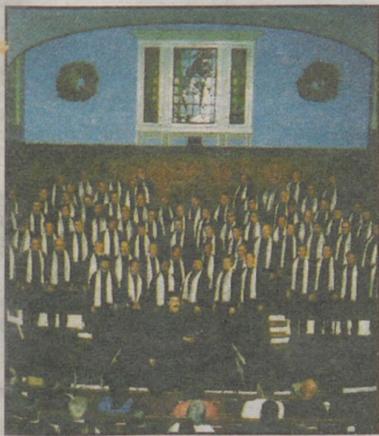


Two Texas radio stations host the new gay radio show 'Life OUTside,' the first of its kind. Page 15



## INSIDE



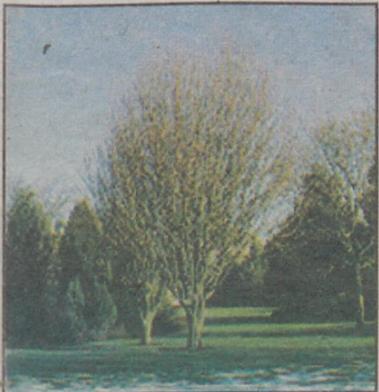
The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston entertained for the holidays with 'Songs of Heavenly Joy.'

Page 3



This year's 'A Christmas Songfest' served as a celebration and a fund-raiser for two local organizations.

Page 3



Keep in mind the future growth of trees when incorporating new ones into any landscaping plan.

Page 20

# Federal agency criticized for changing condom info

### New approach to fact sheet puts people with HIV at risk, lawmaker charges

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

WASHINGTON — Thirteen members of Congress, including its only open lesbian, blasted the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services for recent changes to its Web site and a fact sheet about condoms, claiming the moves were to "distort and suppress scientific information for ideological purposes."

The letter to HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson — written by Rep. Henry D. Waxman (D-Calif.) and signed by 12 other Democrats, including lesbian Rep. Tammy

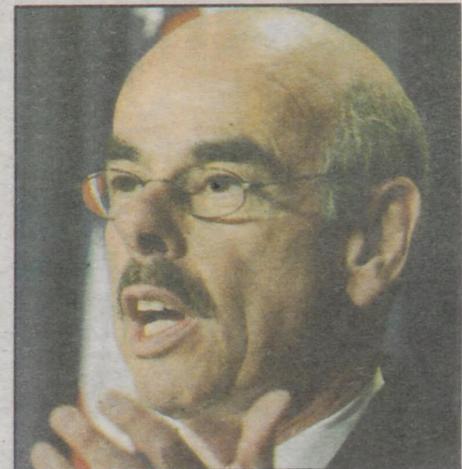
Baldwin (D-Wisc.) — charges that a government fact sheet that promoted condom use as "highly effective" in preventing HIV and other STDs is now watered down.

The lawmakers also took issue with revisions to a fact sheet produced by the National Cancer Institute, which omits a previously mentioned study denying any link between abortions and breast cancer.

"We are extremely concerned about these alterations and deletions of important scientific information," the letter addressed to HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson reads. "They appear to be part of an Orwellian trend at HHS."

The allegations are at least the second time this year that Waxman publicly criticized Thompson's department. In October, Waxman and some Democratic colleagues

Please see AGENCY CRITICIZED, on Page 8



U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) alleges that federal health officials recently changed a fact sheet on condoms and a Web site for political, rather than scientific, reasons. (Photo by Dennis Cook/AP)

# New York passes landmark gay rights law

### Transgender exclusion prompts controversy between gay group, state legislator

By STEVE WEINSTEIN

NEW YORK — Back in 1971, two New York State Assemblymen from Manhattan introduced a gay rights bill. On Dec. 17, nearly 39 years later, Gov. George Pataki signed the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act into law.

The process was long, convoluted and produced a good deal of heat on both sides of the issue, and even with passage, the arguments have not died down.

A last-minute amendment to include transgendered people in the bill's language has caused a very public rift between the state's highest-ranking openly gay politician and its most influential lobbying group.

When State Sen. Tom Duane, who is gay and represents much of the West Side of Manhattan, tried to amend SONDA, he infuriated Matt Foreman, who heads the Empire State Pride Agenda. According to Duane, Foreman shut him out of a meeting with State Sen. Joseph Bruno, the head of the Senate's Republican majority.

Political insiders, however, maintain that Duane was left out of the meeting because he would not commit to supporting SONDA if gender identity was not included. If the only openly gay senator would not

Please see GAY RIGHTS LAW, on Page 8



New York Gov. George Pataki signed a sexual orientation non-discrimination policy into law immediately after it passed the state legislature. (Photo by AP)

# local news

## Gay Men's Chorus of Houston sings 'Heavenly Joy' for the season



The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston this month presented 'Songs of Heavenly Joy' with festival brass as its celebration of the holiday season. Pieces included 'Sleigh Ride' from Randol Bass' 'Christmas Flourish,' plus 'Twelve Days After Christmas' and more. (All photos by Dalton DeHart)

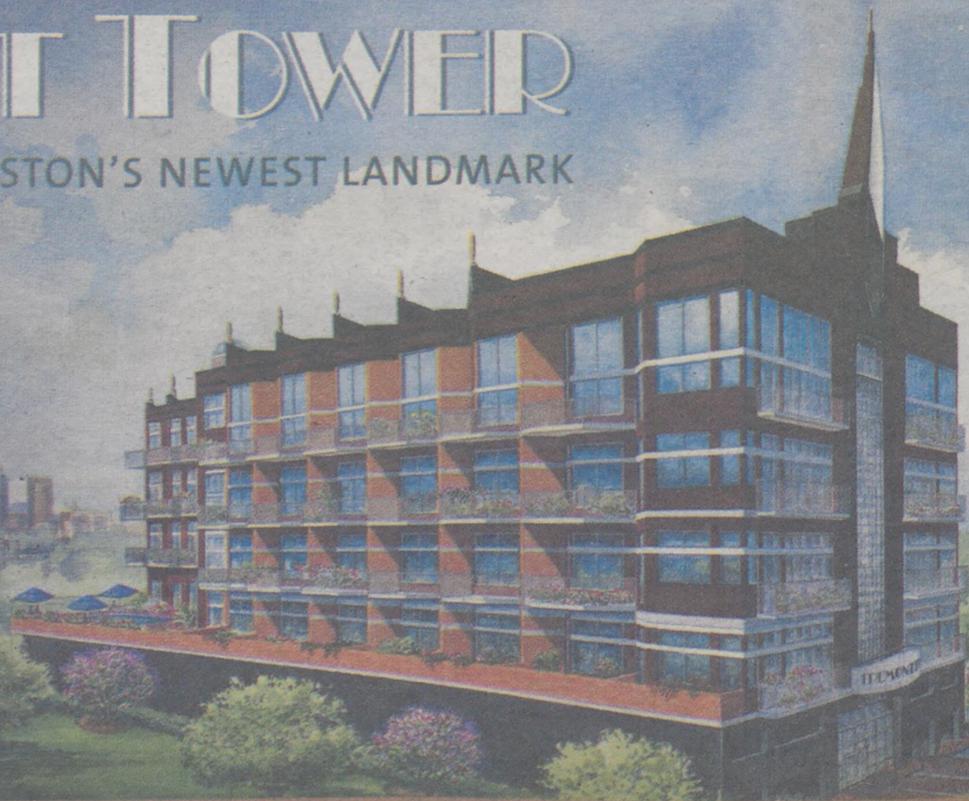


Richard White (left) informs 'The Grinch' (Ron Johnson) that he 'stank, stunk and stinks' during the chorus' seasonal performance.



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## local news

# Chamber hosts New Year's Eve party at the Warwick

Houstonians invited to 'Cruise into 2003' with members of the GLBT Chamber of Commerce

Among New Year's Eve celebrations for gay Houstonians is the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce's annual party, this year dubbed "Cruisin' into 2003."

The event is sponsored by the chamber and also benefits the organization, according to chamber officials. The Warwick Hotel is the site of the party

starting at 8 p.m. next Tuesday, Dec. 31. The evening includes a casino from 9 to 11:45 p.m. and a silent auction from 9 p.m. to 12:15 a.m.

Participants will wear cocktail attire, with black tie suggested or dressy cruise attire. Tickets are available in four different categories.

For the dance only (Passenger), individuals pay \$75 and attend the party starting at 9:30 p.m. This includes a champagne toast at midnight, party favors, breakfast on the run after midnight and a cash bar.

For the buffet (Purser), individuals pay \$85 and get all of the above plus Food Islands, and are admitted starting at 8 p.m.

For the VIP (Cruise Director), individuals pay \$165 and have access to all of the above plus a formal sit-down dinner and entertainment, five drink coupons per person and access to all parts of the event.

The VIP (Petty Officer) attendees will attend a formal sit-down dinner and entertainment, with five drink coupons per person, champagne toast at midnight, party favors, breakfast on the run after midnight plus one standard room at the Warwick plus tax. This category includes access to all part of the event and costs \$500 per couple.

Event sponsor is James W. Doyle Insurance. Celebration hosts are Brooks Ballard, Gary Baumann, Lary Barton,

Jeffrey Cole, Marion E. Coleman, Felix Covarrubias, Trudy E. Denny, Bob Hall, Tom Harvey, Joe Hilavac, Jani Lopez, Tricia Lynn, Sharon Ponton, Rick Renshaw, Dennis Schwarz, Alan York and Hillary Woest.

From staff reports

### MORE INFO

Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce's 'Cruisin' into 2003'  
8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31  
Warwick Hotel  
Contact the Chamber at:  
713-532-7576  
www.ghglcc.org

# 'Songfest' brings fun and tunes to the stage



The annual 'A Christmas Songfest' was held earlier this month as a benefit for Bering Omega Community Services and Center for AIDS. During the event, guests were allowed to sign up to sing Christmas songs on stage, either in groups or alone, and compete for a prize at the end of the evening. In addition, local entertainers Sharon Montgomery, Terry Pierce, Bubba McNeely and Kim Yvette performed. The event included an open bar, dinner buffet and silent auction and was held at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center. (All photos by Dalton DeHart)



## national news

## Log Cabin leader to open 'personal coaching' practice

Tafel switches career from politics to people training

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — For the past 10 years, Rich Tafel toiled in the political trenches, prodding the Republican Party to open its doors to gay men and lesbians and seeking to convince skeptical gay activists that the party of Lincoln could be their friend rather than an enemy.

Now, a month after he announced he is stepping down as executive director of the national gay group Log Cabin Republicans, Tafel said he plans to open a private practice as a "personal coach" in a newly emerging field aimed at helping people attain their chosen career and life goals.

As an ordained minister in the American Baptist Church, with a master's degree in divinity from Harvard University, Tafel said he also plans to become more involved in religious endeavors.

"In traveling around the country for LCR during the past 10 years, I've learned that people are most interested in talking about their own lives and hopes and dreams," Tafel said.



Rich Tafel, the outgoing executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, says that during his tenure with the organization, he often found himself coaching gay Republicans out of the closet, which helped lead him to his new career path.

He noted that while Republican Party politics and gay rights were at the top of his agenda as head of the nation's largest gay Republican group, he often found himself taking on the role of adviser and per-

sonal confidant to those he met through political contacts.

"It occurred to me that a lot of people I've advised and counseled were in the closet," Tafel said. "For many of them, their religious backgrounds tended to be the source of their problems."

Tafel said his most rewarding and fulfilling experiences took place behind the scenes, when he informally "coached" closeted gay Republicans to reconcile their sexual orientation with their lives and careers.

"Washington remains one of the most closeted places in the country, even more than the South," he said. "It forces you to be dishonest about who you are, and that hurts you."

At the same time, Tafel said, some of the bitter struggles within the gay political movement also taught him that "gay people are sometimes our own worst enemies."

Tafel said critics from the left wing of the gay rights movement have attacked him with a ferocity far greater than anti-gay ministers and socially conservative Republicans.

But some gay Democratic activists, including officials with the National Stonewall Democrats, have said Tafel has gone on the attack against gay Democrats on more than one occasion in his role as

Log Cabin executive director.

The Franklin Covey Coaching Center, a multimillion-dollar operation where Tafel said he will seek training, was founded by coaching guru Steven Covey, author of the widely read book, "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People."

Critics have noted that Covey has ties to the Mormon Church and has contributed money to anti-gay groups in Utah and elsewhere.

