

houston VOICE



Lend me your ears

Podcasting is the newest technology craze giving rise to a whole new genre of gay voices.

Page 13

THIRTY YEARS OF NEWS FOR YOUR LIFE. AND YOUR STYLE.

www.houstonvoice.com

JANUARY 6, 2006

PENN. LAWSUIT: Former star claims she was labeled lesbian. **Page 4**



INTERNET PRIVACY: Online activity could come back to haunt you. **Page 6**



GAY RIGHTS: Maine anti-bias law goes on the books. **Page 7**



'The L Word' creator **Ilene Chaiken** (right) — seen here with **Katherine Moening** — says the upcoming third season of her series is the best yet. (Photo by James Dittiger/Showtime)

Let there be drama

Gay creators of 'L Word,' 'Book of Daniel' discuss new seasons of their shows

By **BRIAN MOYLAN**

AFTER A SLOW SUMMER AND A ROCKY AUTUMN, it seems that, improbably, the winter is going to be the hot time for gay characters on television.

Of the new shows with gay characters that started on network TV this fall, only the CBS comedy "Out of Practice" gained any footing. This month, both network and cable television are premiering or bringing back series with strong gay representation.

But with the death of Showtime's "Queer As Folk" last year, the highest gay quotient of any television show is the cable channel's lesbian drama "The L Word," which returns with a 12-episode third season Jan. 8.

Over on network TV, NBC's new family drama "The Book of Daniel" offers gay viewers a promising new option with one regular and two recurring characters who are less than straight.

The new show, airing on NBC Fridays at 10 p.m., replaces the fertility clinic drama "Inconceivable" which offered two gay characters but failed to gain an audience this fall.

"Daniel" starts off with two back-to-back episodes on Jan. 6 at 9 p.m. before airing the remaining six episodes in its regular time slot.

Please see **TV DRAMAS** on **Page 18**



Annise Parker, a lesbian, was sworn in Tuesday by Judge **Nancy Atlas** for her second term as Houston City Controller. **Kathy Hubbard**, who is Parker's same-sex partner, joined her for the ceremony. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

Houston inauguration includes lesbian officials

Parker begins second term as controller; Lovell joins City Council

By **ERIC ERVIN**

This week, victories from last year's City Council and school board elections became official as candidates were sworn into office, including gay and gay-friendly office holders.

The 14 members of the Houston City Council, including lesbian At-Large Position 2 Councilmember Sue Lovell, were sworn into office Tuesday morning during inauguration ceremonies at the Houston Police Officers Memorial.

Please see **INAUGURATION**, on **Page 3**



local life
HRC, Frontrunners Houston will sponsor runners in upcoming Chevron Houston Marathon.
PAGE 8

television
Jeff Ward and Jonathan Jaxson tie the knot on Bravo reality show 'Party/Party.'
PAGE 16



i am ready.

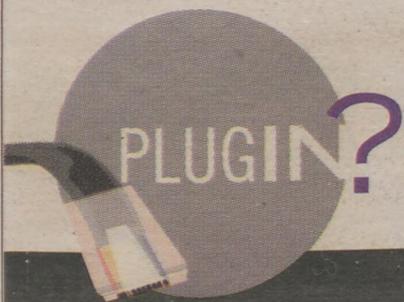
houstonvoice.com



are you ready to

hove wire the latest hove blog

get the latest breaking news and opinion, as well as gay-related politics, entertainment and trends.



all the news for your life and your style.

houston voice

local news

More than 1,000 children benefit from annual toy drive

Troy Broussard (left) and Ryan Lindsay, who were co-chairs of the 9th Annual Bayou City Boys Club's Christmas Party that benefited AIDS Foundation Houston's Red Ribbon Toy Drive, helped deliver toys to more than 1,000 children living with HIV/AIDS this past holiday season. The club's annual holiday party was held at the home of Michael Flynn and Richard Maier. Those who attended the party brought toys to be donated and placed them under a Christmas tree.

The Bayou City Boys Club, which was named Best Gay Non-Profit Organization in the Houston Voice in 2004, was founded in 1993 and helps raise money for local providers of HIV/AIDS public education, patient care, and research. Founded in 1982, AIDS Foundation Houston is a non-profit community-based organization that is a direct provider of resources for HIV/AIDS services and information.

The organization works in collaboration with other AIDS service organizations and non AIDS related community-based groups to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS infection and to support people living with HIV/AIDS.



HATCH to hold college, career workshops

The Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals, or HATCH, will host a two-evening workshop on colleges and careers for gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender teenagers on Jan. 6, from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Jan. 8, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the University of St. Thomas.

