham's sexual orientation offered a hero to gay athletes while also countering mainstream perceptions of gay men, Buzinski said.

"In the worst terrorist attack in our history, here was a gay man who helped fight back, and that's hard to ignore, because he didn't fit the stereotype of how some straight people view gay men. He

was a big rugged athlete, and I think it helped," he said.

The case of New York Fire Department Chaplain Mychal Judge, the other highest profile gay victim, proves more complicated. Many fire fighters did not know Judge, a Catholic priest, was gay until reading press reports, according to fire fighter Tom Ryan, a 20-year veteran of the force who serves as president of Fire FLAG/EMS, a group for gay employees.

"It's been weird — some people accepted that is who he was, while others inferred that we were making it up," said Ryan, who only knew Judge from fire department functions but stepped up to carry his casket when another pallbearer stumbled.

Many New York fire fighters remain afraid to come out, but "I think [learning about Judge] opened the door more," Ryan said. "It is more in the open, although it hasn't made it any easier."

Overall, media coverage of Bingham, Judge and other gay victims of Sept. 11 proved "a mixed bag," said Cathy Renna, news media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

While some media outlets initially omitted victims' sexual orientation, conservative Christian leader Jerry Falwell was roundly criticized when he attempted to blame gays and feminists, among others, for provoking God's wrath, leading to the Sept. 11 attacks.

"If Sept. 11 had any impact on our organization, it showed us how relevant we still are," Renna said.

## Personal ramifications

Changes in broad public perception then reach back to impact the daily lives of other gay men and lesbians who might not have been directly touched by the tragedy.

T. Clay, an assistant to the director of New York's gay community center, is one of many gay people who found his own family relationships changed in the wake of the attacks.

Clay said he came out to his father, a "stereotypical black military man," in August 2000 and then didn't hear from him for over a year — about 10 p.m. on the night of Sept. 11.

"He just said, 'Are you okay?' and I was really uncomfortable," Clay said. "I couldn't believe he was calling me."

Clay traveled to visit his father in Philadelphia that weekend, and although the two didn't talk about Clay being gay, "he was really nice."

The father and son have now talked three times in the year since the attack — "which isn't much, but it's more than before," Clay said.

"For a lot of people I know, it was a big reality check," he said. "We felt the fleetingness of time and realized how easily it could have been someone we knew."



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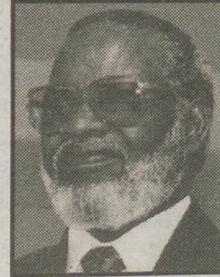

**around the nation**
**Poll predicts repeal of Miami gay rights law will fail**

MIAMI — A poll released Tuesday by the Miami Herald and Miami's NBC affiliate predicts that a Sept. 10 ballot measure to repeal a local gay rights law will fail. Voters in Miami-Dade County will go to the polls next week to decide whether to repeal a 1998 amendment that added sexual orientation to the county's human rights ordinance. Conducted by Washington, D.C.-based Schroth & Associates, the telephone poll of 600 likely voters showed 54 percent favored keeping the gay-inclusive anti-discrimination law, 34 percent wanted to repeal it and 12 percent remain undecided. Although gay rights opponents have attempted to draw African American support to the repeal effort by falsely claiming Martin Luther King Jr. opposed gay rights, the poll revealed all racial groups — blacks, whites, Cubans and Hispanics — opposed removing the gay rights law. Eladio José Armesto, spokesperson for Take Back Miami-Dade, the group pushing to overturn the law, refused to comment on the poll and accused the Herald of "distorting the facts." Several supporters of the repeal effort face criminal prosecution over allegations of fraudulent signatures on petitions used to get the measure onto the ballot.

**Namibian official calls for police to 'eliminate' gays**

WINDHOEK, Namibia —

Namibia's controversial Home Affairs Minister Jerry Ekandjo is reported by state television to have urged newly graduated police officers to "eliminate" gays and lesbians "from the face of Namibia," the BBC reported. He was reported to have told the 700 police men and women "even if gays and lesbians had a gay dog they would murder it." A spokesperson for a gay rights organization in Namibia called on the government to publicly reject the remarks. Speaking to the BBC's Focus on Africa, Ekandjo refused to confirm or deny the remarks, but asked the journalist if he was gay. "Have the homosexuals there sent you?" he asked, and added he would only discuss the matter with gays. "Let the homosexuals themselves phone me, then I can give them the answer." The Gay & Lesbian Alliance recently called for an international tourism boycott of Namibia and Zimbabwe.



Jerry Ekandjo, Home Affairs Minister for Namibia President Sam Nujoma, recently told police recruits in the country that gays would kill their own dogs and should be 'eliminated.' Nujoma has called for the deportation of gays. (Photo by AP)

**New York Times breaks ground with first gay union announcement**

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times ran its first announcement of a same-sex commitment ceremony on Sept. 1, celebrating the union of a Fulbright scholar and the founder of a public affairs consulting firm. The civil union ceremony of Daniel Gross, 32, and Steven Goldstein, 40, by a judge in Vermont, ran along with the couple's photo in the retitled "Weddings/Celebrations" feature last Sunday. "Ten years ago, none of this would have been possible," Goldstein said during an exchange of Jewish vows at the Musee des Beaux-Arts in Montreal. "Dreams do come true." Times Executive Editor Howell Raines announced last month that the newspaper would begin announcing same-sex unions. The gay couples featured in the Times are selected by editors using the same criteria as used for weddings: the newsworthiness and accomplishments of the couples and their families. The 500-word article was published the day of the couple's ceremony. In the wake of the Times' decision to run the announcements, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation launched its "Announcing Equality" project to get other papers to do the same. While the gay advocacy group cited 100 papers around the country that already publish gay unions, an investigation by the Boston Globe found that several said the policies actually remain "under review."

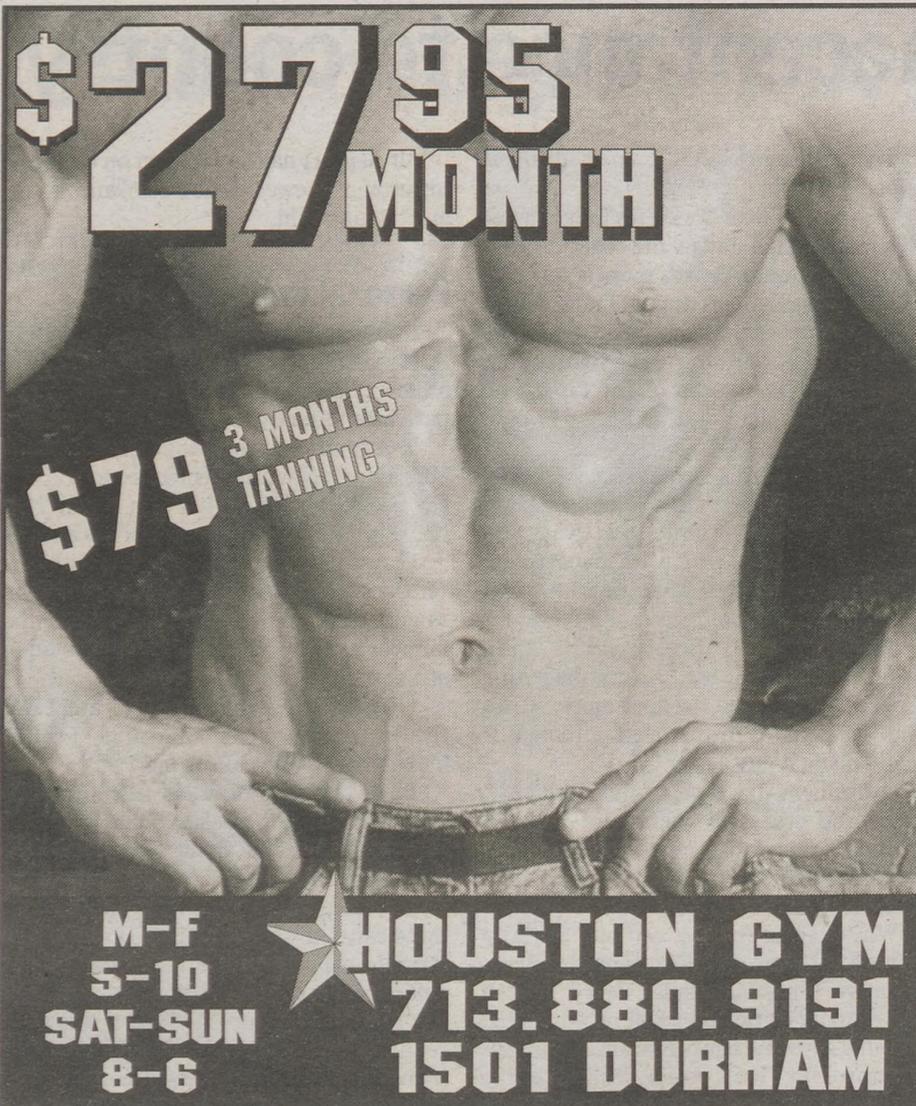
**Penn. court strikes down 'life partnership' law**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A state court struck down a 1998 Philadelphia city ordinance that recognized same-sex "life partnerships," saying in an Aug. 29 ruling that the law usurped the power of the state to regulate marriage. The law had amended the definition of the term "marital status" to include "life partner," thereby granting benefits to same-sex partners of city employees who signed a partnership affidavit. A group of seven city taxpayers sued, charging that the city did not have the power to create a new marital status, and the Commonwealth Court panel agreed. City officials have said they will appeal the ruling, while gay city workers and activists denounced it. "The impact is most immediate on city workers because it's a question of what's going to happen to the benefits of their partners," said Stacey L. Sobel, executive director of the Center for Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia.