Tafel said he knew of those ties and made inquiries about the center's views on gays. He said he was informed that the center has a written policy of non-discrimination pertaining to sexual orientation. He said the instructor of his training class came out as a lesbian to her students.

He expects to begin his practice in Washington shortly after he leaves his post at Log Cabin in early January. Tafel will be replaced at Log Cabin with Patrick Guerriero, a former mayor and state representative in Massachusetts.

### MORE INFO

Senate Majority/Minority Reports on ENDA  
Bill No. S. 1284/Report No. 107-341  
[www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov)

## MCC founder announces plans to retire in 2005

Perry overcame Bible college expulsion to found ministry

By KATHI WOLFE

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — In 1959, Troy Perry, founder and moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches, was expelled from Midwest Bible College in Chicago for being gay.

"A fellow student had fallen in love with me. They told me I wasn't worthy enough to be educated by Christians," Perry said.

This year, in the same city where he was expelled from school, Perry, 62, was named to the board of trustees of the Chicago Theological Seminary. This is just one of many honors bestowed on him during 34 years of ministry. Recently, he announced plans to retire as moderator of MCC in 2005.

"I've watched so many gay and lesbian leaders come on the scene, make noise and burn out," Perry said. "I look forward to the future, to new blood, to keep the church strong."

Perry's life story is a sometimes painful voyage through chapters of American history that weren't always kind to gay men and lesbians.

When Perry was 13, his father died. Just two years later, Perry was licensed as a Baptist minister. It was at this time that he became aware that he was gay.

"I knew I was attracted to men. But there wasn't a name for it then," Perry said. "At

that point in American history, people believed that if you performed homosexual acts, you were a heterosexual gone bad, that it was sick, bad, criminal, sinful behavior."

At age 18, Perry confided in the pastor of his Pentecostal church. "When I told him about my feelings, his eyes lit up. He said, 'All you need to do is to marry a good woman.'"

Perry married his pastor's daughter. A year later, Perry, his wife and their newborn son moved to Chicago, where he attended Midwest Bible College.

"My wife's family told her what transpired [when he was expelled from Midwest Bible College]. She said, 'I'm still going to stay with him,'" Perry said.

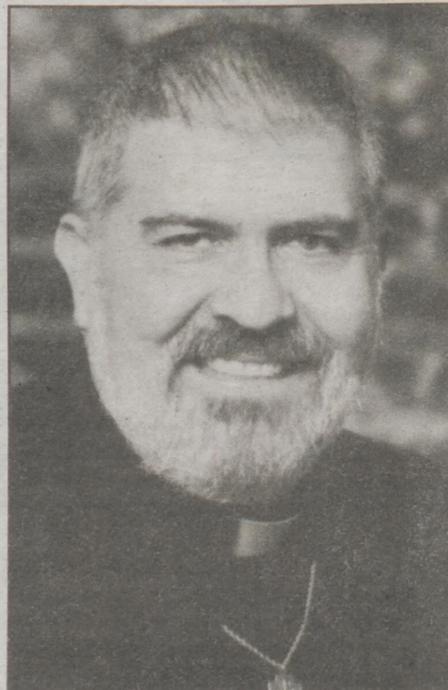
While studying at the college, he worked for a plastics company. In 1962, Perry and his family moved to Southern California when the company asked him to relocate there.

It was there that he came to terms with his sexual orientation.

"I outed myself to a Pentecostal church official. He was horrified and wanted to know if I'd molested little boys. I told him it was nothing like that," Perry said. Perry was excommunicated from his church.

Perry and his wife separated after five years and later divorced. His wife's relatives reported him to his draft board and he was inducted into a two-year stint with the Army. From 1965 to 1967, he was stationed in Germany.

"I had a wonderful time," Perry said. "Back then there was no 'Don't Ask, Don't



Troy Perry, now planning his retirement, watched Metropolitan Community Churches grow from a dozen congregants to nearly 60,000 members worldwide.

Tell.' They didn't care if I was openly gay, as long as they didn't see me in bed with anybody in my barracks."

After serving, Perry returned to California where he began a spiritual journey that led

him to start MCC. In 1967, he attempted suicide after breaking up with his first partner.

"A friend found me in the bathtub with the water running," Perry said. "I felt I had nothing to live for." The incident pushed every button in his religious upbringing and he asked God for forgiveness.

"God told me, 'I love you, Troy, and I don't have any stepsons or stepdaughters,'" Perry said. He began looking for a place to go to church.

Perry started the first MCC church in Los Angeles in 1968 with just 12 congregants. Today, MCC has more than 56,000 members and adherents in 300 churches in 22 countries around the world.

From the very beginning, Perry said he believed that his ministry and MCC should be connected to the gay rights movement.

"MCC preaches a three-pronged gospel of Christian salvation, Christian community and equal rights," he said.

The reaction to MCC from the general public has ranged from indifference to outright violence. Over the years, 22 MCC churches have been burned by arson. Perry has received death threats and sometimes travels with bodyguards.

"Perry is a hero to many in this [gay rights] movement," said Wayne Besen, a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign. "His message that you can be gay and Christian, especially to those from a fundamentalist background, has saved many lives."



## around the nation

### Frist 'seeks common ground' with gays despite voting record



U.S. Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), widely expected to replace U.S. Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) as incoming Senate majority leader, has voted against gay legislation though he has met repeatedly with a gay Republican group. (Photo by AP)

WASHINGTON — The man poised to replace deposed Senate Republican leader Trent Lott supports AIDS prevention efforts overseas and has met with gays in his party, but carries a voting record as conservative as the man he's replacing. U.S. Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) was expected to be confirmed as incoming Senate majority leader during a Republican caucus conference call on Dec. 23. Frist, the Senate's only physician, has been outspoken about increasing funding for fighting AIDS in Africa and has met with officials of the Log Cabin Republicans. But Frist, 50, received a zero rating this year — the same as Lott — from the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group. He has voted against a gay-inclusive hate crimes measure and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. But Frist has shown interest in "opening a dialogue" by meeting with the gay Log Cabin Republicans, according to Mark Mead, LCR's director of public affairs. "My recent meeting [with the Log Cabin Republicans] was a valuable exchange of ideas," Frist told Southern Voice in May 2001. "I think there is a desire by Republicans to reach out more broadly to various coalitions and, instead of dwelling on our differences, seek common ground on which we can accomplish shared goals."

### Lesbian teen ousted from girls' gym class in Calif.

BANNING, Calif. — The family of Ashly Massey, 15, has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the Banning Unified School District after a teacher allegedly kicked the girl out of gym class because she is a lesbian, according to the Associated Press. The suit filed Dec. 17 in U.S. District Court in Riverside seeks changes in school policies to handle harassment of students based on sexual orientation, as well as unspecified monetary damages. Massey said only a few friends knew her sexual orientation last March when a classmate asked her if she was gay while the students were in a locker room. The teen claims her gym teacher told her, "Nobody needs to know that." Although the teacher said Massey never acted inappropriately, the girl was required to sit in the principal's office rather than attend gym for more than a week, according to the lawsuit. The school district declined comment on the lawsuit.

### Lesbian mom must pay child support, Pa. court rules

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The former partner of a woman who bore five children during their relationship must pay child support, a state Superior Court panel has ruled, according to the Associated Press. The lesbian couple, identified only by initials in the three-judge panel's opinion, agreed to have children together through artificial insemination. The partner, identified as H.A.N., stayed at home and cared for the children while the birth mother returned to work. H.A.N. did not legally adopt the children. After the couple split up, H.A.N. successfully sought custody of the children during summers and school breaks but argued that she should not have to pay child support. A Cumberland County Common Pleas judge ordered her to pay back and current child support, and the Superior Court upheld the order. The ruling "puts lesbian and gay parents on notice that

the courts will not tolerate blowing hot and cold when it comes to the ... assumption of parental duties," said the biological mother's lawyer, Mark Momjian.

### Ky. school district dumps all clubs over gay alliance

SUMMIT, Ky. — The Boyd County school board, responding to a controversy over a high school gay students group, suspended all school clubs in the district on Dec. 20, according to the Associated Press. Boyd County High School's decision-making council approved the Gay-Straight Alliance in October, sparking rallies and student walkouts. Attendance at school board and school council meetings has grown since the group began meeting, and picketing was planned for Jan. 3 in opposition to the club. The school board's action affects students in kindergarten through high school. "It was time to put our foot down," board member Theresa Cornette said.

### Calif. high court to consider Scout ban for state's judges

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court is considering prohibiting state judges from being members of the Boy Scouts because of the group's refusal to admit gays, the chief justice announced Dec. 19, according to the Associated Press. California judicial canons, controlled by the Supreme Court, already demand that judges divest themselves from groups that discriminate against women and minorities. Rules adopted seven years ago also forbid membership in organizations that discriminate against lesbians and gays but allow "nonprofit youth organizations," an exception for the Boy Scouts. The San Francisco Bar association and other groups recently asked the high court to revamp the rules. The court has decided to take up the matter at a future administrative conference, Chief Justice Ronald M. George said.

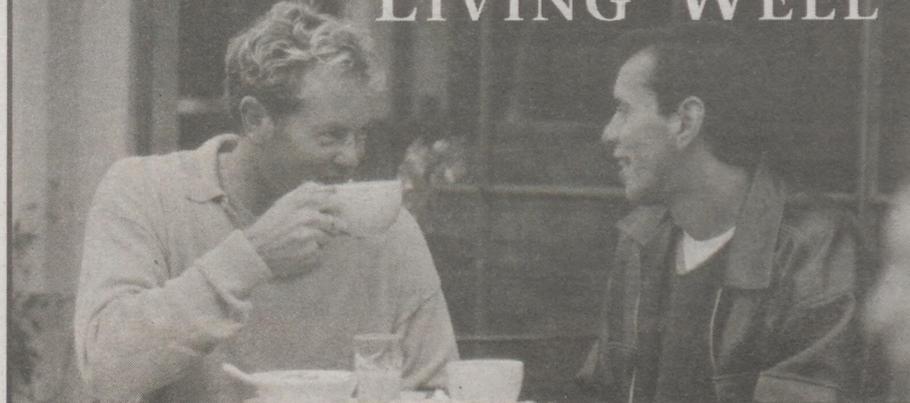
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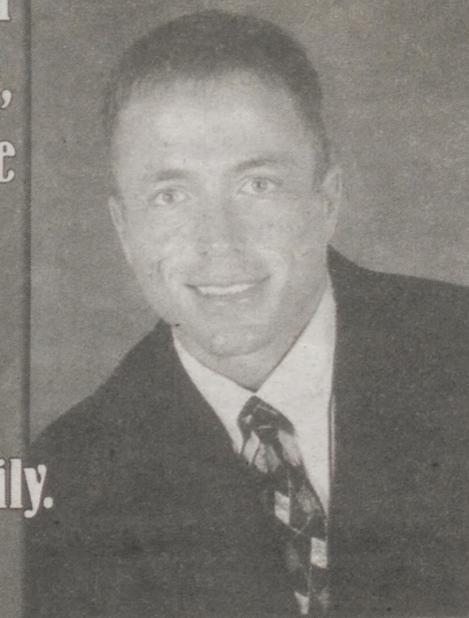
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## police beat

### Calif. high court says governor can block parole of gay killer

SAN FRANCISCO — The Calif. Supreme Court affirmed Gov. Gray Davis' powers to block parole of convicted murderers in a decision made public Dec. 16, endorsing Davis' recent veto of parole for a gay man who killed a friend for revealing his sexual orientation, the Associated Press reported. The justices said that a 1988 amendment to the state Constitution gives the governor carte blanche authority to overturn releases approved by the state's parole board. "The constitution entrusts the governor with ultimate review of parole for those convicted of murder," Davis said. The justices ruled 5-2 in a challenge to Davis' veto of the release of convicted killer Robert Rosenkrantz. He is serving 17 years to life for the 1985 slaying of his boyhood friend, Steven Redman. The 17-year-old was shot 10 times after revealing that Rosenkrantz, 34, is gay.



Calif. Gov. Gray Davis' power to block parole for convicted murderers was affirmed by the state's high court in the case of a gay man convicted of killing the man who revealed his sexual orientation. (Photo by AP)

### Gay party promoters in San Francisco arrested on drug charges

SAN FRANCISCO — Undercover officers arrested two club promoters last month who they say supplied illegal party drugs at their own events, the San Francisco Examiner reported. Raymond Chan and Albert Law are charged with multiple felony counts of drug possession after a search of their home allegedly uncovered Ketamine, cocaine, GHB and nearly \$200,000, according to police reports. Authorities said the arrests highlight a new trend in which party promoters host and supply drugs for their own events. Chan and Law catered to San Francisco's gay club scene. Both men are out on bail awaiting a Jan. 1 court appearance. "In the last two years, we've seen a huge increase in the amount of gay drug dealers in this city," a law enforcement official said. "We're seeing a lot more cases where the gay party community is using 'ice' and ecstasy."

