

# HOUSTON VOICE

## Life's literary side

Gay novelist Jim Grimsley talks about writing as an outlet for exploring a different part of life. Page 15



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'Art for H.A.T.C.H. II' helps raise funds for gay and questioning adolescents. Page 2



Hundreds of gay Houstonians gathered Sunday to kick off the Montrose Softball League's new season. Page 3



'We Have Some Planes' among new productions taking to Houston stages. Page 18

## TX court refuses to hear sodomy case

Next step is to U.S. Supreme Court for two gay Houstonians arrested in their own bedroom

By PENNY WEAVER

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has refused to hear the case of two Houston men criminally convicted for having sex in the privacy of their home, a move that likely propels the issue to the U.S. Supreme Court. "What the court has done is really slammed the door on lesbians and gay men in Texas for closing review on this law," said Susan Sommer, supervising attorney for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. "I think our only recourse now is the U.S. Supreme Court, and we are going to be seriously considering filing a petition for review by the U.S. Supreme Court."

Lambda represents the two Houston men, John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, as does Houston attorney Mitchell Katine. "We have been told by the clerk — we haven't received the written notice yet — that the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has denied our petition for discretionary review," Katine said Thursday morning.



Houston attorney Mitchell Katine said it is likely the case of two Houston men charged under the Texas homosexual conduct law will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"That means that we don't need to spend two more years in Texas on this case. That is the end of the case in Texas. "Our only further recourse is to file ... with the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington and request that they consider this case,"

Katine added. "For a lot of people, that is really where this decision needed to be resolved. "The U.S. Supreme Court in one case can remove all of these unjust laws in all states," he said. The petition filed in the case asked the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to reexamine the homosexual conduct law in an effort to get the court to effectively strike down that law, Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code. The case stems from the 1998 arrests of Lawrence and Garner, whom sheriff's deputies charged with sodomy after finding the men engaged in sex in Lawrence's home. The officers were responding to a false third-party report of an armed intruder. Police arrested both men and held them in jail for more than 24 hours before releasing each on \$200 bond. The two men pleaded "no contest" to the charges in criminal court, but have gone on to challenge the state's law under which they were charged. On March 15, 2001, the full 14th Court of Appeals issued a ruling upholding the homosexual conduct law. The decision overturned a June 2000 ruling by a three-judge panel of the same court that said the law violated the Texas Constitution because it discriminates based on sex. "The government does not belong in peo- > Continued on Page 3

## Gay rumors resurface against NASCAR driver

Calling a professional athlete gay is 'the worst' insult, experts say

By MIKE FLEMING

When NASCAR hero and four-time Winston Cup winner Jeff Gordon and his wife of eight years announced this month they will divorce, rabid Southern racing fans — known for their staunch loyalty to favorite drivers and vehement opposition to rivals — pounced on the opportunity to rehash rumors that Gordon is gay.

The divorce decree sparked renewed interest in the five-year-old group Fans Against Gordon and their popular T-shirts that read "F.A.G.: Fans Against Gordon."

The T-shirts and the group are one more sign of the homophobia present in the super-macho auto racing arena, and what experts say pervades much of the professional sports world.

> Continued on Page 7



### local news

## Art sales benefit H.A.T.C.H.



Several Houston artists helped raise funds for the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) with the April 10 'Art for H.A.T.C.H. II' at Meteor Lounge. The group is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to empowering gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning adolescents. Artists who donated 10 percent of all art sales during the event for H.A.T.C.H. included Kermit Eisenhut, Brian Ruggerian, Joe Cullata, Patrick Palmer, David Wheeler and Jeff Roeske. (Photos by Dalton Dehart)



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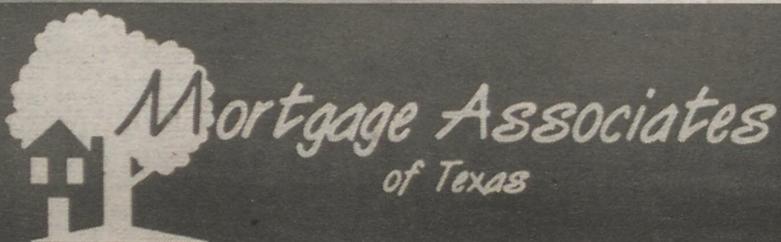
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## local news

# Montrose Softball League starts season



Hundreds of gay Houstonians participated Sunday in the opening ceremonies for the Montrose Softball League's new season. The event was held at the Houston Sportsplex in Southwest Houston. Teams were introduced, the ceremonial opening pitch thrown, and the National Anthem sung, along with a rousing rendition of 'Take Me Out to the Ballgame.' Balloons in all colors of the rainbow were then released and teams headed for various fields at the Sportsplex to begin their season. A record number of players signed up with the group this year. For more information on the Montrose Softball League, go to [www.montrosesoftballleague.com](http://www.montrosesoftballleague.com). (Photos by Dalton Dehart)



## Case involving state conduct law may reach high court

➤ Continued from Page 1

ple's bedrooms policing consensual adult intimacy, nor can it have one rule for gay people and another one, granting more freedom, for non-gay people," said Lambda Legal Director Ruth E. Harlow when the appeals court handed down its decision last year.

Harlow, who argued the case before the Texas court, said that ruling "guts the right to privacy," however, Justice J. Harvey Hudson wrote in the 14th Court's majority opinion, "Neither the state nor federal constitutions contain an explicit guarantee of privacy. Thus, there is no general constitutional right to privacy."

The 14th Court of Appeals' 57-page ruling included a 29-page dissenting opinion filed by Justice John S. Anderson, the judge who wrote the majority opinion for the three-judge panel's earlier ruling.

In his dissenting opinion, Anderson wrote: "The contention that the same conduct is moral for some, but not for others merely repeats, rather than legitimizes, the Legislatures' unconstitutional edict..."

"The behavior to be discouraged is deviate sexual intercourse between same sex couples. That same behavior between heterosexual

couples is, by implication, moral and something to be encouraged. Sodomy is either immoral or it is not. It appears that the State's vigorous defense of 21.06 has been advanced without due consideration of the inconsistency of, on the one hand, condemning sodomy as immoral, but on the other implicitly embracing sodomy as perfectly normal. Again, such incongruity is not exceedingly persuasive."

Katine said much of Hudson's majority opinion contains incongruous statements including a passage that suggests heterosexuals also may violate the homosexual conduct law, therefore 21.06 does not discriminate based on sexual orientation.

Hudson wrote: "While homosexuals may be disproportionately affected by the statute, we cannot assume homosexual conduct is limited only to those possessing a homosexual 'orientation.' Persons having a predominately heterosexual inclination may sometimes engage in homosexual conduct. Thus, the statute's proscription applies, facially at least, without respect to a defendant's sexual orientation."

In his dissenting opinion, Anderson also wrote: "The Legislature's removal of the prohibition on heterosexual sodomy while

retaining it for homosexual sodomy cannot, in my view, be explained by anything but animus toward the persons it affects..."

"It is manifestly illogical to suggest that sodomy, when performed by heterosexuals promotes morality and family values, and the same acts when performed by same sex couples, denigrates morality and family values."

"The Texas Constitution does not protect morality; it does, however, guarantee equality to all persons under the law. My personal views on the conduct involved here are irrelevant to the outcome that I believe is required."

Bill Delmore, the assistant prosecutor in the Harris County District Attorney's office who handled the case, said this week he is not surprised that the appeals court won't hear the case.

"It's not really unexpected," Delmore said Thursday. "Justice Hudson's opinion was very thorough to the point where I guess there just wasn't much else to say."

Texas has had a sodomy law since 1860, but the state decriminalized sodomy by opposite-sex partners in 1974.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals is the highest court in the state, along side the Texas Supreme Court, which

handles only civil appeals.

Sommer said Thursday that the state's homosexual conduct law has been used to discriminate against gay Texans in everything from employment to housing.

"We're particularly dismayed that the court of criminal appeals denied review because this law not only has been used in this case to criminally convict two men for private consensual behavior, but it unilaterally has been used against gay men and lesbians," she said. "It's really a law looking to be overturned."

Katine pointed out that if the U.S. Supreme Court takes the case, its decision could have far-reaching effects.

"The highest court in Texas should have cleared up this conflict, but they have decided to pass on it and not rule," Katine said. "Presenting this to the U.S. Supreme Court is an opportunity to not only address the homosexual conduct law, but also the sodomy laws [nationwide]."

Texas is one of just four states in the country, including Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma, which prohibit same-sex sodomy. Twelve other states have laws prohibiting same- and opposite-sex sodomy.



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## around houston

### Bunnies On The Bayou nets more than \$48,000 for local groups

Houston's Bunnies On The Bayou Inc.'s 23rd annual Easter event, held March 31 at Fish Plaza/Wortham Center, exceeded the fund-raising goals set for this year, bringing in slightly more than \$48,000 for distribution to its selected beneficiaries, according to organizers. More than 2,000 people attended this year's fest, arguably the largest single fund-raising event for gay Houstonians. "The turnout this year is great," said Trevan Ross, chair of Public Relations. "Two or three days before the party, we were concerned that the weather would have a negative impact on our attendance. But it turned out beautifully." Bunnies on the Bayou, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising and distributing funds for various charitable, educational and cultural programs. The not-for-profit organizations and programs that benefit seek to improve the quality of life for gay Houstonians, and to promote education and awareness of individual human rights.



Thousands of people helped Bunnies on the Bayou raise funds for local not-for-profit groups on Easter Sunday this year. (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

### Center's sale of raffle tickets helps pay bills, keep doors open

Through the end of April, the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center board will be selling tickets to the Spring 50/50 Raffle. Tickets are \$1 each, and the winning ticket will be selected on May 1. The holder of the selected ticket will receive half of the amount raised. The center will keep the remainder, and proceeds will help the board pay rent and utilities. "The winner of our last raffle received nearly \$500," center President Tim Brookover said. "Buying a ticket or several is a quick and simple way to lend your support to the Center and the more than 25 organizations that use 803 Hawthorne — from H.A.T.C.H. to Q-Patrol to Texas Association for Transsexual Support to Houston Black Lesbian & Gay Coalition to many more — which need the community's help now more than ever." Individuals interested in purchasing raffle tickets can do so by calling the center or contacting a board member.

### **i** FOR MORE INFO

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center  
803 Hawthorne  
713-524-3818

### Dog walk in the Heights designed to assist SNAP

The sixth annual Pooch Promenade is set for April 27 as a fund-raiser for the not-for-profit Spay & Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP). For a fee, owners and their canines can amble along with others, pose for a commemorative framed photo at a cost of \$5, and compete for the coveted gold, silver and bronze medals for Most Beautiful, Most Handsome, Friendliest, Best Trick, Most Obedient, Prissiest Tail and Best Dressed dog. "This is such a fun way to raise money for Spay and Neuter Assistance Program — and our generous sponsors allow us to donate 100 percent of the proceeds," said

### **i** FOR MORE INFO

Pooch Promenade  
Saturday, April 27  
Registration: Noon  
Walk: 1 p.m.  
Cost: \$10 for one dog or \$15 for multiple dogs  
The Heights  
For information: 713-869-1112

event chair Eloise Daigle. "The patriotic theme this year will add to the festive atmosphere." Each dog receives a "Doggy Bag" filled with fun things and a Good Dog Ribbon. Registration begins at noon and the Promenade at 1 p.m. Medals will be awarded after the walk, which takes place on the esplanade between Melwood and Temple in the Heights. All dogs must be on a leash and have proof of current vaccinations. For more information, call 713-869-1112.