**YMCA in Ky. allows gays to join at family rate**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Gay couples will be allowed to obtain family membership rates next year at the YMCA of Greater Louisville following a policy change. Although the new policy does not mention sexual orientation, it makes family rates available for two adults with or without dependent children who live at the same address, said Louisville YMCA Chief Executive Officer Steve Tarver. Previously, family memberships were available only to legally married couples or single parents with children. Unmarried couples had to pay two individual rates, which combined to more than the family membership price. The YMCA reviewed its membership rules this year after The Fairness Campaign and other gay-rights groups argued they were discriminatory.

From staff and wire reports



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## medical report

### Gay health group to boycott Miami if rights law repealed

SAN FRANCISCO — Maureen S. O'Leary, executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association, announced last week that the organization would cancel its annual convention, set for Miami in 2003, if an initiative repealing a gay rights ordinance is passed. "We have no choice," O'Leary said. "Miami is an exciting city and a real draw for the hundreds of physicians and other health care professionals who attend our annual meetings. ... But if the anti-gay voters win, we won't be there and we will actively encourage other LGBT organizations, businesses and tourists to take their business where they are appreciated." Miami-Dade voters will decide Sept. 10 whether to repeal a law that extends job and housing protections to gays. Miami-Dade County passed its gay-rights law in 1998. GLMA, founded in 1981, represents gay health professionals throughout North America.



Maureen S. O'Leary, executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association, said the group will move its 2003 conference from Miami if a gay rights law is repealed when voters head to the polls Sept. 10.

### Risky sex less frequent in bathhouses, report says

NEW YORK — Risky sexual behavior appears to be less frequent at gay bathhouses than in the past, but gay and bisexual men who do report having unsafe sex in bathhouses are more likely to be HIV-positive, Reuters Health reported Aug. 30. Researchers are highlighting the importance of targeting bathhouses for educational interventions to reduce HIV spread, researchers said. "Gay bathhouses have been described as 'licensed men's health clubs that provide a setting for impersonal homosexual sex,'" lead author Chris A. Van Beneden, a researcher with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, wrote in the Aug. 15 issue of the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes. While some AIDS experts take the view that gay bathhouses should be shut down, others see them as an opportunity to reach out to the patrons that visit the establishments in an effort to alter risky sexual behavior. "Well into the HIV epidemic, bathhouses remain venues for ongoing spread of HIV and opportunities for intervention," the researchers concluded.

### Unsafe sex rate doubles for gay men in Australia

SYDNEY, Australia — The number of gay men having unprotected sex has doubled, triggering calls for a renewed safe-sex campaign. Two HIV/AIDS surveillance and behavior reports, issued Aug. 21, also show that the rate of new HIV infections has remained steady over the past four years. Chris Puplick, chairman of the National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C & Related Diseases, said some gay men were not using condoms after assuming they knew their partner's HIV status. The Annual Report of Behaviour 2002, by the National Centre of HIV Social Research, shows the rate of unprotected anal sex in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth had increased from 14 percent in 1996 to almost 26 percent in 2001. There also were significant increases in the rates of sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia, Puplick said. John Kaldor, deputy director of the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research — which released the Annual Surveillance

Report 2002 — said safe sex messages needed to be reinforced. "HIV may be becoming less scary for some people, and may in some context contribute to increases in risky practices," he said.

### AIDS workers won't return to Pa. parks after dispute over condom

JIM THORPE, Pa. (AP) — Workers with an AIDS prevention program won't be going back to parks in Monroe and Carbon counties following concerns raised when a worker gave a condom to a 13-year-old girl at a playground. The Carbon-Pike-Monroe Drug & Alcohol Commission has run its program in Monroe and Carbon counties for about three years. Commission Director Richard Mroczka said the outreach was designed to teach teens about HIV. Parents had complained after a worker gave a condom to a 13-year-old girl earlier this year when there were younger children nearby, officials said. On Aug. 26, officials from both counties told Mroczka they didn't want the group giving out condoms in places such as parks. Carbon County Commissioner Thomas Gerhard, who brought up the issue during a meeting several weeks ago, said he thinks money spent on the AIDS outreach program would be better spent helping people with other diseases such as cancer.

### HIV targets active human genes for rapid spread

NEW YORK — As HIV replicates within human cells, it latches on to specific DNA within the human genome. But rather than grabbing genes at random, new research suggests the virus selects those genes that will help it replicate in the quickest — and most lethal — way possible. The finding could someday help scientists design better gene-based therapies to fight HIV, the researchers said in an Aug. 30 report from Reuters Health. Researchers led by Dr. Frederic Bushman of the Salk Institute for Biological Science in San Diego reported the finding in the current issue of the journal Cell. By identifying specific genes targeted by HIV, scientists may make better choices when it comes to delivering gene therapy, the researchers said.

From staff and wire reports



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212-242-6863

A WindowMedia Publication

Publisher- WINDOW MEDIA LLC  
President- WILLIAM WAYBOURN  
Editorial Director- CHRIS CRAIN  
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Issue 1141

# Forum

## viewpoint

# Finding community after Sept. 11

It was the gay community that was truly there for one gay New Yorker, who barely escaped the attack on the World Trade Center, which claimed his lover:

By MUBARAK DAHIR



ON THAT FATEFUL morning of Sept. 11, as John Winter watched the horrors of the World Trade Center Towers burn, then crumble, he knew his life would be changed forever.

What he didn't know at the time is how it would bring him closer to his own community.

Winter, now 49, lived with his lover, Tony Karnes, then 37, in an apartment just three blocks south of the twin towers. Karnes worked on the 97th floor of One World Trade Center, or the north tower.

Until Sept. 5 of 2001, Winter worked on the 99th floor of the same tower. In a twist of luck that saved Winter's life, his company relocated their offices from the World Trade Center less than a week before the attacks.

Karnes had left for work at about 8:30 that morning, minutes before the American Airlines plane crashed into building, turning into a towering inferno. At the couple's home, Winter heard "what sounded like a loud thunder." The curious noise caused Winter to peek out the window, where he saw several floors of One World Trade Center spewing smoke.