### Gay Australian killer flushed bodies of victim down toilet

SYDNEY, Australia — A gay man convicted of killing and dismembering two lovers will be eligible for parole after 13 years in prison, the Australian Associated Press reported. Damien Anthony Peters, 33, was convicted of stabbing his partner of three years, Tereapui Akai, 50, then disposing of his body in their toilet last January. On Sept. 9, Peters stabbed his new lover Bevan Frost, 57, and was in the process of cutting up Frost's body when police called investigating the disappearance of Akai, prosecutors said. Peters pleaded guilty and admitted being under the influence of "ice," crystallized amphetamine and methadone, while committing the crimes. He claimed to be the victim of sexual abuse by both men. The judge said the crimes did not garner a life sentence because of special circumstances including the abuse, his HIV-positive status and his attempts to quit drugs.

### Wis. man convicted of killing wife after saying she was a lesbian

LAND O' LAKES, Wis. — A man was convicted Dec. 13 of poisoning his wife and drowning her in a toilet, according to the Rhinelander Daily News. A jury found that Douglas J. Plude, 35, murdered his wife in October 1999. Genell Johnson Plude, 28, was found dead with her head in the toilet, large amounts of drugs in her system and unusual bruising marks on her body. The defense argued she intentionally overdosed, vomited and eventually died in the toilet. District Attorney Al Moustakis said Plude's ego suffered a devastating blow when his wife informed him that she was a lesbian. "When she told him that she was a lesbian, he went nuts," Moustakis said. "He had to murder her before she left him." Public Defender Ann Munninghoff argued that the woman took her own life after an Internet relationship with a woman failed. Plude is in jail pending a Feb. 11 sentencing.

### Mo. ACLU challenges video store sex arrests

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Calling Missouri's sodomy law unconstitutional, an attorney for the ACLU filed a motion to dismiss charges against six men caught having sex in an adult video store, according to the Associated Press. Prosecutors charged the men under a rarely used statute that bans sex between people of the same gender. A woman engaged in heterosexual sex at the store was freed because her conduct is not illegal under the law. Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas are the only states that outlaw homosexual sodomy. Nine other states ban sodomy for everyone. "The facts of this case point out the fundamental unfairness here," said Denise Lieberman, legal director for the ACLU of Eastern Missouri. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule by June in a challenge to the sodomy law in Texas.

From staff and wire reports

## medical report

### Gays don't come out to doctors, study shows

NEW YORK — Some 50 to 75 percent of gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people don't tell their doctors about their sexual orientation, according to a study released Dec. 18, Reuters Health reported. Witeck-Combs Communications, a gay-owned public relations group, and research firm Harris Interactive conducted the on-line survey of 2,062 heterosexual and 159 gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender adults. Only 23 percent of bisexuals, 55 percent of lesbians and 67 percent of gay men said they discussed sexual orientation with their doctors. By not coming out to health care providers, gays may miss out on screenings for certain conditions, according to Kathleen DeBold, executive director of the Mautner Project, a lesbian health advocacy group. Also, "because of homophobia or perceived homophobia in the health system, gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered often delay care," DeBold said.



Perceived homophobia in health care may make gay patients less likely to discuss their sexual orientation with physicians, according to Kathleen DeBold, executive director of the Mautner Project.

### AIDS virus protein eludes body's defenses, study finds

NEW YORK — A part of the AIDS virus that was considered vulnerable to attack can camouflage itself by changing shapes, according to a report in the Dec. 12 issue of the journal Nature. The study helps show why HIV is so hard to target and kill, the Associated Press reported. HIV cripples the immune system by infecting and killing T-cells. It uses a protein structure on its surface called gp120 to gain entry to the cells. In 1998, scientists announced that they figured out much about the structure of gp120 and hoped that finding a vulnerability in it could lead to vaccines against HIV. But finding gp120's weakness remains elusive, in part because the protein varies from strain to strain. Some scientists believed that the best hope was in targeting an area of gp120 common to all strains. But the new work shows that this region is more elusive than previously thought, because it is composed of very flexible parts that let it take on different shapes. "There's a lot of mobility within the protein. It's a blurry, moving structure that is very difficult for the immune system to deal with," said Joseph Sodroski of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, one of the researchers.

### Study asks if HIV meds increase heart disease

LONDON — Professor Ian Weller of University College, London, said Dec. 9 that drug companies will continue to study whether certain HIV drugs put patients at heightened risk for heart disease and other health problems, Reuters Health Reported. Last month, the European AIDS Treatment Group told the Steering Committee on the Metabolic Complications of Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment — made up of scientists, drug company officials and regulators — that the group feared the studies would end before conclusions could be drawn. "I think I can confidently say now that we have funding agreed for a further year from all the companies involved and for a second year from most," said Weller, a British member of the committee. The studies began in 1999 and could require monitoring HIV patients for decades to determine the long-term impact of the medications.

### Experimental HIV drug faces manufacturing delay

LOS ANGELES — Makers of Fuzeon, an injection drug that could help people with HIV who are resistant to other antiretroviral drugs, said Dec. 18 they may not be able to meet demand for the drug in 2003, Reuters reported. Roche Holding AG said its Colorado plant is working to make the drug, but the manufacturing process took longer than expected, and initial batches were smaller than expected. A decision from federal regulators on an application to market the drug in the U.S. is expected by March 16; while Roche officials initially said they plan to be able to supply the drug to 25,000 patients by the end of the year, the company scaled back the number to 15,000. Fuzeon is the first drug in a new class of HIV medications called "fusion inhibitors."

### Patent fight continues over HIV drug AZT

NEW YORK — The AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the country's largest AIDS care provider, requested that a U.S. federal court issue a preliminary injunction preventing GlaxoSmithKline from defending its patent on the AIDS medication AZT. The health care organization also filed a lawsuit against the British drug company, alleging inflated prices and patent fraud, Reuters Health reported. "They lied to the patent office in the 1980s about discovering AZT's ability to treat AIDS, and in doing so secured exclusive rights to manufacture it," AHF President Michael Weinstein said in a statement. "AZT was developed with federal assistance in the 1960s, and the National Institutes of Health tested it for HIV use in the 1980s, but Glaxo secured patents on the substance in the 1980s and locked competitors out," he said. "They then priced AZT at 32 times the cost of manufacture, a practice repeated with every new AIDS drug since then." A spokesperson for the drug company called the lawsuit frivolous. The court will hear arguments on the preliminary injunction on March 10.

From staff and wire reports

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## national news

# Leona Helmsley lawsuit gets January trial date

Gay manager claims he was victim of 'malevolent homophobia'

By WINNIE McCROY

NEW YORK — Charles Bell, former manager of Manhattan's pricey Park Lane Hotel, went to court on Dec. 9 with a lawsuit against his former employer, hotel owner Leona Helmsley, charging that she fired him because he is gay.

A New York State Court judge ordered the case returned to the state Supreme Court on Jan. 13, 2003, at which point a jury will be picked and begin what Bell's lawyer anticipates will be a three-week trial.

The root of the charges goes back to January 2001, when Bell said he was asked by the chief of corporate security if his supervisor was gay. "Just because I'm gay doesn't mean I know everyone who is gay," he said he replied.

"That was the first time I articulated to anyone in that organization that I was gay," Bell said. "From that point forward, it went



Leona Helmsley faces allegations that she called her hotel manager 'fag' in front of hotel guests and co-workers. (Photo by AP)

from heaven to hell, day to night. It was awful; I could do no right in the hotel, where just a week before Mrs. Helmsley had told me I was doing an excellent job, and was one of the best managers she had."

In papers filed in State Supreme Court, Bell said he was forced out of his job in March after months of being subjected to contempt and ridicule because of "Helmsley's malevolent homophobia."

Bell's court papers say Helmsley fostered a corporate culture of racism and homophobia, used derogatory references to refer to gay and lesbian employees and

minorities and used the word "gay" as an insult for people she disliked.

Bell's lawyer, Geri Krauss, seeks \$10 million in compensatory and \$30 million in punitive damages for his wrongful firing and harassment.

"Basically the kinds of treatment Mr. Bell was complaining about were the occasions where [Helmsley] stood in the hotel lobby berating him, calling him a fag in front of guests and employees — it was vicious," Krauss said.

"She had said over and over that he was a great employee, and four days later after she found out he was gay, that's when she completely turned on him. The employees he worked for loved working with him; I expect that some of them will testify in the case," Krauss said.

Jeffrey Taub, partner in the firm of Meyer, Taub & Wild, spoke for Helmsley's counsel, Steve Eckhaus. Taub countered Bell was fired from his position as general manager of the Park Lane Hotel after four months that were characterized by misappropriation of hotel resources and inappropriate behavior.

Allegations included that Mr. Bell

threw parties in the hotel that resulted in partially clothed people roaming the hallways, with condoms and sex toys strewn about. He also alleged that Bell used controlled substances including marijuana and ketamine while working at the hotel.

"Helmsley Enterprises does not discriminate based on sexual orientation or any other basis," Taub said. "Charles Bell was fired from the position of general manager at the Park Lane Hotel for cause."

Taub maintains that Bell had lied on his resume. He also says he "threw parties for himself and his friends, gave away hotel food, liquor, champagne, gave away hotel rooms to his friends, and did not perform his job in the manner that would be expected from the general manager of any hotel."

Bell, who laughed when hearing Taub's allegations, said he "had a party authorized by the COO of the company for 40 people on New Year's Eve. There was no nudity, no dancing at all, and numerous people in their depositions have testified to that fact." Bell conceded that his resume did contain some errors.

Taub said court witnesses will challenge claims that Helmsley is anti-gay.

## Conservative approach said to be influenced by Bush

AGENCY CRITICIZED, continued from Page 1

charged that experts serving on advisory committees were being replaced because their views do not match those of the administration and that HHS is singling out AIDS groups with probing audits.

The criticism surfaced amid continuing allegations that HHS, and its Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, has taken a more conservative approach to its work under President Bush.

The White House favors an abstinence-only message for the administration's sex education efforts. Since the appointment of Dr. Julie Gerberding in July to lead the CDC, some gays and AIDS activists complain that the federal health clamps down on safe-sex programs that don't stress abstinence outside of marriage, an option gays can't seek.

On the CDC's Web site, the condom fact sheet said that refraining from sex was the best way to prevent transmission of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases, according to the Associated Press. The old version went on to say: "But for those who have sexual intercourse, latex condoms are highly effective when used consistently and correctly."

The recently posted version focuses on HIV along with other sexually transmitted diseases. In its introduction, the fact sheet now says that condoms "can reduce the risk of STD transmission. However, no protective method is 100 percent effective, and condom use cannot guarantee absolute protection against any STD."

The fact sheet goes on to analyze the effectiveness of condoms versus a variety of sexually transmitted diseases.

HHS did not respond to a request for

comment by press time. But officials with the CDC said the changes were not politically motivated.

"The charge that we were given was to create a fact sheet that was objective and based on the best possible scientific evidence," said Dr. David Fleming, deputy director of science at CDC. "And that's what the fact sheet is."

Waxman said in a recent interview that information "based on sound science" is being removed from federal health Web sites "when it conflicts with the Bush administration's political agenda."

"This administration is letting ideology drive policy, and this will have a serious negative impact on public health. By downplaying the importance of condoms in preventing HIV, the administration is putting the gay community and many others at risk," Waxman said.

Fleming said the changes will provide

broader information to the public and puts forth "a fair amount of new information on condoms."

Gay activists said the changes were part of an ongoing struggle with the Bush administration.

"This is just one more piece of a very unpleasant puzzle," said David Smith, spokesperson for Human Rights Campaign, a Washington-D.C. based gay advocacy group. "The actions of HHS are very alarming to us. There is an increasing body of evidence that this administration's response to AIDS is woefully inadequate and is in fact in some ways dangerous."

HHS spokesperson Bill Pierce said in October it is Thompson's prerogative to appoint advisory committees. By contrast, he said, Waxman and other critics "would like all of us to follow their agenda, their liberal agenda, on these issues."