### Sign-up now under way for Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk

The fun run that got flooded out by Tropical Storm Allison last year is back on the summer schedule of running events. The Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk will be held at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, June 8. "We're all dried out," said race director Mac Crone. "And the Houston Montrose Athletic Association (HMAA), which sponsors the fun run, has barred Tropical Storm Allison and all of her friends from registering for this year's race." Applications for the race are now available on the Internet, by mail and at several locations around Houston. The 2002 event will benefit AssistHers, a volunteer organization that provides in-home support and care to lesbians with chronic or disabling illnesses. The 3.1-mile race along Memorial Drive between Sabine Street and Waugh Drive is an official part of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 2002 celebration in June. Trophies will be awarded. The top five males and females in age groups 30-34, 35-39, and 40-44 will receive awards. The top three males and females in all other age groups will receive awards. The race will conclude with a party on Sabine Bridge and presentation of awards and door prizes. All participants will receive a T-shirt. An early-registration fee of \$15 is available until May 31. After that date, the fee is \$18. To download a registration form from the Fun Run Web page, go to [www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.htm](http://www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.htm). Forms are also available at the Memorial Park tennis center, Lobo, Crossroads Market and other locations in Houston. Online registration is available at [www.SignMeUpSports.com](http://www.SignMeUpSports.com).

— Penny Weaver

### **i** FOR MORE INFO

Houston Montrose Athletic Association  
P.O. Box 667364  
Houston, TX 77266-7364  
713-661-8919

## local news

# Foundations offer grants

Pair of organizations help fund scholarships for gay students

The PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation (PHYSF) has announced that the Elliot H. Matthews Foundation and the LTR Lewis Clover Foundation, both based in Houston, have granted \$10,000 each to PHYSF for scholarships to be awarded in July, 2002.

At its annual Spring Fling dinner on April 19, PHYSF planned to recognize both organizations for their support and contributions, according to foundation leaders.

"The Elliot H. Matthews Foundation and the LTR Lewis Clover Foundation are dedicated to the protection of young dreams from the terrorism of intolerance," said Terry Baggott, chairman of both foundations, in a PHYSF press release. "These two grants will once again help PHYSF reach out to GLBT youth who may live in fear of rejection or abandonment, and will confirm to them that they are recognized and supported for who they are and who they can be without condemnation or criticism."

The Youth Scholarship Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 corporation formed when PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals) collaborated to provide scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth. Scholarships are available for students pursuing two-year or four-year degree programs, as well as vocational school certification, with a maximum of \$2,500 per student per year.

PFLAG-Houston continues to provide \$4,000 annually to PHYSF to fund scholarships, and additional funding has come from the Chase Texas Foundation, many individual donors and the annual fund-raising dinner, according to PHYSF organizers.

Scholarships range in amount from \$10,000 over four years to \$2,000 over two years. Recipients are primarily recent high school graduates, although funds also may be awarded for graduate school studies.

In July 2001, a record \$57,000 in college scholarships was awarded by PHYSF to 19 gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered students in the Houston area. The total scholarships awarded by the foundation, formed in 1998, are more than \$200,000.

—From staff reports



## Chorus assists service groups

Members of the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston recently presented donations to representatives for the Montrose Clinic, Montrose Counseling Center and Bering Omega Community Services. The funds — a total of \$5,352 — were raised at the chorus' Sophistication Benefit Concert last month. All three groups are not-for-profit organizations that assist a number of gay Houstonians with health and other vital issues. The chorus, also a not-for-profit group, is one of the oldest gay men's choruses in the nation. For more information, go to [www.gmch.org](http://www.gmch.org). (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

## obituary

### Martin, 35, Sears manager

Lee "Tony" Martin, 35, of Houston died on April 13, 2002.

Martin was born in Tennessee on Aug. 19, 1966. He had lived in Houston for nearly two decades. He was a manager for Sears.

He was a member of Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) of Houston.

Survivors include his longtime partner, Jeff Goswick; mother, Cindy Landry of Houston; and brothers, Jerry Eskridge and Travis Eskridge, both of Houston.

The 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, service at MCCR will be held in Martin's memory. The church is located at 2025 West 11th St. in Houston.

Memorials may be made to the MCCR Benevolence Fund.



Lee 'Tony' Martin

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PFLAG-Houston  
[www.pflaghouston.org](http://www.pflaghouston.org)  
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## national news

## Miss. judge: Gays should be put in 'mental institute'

Remarks spark rebuke in state where activists call homophobia 'rampant'

By MIKE FLEMING

BENNDALE, Miss. — When a Mississippi judge wrote a letter to the editor of his local paper calling for gays to be put in mental institutions, he sparked criticism from gay groups and an official ethics complaint that asserts the judge cannot impartially weigh gay cases.

The case against County Justice Court Judge Connie Glenn Wilkerson comes as a Mississippi college sports announcer used anti-gay slurs and as the state celebrated Gay Pride for the first time.

In a letter in the March 28 George County Times inspired by a California law that gives partnership rights to same-sex couples, Wilkerson defined his anti-gay opinions in a diatribe invoking American patriotism and the Bible.

"In my opinion, gays and lesbians should be put in some type of mental institute instead of having a law like this passed for them," the letter said.

Wilkerson's letter shows that "homophobia is rampant in Mississippi," said Jody

Renaldo, executive director of Equality Mississippi, a statewide gay lobby group.

The judge's statements violate the state Code of Judicial Conduct that calls for non-discrimination based on sexual orientation, said Greg Nevins, attorney for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, a gay advocacy group that filed an April 12 complaint with the state Commission on Judicial Performance.

"Mississippi made a great step forward by recently adding sexual orientation to the code of conduct," Nevins said. "Now we want the Mississippi judicial system to live up to the noble ideal set forth in that provision."

Publicly espousing personal views outside judicial duties differentiates Wilkerson's case from another Lambda complaint this year against Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore, Nevins said.

In February, Moore characterized gays as "abhorrent" and "an inherent evil" as part of a high court ruling involving a lesbian mother.

"[Moore] was framing his comments within a case before him," Nevins said. "Here, the judge has engaged in a very direct insult to gay and lesbian people, and actually went out and sought a forum to air his views."

The Alabama Judicial Commission last month threw out Lambda's complaint against Moore.



A Mississippi judge's condemnation of gays violates at least two state judicial ethics codes, said Greg Nevins, an attorney with Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, a gay group that filed an official complaint against the judge. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Mississippi's commission may consider the ethics complaint against Wilkerson late next month, Nevins said. If the panel finds that the complaint could be valid, they will assign an investigator to the case, he said.

"The overall process could take several months," he said.

Wilkerson did not respond to interview requests by press time. He told the Associated Press that he will abide by the state's ruling on expressing his opinions, but will continue if the state doesn't order him to stop.

## Campus homophobia

A week before Wilkerson's letter to the editor, state-sanctioned University of Mississippi played host to a charity football game that gay activists said was tarnished by anti-gay slurs.

Chip Reynolds, the university's regular sports announcer, called the plays at the Charity Bowl, which was sponsored by the local chapter of Sigma Nu fraternity to raise funds for spinal injury research.

Reynolds reportedly called players "ragging faggots" over the announcement system in response to several poorly executed plays.

Homophobia is prevalent and accepted on campus, said Jeremy Dobbins, president of the University of Mississippi Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Association.

"We are concerned with this atmosphere, and worry that conditions are present that could result in something really bad happening," he said.

A letter to University Chancellor Robert Khayat from gay groups has gone unanswered, Dobbins said.

Sigma Nu issued an April 10 apology. Reynolds, Khayat and Sigma Nu philanthropy chairman Mason Montgomery did not return calls by press time.

Staff writer Mike Fleming can be reached at [mffleming@sovo.com](mailto:mffleming@sovo.com).

## Lawsuits continue against priest tied to NAMBLA

As Catholic Church sex abuse scandal grows, U.S. cardinals called to Vatican to discuss matter

By RHONDA SMITH

WASHINGTON — A former military police officer has filed a lawsuit against Rev. Paul Shanley, a priest who met with the founders of the North American Man-Boy Love Association, advocated pedophilia and criticized the church for its condemnation of homosexuality.

Airman 1st Class Paul Busa will leave the Air Force, giving up a promising career, to confront Shanley, a priest he alleges abused him as a child, the Gazette of Colorado Springs reported April 14.

The lawsuit is at least the second filed against Shanley. Earlier this month, papers made public as part of another lawsuit against him showed that he faced more than 26 accusations of child abuse since 1967.

Pressure has continued to mount against Boston Archbishop Bernard F. Law to resign for his handling of sex charges against priests in his archdiocese.



Boston Archbishop Bernard Law (left) — facing increased pressure to resign over his handling of sex abuse charges against priests, including Rev. Paul Shanley (right) — will meet with other U.S. cardinals and Pope John Paul II at the Vatican next week to discuss the scandal. (Photo by Roderick MacLeish/AP)

Law will join at least eight of the thirteen other U.S. cardinals at the Vatican in meetings on the scandals called by Pope John Paul II.

Shanley, 71, lives in San Diego and has not spoken about the accusations against him. He has not been criminally charged

and remains a priest but has no parish.

When Shanley was transferred to California, he later became the owner of a gay hotel with a fellow clergy, according to the Associated Press.

The earliest complaints against Shanley surfaced in 1967 and continued into the 1970s with Shanley's public defense of pedophilia, including comments at what was apparently the formative meeting in Boston of the North American Man-Boy Love Association in 1979, according to the New York Times.

Busa's suit alleges Shanley abused him while he was a member of the parish of St. John the Evangelist in Newton, Mass., between the ages of six and nine.

"This is something I need to face," Busa told the Colorado Springs Gazette. "If I'm not talking about it, I'm hiding from it."

The growing scandal in the church has also spread to Indiana, where John M. D'Arcy, bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, wrote an April 12 column for a local newspaper that said gay men or those who are "excessively effeminate" should not be admitted to the priesthood.

The column, published in the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was titled "Discerning unfit candidates for priesthood."

"We recognize that there are degrees of homosexuality and that generalizations cannot easily be made," he wrote. "We

included in this statement anyone who, while not engaging in homosexual activity, is psychically homosexual and thereby unable to tolerate the demands of a celibate priestly ministry or rectory living."

The column was quickly rebuked by a coalition of nuns, feminists, gay civil rights and non-violence advocates.

D'Arcy did not return a call for comment.