Formed in 1987, the organization provides a positive environment and support network for gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender youth in the greater Houston area, according to its website. The organization's programming works to increase the self-esteem of the youth participants so that they can make healthy and life-affirming choices.

HATCH has a Program Committee, a Youth Steering Committee, a Youth Services Worker and over 25 professionally trained adult facilitators.

For more information on the workshops, contact Bill Alexander at 713-529-3590.

Houston Women's Winter Festival to be held Feb. 4

The Houston Women's Winter Festival will be held Saturday, Feb. 4, in Seabrook, which is just southeast of Houston.

The festival is a celebration of music, art, culture and commerce that includes a full day of music and a marketplace of vendors. The Houston Women's Winter Festival features fan favorite Melissa Ferrick and award-winning songwriter Susan Gibson. Up-and-coming artists in the line-up include Beth Wood, Yvonne Perea and Natalia Zuckerman.

The festival takes place from 2 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Clear Lake Park, 5002 Nasa Road 1 in



Melissa Ferrick will perform at the Houston Women's Winter Festival, which will take place Feb. 4 in Seabrook, Texas.

Seabrook. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. The festival is produced by the Athena Art Project, a non-profit organization that supports artistic endeavors in Houston.

For more information, visit the festival's website at www.hwfestival.org.

'Queer Bingo' returns to community center

"Queer Bingo", which is a new fundraiser to support the Houston GLBT Community Center, returns Jan. 21. This month's theme is "Broadway Bingo." The fund-raiser, which launched last month, takes place every month at Club 1415 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call 713-524-3818 or visit the center's website at www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

First-ever run for teachers to be held Jan. 21

Houstonians can step up support for Houston-area schoolteachers by participating in the First Annual Fund for Teachers "Fund Run," Jan. 21 at Sam Houston Park in downtown Houston at 1000 Bagby. This exciting family friendly event will help increase community awareness and raise funds for self-designed professional development opportunities for local teachers.

"We are so excited to be holding our first run. We know that the Houston community values our teachers and will come out to support them," said Karen Kovach-Webb, executive director of Fund for Teachers. "With the funds we raise, we will be able to offer more teachers the opportunity to pursue professional development experiences of their own design."

The "Fund Run" will include a 5K Run/Walk and a free one kilometer Kids' K. The top 25 men and women who compete in the 5K will be awarded at the end of the race. In addition, there will be a celebratory "Around the World" carnival, sure to be great fun for the entire family.

For more information, call 1-800-681-2667 or visit www.fundforteachers.org.

Ceremonies include gospel singer Adams

INAUGURATION, continued from Page 1

Mayor Bill White and lesbian City Controller Annise Parker were also sworn in for their second terms during the event, which included a rendition of R. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly" by Grammy Award-winning gospel singer Yolanda Adams.

Lovell, who unsuccessfully ran for City Council in 2003, defeated Jay Aiyer in the Dec. 10 runoff election by 579 votes. Parker ran unopposed for reelection as city controller.

"We're absolutely ecstatic," said Jack Valinski, vice president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus. "We worked very hard this year, especially after the defeat of a lot of our candidates last year."

Ten of the 13 candidates endorsed by the caucus won in the 2005 elections.



Houston At-Large Position 2 Councilmember Sue Lovell, who is a lesbian, was officially sworn into office Tuesday. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

Honoring city employees

White, who ran unopposed for mayor, was endorsed by the caucus. He said he picked the memorial as the location for the ceremonies to honor city employees and delivered a speech saying they exemplified his call for a "rededication to public service" by all residents.

"Let the sacrifice of these city employees remind us all—and all other citizens of Houston—to help us make Houston an even greater city of opportunity and hope," White said.

The mayor recognized Mark Phalesburgh, a 10-year city employee in the Solid Waste Management Department, who lost a thumb due to a malfunctioned machine; Paul Davila, who supervises the maintenance of storm sewers; and Sandy Farmer, a librarian who helped create a recreation area for young Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

"Those are people who work every day for you and many do more than is in their job description," White said.

White also called on Houstonians to help reduce the high school dropout rate and conserve energy to reduce toxic waste.

"Wouldn't it be great if Houston was recognized as not only the energy capital of the world, which we're very proud of, but as the energy-efficiency capital of the world?" he said.

Caucus-endorsed winners

Several other City Council members sworn in Tuesday were also endorsed by the GLBT Caucus, including Peter Brown, At-Large Position 1; Ron Green, At-Large Position 4; Anne Clutterbuck, District C; Ada Edwards, District D; Adrian Garcia, District H; and Carol Alvarado, District I.