## Transgenders not included in N.Y. protection act

GAY RIGHTS LAW, continued from Page 1

commit to the bill, insiders asked, why should Bruno? After all, Bruno had put his own political life on the line when he guaranteed that SONDA would reach the Senate floor if ESPA supported Pataki's re-election.

ESPA did, in fact, endorse Pataki, a highly controversial move in a state where gay voters are concentrated in liberal, heavily Democratic New York City. Duane came out very vocally against the endorsement. Some saw his amendment as an attempt to sabotage ESPA's work on SONDA, which Duane denied.

Bruno kept his promise: He called the

Senate back for an extraordinary end-of-the-year session during which only two bills were considered, one of them SONDA. In the end, Duane's trans-inclusive amendment was soundly defeated, but SONDA passed 34-26.

The Republican governor apparently made several last-minute phone calls and some political arm-twisting to persuade members of his party to vote for SONDA. He signed the bill immediately after passage.

The bill will extend protection across the state. Although many localities already had such protections, millions more are covered by the law, which includes employment and housing.

With the passage of SONDA, many

activists are now turning their attention to transgender rights. While Riki Wilchins, executive director of Gender PAC, a national lobbying group based in Washington, D.C., applauded ESPA for getting SONDA passed, she cautioned, "We contend the bill would have been better protection if it included gender-expression identity."

Despite not including gender identity in SONDA, ESPA is attempting to forge a coalition with other minorities to force the state legislature to pass an omnibus human-rights law that will include transgenders. Some transgendered activists, however, want to pursue a stand-alone bill, the Gender Expression Non-

Discrimination Act, or GENDA.

Foreman says he will support GENDA. But, he added, "given our experience with hate crimes and SONDA, it's much easier to advance a bill with a broad coalition behind you."

Just this year, New York City passed a transgender-rights bill. But that would be a harder feat in the state legislature, Foreman said.

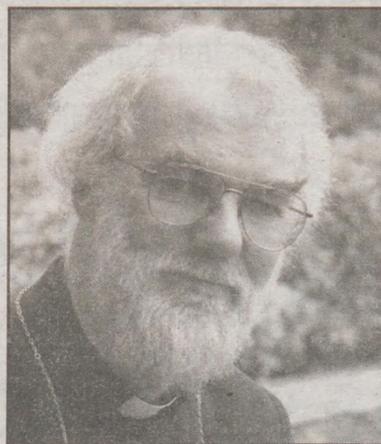
"No one in Albany disputes that the human-rights law needs to be revamped," he said. "But my experience in Albany is that the legislature is more apt to win on our issues if there are lot of other issues on the table at the same time."



## religion news

### New archbishop of Canterbury pressured on gay issues

LONDON — Evangelical groups in the Church of England are trying to keep pressure on the incoming archbishop of Canterbury to maintain their doctrines, the Associated Press reported. Many conservatives were alarmed that Rowan Williams knowingly ordained a gay man as a priest when he was archbishop of Wales. "The church has tried to teach sensitively the biblical norm of lifelong heterosexual marriage and abstinence outside it, not just for its own members but out of concern for the health, moral life, well-being and character of the whole community," said a statement signed by leaders of the Reform and the Church Society, which criticized Williams' appointment. "I think the question is worth asking," whether the Bible is properly interpreted as opposing all homosexual behavior, Williams recently said in an interview with Church Times.



Conservatives criticized Rowan Williams, the new archbishop of Canterbury, for ordaining a gay priest while he was archbishop of Wales. (Photo by AP)

### Excommunication on hold for Mormon scholar in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY — A Mormon scholar was given a temporary reprieve from excommunication, according to the Associated Press. A church disciplinary council was expected to force University of Washington professor Thomas W. Murphy out of the church because he maintained that the Book of Mormon contained racist ideas. Elders also criticized Murphy for taking the church to task for its campaigns against women's and gay civil rights. In May 1993, Elder Boyd K. Packer, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, declared feminists, gays and "so-called intellectuals" dangers to the church. A series of excommunications followed. Murphy is one of at least three scholars now either threatened with expulsion or excommunicated in the past few months, raising concerns among Mormon writers and scholars about renewed efforts to purge dissident church members.

### Vancouver same-sex blessing planned for new year

VANCOUVER, Canada — The Diocese of New Westminster, which is in the forefront of the worldwide controversy over Anglican same-sex unions, will most likely bless a same-sex marriage sometime early in 2003. Although the affair will be kept quiet and low-key, the repercussions could split the church and reignite a volatile debate. "It's really the tip of the iceberg, the iceberg being the fundamental way in which you approach scripture," Rev. Trevor Walters, the outspoken chairperson of a group of eight churches in the diocese opposed to same-sex blessings, told the Canadian Press. "The problem for us is at what point do you draw a line in the sand." The diocese, which includes Vancouver, is the first and so far only one in the world to formally bless same-sex unions, in violation of church rulings. Last summer, about two-thirds of the congregations in the diocese voted in favor of the blessings. The dissenting churches formed their own group and began withholding annual payments to the diocese. Although the New Westminster synod approved the blessings,

Walters said it had no authority to do so and Ingham, therefore, has no authority to sanction the blessings.

### Unitarian church in Mass. considers ban on Scouts

BEDFORD, Mass. — The continuing controversy over the Boy Scouts continues to bedevil churches. The latest to grapple with the issue is the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church here. More than two dozen congregants turned out at a meeting to discuss whether the ban on gay Scouts and leaders means that the group should not be allowed to hold meetings there. "Many wish the issue would go away, but we want to keep the issue alive in the church and in the larger community," said Rev. John Gibbons, as reported in the Bedford Minuteman. First Parish came face-to-face with the issue last year when Scouts who were church members asked for a Court of Honor — the ceremony during which Scouts receive the Eagle award — at the church, which has a non-discriminatory clause in its rental policy. Eventually the families opted for other sites when the church was unable to come to a decision.

### Anti-porn crusader takes on hotel chains

CINCINNATI — An anti-porn crusader experienced some success here in forcing hotels not to offer films with erotic content to guests. Phil Burress says he saved himself from pornography. Now he and the increasingly influential group he leads, which is supported by some anti-gay religious organizations, want to influence what hotels can offer to their guests. Burress took on magazine racks in convenience stores, nude dancers in clubs and Internet sites. "Every bit of it is harmful. We want it totally gone," Burress, president of Citizens for Community Values, told the Cincinnati Enquirer. The group vows to eliminate all X-rated films from the nation's hotels. Prosecutors in neighboring counties now say that they will also investigate hotels after receiving CCV-made tapes of in-room adult movies.

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Issue 1157

# Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

DECEMBER 27, 2002

PAGE 10

## guest editorial

# Will the real 'attack queers' please stand up?

New book alleging alliance between the liberal media and the gay right values diversity — except in political thought.

By TOM MOON

**R**ICHARD GOLDSTEIN, AN EXECUTIVE editor of the *Village Voice*, recently opened a new front in the gay cultural wars with his book, "The Attack Queers." He argues that an alliance between the liberal media and the gay right (whom he calls "attack queers," "homocons" and "neocons") is threatening the soul of the gay movement.

Gay conservatism, he charges, strays from the tradition of "queer humanism" which is the ideological bedrock of our movement, which makes it betrayal and disloyalty, pure and simple.

"The gay right exists, just as Jews for Jesus do, but it stands apart from the sensibility that marks us as a people," Goldstein writes. Radicals, the only authentic queers, must expose and defeat this evil "before it's too late."

Most prominent on Goldstein's enemies list are Andrew Sullivan, a conservative; Norah Vincent, a libertarian; and Camille Paglia, a Ralph Nader liberal; but he claims to see through their "superficial" differences to the underlying, frightening reality — that all of them are soldiers in a unified campaign of backlash and reaction.

This book is not serious political analysis. You won't learn anything about actual gay conservatives by reading it because Goldstein has no real interest in, or knowledge of, their political views. Instead, he goes to battle with familiar, cartoon-like stereotypes of the right — accusing his enemies of fearing differences, supporting male domination, advocating rigid gender conformity, and so on.

No one familiar with the published positions of the writers listed above (such as Paglia's spirited defense of drag queens and identification with the transgendered) will recognize their actual ideas in his deliberate caricatures of them. There's also something disconcerting about a gay writer who takes other gay writers to task, not on the merits of their ideas, but because they "deviate" from a presumed orthodoxy.

WHAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT THIS book is that it throws into sharp relief how much we as a culture have changed socially and psychologically in the last three decades. Goldstein is a member of the Stonewall generation (as I am), but there's something of the '70's dinosaur about him. He seems locked into the emotional atmosphere of that tumultuous time.

We often felt, in those days, a profound sense of alienation from American culture and political life. It wasn't clear that this country could or would make room for us, and many of us believed that only a revolutionary restructuring of America would guarantee our liberation.

Despite our enthusiasm, many of us were deeply fearful, because emerging from the closet exposed us to the real dangers of arrests, beatings, firings, ostracism and ridicule. We were excited by the gains we were making, but suspicious about how long the country would tolerate our movement before crushing it in a brutal backlash.

Goldstein remembers marching in a gay contingent in a New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. "We strode past a million people shrieking epithets. It was a terrifying spectacle, but utterly exhilarating. By facing stigma in all its fury, I was finally able to see the system it created, and how crucial my suffering was to its cohesion. I was the sexual other against which masculinity could be defined," he writes.

This was "gay identity" — grim and militant, angry and hyper-vigilant, formed in defiant confrontation with oppression and brutality.

I, too, remember participating in such demonstrations, but the last gay march I attended was a local Pride parade this year, a day of balloons and children, corn dogs and beer, bands and floats. I was prepared, as always, for the "exhilaration" of a confrontation with the hostile masculine other against which I could exercise my authentic gay identity; but, alas, no one was shrieking any epithets, so I had to settle instead for a less

dramatic afternoon of dancing and cruising.

The social environment has changed enormously in the past 30 years, and our movement, like all successful minority movements, has largely evolved from the stage of street confrontation to that of dialogue and negotiation.

WE'RE ALL AWARE that there are many challenges still ahead, and we don't have to be reminded that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. But reading Goldstein is like trying to have a conversation with a paranoiac who thinks that everyone who doesn't share his delusion that the Gestapo is running America is "naïve." It isn't, and we aren't.

By every measure, the vast majority of gay men and lesbians are left of center politically, so there's little reason to fear that the movement is about to be swamped by the right. But I think there's also little doubt that the profound sense of alienation from the larger society that formed the atmosphere we breathed decades ago has greatly diminished.

Our movement has been a test of the commitment of western civilization to its professed values of liberty, diversity and tolerance. We made our case — we used the courts, the media, and the political systems — and our civilization responded.

Its response remains unfinished and imperfect, a work in progress; nevertheless, we now enjoy in Europe and the United States a level of safety and freedom undreamed of almost everywhere else in the world. It turns out that we didn't have to overthrow the government or remake the economic system to move forward.

Alienation has hardly disappeared, but fewer and fewer of us experience ourselves as strangers in a strange land anymore, and since 9/11 some are even bold enough to admit that they love their country.

If these are the attitudes that worry Goldstein when he speaks of "homocons," then millions of gays and lesbians are homocons, and his cause was lost long ago.

We need lose no sleep if someone in the neighborhood is a Log Cabin Republican, and we can see diversity in gay political thinking as a sign of our increasing maturity, not as a betrayal of the One Truth. Let us always be skeptical of apostles of "inclusiveness" who work to create new outsiders, or any program for "liberation" which begins by fingering heretics.

The great irony of this book is that Goldstein, who imagines that he's a progressive, has written a book arguing for a return to "traditional values." He has the same deep dread that always powers such campaigns — the lurking fear that history has left him behind.

Call me an optimist, but I believe it has.

@ Tom Moon is a psychotherapist in San Francisco. He can be reached at examlife@aol.com.



viewpoint MICHAEL ALVEAR



Gay parishioners would be lucky to be treated as well as abusive priests, and Trent Lott would do us all a favor by resigning from Senate entirely.

# New Year's resolutions to make gay life better

It's time for the annual "New Year's Resolutions for Gay Culture." As usual, individuals and institutions were handpicked for their spectacular fall from the stupid tree, their ability to hit every branch on the way down and the gracelessness with which they landed, splat, at our feet, scuffing our expensive Amalfi pumps. To wit, the perpetrators and the New Year's resolutions I recommend they make for 2003.

**The Catholic Church: Treat us like real child-molesters.**

Starting in 2003, resolve that when you discover us gay parishioners, you will act like you just discovered child-molesting priests and pretend we're not there.