Joan Daley Uebelhoefer of Fort Wayne Feminists, one of the groups that issued a response to D'Arcy's column, said Catholic Church leaders can no longer ignore the stories of victims of child sexual abuse by priests and others.

"It's troubling for me to see the church is not doing anything about the criminality of these cases," she said. "They must develop mechanisms to hold perpetrators accountable."

The eight Indiana groups that issued the April 11 statement included the Fort Wayne GLBTA Board and the Indian chapter of the National Organization for Women.

D'Arcy should "refrain from conducting expensive, time-consuming investigations of priests and seminarians in his diocese based on real or perceived sexual orientation," the group said.

News reporter Rhonda Smith can be reached at [rsmith@washblade.com](mailto:rsmith@washblade.com).

## national news

## Experts: Sports world still not comfortable with gays

> Continued from Page 1

"Being gay is considered the opposite of being manly, and the sports arena is the ultimate place to express the societal view of masculinity," said Brian Ponger, author of "The Arena of Masculinity: Sports, Homosexuality and the Meaning of Sex."

F.A.G. subscribers openly speculate about Gordon's sexual orientation on the group's Web site.

"Does anyone find it odd that after Jeffie hired his new boy-toy Jimmie Johnson, Brooke filed for divorce?" reads one posting. "Maybe Jeffie is having some fun with his new DRIVER."

In 1997, Brian Hankins, a Virginia body shop owner and diehard fan of driver Dale Earnhardt, started the F.A.G. Web site, manufactured the T-shirts and began selling them online and at race tracks across the NASCAR circuit. The group also took advantage of Gordon's trademark rainbow team motif and his nickname, "Rainbow Warrior."

Gordon changed his motif to "fire and flames" last year.

Several F.A.G. supporters now appear on the Internet posting pictures of Gordon caught in horseplay and just-won hugs with his teammates. Some F.A.G. subscribers even use the "evidence" to advocate violence against Gordon, one calling for the driver to "crash his Freddy Mercury ass into a wall."

If Gordon is gay — and no evidence exists that he is — the information would be "the worst thing you can call somebody," Hankins said. "It's just a terrible insult to be called gay if you're not."

Gordon appears to agree.

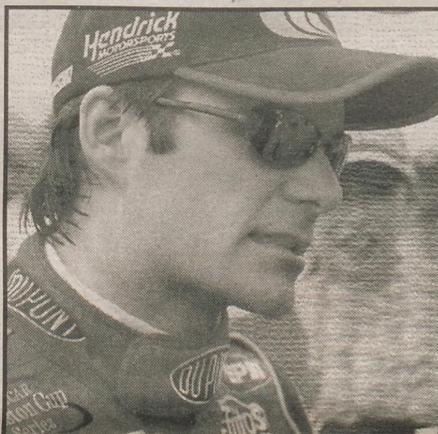
The driver and his soon-to-be ex-father-in-law have been said to scour race grounds before meets with police to confiscate the shirts on the basis of a copyright infringement on Gordon's No. 24, which appears on the shirts. No suit has been filed, but F.A.G. T-shirt sales have been relegated mostly to the Internet.

NASCAR fans have a reputation for their passionate commitment to the sport, which includes an exaggerated sense of masculinity that pinpoints "gay" as the ultimate antithesis of "macho" in most men's sports, Ponger said.

The National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing — which has benefited from Gordon's winning record and poster-boy good looks in promotions — has worked to distance itself from speculation that Gordon is gay in its official statements and newsletters over the last five years.

F.A.G. founder Hankins said he doesn't really think Gordon is gay, just a "pretty boy you love to hate."

Gordon, NASCAR officials and Jeff Gordon Fan Club leaders did not respond to interview requests.



NASCAR's star driver Jeff Gordon has battled rumors he is gay from rabid racing fans who some say are jealous of his good looks and success.

### 'Last bastion' of intolerance?

Gay pundits and academics on sexual orientation in sports have long pointed to homophobia in men's sports as the last bastion of society in which anti-gay slurs and traditional notions of manhood are not only accepted, but encouraged.

"Sexual preference remains a topic that we do not want to touch in sport in society," said Richard Lapchick, director of Center for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University, which conducts diversity management for sports teams.

"Issues of race and gender are openly discussed in those sessions because participants expect it," Lapchick said. "However, due to the extraordinary volatility of the issue of sexual preference, our trainers wait and hope that a participant will bring it up."

Once the topic is on the table, Lapchick's trainers "almost never" hear that participants don't want to work alongside a person of a different ethnic group or gender, but it is common that one or more trainees say they refuse to work with gays, Lapchick said.

American male competitiveness breeds homophobia, said Bob Minor, author of "Scared Straight."

"A competitive attitude toward others is a key ingredient in homophobia," Minor said. "It keeps us separate, and competition between men keeps them unconnected and fighting with each other at the other person's expense in order to get society's 'rewards.'"

"Male sports are the place we learn all this," he said.

School playgrounds are full of boys who internalize the notion of masculinity and the "beat or be beaten" requirement for acceptance, Minor said.

"And if you also began to realize that you 'liked' boys, that you fantasized about them, especially the ones who fit the culture's model of the 'real man,' confusion was added to fear," he said. "They set a boy apart even further from the ideal man."

No wonder homophobia runs thick through men's professional sports, Minor said.

Even before former Atlanta Brave John Rocker said in a December 1999 Sports Illustrated interview that he wouldn't want to share a subway seat with "some queer with AIDS," sports figures have gotten away to

some extent with anti-gay public sentiments.

Greenbay Packer Reggie White in 1998 called gays "liars, cheaters and backstabbers" before aligning himself against a gay rights measure in Wisconsin. And basketball's Allen Iverson is the latest to join the fray with a rap song that clearly advocates violence against gays.

"In mainstream America, gays and lesbians reside in a special place of hostility that is tolerated," Lapchick said. "It must be noted that White had no connection to the violence in Iverson's lyrics, but the direct connection is their shared homophobia."

CBS Sports dumped White, but he continued to play football and find forums for his rhetoric. Atlanta Braves management distanced the team from Rocker's views and Major League Baseball fined him, but fell short of expelling him as called for by some gay activists. Iverson was forced to make a public apology, but is still a star player for the Philadelphia 76ers.

### Gay athletes in the closet

While homophobic athletes apparently don't hesitate to speak out, gay players in all professional men's sports are still encouraged to remain closeted.

Out magazine Editor Brendan Lemon was the talk of gay circles last year when he admitted his boyfriend was a closeted professional baseball player and explained

that the boyfriend's career would be ruined by coming out.

Former San Diego Padre Billy Bean waited to come out until years after his career ended in 1995, much as NFL star David Kopay shocked football fans across the country when he came out at the end of his astonishingly successful 10-year career in 1975.

Kopay said he "didn't feel safe" to be openly gay as a professional athlete, but he wanted to "pave the way for other active players I know are out there."

But no one followed Kopay out of the closet then, or the more than 27 years since.

"I now think it may take another 25 years before an all-pro American ballplayer announces he's gay while in the sport," Kopay told the Advocate in 2000. "Most ballplayers could care less who you screw. It's the hierarchy — the management and marketing people — who get nervous. It wouldn't be a big deal to most fans."

Some NASCAR fans disagree. F.A.G. founder Hankins relishes the thought that Gordon would lose fans if he actually was gay.

"It'd be great if he was gay," Hankins said in 1997. "Then people could hate him more."

But if Gordon was gay, he could gain fans, too. An e-mail group for gay racing fans "who adore Jeff Gordon" is now defunct, but hints that a gay NASCAR fan base may be out there.

Staff writer Mike Fleming can be reached at [mflaming@sovo.com](mailto:mflaming@sovo.com).

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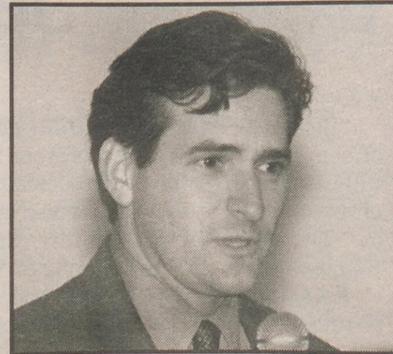
Fans Against Gordon  
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## around the nation

### Gay mayoral candidate poised for run-off in Long Beach

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Long Beach Vice Mayor Dan Baker, who is gay, will face current Mayor Beverly O'Neill in a June 4 run-off to determine who will be the city's next mayor. Baker took 25 percent of the vote in the April 9 election, compared to 28 percent for O'Neill, who ran as a write-in candidate because term limits prevented her name from appearing on the ballot. For the same reason, only Baker's name will appear on the run-off ballot, which political observers say could give him an advantage in the race. If Baker wins, Long Beach — population 461,000 — will be the largest city in the country to have an openly gay mayor, according to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. The election results, still unofficial at press time, were expected to be certified by April 19, according to the Long Beach city clerk's office.



**Dan Baker**, the gay vice mayor of Long Beach, Calif., is in a June run-off for mayor for the city of 461,000 residents. (Photo by Steven Georges/Long Beach Press Telegram)

"There were some last minute anti-gay attacks, but I think most Long Beach voters focused on the issues and who would do a good job for them as mayor," Baker said, according to the Associated Press. Baker has been a member of the Long Beach City Council for two years.

### Fla. school board labels homosexuality 'a sin'

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (AP) — Three Bay County School Board members called homosexuality a "sin" during a meeting after some parents criticized teacher union guidelines denouncing discrimination against gays and others. But the board took no action April 9 after some parents said they were worried about National Education Association guidelines, which include "increasing respect, understanding and sensitivity toward individuals and groups in a diverse society" such as gays and transgendered people. Board member Ron Danzey called homosexuality "a sin" and two other members agreed, saying they would oppose any curriculum promoting or condoning it, although none was proposed or cited at the meeting. "We are morally, ethically and Christian based," board member Mike Jones said. Chair Thelma Rohan and member Mike Gavlak did not condemn homosexuality at the meeting but later said they agreed with their colleagues. Tom Wazlavek, a spokesperson for the NEA-affiliated Association of Bay County Educators, said he was unsure what the parents were worried about. "It seems to me that they think there is some hidden gay agenda that's going to corrupt America," he said.

### Mich. frat members suspended for anti-gay shirts

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Members of Pi Kappa Phi at Michigan State University had their charter temporarily suspended by the fraternity's national body April 10 due to anti-gay t-shirts worn by some members of the group, the Associated Press reported. Apparently unapologetic frat members then confronted several gay students on April 12; the same day about 50 gay students led a Pride march to the fraternity house, AP reported. Pi Kappa Phi's national chapter and a Greek judiciary council at MSU handed down suspensions last week against the fraternity for an incident in which some students pledging the fraternity wore pink, sleeveless T-shirts bearing homophobic statements to two residence hall cafeterias on

April 1-2. According to the State News, the campus newspaper, the slogans included "I like little boys," "Capt. Gay Sex," and "Fag hairstylist."