Jarvis Johnson defeated caucus-endorsed Felicia Galloway-Hall to win the District B seat. Hall tried to succeed her mother Carol Mims Galloway for the city post.

Caucus-endorsed Natasha Kamtrani, was sworn in Wednesday as District 1 representative on the Houston Independent School District Board of Education.

Kamtrani, a lawyer and former educator, defeated Anne Flores Santiago, during last year's election. She sought an endorsement from the caucus after Richard Cantu, the group's first pick, failed to make the runoff.

Kamtrani said she wants to prepare HISD students for college by introducing a more rigorous curriculum, reform the district's middle schools and build relationships between the schools and the communities they serve.

"I want to send my children to public schools that have the same dream for my children that I do," she said.

i MORE INFO

Sue Lovell
Houston At-Large Position 2
City Hall Annex
900 Bagby, 1st floor
Houston, TX 77002
713-247-2013
atlarge2@cityofhouston.net

Annise Parker
Houston City Controller
901 Bagby, 8th floor
Houston, TX 77251
713-347-1440
controllers@cityofhouston.net

national news

Opposition steps up campaign against Alito

Activists push for gay-related questions at Senate hearing

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — The Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to open confirmation hearings on the nomination of Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 9, and gay organizations and liberal allies have stepped up a coordinated campaign to portray Alito as a hard-nosed, conservative ideologue.

Led by Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, the gay groups warn that Alito would likely put his personal political agenda ahead of constitutional principles. They predict he would likely vote to scale back or possibly overturn key decisions that have advanced gay rights.

"Judge Alito puts particular political ends above a fair reading of the Constitution," said Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal. The group has argued in favor of gay rights cases before the Supreme Court.

"We do not believe that Judge Alito has the necessary commitment to liberty and equality for all Americans," Cathcart said.

A recent Washington Post-ABC News



The Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to open confirmation hearings on the nomination of Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 9.

poll shows that 54 percent of Americans support President Bush's nomination of Alito to the Supreme Court, with only 28 percent of those polled opposing him. Eighteen percent said they did not know enough about the jurist to have an opinion.

The vocal campaign by the coalition opposing Alito has yet to persuade nearly enough senators to come out against Alito, even though the groups represent a broad range of progressive constituencies that ordinarily would hold great weight with the Senate.

Among them are moderate religious,

civil rights, women's rights, disability, labor, environmental, and privacy rights groups along with gay rights and AIDS advocacy organizations.

Each has warned that Alito's conservative record as a federal appeals court judge for the past 15 years indicates he would likely roll back civil rights protections for minorities, weaken gun control laws and overturn the constitutional right to an abortion.

Gay groups claim his stated position on privacy rights, both as an appeals court judge and a Justice Department attorney during the Reagan administration, indicates he would likely weaken the constitutional privacy rights doctrine. The Supreme Court cited that doctrine in its 2003 decision of Lawrence vs. Texas, which overturned state sodomy laws.

Lambda is among a number of advocacy groups that have issued detailed reports and analyses outlining why they believe Alito would vote on the high court to unravel existing civil rights and privacy rights protections. Yet none of these pronouncements appear to have had much impact on the Senate or the general public.

"Liberal groups have cried wolf so many times that when we get documents like these about Alito, crying wolf seems to have no resonance for people in the middle," Supreme Court historian David J. Garrow told the Washington Post.

At the same time, conservative religious organizations like the Family Research Council, Focus on the Family and the Christian Coalition have flooded their large memberships with e-mail and broadcast announcements portraying Alito as a defender of moral principles and values.

Conflicting opinions

Experts studying more than 800 written opinions that Alito took part in while on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals could find only two that directly involved gay-related issues. Alito ruled in favor of gay rights in one of the cases and against gay rights in the other.

He ruled in favor of the rights of a person with AIDS in a 2001 case before his appeals court, drawing praise from AIDS activists. But as a Justice Department attorney in 1986, he helped write an opinion asserting that employers had a legal right to fire people with HIV due to "fear of contagion, whether reasonable or not."

Attorneys with Lambda Legal acknowledge that Alito's few opinions on gay- and AIDS-related cases are mixed. Alito also co-authored a group position paper while a college student at Princeton that advocated broad privacy rights and the protection of all sexual conduct between consenting adults.

Former player files lawsuit against Penn State coach

Female basketball star alleges 'no lesbians' policy

By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

It's no secret that Penn State women's basketball coach Rene Portland doesn't like lesbians on her team.