"I looked out the window and realized the smoke was covering the area right where Tony's desk was," says Winter.

Winter grabbed for his cell phone, but Karnes' work line had gone dead. Panicking, Winter rushed out of the apartment and ran toward the building that would become his lover's grave. He was forced to turn back by dangerous flying debris and by firemen who prevented him from getting any closer to the building.

Karnes and Winter had met three years earlier at a technology convention in Memphis, Tenn. In 1999 they moved together to New York City, where Karnes

became simply enamored by the city's glitz and energy. He loved movies and the spicy hot ethnic foods from around the world, especially Indian cuisine.

"New York was one big adventure to him," says Winter. "We were still discovering all the different little exciting new areas of it."

THOUGH BOTH MEN WERE COMFORTABLE with their sexual orientation, and certainly had other gay and lesbian friends, Winter says that before the tragedy they were "not very much part of the gay scene." They didn't go to bars or pay much attention to gay and lesbian political rights groups or read the gay newspapers. "It seemed being gay together was enough," says Winter.

It wasn't until Winter lost the man he loved that he realized how much he needed his community, too.

Winter's company set up bereavement sessions for people who lost loved ones at the World Trade Center, but Winter says he felt "isolated and disconnected" at the group meetings.

All the other participants were heterosexuals. Winter was the only one who'd lost a gay partner. At times, he says, others acted as if his loss was somehow not as equally devastating as the loss of a husband or wife.

"I wanted to talk to people who understood," he says.

So he phoned the gay community center, and began attending a bereavement group there. Ironically, at that group, none of the other surviving partners had lost their loved ones during the attacks on the World Trade Center. Many had lost lovers to AIDS.

But how a person lost a lover turned out to be less important than the understanding of what that loss really meant. Winter felt much more at home with the

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gay group from the gay center than with the bereavement group from work.

And that was just the beginning of how Winter would lean on his community for help during the most devastating time of his life.

SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER THE tragedy, Winter received a call from the Empire State Pride Agenda, a New York state gay and lesbian rights group. The organization had seen Winter's name in the press as a surviving partner, and called to offer Winter help in applying for aid from relief agencies.

ESPA helped Winter collect all the documents and evidence he needed to prove to relief agencies like the Red Cross that he and Karnes were indeed a couple who were financially as well as emotionally intertwined.

"I was numb from the trauma" of losing a lover and witnessing the attacks on the World Trade Center, says Winter. "I wasn't up to filling out forms and going through paperwork." To help him, a member of ESPA — indeed, Matt Foreman, at the time ESPA's executive director — personally escorted Winter to the offices where he could apply for assistance.

And later, Winter would get advice from the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund about how to settle Karnes' estate, and how he might apply for a settlement from the federal Victims Compensation Fund, the federal fund set up as an alternative to suing the airlines to compensate family members of people who died on Sept. 11.

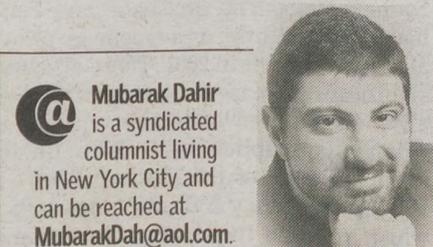
Gay relationships are not recognized in any legally significant ways by the state or federal governments. In addition, Karnes died without a will, making any claims by Winter as Karnes' lover all the more complicated.

The painful experience of losing his lover has shown Winter, however, that he is not alone. That in the most difficult time of his life, the gay and lesbian community was there for him.

Winter has never considered himself a gay activist, and he still doesn't. But one thing he has learned from this horrible experience, he says, is just how important it is to have organizations that fight for the recognition of our relationships.

"It was almost as if my life with Tony was legally invisible," he says.

Today, he has joined ESPA, as well as the Human Rights Campaign, and continues to go to the gay and lesbian community center. "I've never felt more a part of the community," he says.



@ Mubarak Dahir is a syndicated columnist living in New York City and can be reached at MubarakDah@aol.com.

viewpoint RICH ARENSCHIELDT



PHI a critical stage in HIV process; scientists seek to study recently exposed patients who may transmit virus easier

# Double-edged sword

"IT WAS THE WORST FLU I'VE EVER had; I was out of work for a week," says a nervous voice on the other end of the phone. Suddenly a mixture of dread and optimism fills my brain as mental flags pop up like banners in a July Fourth parade.

"What else did you experience?" I ask, listening intently. "I was really tired all week and I noticed this strange series of what looked like insect bites all over my chest and stomach," the guy replies. At this point, I shift in to high gear: HIV counselor mode. "May I ask you some personal questions?" I query as gently as possible. There is a long pause, "Okay," the caller responds. "Is there a possibility that you might have had risky sex sometime during the last three weeks?" I ask. This time the pause is even more profound; after what seems like an eternity, the anonymous voice answers, "Yes I think so."

Even though the caller doesn't know it, this poignant discussion could be of historic importance. What has taken place here are the first steps in identifying some rare and potentially significant individuals on the planet: Those in the midst of a brief medical phenomenon known as PHI: Primary HIV Infection.

In its simplest terms, PHI is a very brief period during the earliest stages of HIV infection, defined as the time immediately after someone is exposed to HIV but before the point at which their immune system is able to develop antibodies to the virus. This "window period" is thought to last between two and six weeks, depending on the individual.

Why is this PHI "window" period so important? During this period after infection and before antibody production, some fascinating and crucial immunologic events occur. In some cases, immediately after exposure to HIV, the virus grabs hold of the immune system like a pit bull terrier attacking a bone. The amount of virus produced (what doctors call a "viral load") can reach astronomical levels, spreading through blood, organs and the lymphatic system. Then something wondrous and bizarre occurs. The immune system, after being clobbered by the invading HIV, gets off its butt and starts fighting back — in some cases it responds well enough to severely limit the amount of HIV produced.

The immune system does this very early in the process, before the time most people suspect they are infected, before they seek diagnosis and certainly before any drugs are administered to control production of the virus. The immune system, in many cases, has capability by itself to partially suppress HIV for a short period of time.

This is incredible and a mystery. It's also fascinating to scientists, researchers and physicians working to find ways to mitigate the HIV epidemic. What we at The Center for AIDS are trying to do is identify men and women who may have recently infected with HIV, many of whom do not even know it.

As you can imagine, this is like looking for a needle in an immunologic haystack — it's difficult, but not impossible. There are specific ways in which people with PHI can be identified. Obviously the first thing to do is to determine who is most at

risk for PHI. This is the easy part — members of groups identified as being at high risk for HIV infection. Men who have sex with men, bisexual men, intravenous drug users and anyone who is a sexual partner to someone in a risk group. Others include someone who shares needles, or has had unprotected sex with an HIV-positive individual, especially in the role of the "receptive" partner — anally or vaginally.

Most individuals with PHI will experience what is called an "acute retroviral syndrome" or, in layman's terms, the flu. Research indicates that in excess of 95 percent of people who seek medical care for PHI are misdiagnosed by their doctors and emergency room personnel, even when these patients identify themselves as belonging to one of the risk groups listed above. This means that physicians and nurses need to be on the lookout for PHI patients, many of whom are erroneously instructed to go home and wait for their "flu" to subside. In order to properly diagnose PHI, medical providers need to question patients about their symptoms and their HIV-related risk behaviors.

Unfortunately, the symptoms used to diagnose PHI can be vague. Ninety-six percent of patients identified with PHI experience fever. So what differentiates PHI from a regular two-day bug that you caught from your 3-year old niece slobbering on you last Sunday?

In addition to a usually severe fever, almost 60 percent of PHI patients experience a diffuse rash on their chest or midsection. Other symptoms may include swollen lymph nodes (something that also leads to another frequent misdiagnosis of mononucleosis), headache, fatigue or increased sensitivity to light.

So, say you're reading this article, you've had a recent unprotected sexual exposure and some of these symptoms sound frighteningly familiar. Why should you call the Center for AIDS?