Once you've privately admitted that you let gay congregants love each other, you could just do the same thing you do with child-molesting priests: Move us to another parish. Perhaps you will consider love between men a "sin" instead of a "crime" and therefore respond with prayer instead of punishment. You know, like you do with the priests who think they can find eternal salvation in a child's underwear.

**President Bush: Give France 30 days to speak English.**

Is anybody else tired of the French insisting we speak their language when

we visit their country? Perhaps Donald Rumsfeld can suggest a regime change to the Minister of Culture.

If we forced the French to speak English the way we're going to do with the Iraqis, we Americans wouldn't be so offended by inferior cultures.

**Martha Stewart: Run for SEC commissioner.**

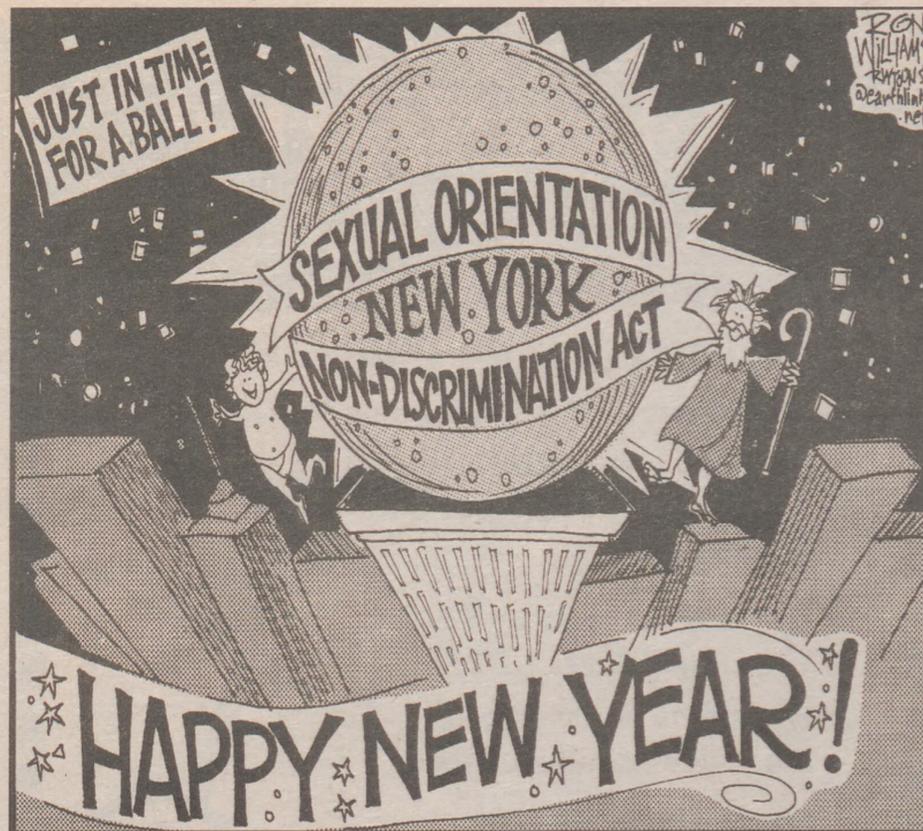
She'll clean up corporate malfeasance faster than you can say "Stock Collapse." First, she will fire any financial officer for not properly creating accounting irregularities. Have these guys learned nothing from Martha? You don't cook the books; you sauté them.

Subpoenas will be served with a refreshing appetizer, and most importantly, she'll finance the development of the Merryl Lynch Home for Weenie Gay Assistants, where executives would learn how to hire tough gay men who won't take the finger out of the dike for under a million dollars cash.

**Douglas Faneuil: Turn straight.**

Speaking of Weenie Gay Assistants, no gay man let me down more this year than the 27 year-old Faneuil, who pleaded guilty to taking bribes from Frau Stewart's broker in exchange for lying about the existence of a stop-order.

For God's sakes, if you're going to flip



like a pancake, do it for more than an extra week's vacation and your boss' frequent flyer points.

**Trent Lott: Resign. You're an embarrassment to the hypocrisy of the Republican Party.**

The Republican Party spent too much time and energy pretending to stand for diversity to have Lott wreck the illusion with blatantly racist remarks. It's one thing to vote against every civil right ever proposed, but it's another to actually state that America would be better off if we'd kept our racist values.

You can come up with bogus reasons for not doing the right thing, but not for saying the wrong thing. Lott believes that the green, yellow and red Homeland Security codes are good-faith efforts to get more color into the Republican Party. He needs a cross burned in his backyard. The one he should be nailed to.

**Tom Ridge: Be more specific.**

Your government warnings of terrorist attacks are too vague for us to fork over our civil liberties. Pretty soon we're going to be immune to your regular schedule of scaring us to death.

Imagine if we conducted our personal lives with your directives.

"Honey, I'm 'almost certain' that I'm going to have an affair with someone in the next 90 days, but I'm not sure with whom."

Or, "Honey, did you notice that the dog was on heightened state of alert this morning? Apparently, the neighbor's cat told him an attack on his food source was "inevitable."

@ Michael Alvear lives with Zoey and Zack, his lesbian Labrador and girlie-boy Vizsla. He can be reached at michaelalvear@attbi.com.

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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# New York Post cartoon plays on stereotypes

Victory of state's new gay rights sullied by defamatory editorial cartoon, some gays charge

By MIKE FLEMING

GAY GROUPS ARE FUMING over a New York Post editorial cartoon published Dec. 18 that plays on stereotypes to imply gays don't deserve the respect of the state's new anti-discrimination law.

The cartoon by staffer Sean Delonas ran the day after the governor signed into law the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act, a bill that protects all New Yorkers from abuse, harassment and discrimination in employment, housing, education and public services based on actual or perceived sexual orientation.

The cartoon depicts mustachioed men in campy drag around a conference room table. A framed picture of a gerbil is on the wall. One man holds a copy of SONDA and says "Finally, legislation that gives us the rights we deserve!!!"

The slight to gays is nothing new for the Post, said Beth George, southern regional media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, a gay media watchdog group.

"Sean Delonas and the New York Post are historically awful on gay and lesbian issues — and unapologetically so," George said. "They continue to put out very defamatory cartoons without regard to fairness or accuracy in reporting."

GLAAD started a dialogue with Delonas in 1996 when he compared same-sex marriage to bestiality, and they have compiled an "overflowing file" on the cartoonist, George said.

Delonas could not be reached for comment. But a spokesperson for the conservative paper, Steve Rubenstein, said the Post stands by the cartoon.

"The cartoon speaks for itself," Rubenstein said. "Implications of its meaning are left to the reader, and any editorial material reflects an opinion that hopefully sparks some dialogue about current issues that are on people's minds."

THE CARTOON ADDED INSULT TO injury for transgender activists because cross-dressers are depicted in the piece, and the new law does not include protection for gender identity, despite widespread lobbying to include that language from some activists.

The Empire State Pride Agenda, a statewide gay group, pushed the bill without



A Dec. 18 editorial cartoon in the New York Post has come under criticism for picturing gay men in campy drag in a room with a portrait of a gerbil. The item was published in the wake of New York becoming the 13th state to pass a gay-inclusive non-discrimination law.

gender identity because the legislation as written was a step in the right direction, said Matt Foreman, executive director for ESPA.

"This is just part of that ongoing struggle," he told the Associated Press. "This is not the last step, this is the first."

But Delonas was not likely implicating the transgender controversy of the law's passage in his cartoon, George said.

"Sean Delonas has no ability to differentiate between sexual orientation and gender identity," she said. "The main character in the cartoon is one he uses all the time to indicate gay men."

ESPA'S EFFORTS AND THE LEGISLATION enjoyed widespread support in the press with the single exception of the Post cartoon, said Joe Tarver, communications director for the group.

"We were very pleased that the overwhelming number of papers see this bill for what it was — a historic step in the ongoing struggle for civil rights," Tarver said. "This reaction in the Post is incendiary but not atypical, and reflects the exact reason this bill is needed: because it shows the misperceptions that are still out there."

Conservative gay columnist Andrew Sullivan expressed outrage over the cartoon on his Web site.

"[The cartoon is] just a reminder that the kind of bigoted attitudes now rightly bemoaned in the early years of Trent Lott are still perfectly acceptable where homosexuals are concerned," he said.

GLAAD will continue its dialogue with Delonas and the newspaper, George said. The response GLAAD received from Delonas on his latest anti-gay rant was that he has no intention of stifling his views, she said.



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November 2002

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# Begin your New Year's Celebration with Mo Mong!

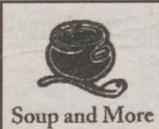
## Tuesday, December 31



**MO** mong

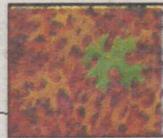
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Reservations Recommended



**DINING:** Soup & More provides patrons tasty dishes and homeless people a way to learn culinary skills. **Page 19.**

**HOMEFRONT:** A long-term plan is essential to get the most out of trees as part of any landscape design. **Page 20.**



# Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE  
DECEMBER 27, 2002  
PAGE 15

## Making waves

A new gay radio show makes its national launch ))))

By KATHI WOLFE

**d**O YOU WANT THE SKINNY ON Margaret Cho? A hit from the latest Indigo Girls CD? You don't have to go to a concert, to the movies or reach for the remote. Just turn your radio on.

"Life OUTside," the first nationally syndicated, commercial radio newsmagazine for the gay community, now airs weekly in Texas on Austin's KTSW (89.9FM) at midnight on Saturdays, and on San Antonio's KZEP (104.5 FM) at 7:30 a.m. on Sundays. Even in the age of "Will and Grace," coverage of gay issues is lacking in most radio news shows.

A blend of entertainment, politics and health care, "Life OUTside" gives voice to the gay community. The show is written, produced and delivered by an almost all-gay staff, according to Chris DeChant, the creator, executive producer and one of the three hosts of the program. The half-hour show is "up-to-date news, entertainment and talk our way," DeChant says.

Faren D'Abell, 32, has the journalism gene implanted in his DNA. As a teenager in Lombard, Ill., he pulled all-nighters to meet the deadlines for his school newspaper. Today, he is another host of "Life OUTside."

Making sure the ladies are represented is the third host, Amy Matheny.

D'Abell took a circuitous route to radio. He studied psychology in college, worked for a water filter company as well as for Press Publications. But he was always drawn to the news.

"It was rough staying up to make the deadline for a bi-weekly paper," he says. "If I felt this crappy working on a bi-weekly, imagine how bad I'd feel working on a daily," D'Abell says. He turned to

radio because it was less pressured than working for print media.

In 1996, D'Abell became the news anchor for the local NPR affiliate in Carbondale, Ill., after a walk-on audition. He praised NPR's news coverage, though he said its pace was somewhat slow.

"NPR does a good job of covering gay issues, but it's not its mission to cover GLBT issues," D'Abell says. Even WBEZ, the "liberal" Chicago public radio station only "covers gay issues about once a week," he says.

When D'Abell worked at the Carbondale, Ill., radio station, he wasn't able to be openly gay and he found it difficult to get stories about gay issues on the air.

"I was there when Ellen was coming out. The news director refused to let me cover it," he says.

He left Carbondale to co-host "LesBiGay Radio," a live talk-radio show heard in evening drive-time in Chicago. D'Abell and Matheny co-hosted the show from 1998 to 2001. They interviewed more than 1,000 guests, from Eddie Izzard to k.d. lang.

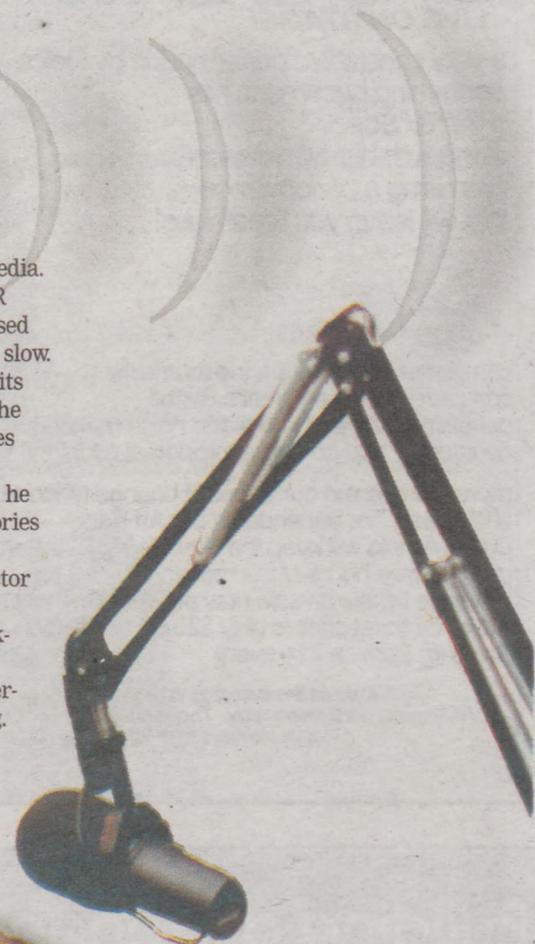
D'Abell became a co-host of "Life OUTside" when the Chicago-based program began airing regionally in 2002. The show, on 70 stations and the Internet at [www.life-outside.org](http://www.life-outside.org), is now being launched nationally.