She told reporters exactly that in the 1980s. But 20-year-old Jennifer Harris is challenging the unofficial policy that's been around for longer than she's been alive.

Harris had been a star basketball player since junior high school. She was courted by Portland and given a full athletic scholarship to attend Penn State. While on the team as a freshman and sophomore, she was a starting player and lead scorer.

But in March, Harris was kicked off the team, forcing her to transfer to James Madison University. Portland released a statement claiming that Harris was let go for performance reasons.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights filed a lawsuit in federal district court on Harris' behalf against the coach, Penn State and Athletic Director Timothy M. Curley alleging race, gender and sexual orientation discrimination.

The lawsuit claims that Portland bullied, humiliated and punished Harris because she believed Harris was a lesbian and not

feminine enough. Portland allegedly interrogated Harris about her sexual orientation and that of her teammates. Portland even ordered Harris' fellow teammates to ostracize her and report back if they saw Harris dating women, according to the lawsuit.

Calla Devlin, communications director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said Harris is not a lesbian. Harris could not be reached by press time.

Harris' attorney, Karen Doering, said non-discrimination policies offer inherent protections based on "perceived" sexual orientation.

"It's the worst kept secret in the NCAA that Portland doesn't allow lesbians on her team," Doering said.

Harris was far from the first black player that Portland allegedly targeted. From 1997 until 2005, black players constituted less than 40 percent of the team, but made up more than 60 percent of the players who were dismissed or quit, the lawsuit contends.

Even though allegations against Portland have been discussed and reported on for years, it's unclear how many players have publicly complained or filed grievances, Doering said.

Harris is the first player to complain about Portland since the school's nondiscrimination policy was changed to include sexual orientation in 1991, according to Penn State spokesperson Bill Mahon.

The school is still investigating Harris' allegations, he said, adding that he did not



Former Penn State basketball star Jennifer Harris says the school's coach dismissed her from the team because she perceived her to be a lesbian.

know if there were complaints before the nondiscrimination policy was changed.

Players are reluctant to speak up because of the power imbalance between them and the coach, Doering said. Harris' scholarship, for instance, could only be renewed each year on Portland's recommendation.

"The coach controls your scholarship, playing time," Doering said. "At a lot of top schools [athletic departments] are given free reign to do what they will because they bring in a lot of money."

The lawsuit also contends that the school and athletic director either knew and did nothing or should have known to stop the discrimination.

Mahon called the accusation that they are responsible for the alleged discrimination "ridiculous."

MORE INFO

National Center for Lesbian Rights
870 Market St., Suite 370
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-392-6257
www.nclrights.org

"No one has ever made the allegation publicly before — not since we had the policy in place," he said.

But in 1986, the Chicago Sun-Times reported that Portland discusses her "no lesbians" policy with potential recruits and their parents.

"I will not have it in my program," she reportedly said.

In 1991, the New York Times reported on Portland's anti-lesbian statement as well. That year, student protests over Portland's practices forced the school to amend its nondiscrimination code.

At the time, Portland reportedly said she would follow it.

Earlier this year, Portland was honored as "Person of the Year" at the Renaissance Scholarship Fund dinner. The fund awards scholarships to low-income Penn State students. Students, including campus gay rights activist Eric Patridge, organized a silent protest at the event.

"It sounds like it's common knowledge that it goes on, and it's not going to change," Patridge said.

national news

New show offers gay 'Twist' to mainstream radio

Syndicated broadcast to debut this month in seven cities, including Houston

By BO SHELL

"Twist," a new nationally syndicated, gay commercial radio show, is set to launch Jan. 14-15 on seven radio stations around the country.

Melissa Carter, a lesbian on-air personality on Q100's "Bert Show," will co-host "Twist."

"Even though gays and lesbians are in a lot of places, 'Twist' is still unique to be the first of its kind in broadcast radio," Carter said. "The concept of the show has been enough for [stations] to understand the importance."

The weekly two-hour music countdown and talk show is also slated for debuts on WPLJ in New York, Star 98.7 in Los Angeles, Alice 97.3 in San Francisco, Kiss 106.1 in Seattle, Mix 96.5 in Houston and Hot 99.5 in Washington, D.C., according to Matt Farber, president of Wilderness Media & Entertainment.

The new program will be available to internet audiences on AOL Radio, said Farber, who also founded Logo, the all-gay basic cable television channel backed by MTV.

Farber said after he left the "day to day of running Logo" in late 2004, he began concentrating on creating "Twist" and other brands that would diversify Wilderness Media's portfolio.