If you are infected with HIV, we will provide you information that may be able radically to alter the course of your disease. We will connect you to researchers who will study and monitor your immune system, enabling you to receive the most up-to-date medical care.

Current research indicates that if a

person is treated during PHI, their immune system function may be preserved. This has beneficial implications for their long-term prognosis and may allow them to control HIV without medications at some point in the future.

Additionally, there is some evidence that treatment during PHI can lower what is known as the "viral set point." This is equal to the amount of virus produced in your body without drug therapy — a point of natural equilibrium between your immune system and HIV. This "set point" is important in that it can be a factor in determining your rate of disease progression; the lower the set point, the better.

People in PHI have an essentially unchecked amount of HIV in their blood and as a result can be highly infectious to others. Some studies indicate that individuals in PHI are 20 times more infectious than those who have been HIV-positive for a longer period of time.

Many view oral sex as a relatively safe activity. Read my lips: If your partner is experiencing PHI, your risk for contracting HIV is probably much greater, even from sex that is normally considered "safe." Scientists who study how HIV moves through populations (epidemiologists) think that if PHI patients are treated early, this could slow the spread of the epidemic.

We need people to help us solve this mystery. In doing so, they may be able to alter the course of their disease by preserving their immune systems, reducing transmission rates and altering the number of future infections.

We read the headlines, witness the devastation caused by HIV, and feel powerless. Through its PHI initiative, the Center for AIDS offers an opportunity for a person to do his or her part in stemming the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Contact the Center at 713-527-8219, call the PHI 24-hour hotline at 713-521-9367, or learn more at the Center's Web site, [www.thecenterforaids.org](http://www.thecenterforaids.org).

@ Rich Arenschieldt is a freelance writer for Houston Voice and Director of Education and Outreach at The Center for AIDS. He may be reached at [rich@centerforaids.org](mailto:rich@centerforaids.org).

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



## on the record

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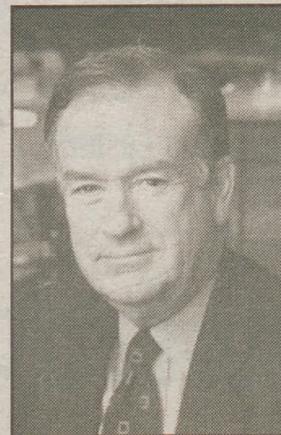


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"Look, I couldn't care less, to tell you the truth. ... You want to get married? Knock yourself out. Go to Vegas; have a good time. ... If you can get that changed, I'm not going to jump up and down and say I think it's wrong, because I don't."

*Bill O'Reilly, conservative talk show host for the Fox News Network's "The O'Reilly Factor" on legally sanctioned gay marriage, in an interview with freelance writer Michael Glitz, to be published in the Sept. 3 issue of the Advocate (John Aravosis, About.com)*

"Ninety percent of Americans don't care what you do; 10 percent are fanatics. They think you're going to hell, and they want you to go to hell. All right? Ignore them."

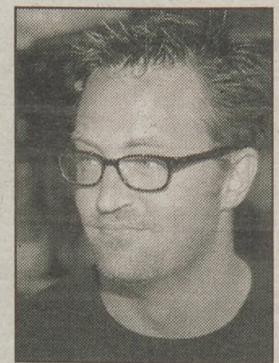
*Bill O'Reilly, conservative talk show host for the Fox News Network's "The O'Reilly Factor" on conservative Christians, in an interview with freelance writer Michael Glitz, to be published in the Sept. 3 issue of the Advocate (John Aravosis, About.com)*

"It doesn't matter what or if you smoke, drink, are involved in pornography, murder, homosexuality, witchcraft or whatever. It doesn't matter if you have a piercing in every available crevice of your body, purple hair, or killed your mother and made a leather coat out of her carcass."

*Mark "Mirf" Leech, co-owner of Skelletons Caffeinated Music Caf , a new "Christian coffeehouse" in Grand Rapids, Mich., on how his business welcomes all comers (Associated Press, Aug. 26)*

"I still have that dorky taste in music where if you're a woman in emotional distress and write a song about it, I'll play the song over and over. If you're a lesbian, I'll buy it twice."

*Matthew Perry, star of "Friends," on his new favorite CD, by Norah Jones (People Magazine, Aug. 29)*



(Photo courtesy of WireImage.com)

"Homosexuality is a behavior. When I came out of my mama's womb, I was kicking and I was black. One of those I could change, and that was my behavior."

*Rev. Nathaniel Wilcox, 48, executive director of People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality, and now a vocal advocate for a ballot measure that would repeal Miami-Dade's gay rights ordinance (Miami Herald, Aug. 31)*

"I have been asked what it's like being white in a field of music that's considered African-American. I think it would be equally valid to ask me what it's like being gay and playing a form of music that's seen as macho. It's interesting that the subject never seems to come up."

*Jazz vibraphonist Gary Burton (New York Times, Sept. 1)*



"Cause you're the one good reason/ You're the only girl that I need/ 'Cause you're more beautiful than I have ever seen/ I'm gonna take this night/ and make it Evergreen."

*Lyrics from "Evergreen," the first No. 1 hit by Will Young, who won the "Pop Idols" competition that was the springboard for the popular "American Idols." Young came out a week after "Evergreen" topped the U.K. charts*

# WHAT KALETRA HAS TO OFFER MAY SURPRISE YOU



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KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents in patients 6 months of age or older. KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.

**Safety Information**

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

KALETRA must not be taken with certain drugs due to the potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects. Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription and herbal preparations, you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which may cause death, have been

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Abbott Park, IL 60064

reported in patients receiving KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. Your doctor may want to monitor your liver function. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

The most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity are: abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. Children most often reported diarrhea, rash, taste aversion, and vomiting.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

**KALETRA™**  
(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules  
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA.** Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

**Patient Information**

**KALETRA™**  
(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir  
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

**What is KALETRA and how does it work?**

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

**Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?**

**KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) infections.**

**Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?**

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

**How should I take KALETRA?**

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

**What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?**

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

**What happens if I take too much KALETRA?**

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large

amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

**Who should not take KALETRA?**

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

**Can I take KALETRA with other medications?\***

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

**MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:**

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.

– Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others

– Halcion® (triazolam)

– Hismanal® (astemizole)

– Orap® (pimozide)

– Propulsid® (cisapride)

– Rhythmol® (propafenone)

– Seldan® (terfenadine)

– Tambocor™ (flecainide)

– Versed® (midazolam)

- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.

- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

**Medicines that require dosage adjustments:**

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

**Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.**

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.

- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**  
Phenobarbital  
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)  
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)  
These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- Other Special Considerations:**  
KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:**  
Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

**What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?**

- This list of side effects is **not** complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that

are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-retroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

**What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?**

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:** The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.

- If you are breast-feeding:** Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.

- If you have liver problems:** If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.

- If you have diabetes:** Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.

- If you have hemophilia:** Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

**How do I store KALETRA?**

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.

- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

**General advice about prescription medicines:**

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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**DINING:** House in the Heights is a perfect place for an intimate — and filling — dining experience. **Page 21**

**THEATER:** Unhinged Productions brings 'Lips' — with its rumors of a lesbian president — to this stage this month. **Page 19**



HOUSTON VOICE  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2002  
PAGE 15

# Out on the Bayou

## 9/11/01 anniversary hits home

Terrorist attacks and resulting changes in American society stay with gay Houstonians one year later

By KAY Y. DAYUS

As this first anniversary of the horrific terrorist attacks on America nears, most people will be looking back to what they were doing on 9/11/01 when they first realized what was happening in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania.

Some prominent faces among Houston's gays and lesbians are among those this week who recall the tragic day one year ago.

"This anniversary is a time for us to reflect and celebrate everything we have," says Janine Brunjes, gay Houstonians' liaison to Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown.