"Life OUTside" is produced by the HIV Talk Radio Project (HTRP), a non-profit health communications agency. The group also produces AWARE Talk Radio, which has aired in 97 cities since 1992.

Please see  
**GAY RADIO SHOW**  
on **Page 16**



Amy Matheny, Faren D'Abell and Chris DeChant, the hosts of 'LifeOUTside,' a nationally syndicated radio show for the gay community, say they joke about being 'professionally gay.' (Photo by David Vann)



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## out on the bayou

# Happily filling the 'shock jock' void

GAY RADIO SHOW, continued from Page 15

AWARE focuses on issues of health and wellness, while "Life OUTside" is a "complete mix," D'Abell says. The show's producers say that 1.5 million people listen to every show.

Previous guests on "Life OUTside" have included entertainer Alexandra Billings, Congressman Barney Frank, Sharon Gless of "Queer as Folk" and cabaret singer Michael Feinstein. Mathew St. Patrick of "Six Feet Under," Congressman Jerrold Nadler, actress Cherry Jones and singer Patti LaBelle are among the upcoming guests scheduled to appear on the show.

The show's co-hosts work well together, D'Abell says. DeChant, who was born in Boston, developed AWARE radio after he was diagnosed HIV-positive in 1991. Matheny is a senior account manager for the Windy City Times, and also is an actress. All of the co-hosts are out about their sexual orientation.

"We joke about being professionally gay," D'Abell says. Each co-host will narrate a different show, he adds. "We all do interviews. My background is hard news, so I do a lot of the political interviews. Chris does a lot of the health-related interviews. Amy covers a lot of the entertainment and theater segments," D'Abell says.

### Tuning in to get 'OUT'

It's no secret that commercial radio generally isn't a friendly place for gay men and lesbians, says Glenda Testone, director of regional media for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "Talk about gay issues on mainstream radio is often by shock jocks or conservative talk show hosts. Gay people become the butt of jokes," she says.

"It's hard to file complaints against offensive radio programs," Testone says. "The FCC doesn't require radio stations to tape programs. So it's hard to get a record of what offensive thing has been said," she said. Good fun doesn't have to be at the expense of gay people, Testone said. GLAAD works with station managers to educate them about gay issues, she says.

### **i** MORE INFO

**'Life OUTside'**  
Saturdays, midnight • KTSW (89.9 FM) in Austin  
Sundays, 7:30 a.m. • KZEP (104.5 FM) in San Antonio  
180 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1850  
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The three hosts of 'LifeOUTside' offer news, health and entertainment information for the gay community on their bi-weekly radio show. (Photo by David Vann)

Testone applauds "Life OUTside."

"I love the idea of people having the option to not listen to music or conservative talk radio, but to a gay radio show. That people will land on it who aren't looking for it," she said.

Straight people as well as gay men and lesbians listen to "Life OUTside," D'Abell says. "Soccer moms tune in to us."

Scotty Iseri, an intern with a background in civil rights activism, works for the show.

"Radio's an easily accessible medium. You can buy a used radio for four bucks. It gets you to listen — to use your imagination," he says. Iseri, who is straight, doesn't see himself as "the straight guy," he said. "I just see myself for who I am out of my own experience."

Though "Life OUTside" is broadcast in many cities, D'Abell says, "we try to provide resources for listeners in rural areas, like Hays, Kan., where the show is aired. They may not have access to as much information as people in urban areas."

Gay radio isn't a new phenomenon. "This Way Out," an independent public radio program, has been on the air since 1988. The show, which has always operated on a shoestring budget, focuses on global political and cultural issues, says Greg Gordon, its coordinating producer.

Radio is a powerful medium, says Gordon. "It forces you to be active. To listen and create images in your head."

Commercial radio is a "hard nut to crack," he says. "Sometimes businesses don't want their ads to play on a station that airs any gay shows. But it's easier today than when I started out," Gordon said.

D'Abell says "Life OUTside" is different from "This Way Out" in that "it really focuses more on domestic programming that impacts our lives right now."

Radio is a private, intimate medium, adds Bruce Pennington, a producer of the gay radio show "Friends," which aired from 1972 to 1983. "You sometimes don't know what impact a show will have on listeners until years later," he says. "Even now, I get people who tell me that the show helped to save their sanity — sometimes their lives."

Kathi Wolfe can be reached at kwolfe@washblade.com.

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



Burt Bacharach, Dionne Warwick, John Travolta and Alice Ripley applaud Elizabeth Taylor, while a blurry Gay Men's Chorus of Washington stands in the background at the Kennedy Center Honors. (photo courtesy of CBS)

# Taylor made

The Kennedy Center Honors got gayer when the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington sang

WHO EVER THOUGHT THAT A BUNCH of gay men would be singing for bush?

That was the case earlier this month when the **GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON** stood on the Kennedy Center stage to perform at the 25th annual Kennedy Center Honors, which will be televised nationally on CBS on Friday, Dec. 27 at 9 p.m.

While they were serenading a woman, the Bushes the group was singing for were **PRESIDENT GEORGE W. and LAURA BUSH**. The honoree was none other than actress, gay icon and AIDS activist **ELIZABETH TAYLOR**, who was honored with the Presidential award alongside **PAUL SIMON, CHITA RIVERA, JAMES EARL JONES** and conductor **JAMES LEVINE**.

The producers of the grand gala contacted the chorus to back pot-smuggling diva **DIONNE WARWICK** and composer **BURT BACHARACH** in a rendition of "That's What Friends Are For," the hit song that raised more than \$1 million for AmFAR, the AIDS research group that Taylor champions.

"We were asked to be part of the Elizabeth Taylor tribute because the producers thought that, with her work with the gay community and AIDS causes, we were a good fit," said Jeff Buhrman, artistic director for GMCW. "We were just thrilled to be there."

The group also performed their own rendition of "There is Nothing Like a Dame" for Taylor. A select 30 singers from the group sang "The Toreador Song" from "Carmen" as part of Levine's tribute, and joined all the evening's performers in "America, the Beautiful" for the show's finale.

"After speaking with both producers and the musical director for the show, they were positive about their experience

with us, and, if we could fit in with another nominee, I think we would be invited back in the future," Buhrman said.

"It was an historic moment for the gay and lesbian choral movement, to be on stage with all the political and cultural leaders in this country watching," Buhrman said.

### Buy the book

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN CONSERVATIVE Christian **PAT ROBERTSON** and anal sex side by side? Have you ever wanted to? Well, even if you wanted to, thanks to **AMAZON.COM** you can't anymore. On Friday, Dec. 6, the Internet bookseller removed a link that placed a title and picture from an anal sex manual for men on the same page as one of Robertson's books, PlanetOut.com reports.

When an Amazon user clicks from one book to another, the Web site's servers take note of it. So, when you open a page for a certain book, the site notes, "Customers who shopped for this item also shopped for these items." Well, somehow, everyone who has been buying or looking at Robertson's "Six Steps to Spiritual Revival" has also been looking at an anal sex manual. I'm sure if you asked Robertson, he would tell you that, after you have anal sex, you need "Spiritual Revival."

"It seemed to us that this is a rather curious juxtaposition of the two titles," said Patty Smith, who is not the singer of "Horses" but is Amazon's spokeswoman. She added that this may be the result of a trick played by pranksters who would repeatedly click on Robertson's book and then on the anal sex manual (Dish never thought he would tire of the words anal sex manual, but, alas, it has happened).

With this as a precedent, who knows what's next? Maybe the page for **DR. LAURA**'s newest book will feature a link to "How to Use Your Strap On," by Dill Doe.

@ Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com.

## The Holidays aren't over until we say so.

Christ Church Cathedral welcomes you and invites you to an Epiphany Evensong on Sunday, January 5, at 5:00 p.m., preceded by a recital from nationally-celebrated organist Thomas Jaber at 4:15 p.m.

Christ Church Cathedral, an outpost of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, is located at 1117 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002. For more information, please call 713-222-2953, or visit [www.christchurchcathedral.org](http://www.christchurchcathedral.org).



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## books STEVE WEINSTEIN



Author Richard Barrios goes beyond  
 'The Celluloid Closet' with analysis  
 of more films and gay-sensible players.

## Fairy tales

EARLY ON IN RICHARD BARRIOS' "Screened Out," he acknowledges "The Celluloid Closet" and addresses the question: Why, after Vito Russo's landmark study, do we need another history of how Hollywood portrays gays?

In answer, Barrios argues that Russo was limited by the technology of the 1970s and early '80s. Armed with a Blockbuster full of VHS tapes and obscure cable channels, Barrios adds more than a few new twists to Russo's research.

Russo believed that the Production Code, enforced since 1934, condemned homosexuality to the shadows until the late '50s. But Barrios maintains that the liberal Hollywood film community was slipping in subtle messages that gay people existed and even led full lives on their own terms.

Both men agree that the real downward slide began in the 1950s. Under the influence of Freudian analysis, filmmakers decided that homosexuals were deviants. Through at least the late '70s, gay characters were sad, lonely outcasts or homicidal maniacs who always came to a bad end.

Similarly, Barrios cites hundreds of examples, big and small, starting with a telephone operator mentioning a book she was reading, "The Well of Loneliness," to show how pervasive gay influences were in films ranging from John Ford westerns to Universal horror schlock.

EVERY FILM BUFF HAS A FAVORITE insider gem hidden in a mainstream film.

Such moments provide a context for the movies that Barrios zooms in on, beginning with Cecil B. DeMille's "The Sign of the Cross," which featured a sultry pagan tramp attempting to seduce a pious Christian in a dance that has since been lost.

He analyzes post-Code productions such as "Sylvia Scarlett," in which Katherine Hepburn dresses as a handsome boy oddly attractive to Cary Grant. And he shows how Oz's Cowardly Lion mimics the pansy craze.

Along the way, he introduces wonderfully oddball films that should heat up VCRs, such as "The Seventh Victim," a horror film about a thrill-seeking lesbian drawn into a group of Satan worshippers in Greenwich Village. Another horror film, 1944's "The Uninvited," was so overt that it quickly became a lesbian cult favorite.

Barrios offers brief biographies of flamboyant actors like Grady Sutton, Clifton Webb and even cross-dresser Bugs Bunny. He also dissects those great talents who seem so gay in sensibility if not sexuality, like George Saunders, Dame Judith Anderson, Billy Wilder and Marlene Dietrich.



Author Richard Barrios picks up where 'Celluloid Closet' left off with looks at more films with gay themes and actors, and a fresh look at tried-and-true gay cult films in 'Screened Out.'

BARRIOS DOES GO OVER SOME OF Russo's ground. No such book could ignore Hitchcock's "Strangers on a Train" or "Rope," the two most overt pre-Stonewall films. Then there's the prototypical women-behind-bars "Caged," in which a sadistic guard rules over a ward that runs the gamut from bully to kept femme.

But he brings fresh perspectives to homo warhorses like "Tea and Sympathy," in which John Kerr is "cured" of homosexuality by sleeping with his headmaster's wife — played by his real-life mom.

A lot of the blame for the grim early '60s belongs to Hollywood's classic closet case, Rock Hudson, according to Barrios. In those Doris Day sex comedies, a misunderstanding always involves someone mistaken for, or playing, a homosexual. A gay man portraying a straight man portraying a gay man is classic Hudson fare.

Barrios ends, fittingly enough, with "The Boys in the Band," which he calls, without exaggeration, the gay "Birth of a Nation." Whatever one feels about that study of a group of affluent Manhattanites on the eve of Stonewall, it was the first Hollywood movie to show gay men living their private lives openly and sometimes even fulfilling.

After "Boys," there would be no turning back to Hudson's pandering.