### Gay Road renamed after objections in Ohio town

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Some Union Township residents have convinced commissioners to change the name of Gay Road to Green Apple Road. "The snide remarks and thoughtless comments about one's address being gay are intolerable," wrote Sharon Mckinney, 48, one of 19 residents who signed a petition. She and other residents said they were not making a statement against homosexuality. But gay rights activists said the residents' problem with the street name is telling. "Wouldn't it be nice if the gay and lesbian community could simply petition to have themselves named the 'green apple community' and we could eliminate the harassment, intimidation and hatred that we experience on a daily basis," said Jim McCarthy of Dayton. Residents said the road name came from the surname of a family that once lived there.

### Bill against gay parents dies in Colo. legislature

DENVER, Colo. — A bill that would have prevented gay couples from being listed jointly as "mothers" or "fathers" on birth certificates died April 10 in the Colorado Senate, the Denver Morning News reported. The bill passed the state House, which is controlled by Republicans, but became permanently stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee when Democrats voted against it. Sen. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Fort Morgan) said the bill was needed because "the creation of a child takes one man and one woman, and a birth certificate should reflect that fact," according to the Morning News. Gay parents and activists with Equal Rights Colorado argued that the bill would hurt children, because they are better off with two legal parents, regardless of the parents' gender.

From staff and wire reports

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## police beat

### Calif. dog mauling defendant to argue for new trial

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The woman convicted of second-degree murder in the dog mauling death of her lesbian neighbor has a new set of defense attorneys and a chance to convince a judge she deserves a new trial. Superior Court Judge James Warren last week acknowledged the prosecution's request for a speedy resolution but granted Marjorie Knoller's requests because of the case's "unprecedented" nature. He delayed her sentencing date from May 10 to June 7. Knoller was convicted in the January 2001 mauling death of Diane Whipple, a lesbian lacrosse coach. Knoller faces 15 years to life in prison after becoming the first Californian convicted of second-degree murder in such a case. The same Los Angeles jury also convicted Knoller's husband, Robert Noel, of manslaughter. He faces up to four years in prison. Warren said by June 7 he will either sentence the two, or grant them a new trial.



Marjorie Knoller, convicted of second-degree murder in the dog mauling death of her lesbian neighbor, may receive a new trial. (Photo by Carolyn Cole/AP)

### Gay men raped, robbed in series of incidents in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A gay man was robbed and raped last week in the latest of a string of attacks on gay men in Columbus's Short North area, according to the Gay People's Chronicle. Police said the same attacker is committing the crimes, which have occurred over the past four weeks. The Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization, a gay group, has also received unconfirmed reports of other attacks. All of the incidents occurred at night in the Short North, a 10-block-long area around High Street which has many gay businesses. In the most recent incident, a gay man was approached in Union Station Video Cafe's parking lot by a man wielding a knife who forced him into his car, demanded that he drive to an ATM and withdraw money, then raped the victim, according to police. At least two other gay men have been abducted at knife-point since the attacks began.

### Ind. man found guilty in brutal anti-gay attack

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indianapolis man was found guilty of brutalizing two men during a 1999 robbery in an attack a prosecutor called a hate crime, according to the Indianapolis Star. After a one-day trial last week, Judge Patricia Gifford convicted Jamie C. Carson, 20, on charges in connection with the Oct. 28, 1999, sexual assault and torture of two men in a Northwestside apartment. Carson is the grandson of U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. "In this particular case, it happened because they were homosexual," said Deputy Prosecutor Richard Plath. Police say Carson and two accomplices forced the men at gunpoint to perform sex acts on each other. The victims were tied up and burned with a steam iron. One was forced to drink a mixture of bleach and urine. Carson's fingerprint was found on the steam iron. Carson claimed the evidence was planted by police. Jamie Carson's co-defendants in the attack have already been convicted.

### Theft, burning of gay flag rocks student leaders on Idaho campus

MOSCOW, Idaho — Kasey Swisher, president of the Associated Students University of Idaho (ASUI), the UT's student government, resigned last week in connection with the March 31 theft of a Gay-Straight Alliance flag. Swisher's move came on the heels of the resignations of three ASUI senators involved in the theft, according to the Argonaut, the college's student newspaper. Swisher allegedly was at a fraternity house when the trio — freshman Matt Henman, sophomore Kevin Smith and sophomore Joel Sturgill — brought in a rainbow-striped flag resembling the U.S. flag and attempted to burn it on the house's porch. Police reports include the senators' confessions to the crime. No charges have been filed. "It was never meant with any malice towards the organization, or as 'gay bashing.' I saw the flag as trying to copy the flag of the United States of America, and my patriotic spirit went a little too far," Sturgill allegedly told police.

### Falsification charges dropped against Ohio trans man

CANTON, Ohio — A transgender Akron resident won't be tried on a charge accusing him of lying after receiving three marriage licenses here, the Canton Repository reported. Municipal Court Judge John Poulos dismissed a falsification charge against Sean M. Brookings last week. Too much time had passed to prosecute Brookings, Poulos ruled. Brookings, 55, faced up to six months in jail had he been convicted of the first-degree misdemeanor. Brookings, born a biological woman, later underwent a sex-change operation. He listed himself as a man while getting three marriage licenses in Stark County between 1988 and 1994. Two of the marriages ended, and his third wife died. The late woman's children are fighting Brookings over ownership of a mobile home he shared with her. Stark County Probate Judge R.R. Denny Clunk filed the falsification complaint last year after learning that the marriage licenses had been approved by his office.

From staff and wire reports

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Issue 1121

# Forum

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## viewpoint

# Indictment leaves questions

How come it took an outright confession of hatred for the Bush Justice Department to finally indict someone for the 1996 murder of a lesbian couple in Virginia?

By LISA KEEN

**T**HE 1996 HATE Crimes Statistics Report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation listed no murders motivated by anti-lesbian hate in 1996; no

reports of any hate-motivated crimes of any kind in Luray, Va., that year.

So, it was, perhaps, only natural that gay organizations pumped up the praise for U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft's announcement April 10. Ashcroft said at a press conference that the Department of Justice will be invoking the Hate Crimes Sentencing Act against a man accused of murdering two women in 1996 because, according to police, he believed they were lesbians.

Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay GOP group, praised the announcement as "another example of the Bush Administration commitment to ensuring that all Americans are treated fairly under the law, including gay Americans."

The Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force "applauded" Ashcroft for invoking the federal Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act for the first time ever in a sexual orientation or gender-related hate crime.

Although I feel a sense of relief that somebody's finally been indicted for the crime, I'm having trouble mustering the same enthusiasm for this breakthrough. What's my problem?

I was senior editor of the Washington Blade when the first reports emerged, in June 1996, that two female campers had been found murdered at their campsite in the Shenandoah National Park in Luray, Va. While most media and almost all law enforcement authorities presumed the two women were heterosexual back then (fewer have since the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard pierced the public's awareness of anti-gay hate crimes), we, at the Blade, weren't so quick to assume anything. We immediately made some calls to see whether the two women — Julianne Williams and Lollie Winans — might have been more than just friends. Sure enough, we confirmed they were les-

bians involved in a loving relationship, so we pursued the case further.

I RECALL MANY details uncovered by our investigative reporters then, and I am troubled by the many still unanswered questions.

For one, court documents purportedly indicate that both the FBI and the U.S. Park Police considered Darrell David Rice to be a suspect in the 1996 murders of Williams and Winans as early as July 1997. That's when Rice was arrested for attacking a woman biker in the same Shenandoah Park area. Why were investigators unable to indict Rice for the Williams-Winans murders back then? Why did it take them five years? And why did it take Rice himself to confess to the murders?

I'm left with the uneasy feeling that the FBI and Park Service — whether from too much work or too little interest — didn't investigate the Williams-Winans murders as vigorously as they claimed to be investigating them.

The Justice Department under Ashcroft gets credit for treating these murders now as the hate crimes they apparently are, but neither the DOJ under Ashcroft nor the DOJ under Clinton Attorney General Janet Reno gets credit for solving this case. It was handed to them, with Rice telling investigators that he killed Williams and Winans because he "hates gays" and that the women "deserved to die because they were lesbian whores." With evidence like that, I'm wondering how Ashcroft could have avoided invoking the Hate Crimes Sentencing Act, but I am, nevertheless, glad to see that he's doing his job.

I AM ALSO unhappy that the Justice Department, during Ashcroft's April 10 press conference, left unanswered the question of whether Rice and the Williams-Winans murders may be linked to the 1986 murders of two women parked in a "lovers lane" type area along the Colonial Parkway near Williamsburg, Va. A Blade investigation in 1996 found numerous similarities between the two cases.

Naval Academy graduate Cathy Thomas and sports enthusiast Becky Dowski were found bound, with their throats slashed, in

the back of Thomas' car in 1986. There were signs of rope burns on their bodies, but no other signs of struggle. Williams and Winans, too, had been bound and their throats slashed. No signs of struggle.

The two murder sites are just over a hundred miles apart and include travel on Route 29, where the FBI says it believes Rice may have been implicated in other attempted assaults on women. The latest information released by the FBI also indicates that investigators found a piece of nylon cord and 10 feet of rope in Rice's truck, following his 1997 arrest for trying to abduct the female biker.

Is there some evidence that clearly dismisses the possibility that these two attacks might have been related?

Both couples were relatively tall, fit, athletic, and self-confident, yet there were no signs that they had struggled against an assailant. And in both the 1986 and 1996 cases, FBI agents involved in the investigations told our reporters the FBI believed there was a possibility that more than one person had committed the attacks. As the agent said in 1996, if Williams and Winans were killed by a lone assailant, "that person would have to have been very strong to have controlled the situation." Is it now plausible to believe that Rice was the only assailant? Was he, alone, somehow able to tie up and kill both women without either of them struggling against the attack on themselves or each other and able to keep their dog, a large golden retriever, from interfering in the attacks in any way?

Why did Park officials tell the Blade just after the Williams and Winans murders in June 1996 that "something [investigators] found at the site led them to believe it was an isolated incident"? They refused to say then what that evidence was; can they say now?

Darrell David Rice is due to be arraigned in federal court later this month. It may be that all our questions will be answered when federal prosecutors present their case — questions about how one man committed the 1996 murders and why investigators contend there is no link to the Colonial Parkway case.

Until then, the case won't be closed for me and, I submit, it should not be closed for our community.

@ Lisa Keen is senior political correspondent for Southern Voice. She can be reached at lkeen@washblade.com.



viewpoint DALE STAFFORD



Why is it that even guys who have it together still hide in the closet, as if being out at work is like telling colleagues about their sex lives?

# Where have all the out boys gone?

These days, even auto mechanics in Omaha rally 'round the water cooler to gab about the antics of Jack and Karen on "Will & Grace." Yet, many men still live with a couple of pinkie-toes, if not two size-12 Kenneth Coles, planted firmly in the closet.