In fact, Brunjes was in a meeting with the mayor and others at the Hyatt Regency downtown when they first heard of the attacks last year.



Janine Brunjes

"A man received a phone call on his cell phone from his wife in New York. She told him what was happening and he told us," Brunjes recalls. "Pretty soon the mayor was ushered out of the hotel. I stumbled around the city, eventually going to City Hall. I felt like we were under siege, and I included Houston in that."

Brunjes says the theme for this year's Houston Black Tie Dinner appropriately is "Reflections." She hopes it is a theme that gives gay Houstonians hope. This year, the dinner will be a little different. There will be no main speaker and instead three comedians will share the spotlight. Those changes are at least in part due to 9/11.

"It will be a night of comic relief, to celebrate and have a good time and be really thankful," says Brunjes.

Next Wednesday, on the actual anniversary date of the attacks, Brunjes says she plans little work. Instead, she plans to go to a cathedral and meditate and think about those who perished in the attacks.

Gay activist Clarence Bagby, who is on the Alumni Board of Directors of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, hopes that next Wednesday will be a time "across the country that we focus on peace and working together, instead of having a 'let's get 'em temptation.'"

"We need to better understand people. There is a reason the Arabs hate the United States," Bagby says. "We need to ask, 'Why do they hate us?'" He says that although what happened that fateful day last year was horrific, "life goes on."

In the aftermath of 9/11, Bagby is concerned about the broad powers over U.S. citi-



zens that Attorney General John Ashcroft and President George W. Bush are asking for. "It's like a modified return to McCarthyism. Have they read the Constitution?" he says.

Not everyone's view of 9/11 is sentimental. For instance, longtime local gay activist Ray Hill says he remembers well what he was doing on 9/11 last year. He was getting ready to travel to Dayton, Texas, to give a speech at the dedication of a new criminal justice center.



Ray Hill

"I saw it on television and I immediately thought, 'How the fuck am I going to hold an audience after this?!'" he says with his trademark candor.

Hill, too, is concerned about what he calls, "the John Ashcroft era."

"Congress immediately gave President Bush what he wanted to limit people's freedoms," Hill says. He disagrees with America's attacks on Afghanistan. "Al Qaeda is not a nation. We bombed Afghanistan and it didn't put a dent in stopping the terrorist network."

He believes that all gay and lesbian efforts, such as the fight for equality, have been put on a back burner. "All of our priorities changed," Hill says.

Please see **HITS HOME**, on **Page 17**

## All susceptible to 9/11 stress

Counselors offer advice for coping on anniversary

By KAY Y. DAYUS

As the first anniversary of the horrific events of 9/11/01 approaches, experts say many Americans might suffer a recurrence of the stress that was evident in the days, weeks and months following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a lonely meadow in Pennsylvania.

Already, the horrendous images of 9/11 are reappearing on television screens and in the print media. They bring back the agony and hopelessness of the all-too-familiar sights: the fear, anguish, anger and most of all the sense of loss felt not just by Houston's gays and lesbians, but by all Americans.

For those gay Houstonians who feel they cannot cope with the resurgence of these feelings, there is at least some help at the Montrose Counseling Center, according to center Development and

Marketing Manager Sally Huffer. The MCC primarily caters to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

"With observances planned throughout the country, including Houston, people should anticipate being exposed to increased media attention of the event, and that could trigger a number of emotions as well as memories of feeling powerless and helpless," states a recent press release from MCC.

"It is important for individuals to recognize their own pattern of processing and coping with stress," and deal with it appropriately, says Chris Kerr, LIFE program coordinator and a therapist at the center.

He says some people dealt with their original 9/11 stress by "putting their anxiety into action." Some donated blood or money, while others joined the military or became peace activists.

"All of these are appropriate ways to manage stress," says Kerr.

However, some ignored their feelings or suppressed them. Still others

Please see **STRESS**, on **Page 17**

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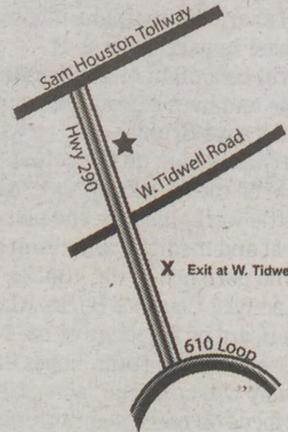
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## out on the bayou

# Some activists wary of 9/11 political fallout

HITS HOME, continued from Page 15

Another less-than-sentimental view comes from Grant Martin, political consultant and fund-raiser for City Council member Annise Parker and other political aspirants.

While conceding the events of 9/11 were tragic and "indelibly impressed on our national psyche," he says, "I am frustrated with all the attention being paid to people who lost their lives on 9/11. People lose their lives every day — heroic things are done every day, but not so dramatically."

Martin says that people are forever fixated on that day. "It was horrible, it was tragic. But there are people who wish they could have died in an explosion instead of spending six months wasting away with AIDS," he points out.

He says that just like funding for many charities, he has noticed that campaign donations are not up to pre-9/11 levels.

"Some people stopped giving and gave to 9/11 charities. It's now harder to get once-established donors to start giving again," he explains.

He doesn't think 9/11 should be made into a national holiday and he wonders what kind of monument will be built to commemorate the event. He recently read an article about how American memori-



Grant Martin

als have changed over the years.

"Years ago, we built, say, the Lincoln Memorial in commemoration of President Lincoln, and then we moved on," Martin says.

Nowadays, memorials such as that at the Oklahoma Federal Building or the Wall of Remembrance for those who lost their lives in Vietnam, seek "to make us grieve forever," he contends.

Special events are scheduled to help gay Houstonians both move on and cope with grief on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

On Wednesday, Sept. 11, the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center will remain open from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. for the Sept. 11 Remembrance. Throughout the day, individuals may drop by the center to write messages in a book, which the center board of directors will present to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Center in New York.

The center is located at 803 Hawthorne.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, Interfaith Ministries and Houston Museum District will host "Sept. 11: Remembering Together," a free program at the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross, followed by a candlelight procession to the Rothko Chapel.

Houston's OrchestraX marks the anniversary with a Sept. 12 "Heroes, a tribute concert." The event begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Parador, 2021 Binz. For more information, call 713-225-6729 or log on to [www.orchestrax.org](http://www.orchestrax.org).

# Many people cope differently

STRESS, continued from Page 15

turned to unproductive ways of coping with their stress, such as increased alcohol or drug use. Some even became hostile or violent, and none of that is a good way of coping, says Kerr. These are "false coping skills, because it actually increased stress and decreases our ability to cope with it."

Unfortunately, for those who buried their emotions in the aftermath of the attacks, this first anniversary could reawaken some of those feelings, catching them by surprise.

His advice to people who are prone to become upset by the replayed images from last year is to simply avoid television as much as possible.

On the other hand, for others, he says "watching documentaries and attending observances will be a healing process."

How each person reacts to the anticipated media onslaught during this anniversary "depends on how one is able to frame the emotions that will be brought to the surface, and it's different for each person. Some people manage distress by reaching out to family and friends," says Kerr. Simply talking about one's emotions may seem insignificant, but for many, it is an effective coping mechanism, he adds.

While some find "spiritual connections and meditation healing," explains Kerr, others experience higher levels of energy when facing stress. These people need to set aside more time to exercise to help

cope and ease the stress.

Kerr suggests that people anticipate some level of stress during the coming week and put together a coping plan — whether that includes limiting one's television viewing, allowing more time to meditate, increasing exercise, gathering with family or friends, or making an appointment with a counselor or clergy.

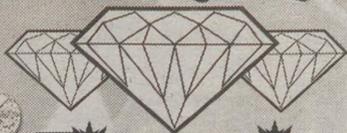
"There is a lot of stress surrounding the attack on America," says Kerr, even for those who did not lose a loved one and those who just watched from a distance.

He says that anyone who experiences nightmares, flashbacks, debilitating fear, hyper-arousal, difficulty sleeping or eating, absenteeism from work, withdrawal from friends and family, increased heart rate or an inability to concentrate may be inappropriately handling stress.