### **i** MORE INFO

'Screened Out'  
 by Richard Barrios  
 Routledge Press, 320 pages  
 \$29.95

**dining** J.A. CHAPMAN

Restaurant serves up delicious food while helping the homeless help themselves

# Get more than a meal

DURING THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF the holiday season, it's easy to lose sight of what's important. So one recent lunch hour, wanting to do something a little different, I headed for Soup & More, a kind of soup kitchen in reverse, where the homeless are the ones serving meals to paying customers.

Located on the East End, Soup & More is a small restaurant run by Love-Joy Ministries, a nondenominational church that works with the homeless. In addition to the restaurant, the facility houses a church and a drug and alcohol rehab center. "Sister Mary" Nance has worked with the homeless for years, and now runs this program which offers Bible study, GED assistance and job training. The homeless people in the program have the opportunity to learn culinary skills by working in the kitchen and serving customers. All profits from the restaurant go back to the program.

Pulling into the parking lot, you notice the lovely patio, with its two umbrella-topped tables, surrounded by a charming white picket fence. A man dressed in a tuxedo shirt, black tie and cummerbund opens the door. He is soft-spoken and friendly and asks if patrons are here for lunch. The restaurant isn't very crowded, so there is a choice of tables, most of which seat four or more. The menu is simple but does provide choices. One kind of soup is offered each day, as well as two kinds of salads and sandwiches.

ON A RECENT VISIT I OPTED FOR THE soup and sandwich combo (\$3.85) and got a small cup of cheese and broccoli soup along with a turkey sandwich and chips. It was a chilly day, and the rich, cheesy soup was a good choice. Large chunks of tasty broccoli provided a crunchy counterpoint to the smoothness of the soup and a sprinkling of spring onion on top added a bit of color.

A basket of fluffy homemade bread slathered in garlic butter arrived with the soup. The sandwich came with a generous portion of deliciously sweet-spicy marinated turkey, plus lettuce, tomato and a slice of American cheese. I finished off the meal with a piece of decadent chocolate mud pie (\$1.50), a rich, gooey, chocolate pudding-like concoction with a chocolate cookie crust and a soft meringue topping.

The décor is simple but pleasant at Soup & More, with most of the furnishings donated. The tables are covered with white tablecloths and silver and white placemats, and then topped with plastic tablecloths. Silverware is rolled up in cloth napkins and held together with napkin rings for a homey touch. Beverages come in attractive green stem glasses with a slice of lemon on the rim. A bowl of mints and extra napkins on each table make pleasing centerpieces.

A bright mural hangs along one wall and biblical quotations scattered throughout remind you of the affiliation with a church. The lights seem a bit dim, but it's



**Soup and More**

"Helping the Homeless, Help Themselves"

warm inside, and the festive holiday music combined with the delicious smells emanating from the kitchen give the whole place a cozy feeling.

ON MY SECOND VISIT, IT WAS A GORGEOUS unseasonably spring-like day and I decided to sit outside. The patio, with its flowering camellias and geraniums, soft music, and stunning view of downtown Houston, is extraordinarily pleasant.

I started off with a glass of delicious sweetened ice tea (\$0.65). This time I tried a cup of chicken noodle soup (\$0.85) and the large garden salad (\$1.50). Again, the basket of homemade bread arrived, this time with a selection of wheat and poppy-seed topped breads, both delicious. The salad was a bit of a disappointment. Looking more like a side plate of lettuce leaves and sliced tomatoes for a hamburger than a large garden salad, it nonetheless turned out to be tasty and substantial.

The chicken noodle soup, on the other hand, made up for any shortcomings the salad might have had. Simply put, this was some of the best chicken noodle soups I have ever had. Generous chunks of chicken mingled with thick, almost dumpling-like noodles in a fragrant broth. I devoured it, trying in vain to identify the herbs and spices, and wished I'd ordered a whole bowl. I finished my meal with a slice of cool and tart fluffy lemon pie (\$1.50), a good choice on a warm day.

If you're looking for a change of pace from the usual lunch spots and want your money to help people at the same time, then head for Soup & More. They're open for lunch Mondays through Wednesdays, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You'll find generous portions at very reasonable prices. And don't forget that amazing chicken soup.

**Soup & More**

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### CALENDAR

**Friday • Dec. 27**  
Movie Night 7pm  
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**Happy New Year**  
(office closed this week)  
**Monday • Jan. 6**  
Eucharist 7:30pm

**Friday • Jan. 10**  
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Movie Night 7pm  
"Sum of All Fears"  
**Saturday • Dec. 14**  
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The most patriotic of all musicals! "George M" is filled with big production numbers, tap dances and soft shoe routines and features some of George M. Cohan's best known songs like "I'm A Yankee Doodle Dandy," "You're A Grand Old Flag," and the nostalgic favorite of Broadway fans, "Give My Regards to Broadway."

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Jan. 18-19

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The Houston Voice office will be closed  
on Tuesday, December 31, 2002, and  
Wednesday, January 1, 2003.

**houston  
voice**

Happy Holidays from everyone  
at the Houston Voice!

## homefront ELLA TYLER



As Arbor Day approaches, remember  
the long-term benefits that trees  
provide for the yard and home

## Try branching out

THIS YEAR'S PROLONGED STRETCH of fall color has provided an unusual opportunity to observe and study the shape of the trees in our local landscape.

When all the trees are in full leaf, the various shades of green blend together, so individual trees don't really stand out. When the branches are bare, the basic form shows up, but it is hard to visualize the tree as it will look with all its leaves. But when every tree is a different color, the oval canopy of Bradford Pears, the triangular shape of the cypress and the flat broad crown of the live oak really become apparent.

Most trees have a characteristic shape, at least when they have enough room. In the pine forests of East Texas and North Louisiana, there are sometimes trees of other species mixed in, and they are truly odd looking. They have pine tree shapes and sweet gum or oak leaves. This is because pine trees grow more closely together than other trees, and if a tree wants to survive, it needs to get tall and skinny.

ALL OF THIS IS IMPORTANT IF YOU'RE planning to plant a tree for Arbor Day, which we celebrate in January here in Texas. If trees are planted too close together, one will have to accommodate the shape of the other: If the trees are equally long lived, this is not a problem; the trees look like a harmonious unit. I have a grove of five oak trees that looks very nice, but each individual tree is very lopsided.

However, if one tree is short-lived, like a Chinese Tallow, and other is longer lived, like a sweet gum, when the tallow goes, the sweet gum that is standing alone looks malformed, because it is. Or was — I saw this in a neighbor's yard, and they eventually cut that tree down. It detracted from the landscape. Some people deliberately plant a short-lived, fast-growing tree near a long-lived, slow-growing tree, so the property doesn't look so bare, but it might be a better idea to buy a bigger specimen of the major tree. Considering how long they last, and their impact on a landscape, trees are cheap.

Some trees can be pruned to confine or direct their growth, but others can't be pruned at all. Palms don't have a branching structure that allows pruning, and certain evergreens, arbor vitae, for example, lose the needles on their inner branches and will not re-grow them. They can be "limbed up," which means removing the lower limbs to create a tree shape, but can't be made narrower. Some trees have a very symmetrical shape and can be pruned, but look odd if the shape isn't maintained.

Another plant that can't be pruned is



With proper planning, trees can add volumes of attractiveness to any landscape.

the sago palm. These are slow growing, which makes them a popular plant for entryways, but in 10 years or so, they will be stabbing all the visitors. They are expensive to buy, so people keep them for years, even though they don't blend well with other plants. I was very happy the day I finally decided to have the one that dominated the back yard chopped down.

SO, IF YOU'RE CONTEMPLATING planting a tree, plan for its size and shape 20 or 50 years from now. There is a live oak tree near Rockport that is estimated to be more than 1,000 years old. Most general gardening books will show the ultimate height and spread of trees, and some also show the shape.

Watch out for the trees that just show up — known as "volunteers." Before you know it, some garden writer will be looking at your yard muttering, "Why did they put that there?" There are ordinances about removing trees, depending on where you live, and they are going to get tougher, so proper planning is important.

While we're on the subject, many bushes have a definite shape and size too. It can be a constant battle to keep some shrubs from escaping their site.

And now for a word about your Christmas plants. Almost all plants can be taken care of with these simple instructions. If you're keeping them inside, give them as much light as you can. Take them out of their decorative foil wrapping. Water them thoroughly as soon as they are dry, meaning you water until water comes through the pot, and then drain the excess water off. This is another use for your turkey baster.

Don't let them freeze or get hotter than 70 degrees. Many can be planted outdoors. Use moderate but not direct light. Recycle your Christmas tree, and have a happy new year.

# community calendar

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 EVERY SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in, noon-5 p.m. • TATS meeting, 4 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 EVERY SUNDAY

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

Center for Spiritual Living. Services at 11 a.m., for children at 10:50 a.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808. The center also has commitment ceremonies, metaphysical bookstore and classes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club. Practice from 4-6 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • GLBT Community Church with Rev. Melissa Wood: Bible study, 10-10:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.geocities.com/glbtc • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 30 EVERY MONDAY

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Montrose Clinic. Offers weekly peer support groups for gay and bisexual men with HIV. Spanish speaking group meets, 6:30 p.m. 215 Westheimer. 713-830-3050. Grupo de Apoyo para Latinos gay y bisexuales VIH positivos. Lunes 6:30. Para mas informacion llama al 713-830-3025.

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

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

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Houston Outdoor Group. New Year's Eve party at Dave and Milton's, 9p. Please RSVP at 713-868-7991. HOG: 713-KAMPOUT. www.absentmind.net/hog.

## EVERY TUESDAY

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

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

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

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight at Club Houston. Also 4-8 p.m. at 611 Club, 611 Hyde Park. 713-830-3000.

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

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support group. 7 p.m.

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

Introduction to Buddhism. All welcome at 634 W. Temple in the Heights. 7 p.m. Carlton, 713-862-8129.

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

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

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1 EVERY WEDNESDAY

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; SOM Discussion & Exploration, 7 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club. Practice from 6-8 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

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

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

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

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

Gulf Coast Transgender Committee. Meeting. 713-780-4282.

## EVERY THURSDAY

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

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds Skating Rink. www.neosoft.com/~lrsc. 713-523-9620.

Montrose Clinic. Offers weekly peer support groups for gay and bisexual men with HIV. English speaking group meets, 6:30 p.m. 215 Westheimer 713-830-3050.

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

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

E-mail: rfaworldservice@aol.com.

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

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

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

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

Service of Healing. For persons living with HIV/AIDS. First Friday of each month. 7 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral Golding Chapel, 1117 Texas Ave. 281-331-4851.

## EVERY FRIDAY

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

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

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

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

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

Pride Committee of Houston. Volunteers sought for Pride 2003 preparations. This is the 25th Pride celebration. www.pridehouston.org. E-mail: volunteers@pridehouston.org.

## appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

## MUSIC THROUGH DEC. 29

"Sing-A-Long Sound of Music" lets the audience participate in the classic film, with subtitles to assist amateur singers with the words to favorites such as "Do-Re-Mi," "My Favorite Things" and more. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m. Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St., Galveston Island. 800-821-1894. www.thegrand.com.



The audience is invited to sing along with Julie Andrews as Maria in 'The Sing-A-Long Sound of Music,' now playing at The Grand 1894 Opera House in Galveston.

## GALLERIES THROUGH MARCH 9



Impressionists works — including Vincent van Gogh's 'Portrait of Dr. Rey' — are on display now in a special exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.

Museum of Fine Arts Houston presents "Old Masters, Impressionists, and Moderns: French Masterworks from the State Pushkin Museum, Moscow" in an ongoing exhibit. The showing brings together 76 landmark French paintings from one of the world's great museums of fine arts. It includes Impressionist and Post-impressionist works by Degas, van Gogh, Monet and Renoir, plus early Modern works by Bonnard, Breque, Matisse and Picasso. Admission: \$7. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main St. 713-639-7300. www.mfah.org.

## ONGOING

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

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

@ 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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## SHARE / HOUSTON

**GWM ISO ROOMMATE** for 2 BR, 2.5 BA condo home. Prefer Latino. \$495/mo. Bills paid. (713) 780-1136.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## EMPLOYMENT

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**BARBER / HAIRSTYLIST** IN the Montrose Area. Frank (713) 522-2263. Change for the new year.

**BLACK TIE SERVICES** looking for banquet wait staff, bartenders, kit staff. FT/PT (can work around schedules). Contact Joseph (713) 223-9313.