Because I was married for 10 years to someone in the business of being gay, I was unprepared for this state of affairs when we went our separate ways last year. Since then, I've dated numerous nice guys over the last year. Yet, most of them still maintain a "complicated closet." They are out to friends, but not to family, or out to some friends, but not to others, so group A can never interact with group B.

Take, as examples, three different men, all with names that coincidentally begin with "T." To protect the names of the closeted, I'll refer to them as T1, T2, and T3, or, collectively, as "the T-series."

T1 is 40-something and a successful small business owner who has been out in the big city for some 15 years. At some point in the courting process, we discussed the atmosphere at my office. When I explained how my ex was regarded as just another one of the spouses, the conversation turned.

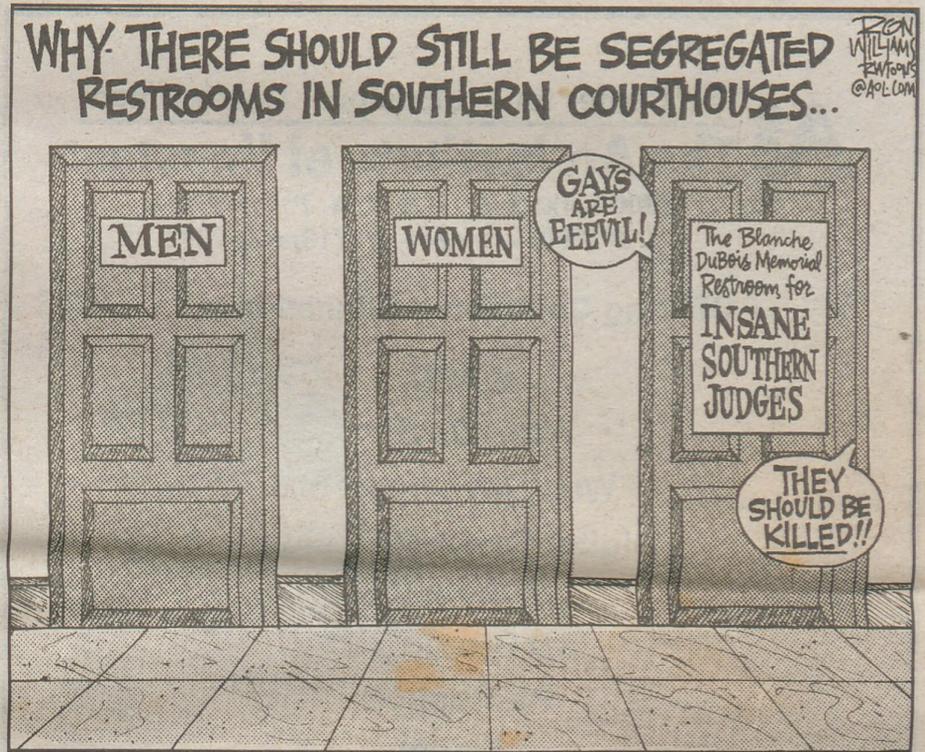
"I don't think my being gay is appropriate conversation for the office place," he told me, explaining why he had never been out at work. "My sex life is nobody's business."

I was stunned. That line was directly out of the conservative playbook. Gay = gay sex. That old saw is too tired to cut cardboard. Imagine what he said when I asked him to my company's black-tie Christmas party? He couldn't run for the hills quickly enough. In fact, the hills had already sent for his things and booked him business class seats.

T2 IS 30-SOMETHING and boyishly charming. He has a good, diverse group of friends, which I find to be a statistically significant indicator that someone is out. One evening, we were walking out of Garden Hills theater (since we couldn't sit through another minute of "Amelie") and I absentmindedly put my arm through his. He shuddered, then stammered, tongue tied by the "I-like-you-but-it's-early-on-and-I-don't-want-to-disappoint-you" syndrome.

Over pizza a few days later, he brought the topic up again. You can surmise what followed. The "I'm just not very comfortable with people, gay or straight, showing affection in public" rejoinder. This is an appropriate response to public hand-holding? Could he honestly tell me he would be offended by two young newlyweds holding hands as they strolled down Peachtree? I assured him it was not a big deal. I lied.

T3 is an interesting case. Although in



his mid-30s, he has been out for only a few years. Because we were friends and work-out partners years ago (at a time when he was married), dating has been like falling into an old easy-chair.

But T3 is not yet out to his family, or at least to all of his family. In fact, his sister, whom he admires without bounds, does not yet know that, despite loving his ex-wife very much, he left her because he is gay.

SING IT PAULA COLE. Where have all the out-boys gone? Is it too much for me to ask that, in 2002, we be allowed to conduct ourselves like everybody else? That we not use vague pronouns or forbear physical contact outside of the privacy of our homes?

Don't get me wrong. As the consummate libertarian, I recognize that the T-series have every right to conduct their lives this way if that's what blows their skirts up. I do not mean to apply any value judgments to their behavior, although I admit to being irked by the "my sex life is nobody's business"-style rationalizations.

It does, however, force me to make difficult decisions regarding great guys who otherwise have a great deal going for them. Will they change over time? How does that attitude depreciate my overall lifestyle, if it persists?

Recently, T3's sister came into town and he wanted me to go to lunch with them. I hoped this would be the impetus he needed to come clean, but deep down I knew better. He simply wasn't ready yet. And I harrumphed at the notion of hanging out with the two of them over lunch, pretending he and I were just "buds." But you know what I did instead?

Not a damned thing. I went to lunch and pretended like we were just "buds." As I came crashing down from the soap-box, it occurred to me in mid-air: Wasn't I once in the closet too?

@ Dale Stafford lives in Atlanta and can be reached through this publication.

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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## on the record

"When I saw all those bedroom shots, I was like, 'Holy crap!' My mom is going to be seeing me in bed with some woman and she's going to freak out."

*Aneesa, the lesbian from MTV's "Real World: Chicago" on scenes that were aired where she gets hot and heavy with another woman (Associated Press, April 15)*

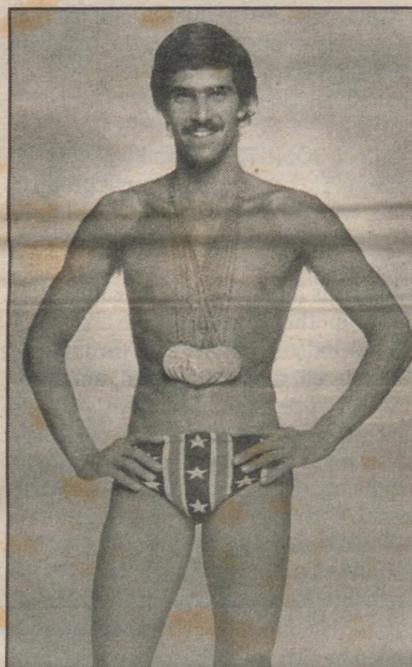


"In my opinion, gays and lesbians should be put in some type of mental institute instead of having a [domestic partnership] law like this passed for them."

*Mississippi Justice Court Judge Connie Glenn Wilkerson, on a news story about domestic partners with the legal right to sue for wrongful death, which the judge said made him 'sick on my stomach' (George County Times, March 28)*

"The letter is a clear statement of prejudice against gays and lesbians that calls into serious question whether the judge can decide cases fairly and impartially."

*Greg Nevins, staff attorney in the Southern Regional Office of the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, which has brought an ethics complaint against Mississippi Judge Connie Glenn Wilkerson for remarks about gays the judge made in a letter to the George County Times. State ethics rules call on judges to avoid "expressions of bias or prejudice," including demeaning remarks based on sexual orientation*



"Mark Spitz has special resonance for gay men because he epitomized the clone look of the '70s, which was a very weird aberration. Gay men adopted this archetypal straight look, which at the time meant a preppy Lacoste-shirt-wearing guy with dry-look hair and a mustache."

*Simon Donnan, creative director of Barney's New York, on the return of skimpy, patriotic swim trunks to men's fashion (New York Times, April 7)*

"The thing I really can't square is that gays are arbiters of style and culture, yet gay cultural products are so consistently terrible. Most recently, Pet Shop Boys and Jonathan Harvey produced 'Closer to Heaven,' a car crash of a musical about two young club kids falling in love against a backdrop of drugs and cardboard

cut-out stereotypes (vile music producer, club owner on the verge of a nervous breakdown, ageing chanteuse). The songs were ear-ringingly terrible. The costumes were from 'Fame.' The message was dim and mixed: Drugs can screw you up, so reject the evil club scene. Then suddenly in the finale: Embrace the club scene, cuz dancing's all we got."

*London theater critic Tim Teeman, explaining why not all gay men adore camp classics (London Times, April 17)*

"I like the show so, ... I called them. ... I'd never played a gay character before, and I thought if I was going to do this I might as well go all the way."

*Actor Michael Douglas, on his upcoming guest appearance as a gay detective on NBC's hit sitcom "Will & Grace" (TV Guide, April 20)*

"He's really funny if you let him play it absolutely straight."

*David Kohan, executive producer of "Will & Grace," on Michael Douglas' upcoming guest role as a gay police officer (TV Guide, April 20)*



"I love that he's playing this so straight, like any of the hard-boiled detectives he's played before — except he's gay."

*Eric McCormack, who plays Will on "Will & Grace," about his guest co-star Michael Douglas, who first played a TV detective in the 1970s cop drama "The Streets of San Francisco" (TV Guide, April 20)*

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**Friday • April 19**  
 Morning Prayer 10am

**Monday • April 22**  
 Eucharist 7:30pm

**Friday • April 26**  
 Morning Prayer 10am  
 Movie Night 7pm  
 "Rat Race"

**Monday • April 29**  
 Eucharist 7:30pm

**Thursday • May 2**  
 Polluck 7pm  
 Ray Hill, guest speaker

**Friday • May 3**  
 Morning Prayer 10am

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# Out on the Bayou

Houston Voice • April 19, 2002

## 'Boulevard' less traveled

Novelist Jim Grimsley tackles seedy underworld of gay New Orleans, says books are outlet for dark side that doesn't reflect everyday life

By LUCAS MIRE

**M**OST PEOPLE EXPLORE their shadowy side while sequestered in the privacy of a therapist's office, or perhaps in the intimacy of a journal. But not award-winning playwright and novelist Jim Grimsley.

In one novel after another, Grimsley explores dark regions of the human psyche and lays bare what he finds for all to read on the printed page. And readers around the world couldn't be more thrilled.

With his fifth novel, the recently released "Boulevard," Grimsley gives his readership a streetlit view of the grimy underbelly of gay New Orleans in the 1970s.

Grimsley, who is 46 and gay, says "Boulevard" is his favorite of his novels.

"I am really happy with the way it turned out," he says.

For fans of the Crescent City and Grimsley himself, "Boulevard" is a bit like hopping the streetcar down memory lane. He lived in the Big Easy around the time the book is set, and while there, finished work on what would become his first published novel, "Winter Birds."

"I've gone back to New Orleans every couple of years because I have friends there," he says in a recent interview from his Decatur home. "I did go back and do a good thorough tour before I wrote 'Boulevard,' but there are a lot of invented places woven in."