Huffer says the center will hold its own observance on 9/11 this year by leaving the television on all day and having a journal handy for people to write down their thoughts. She says that just like people seek therapists for their healing, therapists need to be healed too. She hopes their observances next Wednesday will help their therapists cope too.

For anyone concerned about coping effectively with this first anniversary of the terrorist attacks, the Montrose Counseling Center is available to help. Contact MCC at 713-529-0037 or log on to [www.montrosecounselingcenter.org](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org).

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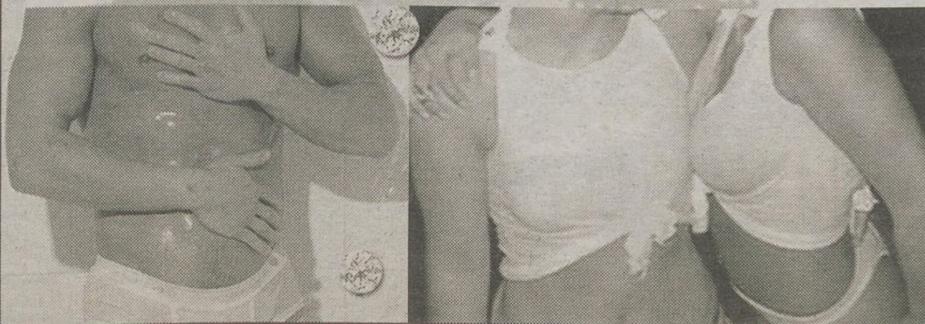
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Pictured clockwise from left: Annilee Jefferies, Charles Krohn, Josie de Guzman, John Tyson; photos by T. Charles Erickson. The company of *A Flea in Her Ear*, photo by Jim Caldwell.

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Houston stages offer a number of new productions for the tastes of all theatergoers

## September plays bloom

### 'Ladies at the Alamo'

The Fan Factory opens its second season with Paul Zindel's biting comedy "Ladies at the Alamo," based on Houston's own Alley Theatre. In 1965, the Alley presented its first world premiere, Zindel's "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds." After the local theater, the show went on to play Broadway and win a Pulitzer Prize. Zindel apparently did not enjoy the resident-playwright experience, however, because he later wrote "Ladies at the Alamo," a stinging satire of the Alley and its management. The piece examines behind-the-scenes intrigues and power struggles that beset a famous regional theater and its longtime artistic directory. The New York Daily News calls the play "...the bitchiest, most hilarious female free-for-all since The Women..."

### on stage 'Ladies at the Alamo'

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Sept. 6-28  
Tickets: \$10 or \$8 for seniors or students  
Midtown Art Center • 1423 Holman  
The Fan Factory Theatre Co. • 832-465-4563  
www.fanfactory.org

### 'The Laws of Storms'

Main Street Theater presents "The Laws of Storms" by Thomas Meloncon. The drama explores the emotional and physical damage caused by the Galveston hurricane of 1900, the most catastrophic storm in history. The story is told through the eyes and suffering of one African-American family. At the time of the storm, the thriving island city of Galveston was the most prosperous city in Texas.

### on stage 'The Laws of Storms'

7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays  
Sept. 12-Oct. 13  
No show on Sept. 13; Pay What You Wish on Sept. 15 • Tickets: \$20-30  
Main Street Theater • 2540 Times Blvd.  
713-524-6706 • www.mainstreettheater.com

### 'Seven Keys to Baldpate'

Celebrating its 41st season, Theatre Suburbia presents George M. Cohan's "Seven Keys to Baldpate," a "yankee-doodle-dandy" of a mystery. In this play, a novelist goes to a mountain inn to plot his next book.

### on stage 'Seven Keys to Baldpate'

8:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays  
3 p.m. Sunday matinees, Sept. 29 and Oct. 6  
Sept. 13-Oct. 12  
Tickets: \$10, or \$9 seniors & students, \$8 matinees  
Theatre Suburbia • 1410 W. 43rd St.  
713-682-3525 • www.theatresuburbia.com



The newly elected president, played by Michelle Britton, conducts a press conference in a scene from 'Lips,' a comedy-drama by Unhinged Productions that opens this month. Kelley Ogden plays Rachel, the suspected love interest for the president, and Ronnie Blaine plays Andy, a presidential aide.

### 'Blood Wedding'

Translated by Langston Hughes, Federico Garcia Lorca's "Blood Wedding" is directed by Rob Bundy for Stages Repertory Theatre. On the barren landscape of rural Spain, two lovers — driven by their insatiable desire for each other — abandon their families and surrender to their all-consuming passion. The hope of two households is drowned in their wake as they fulfill a tragic prophecy of revenge.

### on stage 'Blood Wedding'

Sept. 18-Oct. 13 • Tickets: \$32-\$42  
Stages Repertory Theatre  
3201 Allen Parkway, Suite 101  
713-527-0123 • www.stagestheatre.com

### 'Lips'

Unhinged Productions presents "Lips," Constance Congdon's comedy drama, to open its fifth season. In the play, the country has a new president and difficult issues it has never quite faced before. That new president is the first woman elected to the office, and she works for the benefit of gays and lesbians in America. She fights for equal rights, and her tactics spark rumors that she is a lesbian. The repercussions force her to re-evaluate her principles.

### on stage 'Lips'

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 5 p.m. Sundays  
Sept. 20-Oct. 27  
Tickets: \$15 or \$12 for seniors and students, or \$10 on Sundays  
Atomic Café • 1320 Nance St.  
713-547-0440 • www.u-p.org

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## Try feng shui

I FIRST HEARD ABOUT FENG SHUI — the oriental system for arranging space to attract good energy and discourage bad energy — several years ago.

Wondering if it was worth investigating, I asked local architect and designer Michael Lee what he thought about the system. He opined that most of it was just about the principles of good design. That satisfied my curiosity for a long time, but more and more feng shui books came out, and a woman who I know to be reasonably sane spoke of consulting her feng shui practitioner, so I resolved to investigate.

The perfect time to check out feng shui came when the flooring in the rooms I used as a den and a dining room was replaced. There were two empty rooms, neither of which worked as well as they should have. So, the evening before my brother, who had redone the floor, came with the crew to move all the furniture back, I got the "Complete Idiot's Guide to Feng Shui" from the library.

I read fast, and already knew that the proper way to pronounce it is "feng schway," so I was confident I could learn enough to arrange two rooms in a few hours. Besides, I had recently read a mystery featuring a woman practitioner turned amateur detective. It wasn't a very good mystery, because all the feng shui details cluttered the plot, but they sounded very authentic. Mirrors, red tassels, smudge sticks.

I WAS WRONG. THE FIRST CHAPTER has a feng shui I.Q. test, and I failed miserably. Then I learned that all the stuff in the mystery was "faux feng shui," modern stuff that Westerners (in the global sense) had invented as part of the new age craze. Can't you hear teenagers: "That is so faux feng shui," and rolling their eyes. Then I learned that the tool I needed for traditional feng shui was a compass. Since it was too late to go to Academy to buy a compass, and I wasn't going to buy a book, even one by Lillian Too, I was stuck with the real thing.

There were lots of parts about yin and yang, baguas and trigrams, but I finally found the drawings about where to put furniture. Unfortunately, they were for offices and bedrooms.

My bed was in the right place, and although I think the design of the room would be better if it were in a different place, this feels safest. I had suggested that a friend put her bed in the middle of her tiny sleeping porch and had the idea rejected as bad feng shui. It would have looked wonderful though, but probably been difficult to live with.

My office is all wrong, since my back is to the door, and I've been unhappy with this room. When I decide to rearrange, I'll consult the book more.



For those who don't know what feng shui is, 'The Complete Idiot's Guide to Feng Shui' might be a good start.