"Broadcast allows greater reach than print or local events," Farber said. "What's



Melissa Carter, a lesbian and on-air personality for Atlanta's Q100 FM, is slated to co-host 'Twist,' a new nationally syndicated gay radio show. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

exciting is that Logo launched in 18 million households and continues to grow. Twist will debut in 50 million homes."

Farber said he is working to bring "Twist" to broadcast outlets in San Diego, Portland and Boston, adding that stations around the country are recognizing the need for gay and lesbian radio programming.

"What's great is a lot of program directors at local radio stations recognize 'Twist' as something they don't have," he said. "'Twist' could be something that solidifies their connection with an important part of their audience... I'm thrilled with response so far."

"Twist" begins airing Jan. 15 at 10 p.m. on Q100, according to Thomas Crone, music coordinator for the Atlanta station.

"We're very open and aware of diversity and stressing the importance of under-

standing differences," Crone said. "We picked it up because upon review it seemed like quality programming with compelling content... There's a whole market there that's not being recognized in radio and Q100 is aware of this and is embracing it."

Jeff Wyatt, programming director at Hot 99.5 in Washington, D.C., said the program serves the station's audience well. The show will air Sundays from 10 p.m. to midnight.

"Top 40 radio provides the energetic soundtrack to many lifestyles, not least of which is the gay community," Wyatt said. "We look to serve our community at large in every way we possibly can. Both musically and pop culture information wise, 'Twist' is a great addition to our line."

Buddy Scott, programming director at Houston's Mix 96.5 where "Twist" will air on Saturdays from 10 p.m. to midnight, said a program like this is long overdue.

"We believe that the gay and lesbian community in Houston is a big part of our listening audience and we believe would have taken a show like this a long time ago if it has been available," he said.

Music and talk

Gay hosts Carter, Dennis Hensley and Will Wikle will co-anchor the program's music-and-talk format, which features songs, celebrity interviews, entertainment reports and advice from relationship and lifestyle experts.

Carter, who will head the weekly news and gay history segments, said she looks forward to highlighting Atlanta as a progressive, gay-friendly city that many view as old fashioned.

"I'm very excited and so proud to be who I am on the 'Bert Show,' and 'Twist' will reach the people we don't think about," Carter said. "I think about the [teenagers] who listen to the show, as well as the adults, but the more opportunities for young gays and lesbians to see adults living productive, fulfilling lives, the more gay communities come together."

Wikle, the show's New York anchor, gained notoriety through his appearance on CBS's "Big Brother 5." He now hosts "Round Trip Ticket," a travel program on Logo.

Hensley, "Twist's" Los Angeles-based celebrity aficionado, writes about celebrities and Hollywood for periodicals including TV Guide, Maxim, Out magazine and the Advocate. In 2002, he penned "Screening Party," a book that compiles conversations between himself and his friends about famous films. Most recently, the Lambda Book Award nominee appeared on "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List" as one of the comedian's "main gays."

Above all, Hensley said he hopes "Twist" is entertaining and interactive.

"I hope that people really get into it and make the show a really interactive thing rather than just three disembodied voices in different cities trying to be amusing," Hensley said. "I hope people think of it as their show."

"Twist" joins other gay non-commercial, internet radio and satellite programs already on the air, including San Francisco's local weekly "Out in the Bay," the Los-Angeles based syndicated lesbian and gay radio magazine "This Way Out," the Bear Radio Network internet webcast, and the New York-based East Village internet radio webcast.

Sites in Calif., N.Y. stop using rapid HIV test

OraQuick's maker working with feds to discover cause for false positives

By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

WASHINGTON — Local health clinics are looking closely at HIV test results after clinics in California and New York received a high number of false positives with a widely used oral test.

The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and two San Francisco Department of Health testing sites stopped using OraQuick Advance, a mouth-swab test that delivers results in about 20 minutes. The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center reported 13 false positives in November.

Twelve San Francisco Department of Public Health sites still use the OraQuick test, said Teri Dowling, the department's manager of HIV Counseling and Testing.

OraSure Technologies Inc., the Bethlehem, Pa.-based company that makes the OraQuick Advance tests, is working with testing sites, the CDC and the FDA to try to discover why the false positives are occurring in what appear to be geographical clusters.

"We are certainly taking seriously the

recent reports from these clinical sites, and we have moved aggressively to systematically evaluate each situation," OraSure President Douglas A. Michels said in a statement. "Based on our investigation to date, we remain confident in the overall performance of the test."

Leo Rennie, bureau chief for HIV Prevention at the Administration for HIV Policy & Programs in Washington, D.C. — formerly known as the D.C. HIV/AIDS Administration — said his office is reviewing all of the D.C.-area sites that have reported false positives.