"Boulevard" tells the story of Newell, a teenager who leaves a small town in Alabama for the bright lights, big city bombast of the South's most easygoing and decadent destination.

"I track him through getting his first couple of jobs and the various kinds of nightlife you find in the city, which is pretty wild," Grimsley says.

Anyone familiar with the unflinching realism of his previous works knows that in Grimsley's hands, "Boulevard" isn't a rote coming-of-age story.

Though the book gets "a little dangerous towards the end," Grimsley says that ultimately the story is a hopeful one. And despite conclusions one might draw from Grimsley's often grim subject matter and stoic book jacket photos, the author says his personal story is hopeful as well.

"I'm not depressed. Nothing could be further from the truth," he says. "If I put my

> Continued on Page 17



The novels and plays of Jim Grimsley have built an international fan base and allowed the author to reveal his dark side, culminating in his most recent 'Boulevard' that explores the gay S&M underworld of New Orleans in the 1970s.

## appts.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 19

The New Barn in Houston is the site of this weekend's 10th Annual Sweethearts in Texas Hoedown, hosted by Southern Country Houston. For sale during the event will be Spring Fling Basket of Spirits raffle tickets. Proceeds benefit AssistHers, a not-for-profit group helping women with chronic or disabling illnesses. The basket to be won is full of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, gourmet snacks and a \$100 bill. A buffet of snacks will be provided for the hoedown. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 19-20. 8 p.m. Friday, professional dance lesson by Vickie Dunn, World Champion Country & Western dancer. Dance exhibitions both nights. Cover charge on Saturday night only. The New Barn (located behind Chances), 1100 Westheimer Rd. 713-723-7217.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Houston's PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) and HATCH (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals) Youth Scholarship Foundation presents Spring Fling 2002, a fund-raising dinner event to support scholarships for qualified gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth. Tickets: \$100 or \$150 each. 6:30 p.m. cash bar, 7:30 p.m. dinner. Friday, April 19. The Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St., Versailles Room. For reservations, call George Nevers at 713-526-0471 or Kevin Davidson at 713-661-2195.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 20

The Houston area transgender Unity Committee presents the 10th annual Houston Transgender Unity Banquet. The committee includes Community Awareness for Transgender Support (CATS), Gulf Coast Transgender Community (GCTC), Helping Trans-Genders Anonymous (HTGA), Tau-Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess, Texas Association for Transsexual Support (TATS) and Some Transgenders Are Guys (STAG). Tickets: \$35. 7 p.m. Saturday, April 20. Hilton Southwest, Regency Ballroom, 6780 Southwest Freeway. For more information, e-mail: Brandi at bindian@lcc.net; Brenda at Brenda@brendat.com; or Lilly at lillycath@aol.com.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Voices Breaking Boundaries (VBB) will continue hosting its monthly cutting edge afternoon of poetry, prose and music. The April event will feature music by Deconstruction Crew, an experimental rock band whose style combines a variety of sounds. The literary voices will be those of poets Joanna Mann and Shaista Parveen. Young writers include Maia McCoy, a senior at Jones High School, and Jesus Avila, a senior at the University of Houston-Downtown. Following the featured artists will be VBB's open mike, a segment that attracts writers from different parts of Houston. VBB is a collective forum of writers from diverse perspectives, backgrounds and countries. 4 p.m. Sunday, April 21. DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. 713-223-8346.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Stonewall Lawyers of Greater Houston (SLAGH) present a discussion of "Consumer Rights" led by guest speaker Dan Parsons, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Greater Houston & the Upper Texas Gulf Coast. The presentation is this month's SLAGH luncheon seminar. The public is invited to attend; Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit will be granted by the State Bar of Texas to attorneys and law students. \$10 lunch menu. 11:30 a.m.-noon social, noon-1 p.m. program, Thursday, April 25. Riva's Italian Restaurant (on the patio), 1117 Missouri. 713-529-3450.

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## lit·i·ga·tion

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(rez'ġ-lōō'shən)

## res·o·lu·tion

The meaning according to Webster: *n.* 1. The act of resolving or reducing to a simpler form. 2. The purpose or course resolved upon. *Law:* A judgement or decision of a court.

(sat'is-fak·shən)

## sat·is·fac·tion

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## out on the bayou

# Grimsley explores shadowy side in new novel

➤ Continued from Page 15  
mind to it, I could be at a party every night. That's one of the reasons why I left New Orleans: because I was having too much fun.

"Being a writer, you have to sit down in front of the computer to get it written and that's way more important to me than being out a party," he adds.

So what's with his dour book jacket photo?

"I know the photo you're talking about," he says with a laugh. "My first book was published in Germany, and some people call it my German picture. But that's not me everyday."

BETWEEN WRITING NOVELS and plays — Grimsley is playwright in residence at 7 Stages Theatre in Atlanta — "everyday" Grimsley also teaches creative writing at Emory.

Grimsley, who worked full-time as an administrator at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta for many years while churning out his plays and novels, says the teaching gig doesn't cramp his own writing at all.

"I spent so much time working full-time, I got used to writing in the spare time I had," he says.

And while Grimsley says he purposely avoids writing groups because "it can lead to a sort of preciousness that you

really can't afford," he says he learns from his students, if not about writing per se, then about himself.

"I learn things from my students from observing them like I do anyone else," Grimsley says. "They remind me of things I used to know. They stretch me to remember the kind of fiction I wanted to write in my 20s."

While many of his books seem to feature young protagonists, Grimsley quells the notion that his writing is completely autobiographical.

"I write about all kinds of people, all kinds of ages," Grimsley says. "In books, I am basically telling the stories I can tell with authority. Those have been in my head for my years, and happen to be associated with things from when I was young."

"As I get older, my characters age, [and] the fictional characters are aging much more," he says.

THE HARROWING "WINTER BIRDS" launched Grimsley's writing career with a story he admits is more close to home than others. In the novel, young Danny Krell is a hemophiliac from a poor family, barely surviving his alcoholic father's drunken, violent binges.

He followed that attention getting release with three equally emotionally intense novels: "Dream Boy," "My



Local gay author Jim Grimsley says this dour photo gracing some book jackets does not reflect an everyday life that finds him quite content.

Drowning," and "Comfort & Joy." The latter picked up the story of Danny Krell some 20-years later, now HIV positive from blood transfusions and deeply in love with a man from a completely different background.

Surprisingly, Grimsley, who is also an HIV-positive hemophiliac, found himself in hot water from critics for writing a love story.

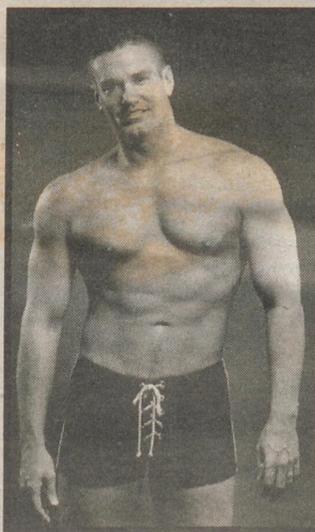
"I got kicked a lot about it when 'Comfort & Joy' came out because half of the people thought it was too depressing and the other half thought it was too sweet," he says. "I thought for a while about not bringing it out all [in America] because there are people in the gay community who don't want to hear about relationships hanging together. One reviewer even said I was obsessed with monogamy."

In his personal life, Grimsley reports that he's "committed" to being single.

"Finding out in 1994 that I have HIV knocked me out of romance for quite a while," he says. "I had way too many qualms about sleeping with someone and not telling them. There's no bigger date buster than telling them that I'm HIV positive, and after four or five attempts to have a serious relationship, I kind of gave up."

"Besides, I'm such a stubborn asshole," he continues. "I don't know if anyone would put up with me and I don't know if I'd want to put up with anybody. I'm pretty settled in the life I've got at this point."

Settled in real life, yes, but, thankfully, when reviewing his body of work, it's hard to believe Grimsley would ever choose easy street when it came to his writing. With "Boulevard," he continues to meander his way down the creative road less traveled, and to readers, that has made all the difference.



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**'We Have Some Planes'**

Acclaimed gay New York director Brian Jucha and his longtime lighting designer Roma Flowers return to Infernal Bridegroom Productions and Houston for the creation of another world premiere production in the vein of 1997's "Last Rites." Opening April 26, with a special sneak preview April 25, "We Have Some Planes" is a chilling neo-expressionistic look at life and love in modern times using dance, song and theater and featuring a cast of nine actors. In keeping with Jucha's tradition of using text from found and "real sources," the text for this production is taken verbatim from the actual conversations between the United States Northeast corridor flight controllers and three planes on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

**on stage**

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Gay New York director Brian Jucha brings 'We Have Some Planes' to Houston's Infernal Bridegroom Productions starting next week.

been the eve of her murder, and hilarity ensues as the women travel back and forth through time in a race to save Wife No. 1 and prevent their own violent ends. Director Bruce Lumpkin leads a cast that includes Houston favorite Deborah Hope.

**on stage**

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**on stage**

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**on stage**

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## homefront ELLA TYLER

Looking for home and garden products or services, consumers get better help by being alert and nice

## Customer service, please

RUNNING A HOUSE and garden is not a solo project. Depending on your manual dexterity and time constraints, and the balance you strike between your pocketbook and your princess allergy, you may need help from painters, plumbers, designers, gardeners and house cleaners. And the whole business of acquiring goods can make you long for the simple days of hunting and gathering.

Here are some hints about how to make the process of acquiring goods and services if not fun then at least bearable. They're gleaned from both sides of my experience — as a shopper and as a retail worker.

Friends and neighbors can offer good recommendations for repair people and neighborhood services. When getting a reference, ask if the worker has quirks. I somehow acquired a house painter (interior) who liked to work in the nude. It was a bit of a shock when I dropped in to check his progress!

Do support advertisers who support gay Houstonians, especially if you're in a situation where your sexual orientation is material or obvious. Support gay-friendly businesses when making wills, buying a house or bed, or sending flowers to a lover, for example. They want business from this community and shouldn't make you feel uncomfortable.

When you find a merchant with good customer service, go back. Even if it is a bit more expensive or a bit further to drive, it will be worth it. If a store has consistently poor customer service, complaining does no good. A business may be structured that way. You can stop shopping or dining there or you can adjust your expectations.

MY SISTER AND several of my good friends are sport shoppers. Take advantage of the ones in your life — they'll love to take you shopping. They know who has what and who has the best prices. Often, they know exactly what you should buy, too. Maybe they spotted the perfect lamp or shirt for you just last week.

When I tell a clerk what I need, I usually do very well. Not long ago, I bought five pairs of comfortable, serviceable shoes in about 30 minutes. I told the salesman: "Bring me something comfortable with a flat heel in blue or black." Since all my work shoes look basically alike, it saved a lot of time for both of us. I didn't have to wander around picking up shoes so he could go look in the stockroom and come back and tell me that they weren't available in my size or color.