THE SHORT COURSE ON FENG SHUI, as gleaned from my speed-reading, is that energy needs space to circulate and flow around a room and we need to be protected from straight lines of energy, also called poison arrows.

This made sense. Last spring when I managed the early voting poll at Fiesta, the machines were lined up in the middle of the room. We had one narrow entrance to the area, and then two long narrow corridors of machine and wall. After three days of working with them, I could not stand it and had everything rearranged. Another architect friend had looked at the space and encouraged and supported me in this decision.

There had been complaints about this location before, but not afterward.

Left to my own devices about the den and dining room, I moved the dining table from the middle room of the house to the back room, which has a wall of windows overlooking the garden. This room had had two seating areas, so I kept one and moved the other to the middle room. It wasn't a loss for the back room, because it isn't really big enough for two separate seating areas and if there were more than three people in the room, it became seating area that was really too big for conversation.

The change is remarkable. Part of it is the new lighter floor, but part of it is the center of the house isn't crowded with all the legs of the dining table and chairs. The table was a clutter magnet, too. It is much nicer to eat in the room with the view. The middle room isn't completely redecorated, but progress has been made.

If you're interested in finding a feng shui practitioner, pick up one of those new age newsletters at a health food store or Lucia's Garden. Several are listed.

However, you might also consult with an interior designer who will help you rearrange your space. I think Michael Lee is basically correct that good design is good feng shui. The editor of Nest, the truly cutting edge magazine about interiors, recently wrote about the appeal of rectangular rooms. These rooms have good feng shui, too.

Now that I've done my initial investigating, I know more about just what that means.

dining J. A. CHAPMAN

Reservation-only House in the Heights serves up lengthy, superb meals

# House worth a visit

THE FIRST TIME I WENT LOOKING for the House in the Heights, I drove right by it.

The attractive two-story house with the cottage garden blends right into this quiet, historic Heights neighborhood. You'd never know it holds a gem of fine dining. Owner and chef Patrick Zone likes it that way.

Two years ago, tired of the unending demands of running the busy Sonoma restaurant, he sold it and bought this place in the Heights. Here he can focus on providing an old world dining experience while creating vibrant New American cuisine.



For the entrée, two in our party chose the brown sugar-seared Atlantic salmon, which arrived with sautéed spinach and couscous. They both declared it to be "interesting." Having been taught that "interesting" is the polite way to say you don't like something, I was a bit concerned. But after finagling a bite, I had to agree with my companions. It was interesting — and good. The sweet, smoky flavor of the brown sugar crust complemented the buttery salmon, and set off the saltier couscous and garlicky spinach.

I feared my ancho chile-rubbed center cut pork loin might succumb to cliché, but it had just the right combination of heat and flavor and was almost fork-only tender. The creamy mashed potatoes and fresh green beans provided a perfect accompaniment.

The vegetable plate, which included couscous and a respectable variety of grilled vegetables, received high marks. One minor quibble: The vegetable plate and a few other items were too generously seasoned with ground black pepper. A little heat is appreciated, but not so much that it overpowers.

Coffee and dessert are a la carte, and although hardly able to eat another bite, we managed to find a bit of room to share a piece of light, tangy key lime pie.

Happily satisfied, we rolled out the door after almost four hours. House in the Heights is not the place to come if you need to eat and run. But if you want to enjoy a superb, elegant dining experience, it is hard to beat.

One thing is for sure: I won't drive by it again.

OPEN BY RESERVATION ONLY, HOUSE in the Heights offers a prix fixe menu. Everyone gets the same appetizer and salad, and a choice of three or four entrees for \$28. The Heights is dry, so you can bring your favorite wine (corkage fee \$6 per bottle), and mixers are provided if you prefer cocktails.

The tasteful and eclectic décor echoes the theme of blending old and new. Antiques mix with quirky modern touches, such as our favorite — the Looney Tunes "Taz" telephone that growls and does a crazy little dance when someone calls. With a number of separate rooms, diners don't feel crowded, and larger groups can be accommodated.

On a recent evening, we were just settling into our first bottle of wine when our steaming-hot fresh bread arrived. Light and airy and topped with a bit of black pepper and mustard seeds, it disappeared quickly, accompanied by the excellent dipping concoction of olive oil, balsamic vinegar and herbs fresh from the garden surrounding the house.

Our bread board empty and our appetites whetted, the arrival of our appetizers caused a stir. Stunning homemade green and white striped asparagus ravioli was accompanied by crispy-fresh asparagus spears and a light cream sauce.

"Oooh," said one of our party, "how did you make that?"

And this is part of the charm of House in the Heights. Owner Zone actually takes time to answer your questions. He wants you to feel comfortable and at home, and creates a relaxed, yet elegant atmosphere. He gladly accommodates any dietary restrictions or preferences, and accepts special requests as well.

AFTER A LEISURELY BREAK, AND some more wine, our salads arrived. Fresh Texas field greens lightly seasoned with a zippy balsamic vinaigrette and topped with crumbly bleu cheese were accompanied by an eye-popping garnish of baked phyllo.

We all happily tucked in, and, when we came up for air, wondered where we would put our main courses. House in the Heights definitely serves generous portions; our appetizer and salad together were almost a meal.



## House in the Heights

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713-880-2166  
www.houseintheheights.com

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

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## appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

## SPECIAL FRIDAY, SEPT. 6

**"Escape the Artist,"** the new one-man exhibition by J. Palmer, will be on display as Betz Gallery hosts a 6-9 p.m. champagne opening-night reception. 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. Gallery owner Laurie Betz, a dedicated center supporter, donated a work of art from her gallery to the Community Center Art Festival in June. Betz Gallery, 1208 West Gray. 713-523-3765. www.betzgallery.com.

## UPCOMING

**The First Semi-Annual Rainbow Donkey & Elephant Rummage Sale & Barbeque** will be hosted by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus Saturday, Sept. 14, 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.

## FILM

## FRIDAY &amp; SATURDAY, SEPT. 6 &amp; 7

**"Dr. Strangelove,"** directed by Stanley Kubrick, is the masterpiece starring Peter Sellers in three roles: earnest British squadron leader, apologetic American president, and lunatic ex-Nazi nuclear scientist. Roger Ebert called the film "arguably the best political satire of the century." 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6, and 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7. Tickets: \$6. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Caroline Wiess Law Building, corner of Main Street and Bissonnet/Binz. 713-639-7515. www.mfah.org.



The masterpiece 'Dr. Strangelove' plays at the Museum of Fine Arts this weekend.

## 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.

## community calendar

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 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. • American Express Financial Advisors financial planning seminar, noon • Texas Association for Transsexual Support (TATS), rescheduled meeting from the second Saturday, 3 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston monthly party and movie. Donations requested to support the center. 7:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

**PFLAG-Houston.** General meeting with panel discussion with youth from H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals). 2 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas. 713-46P-FLAG.

## 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, 9:45 a.m. Service, 11 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. • S.I.S.T.E.R.S., 3 p.m. • MASH (Men of All Shades Houston), 5 p.m. • H.A.T.C.H., 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 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. • HEAT (Houston Employees Affinity Team), 6:30 p.m. • Human Rights Campaign, PAC, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**Bereavement group.** Addresses loss due to the death of a loved one. Facilitated by Robert Snellgrove, LMSW-ACP, 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 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 11

**Houston Area Bears.** Dineout and meeting at Biba Ones a Meal. 6:30 p.m. 713-867-9123. www.houstonareabears.com.

## 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 EJs; 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. 1307 Yale. 713-528-4379.

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

**Lesbian Literature Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Special hours: The center will remain open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. for the Sept. 11 Remembrance. Throughout the day, people may stop at the center to write messages in a book, which will be presented to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Center in New York. • Houston Black Lesbian, Gay, Transgender Coalition office hours 10 a.m.-noon • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Women's Game Night, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

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**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/lorathon/houfr.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: nguyenn0023@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 volunteers' meeting, 7 p.m. • Mattison Grey personal and professional coaching workshop, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

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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

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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

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 & Bissonnet off Hwy-59.