So far, an internal review of some 12 to 15 clinics found that there are about two to five false positives out of 1,000 tests at each site. One site, which he declined to name, was outside that range.

The problem, Rennie said, appears to be localized to New York and parts of California. "We have not experienced any rate of false positives that are outside the expected rate," said Kim Mills, spokesperson for Whitman-Walker Clinic in D.C.

Out of more than 9,000 tests performed in 2005 at sites in Virginia, Maryland and D.C., as well as in outreach vans, three were false positives, she said.

Those false positives occurred since July, which, she said, "raised questions in our eyes." The clinic is continuing to investigate the results, she said.

Kathie Hiers, chief executive officer of AIDS Alabama and co-chair of the Southern AIDS Coalition, said the organization has not had any problems with oral testing.

Blood test more reliable

Health professionals routinely caution people to understand that the oral rapid test is a preliminary test that needs to be confirmed by a blood test.

Some sites in New York and California have started using a rapid blood prick test if a person receives a positive result from the oral test.

Most importantly, the professionals advise, make sure to get a blood test to confirm a positive result from the oral test.

"With any test, there are going to be false positives," said AIDS activist Larry Bryant, national field organizer for Housing Works in New York. "We don't want to give people a reason not to go and get tested."

The clusters of false positives are within FDA guidelines that allow for two false positives per 100 tests, according to Bernard Branson, associate director for lab and diagnostics at the CDC Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention.

It's important to look at the number of false positives over time, he said.

"It doesn't mean you get one [false positive] every 250 people," he said. "You may go through 2,000 people and have no false

MORE INFO

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333
404-639-3311
www.cdc.gov

OraSure Technologies Inc.
www.orasure.com

positives, then suddenly you have eight."

OraQuick allows for four false positives per 1,000, Branson said.

In New York, for example, about 4,000 tests are conducted each month, he said. In August and September, clinics in New York reported five false positives. In October, there were 11, and in November there were 35. But during four months, there was an average of 3.5 false positives per 1,000 tests, Branson said.

The higher number of false positives in New York may have been just a "blip," as the numbers are slowing down, he said.

So far, no problems have been reported with the blood-prick test, which also gives results in 20 minutes.

While the cause of the oral test's false positives is still being investigated, experts say it could be any number of factors including problems with the way the test was administered, a bad batch of tests, other substances present in the mouth, or environmental factors like at what temperature the test is stored.

national news

Is life still private on the Internet?

Journalists, gay public figures wrestle with line drawing

By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

How much privacy can public officials really expect when they post personal information on a gay website?

It really depends on who you're talking about.

After the Richmond Times-Dispatch published an article about Stephen Johnson, a gay Board of Education member, posting an online profile on Manhunt.net, he received an outpouring of support. Many parents and school officials said his private life is irrelevant to his job as a board member.

As the Internet continues to grow and more people become web-savvy, journalists, activists and ethicists will wrestle with the question of privacy in the public domain for years to come.

Gay personal sites warn users that anyone can access their information.

Gay.com's privacy policy states, "By choosing to use these areas, you understand and agree that anyone may access and forward any information about you that is contained in or that you post to those areas."

The case of Jim West

"There is a fair amount of complexity and nuance" when reporting on private lives, said Kelly McBride, an ethicist at the Poynter Institute, a media think-tank in St. Petersburg, Fla. "Newspapers should be as precise about the indiscretions as possible."

Jim West, the mayor of Spokane, Wash., was forced from office in a recall vote last year after newspaper coverage about his private life that was clearly appropriate, McBride said.

Earlier this year, the Spokesman-Review broke the story that West had met younger men online for sex and offered them trips to Washington, D.C., and internships with his office.

In the case of West, McBride said, "it was this abuse of power."

"The man lived outrightly as heterosexual, legislated against gay friendly causes," she said. "I don't think there's any question that this was newsworthy. It's in the public interest to know how he was using his power."

In the case of Johnson, the Richmond Times-Dispatch published an article about a personal ad he posted on Manhunt.net, a sexually explicit online cruising site for gay men.

In December, after the article was published, Johnson stayed on the Richmond School Board but stepped down as chair. A small group of ministers called for him to resign completely but later backed away from their demands. Many parents and school officials supported Johnson, who told the Houston Voice he never hid his sexual orientation, although it had never been reported and was not widely known.

Uncovering a person's private life is important when there's a question of hypocrisy or credibility, according to journalists and activists.