This works in all kinds of situations. Ask for a funny movie, a thriller to read on the plane, a low growing plant for sun. The more details you can provide about what you want, the more likely you are to get what you need. Many sales clerks



A consumer who wants a certain product, such as a particular variety of plant for the garden, can get better customer service by specifying the item wanted and being nice to fellow customers as well as salespeople.

know their products well enough to find something that suits your needs.

IF YOU HAVE something specific in mind, provide details. It is hard to find a book, for example, when all the customer can tell you is that it has a picture of a cat on the cover. If you present an interesting problem, you might get help from several clerks and a few customers too.

However, except for shoes, this works better when the store isn't busy.

"Let your fingers do the walking" is not always good advice. Faced with a long line of customers, cash in hand, few sales clerks are going to spend five minutes to search out the item you want if you call in. When the store is not busy, most clerks are glad to do this. How do you know if the store is busy? If the phone rings more than five times, that is a clue.

Speaking of finding things, no store's inventory system is perfect. All it can count is what was received and what was sold or sent back. It can't count merchandise that is damaged, shoplifted, in a customer's hand, or AWOL. There are any number of reasons something shows in stock but isn't waiting on the shelf for you to buy. However, a clerk doesn't usually go looking for it without some indication that it is in stock.

THE KEY TO getting good customer service most of the time is to be nice. Don't criticize the merchandise and be pleasant to the staff and fellow shoppers.

Other hints — tip well, make reservations, be patient, be flexible. Don't show up five minutes before the store closes and when you see what you want, get it. By next week, it may be gone.

**dining** TRAYCE DISKIN

Italian eatery no slouch in its specialties, but leaves room for improvement

# Tastes at Pepe's fall short

AS WE FIRST stepped into Pepe's Pasta Place — a casual but hardly informal Italian bistro — La Donna Mobile was trilling lightly in the background, as Pepe (the former chef at Fabio's on Westheimer) warmly welcomed us to his new establishment.

The Chianti-red walls and carpet created a romantic, cozy ambience enhanced by the colorful paintings and shaded glass windows. The aria, sung by the playboy of a Duke in Rigoletto, translates roughly into "how fickle women are." The song, for most of us, conjures the quintessence of Italy, from the drama of its operas to the heartiness of its wines and cuisine. Unfortunately, the song compliments Pepe's quite well — while the passion and skill is evident, the menu is uneven and fickle as the la donnas who exasperate the Duke.

For instance, the Escargot (\$5.95) were meaty and silky smooth, but the fat of the garlic butter sauce congealed and formed a dubious film over each snail. The brown sauce fell closer to an oily gravy than the crisp, clear butter sauce one expects. And we missed the kick that a few well-chosen herbs can add. They may have been there, but they weren't detectable in the murky sauce.

The Cozze in Bianco Rosso (\$4.95) featured smallish steamed mussels (but really no wimpier than others we've seen around lately) in a white wine broth. The fragrance and seasonings tenderly coated the mussels, which were pleasantly fresh for their size. The dish is also available with Marinara sauce.

Staple appetizers like Calamari Fritti (\$4.95), Pomodori Con Mozzarella (\$4.95), and a finely prepared Carpaccio (\$5.95) with beef tender and provolone abound, but the Pepperoni alla Griglia (\$4.95) may be the best bet. The roasted peppers, anchovies and capers allow a combination of citrus, vinegar and salt to mingle vibrantly on the palette. While the Pasta e Faioli (\$3.95) and Minestrone (\$3.95) suffer from an excess of salt, the tomato base of the latter is soothingly rich.

PEPE'S OFFERS MORE than 15 veal, fish or chicken dishes, and while none reinvent the wheel, several do a nice job of delivering the expected fresh ingredients and tenderly cooked meats. The wine sauce in the Pollo Marsala (\$10.95) lends a piquant succulence to the chicken, and the generously buttery Veal Florentina (\$12.95) will satisfy cream lovers with its mushroom and brandy cream sauce and fettuccine smothered in butter and herbs.

Of course, pasta takes center stage on the menu, and it's a delight to see such an array of pastas — including baked and stuffed pasta dishes — and sauces, from a sweet and light sugo rosa, to wild mushrooms and tomato. The best dishes are standard and harmless, while others border on something a bit more insipid.

In the first category, the Capelletti di Pollo (\$9.95) contains spinach, carrots and chicken stuffed into moon-shaped noodles covered in a mushroom tomato sauce. The vegetables aren't exactly over cooked, but they also fail to retain their characteristic flavors. The Cappelini Livornese sounded promising with its sweet onions, black olives, and shrimp. With a dash of fresh pepper and parmesan to wake it up, it was certainly edible, but the potential wasn't realized. Perhaps the sauce was a bit overcooked or underseasoned.

AS IN A few other pasta dishes, such as the basic Spaghetti Pomodoro (\$8.95), the ratio of pasta to sauce made it nearly impossible to taste much beyond the doughy noodles. The Fettuccine Calamari (\$7.95), however, with a zesty blend of fresh squid, garlic, and basil, manages to transcend Pepe's shortcomings.

Hopefully, with time, Pepe's will inject some pizzazz and energy into its dishes to match its subtly dramatic ambience. Until then, it's not necessarily a poor choice for affordable pastas. The problem is, with so many Italian alternatives, it needs to be more.

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## Pepe's pasta place

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Father Tom Martin, pastor

**3712 Broadway  
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You're Invited to:

### Maranatha Fellowship MCC's Second Annual

### Fiesta Ball Extravaganza 2002

**When:** Friday, April 26, 2002 at 7 pm  
**Where:** Kim Son Grand Ballroom  
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**Cost:** \$30 per person; contact the church office  
at 713.528.6756 for ticket information

**Attire:** Dressy Casual

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For more information, call the church office 713.528.6756

April 21 "How can something I'm so bad at be God's will for my life?" Rev. Janet Parker

Please join us for Praise & Worship. We would love to have you visit us.

*Church Service begins at 10am and  
nursery is available for small children.  
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Tuesdays and Wednesdays*

**For more info...  
713-528-6756 or e-mail  
maranatha@ev1.net**



## community calendar

### SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Houston Area Bears. Social at Mary's, 9p.m. to 2 a.m. 713-867-9123. www.HoustonAreaBears.com.

### EVERY SATURDAY

All-Spanish Worship Service/Culto en español. 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-9403 or 713-861-9149.

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.

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

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

Houston Outdoor Group. Memorial Park walk. 9:30 a.m., meet in front of tennis center. Jimmy, 713-864-7299.

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

Resurrection MCC. Noche Espiritual, Spanish language worship, 6 p.m. 713-861-9149.

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 Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys), 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 21

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

### EVERY SUNDAY

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

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.

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 available at noon. www.emersonhou.org.

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

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

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

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

Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. to 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.

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

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. Price-fixed buffet. 11 a.m. Riva's, 1117 Missouri St. Paul, 713-880-0690. e-mail: PoznFubb@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 Gay & Lesbian Community Center. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

### MONDAY, APRIL 22

### EVERY MONDAY

AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

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

gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

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

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsals, 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.

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

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-402-2703

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

Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Bi-Net Houston. Men's meeting. 7 p.m. 713-476-4380.

### EVERY TUESDAY

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

CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.

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

Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.

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. 713-524-0439.

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

HTGA. Support group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**

Center for AIDS. Women's mixer, 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.** 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.** 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. 713-524-0218.

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 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.

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston, 7:30 p.m. • 713-524-3818.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25**

**EVERY THURSDAY**

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

**Free HIV Testing.** By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

**Freelance Art Classes.** By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

**FrontRunners.** Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

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

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

**HIV Art Therapy Program.** 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

**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.

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

**STD exams & treatment.** Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

**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 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26**

**Movie Night.** "Rat Race," 7 p.m. Soft drinks and popcorn provided. Kolbe Project, 1030 Heights Blvd. 713-861-1800. www.kolbeproject.org.

**EVERY FRIDAY**

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

**Freelance Art Classes.** By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Light breakfast provided. 713-523-9530.

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

**Govinda Yoga Club.** Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.

**Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting.** 713-942-7002.

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

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

**Lesbian & Gay Voices.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Card Players Club meets every fourth Friday of the month, 7 p.m. Call Jimmy: 713-864-7299 or 281-437-0636 • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

**VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP**

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

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

**Montrose Counseling Center Permanent Endowment, Inc.,** a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, is looking for an attorney who wants to give back to the community by providing pro bono legal counsel to its Board of Directors. Attorneys with estate planning or real estate experience are encouraged to respond. Please send a letter of inquiry with your resume/CV to: Montrose Counseling Center Endowment — LC, Attn: Executive Director, 701 Richmond Avenue, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713.526.4367. No phone calls.

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

**Scholarship foundation.** The Amethyst Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, seeks two executive board members and ASF Community Event volunteers. The group provides college scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. 210-372-2020. www.amethystscholarship.org.

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

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# houston classifieds

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FOOD EMERGENCY HOU. HUMANE SOCIETY

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

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

### NEW SOCIAL GROUP

Looking for former Jehovah Witnesses for a social group • 713-941-1682 • gayjwhouston@aol.com.

### BOY OF MONTROSE

Pick up your application at the Ripcord for this June 30 fund-raiser.

### DAY SHELTER

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

### MR. PRIME CHOICE

We are looking for "Prime Choice" vest of our former and deceased winners. Vests are to be placed in the archives. If you have one or know where any of the vests are, please call Don Gill at 713-521-0911

## AUDITIONS

### BIENVENUE THEATRE

The Theatre in Touch will be holding auditions for one upcoming show • "Naked Boys Singing 02" • Needs male singers who dance and move well • 18-35 yrs. • Call Christian @713-426-2626 or 713-875-9244.

## AUTOS FOR SALE

### 1996 BMW Z3 TAKE A TEST SPIN!

Black exterior/Black leather interior • New black soft top • Chameleon CD • 5 speed • 52k miles • \$15k • 713-524-5414

## EMPLOYMENT

### HOUSING ASSISTANT

Transitional housing program seeks part-time house assistant • Knowledge of HIV and chemical dependency issues preferred • Must be able to work a flexible schedule • Fax resume to Brian Jones @ 713-522-2674.

### ARE YOU THAT SPECIAL NURSE?

Adult day care for non-critical HIV patients seeks full-time nurse weekdays, occasional hospice work, nights/weekends • Pleasant work place in Montrose • Competitive salary and good benefits • Psych/rehab experience • Spanish speaking • RN preferred, but will consider all applicants • Pick up application at Bering Care Center, 1427 Hawthorne.

### MIDTOWNE SPA

Looking for cashiers and floor managers  
• Houston 3100 Fannin  
• Dallas 2509 Pacific  
• Austin 5815 Airport  
No phone calls please!

Earn what you are worth • Experienced grant research and development agent needed to target private foundation funding • AIDS Housing • % commission position • 713-521-1613.