## CLASSIFIED ADS WORK!

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## "Lesbians, Buy Sexual"

### Across

- Tune type
- Colin Higgins title character
- Maupin's "\_\_\_ of You"
- 60 minutes, for Marga Gomez
- Where to find your first mate
- "A Beautiful Mind" director's TV role
- Baldwin's "The \_\_\_ Corner"
- Coward and more
- Plate of Bean's
- Lesbian sex shop in San Francisco
- Mineo of "Rebel Without a Cause"
- "\_\_\_, I'm Gay" (Time caption for Ellen)
- Poet McKuen
- Nightclub in a song of 5-Down
- One who may act up
- Did a bad imitation of Bette Davis
- Lesbian sex shop in Vancouver
- Sophie B. Hawkins' "The \_\_\_ Will Rise"
- "Little Miss Evil" author Raphael
- Island of Mead's research
- Lesbian sex shop in Chicago
- Where you eat but don't ask or tell
- Zelda portrayer in an old sitcom
- Mishima's continent
- Liberace's nickname

- Prefix for "out"
- Where commuters get off (abbr.)
- Lesbian sex shop in Seattle
- Dancer Tommy
- Gugino of "Jaded"
- One of Martina's serves
- First shepherd
- "You say you don't like it, but girl I know you're \_\_\_"
- Barry Humphries' Dame
- Producer Meron
- Say a benediction at Metropolitan Community Church
- Cole Porter's "You'd Be So \_\_\_ to Love"

- Boast from a successful cross-dresser?
- Events for Bruce Hayes
- Winfrey of "The Color Purple"
- It can cut leaves of grass
- Game played astride the well-hung
- Tiny organism
- Emulated Diana Nyad
- Humpy animal
- End of a Stein quote
- Rent
- Lover of Lorca, perhaps
- Part of YSL
- Poet Eileen
- It keeps you from being a street walker
- Criticize the Hung Jury and Ramrod?
- Pigged out
- With "fours," doggy-style
- "A Delicate Balance" author
- Rhyme and container for lube
- R.E.M.'s "The \_\_\_ Love"
- "We're here! We're queer!" e.g.
- Cheese from Gide's country
- "Uh-oh!" to Lord Byron
- Alan of "The Object of My Affection"
- Whoopi and others in "Sister Act"
- Cart for heavy loads
- Provincetown project

### Down

- Have sex on a carpet?
- \_\_\_ erectus
- Bicolor bite
- Fairy godmothers wave them around
- Man who needed Mandy
- Get from \_\_\_ (progress)
- Visitor at gay.com
- Homophobic House whip
- Time zone of Northampton
- Gay nightlife district London
- Second word of a fairy tale
- Places for Sue Wicks' nets
- Shrek's shoe size, perhaps
- This really sucks

Answers on Page 25



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## Rummage Sale and BBQ

Sept. 14th, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To be held at HLGCC, 803 Hawthorne.

Call Don for info on your group's joining in.

**281-491-3939**

## astrology JILL DEARMAN



## My Stars!

September 6-12

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

The little things mean a lot during this significant week in September. The Sun and Mars are both transiting the daily work and health sector of your chart, which means that you can deal with the big picture later. For now, mind the details. Kiss a Leo as though you mean it.

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

The Sun and Mars are both transiting the home sector of your chart, so seek out relatives for comfort. Another Taurus wants to share more than just a meal with you. One of you better make a move soon.

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

This is an intense week for you, but you can get through it. A lot of activity in the home sector of your chart means that you will be on the minds of the ones you love. Try to be physically close to them, and don't shut yourself off. An Aquarius longs for you.

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

The Sun and Mars are firing up the social sector of your chart, so force yourself to see people even if you're feeling reclusive. You and a Scorpio have a psychic bond that can't be beat.

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

Saturn in your house of friends may make some of your platonic relationships much heavier than usual. Try to be consistent with your pals. Make regular dates; don't just call sporadically. A Capricorn needs to see more of your pretty face.

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

Venus is passing through the social sector of your chart during this cycle, which means that new dates and friends could present themselves to you. Stop using work as an excuse. Get out more. A Sag has wild plans for you.

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

The Sun is transiting the most mystical area of your chart, which means that you won't find answers in the obvious places. You need to tune in to your body for a real sense of peace. A Virgo wants a piece of you.

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

You can improve your lifestyle one step at a time if you put more energy into getting out of town on a regular basis. You need happy diversions, honey. A Virgo can provide you with plenty.

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

This is the right time for you to put closure on a difficult relationship. You may not get satisfaction from the person in question, but you will find an internal sense of peace. A Taurus can help you over the rough spots.

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

Jupiter, planet of good luck, is transiting the collaboration sector of your chart. Whatever you think you can do yourself, you'll do much better with a partner. The same goes for your love life, you isolated freak! Snuggle up with a Gemini. You need each other!

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

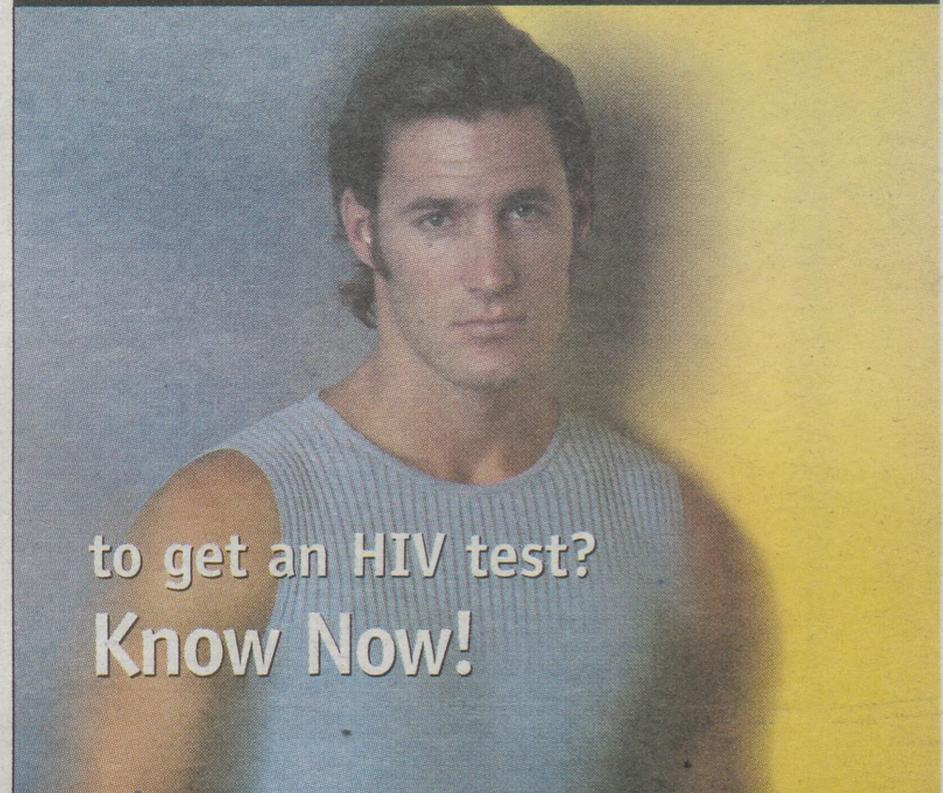
Mercury is passing through the travel sector of your chart this week. This means that you may want to try your hand at your favorite activity — making the world a better place through communication with people with vastly opposing views. Blend your skills as a contrarian and a diplomat. A Leo is in awe of you.

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

A couple of key planets are opposing you right now and making you feel a little more oppressed than usual. Be nice to yourself, Pisces. You deserve some TLC. Ask for it from your loved ones, or at least give it to yourself. Another Pisces knows how you feel. Lean on each other.

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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September 11, 2001

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02H-036-4368-7

July 2002

 Abbott Virology  
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Printed in U.S.A.