That was the case in Spokane. West tried to legislate against sex for years, even introducing a bill to criminalize sexual contact between minors. West supported a 1986 bill that would have banned gays from working in schools, day care centers and some state agencies.

Activist Keith Boykin said outing a public figure is only appropriate when they have been publicly anti-gay. Simply being conservative is not enough reason to violate a person's privacy, he said.

Boykin has launched a campaign to uncover personal information about anti-gay pastors.

"If someone is a public figure saying or doing things that are publicly anti-gay and he happens to be gay as well, it's fair game for the media to raise the issue of their sexuality," he said. "They don't have the right to remain in the closet if their actions are hurting other people."

Michael Signorile, a gay journalist



Stephen Johnson stepped aside as chair of the Richmond, Va., school board after a newspaper reported about the existence of his personal ad on Manhunt.net, a sexually explicit online cruising site for gay men.



Former Spokane, Wash., Mayor Jim West was outed by the media after reports surfaced that he used his power to lure gay men with promises of jobs and internships. (Photo by Jeff T. Green/AP)

based in New York, agreed that newspapers were right to report on West because of the contradictions between his private and public life.

"I felt with him as a politician railing against gay people, publicly seeking sex with men [it was right to report it]," he said. "He's using his office to lure sex from these people, promoting them to jobs. It's a clear cut one."

However, he said, Internet activity, while not private, often is about fantasy, and the person may not be living out what they say. But because West identified himself, he forfeited his right to privacy.

"The moment he did that, he no longer retained his privacy," he said. "It no longer becomes private."

The case of Jeff Gannon

Another person who gave up his right to privacy was James Guckert, who writes under the name Jeff Gannon, Signorile and others said.

After Gannon asked White House press secretary Scott McClellan a question using inaccurate information from radio talk-show host Rush Limbaugh, journalists and bloggers began wondering how he gained access to White House press conferences. What intrigued journalists even more was how McClellan passed over veteran White House correspondents for Gannon.

The Houston Voice and its affiliate publications publish occasional freelance columns by Gannon.

During his time in the White House press corps, Gannon worked for a GOP-linked website called Talon News. Bloggers began to argue that Gannon, and the so-called news agency, were far from independent.

They also uncovered that Gannon had previously posted a website advertising his services as a male escort and mainstream media joined in the reporting, offering varying level of details.

Gannon said last year that his critics unfairly attacked him personally.

"My past is not relevant, and my private life was not relevant to the job I was doing as a reporter," he told the Houston Voice. "It was a politically motivated act which still continues today."

Gannon said it was appropriate, on the other hand, to report the Manhunt profile of Johnson, the Richmond school board chair, because Johnson is an elected official.

"At the time people decided to invade my privacy, I was a reporter just like you," he said. "I don't know anything about your past."

But journalists defended coverage of Gannon, arguing that who he is was central to establishing his credibility.

"His online world had shown him soliciting, doing something illegal while going into the White House," Signorile said. "He forfeited his privacy. He had photos identifiable as him on public websites."

"If I had signs on the street saying, yeah I'm a prostitute and a week later I'm a White House spokesperson ... I think it was relevant," Signorile said. "It was about his credibility, his background, his security clearance."

McBride agreed, saying that Gannon was "operating as a mouthpiece for a GOP website."

"If he had just been a regular reporter for a conservative publication I would say no but because of the obfuscation — who he really represents, whether he was really a journalist, the question of who is this guy is very valid," she said.



Freelance writer Jeff Gannon said his past was 'not relevant' to his former job as a White House correspondent for Talon News.

i MORE INFO

Poynter Institute
801 Third St. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
888-769-6837
www.poynter.org



national news

Maine's gay rights law takes effect after repeal effort failed



Patricia Ryan, executive director of Maine's Human Rights Commission, said officials did not expect a flood of complaints from the state's new anti-discrimination law. (Photo by Joel Page/AP)

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Maine became the final New England state to protect gays from discrimination last week as a law that voters refused to repeal last month went on the books. The law took effect quietly and without fanfare. The Human Rights Commission expected no flood of complaints because the gay rights law is not retroactive. "We've been getting calls occasionally and told people we can't accept complaints until today," Patricia Ryan, commission executive director, said Dec. 28. "We don't expect to get 10 or 20 or 50 such calls." Maine voters on Nov. 8 rejected by a 55-45 percent margin a ballot initiative to repeal the law to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations and education. It adds new protections to Maine's Human Rights Act while making Maine the sixth and final state in the New England region to adopt a law barring discrimination against gay men and lesbians.