### OFFICE FOR RENT

Second floor office available at Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center • 803 Hawthorne • 14' X 12'6" • Nonprofit GLBT organizations preferred as tenant partners, but all inquiries welcomed. Call Tim Brookover @ 713-524-3818

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### REMODELING

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O&M Multi-services • Painting • Carpentry • Roofing • Foundation repair • Decks • Arbors • Many more! • Free estimates • E-mail mary@wible.org • 281-579-1206.

## MASSAGE THERAPY

### MASSAGE

Full body work by young, attractive therapist • RMT# 17254 • 713-494-4023.

### IN THE MONTROSE

Swedish light and deep tissue • Home Studio • Serious massage calls ONLY • Evenings • Weekends • No late night calls • RMT# 023649 • Gary • 713-524-0194.

### RELAXING MASSAGE

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### MASSAGE

Therapeutic • Swedish • Sports • Deep Tissue • Myotherapy • relaxation therapy • Jason • College Guy • Memorial Park Studio • www.sizzlingmassage.com • 713-863-8888

## Q Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17				18						19				
20							21		22					
23				24		25		26						
			27				28					29	30	31
32	33	34			35					36	37			
38					39			40	41		42			
43				44			45				46			
47				48	49	50				51				
			52	53				54				55	56	57
			58					59		60		61		
62							63		64					
65							66				67			
68							69				70			

## "THE WRITE STUFF"

### Across

1. She beat Navratilova in 1989
5. Put your eye to a small opening
9. Org. of supportive moms and dads
14. Weaving of Priscilla fame
15. Hard to come by
16. Gertrude's partner
17. Willa Cather Pulitzer Prize work
19. Mardi Gras, e.g.
20. "Notes on Camp" author Susan
21. Courting seats
23. Where to find "NYPD Blue" reruns
24. "The A-Team" actor with a Mohawk
26. Companion of the Lone Ranger
27. Edward Albee Pulitzer Prize work
29. Nutritional abbr.
32. Peter Doyle was this Whitman's sampler
35. Noted Warhol subject
36. He made hard bodies
38. Tennis pro Nastase
39. Gary Danko's first courses
42. Rimbaud's zip
43. He gives gifts in stockings
45. David Geffen's position at DreamWorks
46. Belle's companion
47. "The Living \_\_\_\_"
48. Michael Cunningham Pulitzer Prize work

52. Ignore, as an order
54. Utmost degree
55. Where to look for the "gay gene"
58. Households for trois
60. Talk by Rev. Perry
62. Places for stable relationships?
63. Sara Teasdale Pulitzer Prize work
65. Have a falling out
66. "Take \_\_\_\_ leave it!"
67. "The African Queen" author
68. Radar puts them to his mouth
69. Langston Hughes' " \_\_\_\_ and Out"
70. Doctor on "Frasier" played by Christine Baranski

### Down

1. Oscar movie for Whoopi Goldberg
2. Song by Moby
3. He often screws actors
4. 12-incher
5. "Will and Grace" and "Ellen"
6. Colette made a splash in it
7. Screws up
8. Money piece for a lesbian
9. Julie to Melissa, once
10. Group that goes cruising
11. Anne Sexton Pulitzer Prize work
12. Beaters of kings or King's unbeatable serves

13. Come together
18. Cry before claiming immortality
22. Lover that you can't get over
25. Poet \_\_\_\_ Wu
27. "Leave that alone!" to Susie Bright
28. Casting/seduction site
30. Advice from Richard Simmons
31. Heche of "John Q"
32. Like three men that visited Mary
33. American Beauty" screen writer Ball
34. A. Scott Berg Pulitzer Prize work
37. Heavenly balls
40. Worker at the bottom
41. Rita Mae Brown's " \_\_\_\_ Discomfort"
44. Charles, who could make you a man, and others
49. Fag follower
50. It protects one of your balls
51. Ps on the Parthenon
53. Cause of "bed death"
55. Familiar tongue
56. "Ragged Dick" writer Horatio
57. How sailors come
58. Horse that isn't hung like a horse
59. "And \_\_\_\_ bed"
61. Express the success of a lover's caress
62. Keep out
64. Woman's promise to her wife, e.g.

Answers on Page 25



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**PETS**  
**ADOPT A PET**  
 Pets can bring energy to any household. To adopt an animal in need of a home, contact the Houston Humane Society at 713-434-5555.

**PET OF THE WEEK**



This is Sparky (160), a Collie/Great Pyrenees mix. She is only 18 months old but is quite large. She is very timid and afraid here, but we know when she gets into a warm, snuggly bed she will warm right up and show you that her heart is ready to love you unconditionally. Call the Houston Humane Society to adopt her at 713-434-5555.

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**\*\*\*HANDY MAN\*\*\***  
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Available June 1 • 2/2 furnished (except 2nd bedroom) apartment @ Chimney Rock and Bellfort • W/D • Water • Cable • Gated • \$385/mo. • \$250 deposit • Call Addison • 713-723-0377.  
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GWM seeks roommates to share lovely 4B home in SW Houston • Includes private in-ground pool/spa • Fully-equipped kitchen • Laundry • Convenient to bus stop • \$500/mo. 1B • \$950/mo. 2B • 713-270-0657 • e-mail for more info Richard@domani.net.

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**VOLUNTEERS**  
**STEVEN'S HOUSE**  
 Seeking caregivers for transitional housing program for HIV+ adults • Must have high school diploma and experience as a caregiver • Contact Ms. Straham @ 713-522-5757 or fax resume to 713-522-1910

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**CASH FOR BOOKS**  
 713-659-5266

Answers to Q puzzle on page 24

A	R	N		N	M	O	D	S	I	H	E	N
E	E	A		R	O	I		E	U	E	A	R
S	G	N	O	S	E	L	O	S	N	R	S	B
L	I	M	O	H		S	E	A	G	E	S	M
L	A	B		H	T	N		A	L	A	B	
		S	R	S	H	O	R	T	H	E		E
E	T	E		B	E	O	C	E	O		A	N
N	E	N		R	I	E	S	O	P	S	I	E
N	I	D		R	O		O	M	A	O	L	T
A	R	D		A	P	E	S	C	A	P	E	S
		T	O	N	T	O	N	T	M	R	T	N
		S		E	T	E	S		A	G		S
E	L			R	E	V	E	L				
E	L			R	E	V	E	L				
A	G			P	L	A	G					



**Classified Order Form Fax: 713-529-9531, Phone: 713-529-8490**

**TO PLACE AN AD:**  
**IN PERSON:** Bring completed order form with payment to Houston Voice offices (M-F, 9-5:30 pm) 500 Lovett, Suite 200. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to Houston Voice Classifieds, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX, 77006. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 713-529-8490.  
**BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 713-529-9531. **BY E-MAIL:** croberts@houstonvoice.com  
**AD POLICY:** Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

**Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 11 a.m.**

**1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY**

**FREE:** Call for guidelines  
 \_\_\_ HIV Services & Education  
 \_\_\_ Volunteers  
 \_\_\_ Non-Profit Organizations  
 \*First 20 words

**INDIVIDUAL RATE \$10:**  
 \_\_\_ Announcements  
 \_\_\_ Auditions  
 \_\_\_ Employment-Seeking  
 \_\_\_ Pets-Free or Lost & Found  
 \_\_\_ Roommates  
 \_\_\_ Personal Web sites

**BUSINESS RATE \$18:**  
 \_\_\_ Auto Repair  
 \_\_\_ Business Opportunities  
 \_\_\_ Entertainment  
 \_\_\_ Help Wanted  
 \_\_\_ Help Wanted-Seeking  
 \_\_\_ Home Improvement  
 \_\_\_ Items For Sale  
 \_\_\_ Licensed Massage  
 \_\_\_ Moving Services  
 \_\_\_ Professional Services  
 \_\_\_ Real Estate For Rent  
 \_\_\_ Real Estate For Sale

**Call 713-529-8490 for other categories**

**2 WRITE YOUR AD**  
 Please print clearly

**CATEGORY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# OF ISSUES:** \_\_\_\_\_

Giant or Bold Headline - Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**TEXT:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3 TOTAL YOUR COST**  
 CALL FOR DIRECTORY AD RATES

**INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS**  
 Up to 20 words for \$10.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: \$10.00

Additional words \_\_\_\_\_ x 50¢: \_\_\_\_\_

Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) \_\_\_\_\_

**Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ # of issues

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BUSINESS RATE ADS**  
 Up to 20 words for \$18.00 per week.

Additional words \_\_\_\_\_ x 75¢ per word (per week): \_\_\_\_\_

Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) \_\_\_\_\_

**Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ # of issues

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Charge to my  AMEX  MC  VISA

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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# horoscope JILL DEARMAN



## My Stars!

April 19-25



### ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

Venus moves into the most social sector of your chart on April 25. If you've been all work and no play, now is the time to rectify your stuffy ways. A Libra can help you get this party started right.



### TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

This is a good week for you to go after your romantic dreams. The full moon in Scorpio (on April 26) brings out your libido and your fantasies. A Capricorn can help to make a few dreams come true.



### GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Mars will be close to Saturn in your sign all week and could bring you some luck with work matters. You should do your best to hunker down for the long haul. One big project garners better results than three small ones. Another Gemini wants to collaborate with you, after hours.



### CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

Mars and Saturn will be traveling close together in your most spiritual-mystical house this week. Perhaps it's time for you to work a little harder on your spiritual practice. A Sag will lead you in the right direction.



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

The Sun (your ruling planet) will be traveling through your career house all week long. Be the leader you are and stop following the rules of imbeciles! A Sag is longing to be your personal assistant.



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

You can make changes in your career this week as Venus moves to the top of your chart. Diplomacy and a willingness to nurture the talents of others get you far. A Pisces is your number one ally.



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

Venus moves into your house of travel on April 25, so consider taking a trip to somewhere exotic and fun. Put practicality aside for the time being. A Virgo wants to explore with you.



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

The Sun travels through your house of love in late April and makes all the hotties a little more susceptible to your charms. A Gemini is particularly enraptured by your passion.



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

This is a good time for you to push your own limits. Face and fear and move past it. All your friends are getting sick of your preachiness. Start practicing, doll. An Aries throws down the gauntlet.



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

The Sun is traveling through your house of creativity all week long. Do something to express your artistic side. The more you expose your emotions, the more people connect with you. A Taurus is ready to go deep with you.



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

The Sun in your home sector brings everyone a bit closer to you. Be a maternal force of nature this week. You are able to provide earthly comforts to those you love — just in time for Earth Day, darling. A Pisces gives you the comfort you need.



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

This is a good time for you to bring peace to a fiery domestic situation. Venus moves into your house of home and family on April 25 and sends you the sign that it's time to settle down — with a Capricorn.

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.

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Rev. Dr. Belinda Windham

Sunday, April 28, 2002 • 9am and 11am

Rev. Dr. Belinda Windham is a former Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Taylor, Texas, and St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Houston. She currently serves the Presbyterian Church (USA) nationally, as an elected member of the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee of the Office of the General Assembly.



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