**FITNESS EXCHANGE** has a FT maintenance position avail. Call David (713) 524-9932.

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## MASSAGE

**MASSAGE: THERAPEUTIC, SWEDISH,** sports, deep tissue, myotherapy, relaxation therapy. Jason, college guy. Memorial Park & Montrose Studios. (713) 524-5400. www.sizzlingmassage.com

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**LIONS DEN** Dan and/or David. Call (713) 529-1090.

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**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 1-877-863-1885. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 1-888-409-6768. **BY E-MAIL:** Visit www.houstonvoice.com to place your order online. **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 noon.**

**1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY**

**RATE \$17.50:**

- HIV Services & Education
- Volunteers
- Non-Profit Organizations

- Announcements
- Auditions
- Employment-Seeking
- Pets-Free or Lost & Found
- Roommates
- Personal Web sites

- 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

\*1-20 words, additional words 75¢

Web posting included on all ads.

**Call 1-877-863-1885 for other categories**

**2 WRITE YOUR AD**  
Please print clearly

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

**TEXT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**3 TOTAL YOUR COST**  
CALL FOR DIRECTORY AD RATES

**AD RATES (EFFECTIVE DEC. 6, 2002)**

Up to 20 words for \$17.50 per week. Additional words at 75¢ each per week. All ads posted on the Web for free.

Up to 20 words: \$17.50  
Additional words \_\_\_\_\_ x 75¢: \_\_\_\_\_  
Photo/logo: 35.00 (per week) \_\_\_\_\_  
Boxed ad: 5.00 (per week) \_\_\_\_\_  
Bold ad: 5.00 (per week) \_\_\_\_\_  
Hyperlink on Web: 2.00 (per week) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Check Enclosed  Charge to my  AMEX  MC  VISA  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# 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						71					72			

## "Songs That Make You Wet"

### Across

- One born in a Cukor title
- Billie Holiday's "\_\_\_ to Be Unhappy"
- Events for George Frenn
- 1/3 of a WWII movie title
- Musical by 11-Down
- "Sphincter" author Ginsberg
- Caesar's others
- Forbidden food for k.d.
- Big bang cause, briefly
- "Blue Water Blues" singer
- Fed. money overseer
- Gertrude with a beer mug?
- Shakespeare's "anon" updated
- Ani DiFranco's "\_\_\_ Pretty Girl"
- Sylvia Plath novel, with "The"
- Outburst in "Scrooge" (1970)
- Nash's prize
- Become husband and husband on the fly
- For-skin cream ingredient
- Month at Beth Chayim Chadashim
- Moby Dick chaser
- Emulates a market bear
- Show with Steven Cojocar
- Org. that likes to shoot off
- "Total \_\_\_" (flick about Rimbaud and Verlaine)

- Banheur's summers
- David Hyde Pierce alma mater
- Williams' nocturnal reptile
- Many, many moons
- "Watershed" band
- Where Patty Sheehan puts it
- \_\_\_ angle (not straight)
- Quite, to Colette
- "...get used to it!" for example
- She took over for O'Donnell
- Bring home the pork?
- Day of many Hudson flicks
- Foster role
- Figure out, to Rupert

### Down

- Penetrates
- Rent sign
- Come to mind
- Hansberry's fruit in the sun
- Edward II's lover
- They gave Pinocchio an 8-incher
- Gay video directory name
- Painter and homophone of Levi
- Chicago gay bar
- Larry Kramer, for one
- "Madman Across the Water" singer
- Period of service for Sheila Kuehl

- Like an A-List gay
- Privy to
- Poet who inspired "Cats," initially
- Stew in Sitges
- "...black or white, everybody gets \_\_\_" ("Assassins")
- Orange County gay publication
- On \_\_\_ with
- "Queen of Country" McEntire
- Home, to Dave Pallone
- Guinness of "The Lavender Hill Mob"
- "Water Is Wide" singer
- This, to Reinaldo Arenas
- "A Streetcar Named Desire" director Kazan
- N of NGLTF
- Strips to help a bone
- Britten's burglar
- Title for Mikulski
- Big units-at the San Vicente Inn
- Chilean pianist Claudio
- Glenn Burke and others, formerly
- ILGA and GLARP
- "How queer!"
- Latin word on a dollar bill
- "Nuts!"
- Spillane's "\_\_\_ Jury"
- Man in a skirt, perhaps
- Graphic opening

Answers at right

## Personals are here.

Go to [www.houstonvoice.com](http://www.houstonvoice.com) to place your personals ad.

You'll get this online feature with a Voice Link to receive messages via your ad. Personals will be printed in the Houston Voice starting Jan. 3.

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**Roland**

### Answers to this week's Q puzzle

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

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**astrology** JILL DEARMAN**My Stars!**

December 27 — January 2

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

This is a divine time of year for you to make one fierce resolution that you can stick to in 2003. Don't spread yourself too thin. Focus, baby, focus! A Gemini can help you to prioritize.

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

This is a perfect time for you to mend some of your lazy ways, Taurus. A new year is upon us, and this time, why not vow to actually begin one of your clever projects? Finishing things is not your problem. Starting them is! Another Taurus can inspire you.

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

Jupiter retrograde in your uber-social third house could make this week a benign comedy of errors for you. Remember, darling — if too many people show up at your house needing a place to crash for the holidays, that's a comedy, not a tragedy. A Capricorn wants to share your bed and break bread with you on New Year's Day.

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

Don't let someone intimidate you or push you into doing something that you know is not right. The new moon/solar eclipse on Jan. 2 brings in a new year that accentuates integrity and self-respect. A Pisces wants to bring out your light side, not your dark side.

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

Uranus squares Venus this week and may make a love situation come to a head. Who are you missing? Who are you longing for? Deal with your feelings, Leo, and then the right path will become clear. A Scorpio is full of surprises.

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

Let bygones be bygones with an annoying family member. Some people can't change, but you can. Do something sweet for yourself as a reward for all the goodwill you've shared in 2002. A Scorpio wants to be your after-dinner treat.

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

The new moon/solar eclipse falls in your house of home and family on Jan. 2. If ever there was an ideal time to feng shui your apartment and set clear — but gentle — boundaries with your family, it's now! A Taurus needs to be taught how to take care of you. Lesson one: Just listen, don't give advice!

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

You're close to figuring out how to proceed with a creative project. Your dreams are helpful allies, so spend some time analyzing them. A Gemini will push you to make your dreams take shape in the real world.

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

The new moon/solar eclipse falls in your house of money on Jan. 2. Write down your wishes for financial success and a more secure future. Post this list in a place where you look every day. A Capricorn will help you to connect to real dough in the year to come.

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

The new moon/solar eclipse on Jan. 2 falls in your sign and puts all the power in your hands. Can you handle it? Stop waiting for "fate" to indicate which way you should go. Create your own destiny, and leave room at your side for a Sag.

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

You have more power to change the world than you realize, honey. So many people look up to you. Make 2003 the year that you teach as much and as wisely as possible. You are a complete God/dess to a Virgo.

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

Make 2003 the year that you give up your self-loathing ways! You're able to help others to see the best in themselves, so now the time has come to turn that nurturing energy on yourself. A Cancer gives you extra love during this tender time of year.

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

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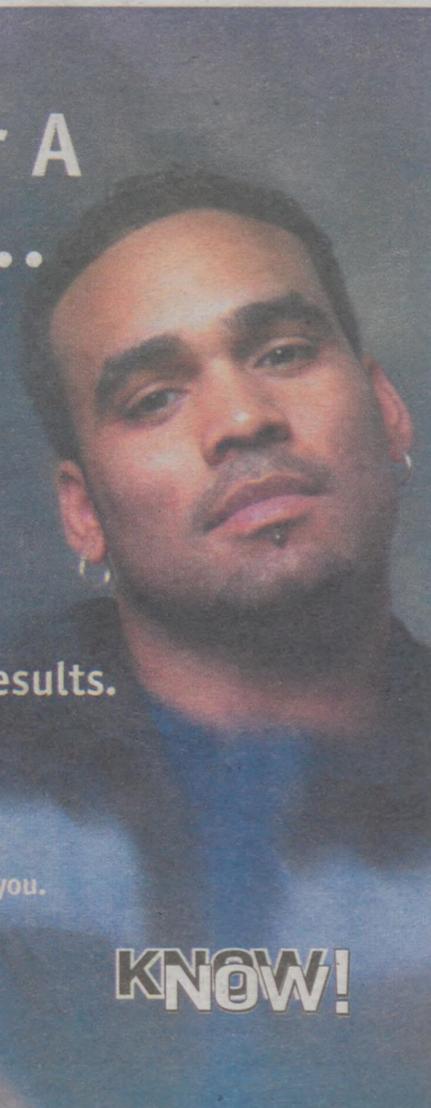
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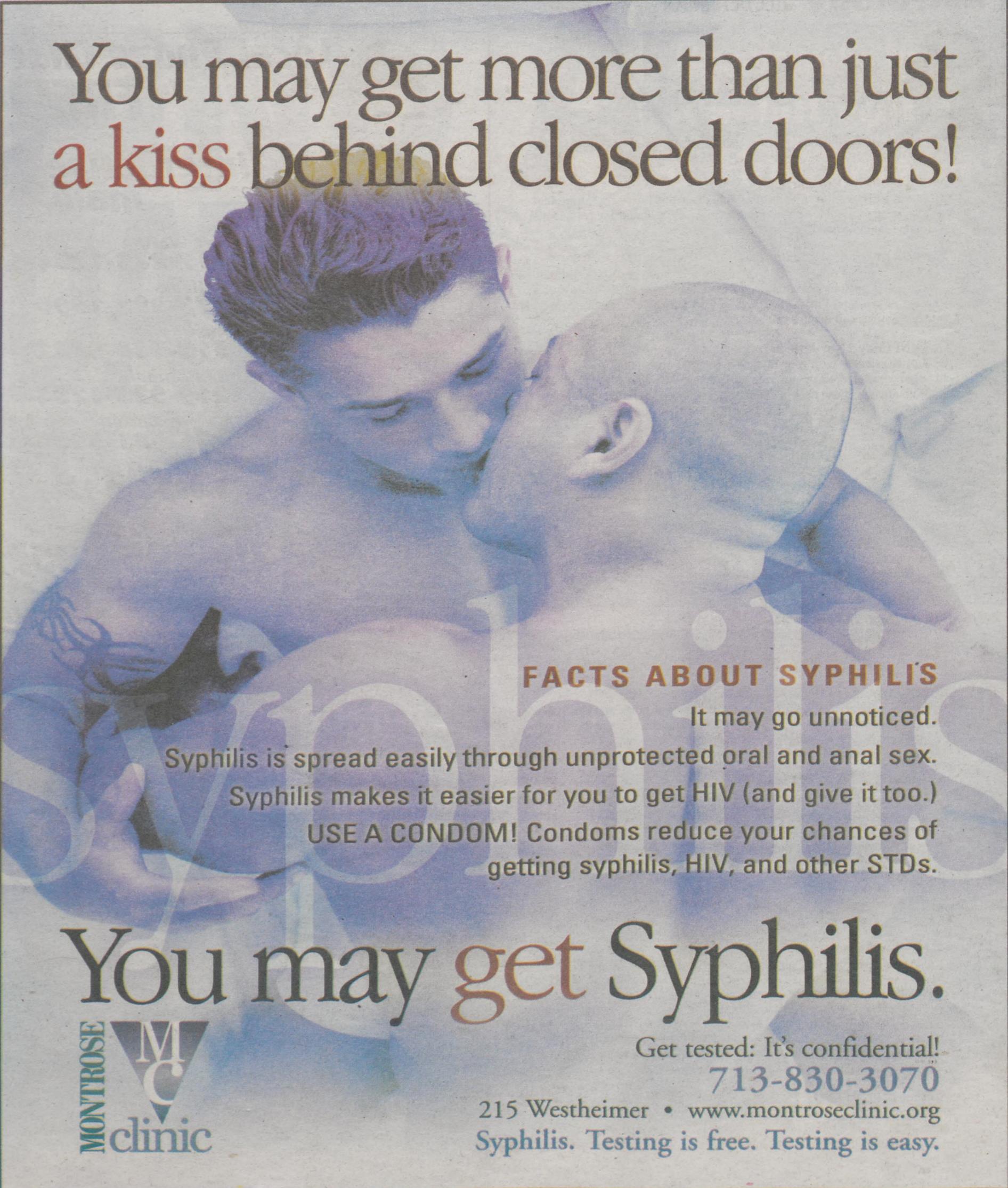
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