Gay activists sue to block Mass. marriage amendment

BOSTON (AP) — Gay activists sued on Tuesday in an effort to block a proposed constitutional amendment that would put an end to same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. The lawsuit, filed by Gay and Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, challenges a September ruling by state Attorney General Tom Reilly that found the amendment drive was legal. That ruling allowed backers of the amendment to begin collecting signatures. They gathered more than 120,000 — well above the 65,000 needed to get the measure on the 2008 ballot. Gary Buseck, GLAD legal director, said the Massachusetts Constitution bars any citizen-initiated amendment that "relates to the reversal of a judicial decision." The proposed amendment is designed "squarely and solely" to reverse the landmark 2003 decision by Massachusetts' high court that legalized gay marriage, Buseck said. A Reilly spokesman defended the decision. "This proposal isn't a reversal of a judicial decision, but an effort to change the constitution going forward," David Guarino said.

Calif. gay marriage foes fail in signature drive

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — One of two groups competing to put a gay marriage ban before California voters in 2006 has bowed out of the fight for now, saying the timing and political climate are not right to get such a measure passed. Dec. 27 was the deadline for ProtectMarriage.com to submit the signatures needed to qualify for the June primary ballot. Andrew Pugno, the group's legal adviser, said the signature drive had fallen about 200,000 voters short of the requirement for 591,105 signatures. VoteYesMarriage.com, the other group seeking to have California join 18 states that have amended their constitutions to ban gay marriage, has not abandoned the hope of qualifying an initiative for November, said organizer Randy Thomasson.

Anti-gay psychiatrist Socarides dies at age 83

NEW YORK, N.Y. — A well-known anti-gay psychiatrist and psychotherapist died Dec. 25, the New York Times reported. Charles W. Socarides, 83, long maintained publicly that homosexuality is a condition that can be treated and even "cured." He died of heart failure, his wife told the Times. For a number of years, Socarides worked as a clinical professor of psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. A regular on TV talk shows and news programs, he retired in 1996. He wrote several books about homosexuality, including "The Overt Homosexual," and helped found the National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality with a goal of offering all gays "effective psychological therapy," the group's Web site states. Socarides maintained his position far beyond 1973, when the American Psychiatric Association rescinded its definition of homosexuality as a form of mental illness. His son, Richard Socarides, is gay and worked as an assistant on gay issues to President Bill Clinton.

Ill. bans discrimination against gays, transgenders

CHICAGO (AP) — A state law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity became a reality Jan. 1, nearly a year after Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed it into law and more than three decades since state lawmakers first debated it. Illinois joins 15 other states that have laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. Of those 16, Illinois is only one of seven states where the law protects transgender people, according to the Washington-based National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

From staff and wire reports

TOMMY TUNE

DR. DO LITTLE

EVERYBODY'S MUSICAL

JANUARY 17-29

OUT@TUTS
Wednesday, Jan. 18

Would you like to mingle with the cast and listen to some cabaret music? After the show join your GLBT friends at Artista for complimentary hors d'oeuvres and drinks at Happy Hour prices.

LIVE BROADWAY

713.558.TUTS WWW.TUTS.COM

HOBBY CENTER

Groups of 15+ call 713.558.8888 for special discounts.
Audio Described: Sun., Jan. 29, 2:00 pm Open Captioned: Sun., Jan. 29, 7:30 pm

STANFORD FINANCIAL GROUP

TIME WARNER CABLE
THE POWER OF YOU

Duke Energy

Continental Airlines

Elijah Kabalka

FARMERS

Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency

6575 West Loop South, Suite 185
Bellaire, Texas 77401
713.661.7700
elijah_farmers@yahoo.com

Auto Home Renters Life Health Business And much more!

Gay groups to run in Houston marathon

HRC, Frontrunners members will race in 34th Chevron Houston Marathon

By ERIC ERVIN

Two gay groups will have runners putting their best feet forward in this year's Chevron Houston Marathon, formerly the HP Houston Marathon.

The Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign will sponsor local Team HRC. Frontrunners Houston, a local group of gay runners and walkers, will also have members participating in the Jan. 15 26.2-mile Chevron Houston Marathon and 13.1-mile Aramco Houston Half Marathon. Marking its 34th year, marathon weekend consists of the marathon, half marathon, Houston Press/Smart Financial 5K and Texas Children's Hospital Kids' Fun Run.

"Houston is such an important city to the overall mission and success of the Human Rights Campaign," says Mike Holloman, a member of the group's board of directors and running team member.

The Human Rights Campaign, a national gay advocacy group, is sponsoring running teams across the country.

"We want to have as many people as possible running with the Human Rights Campaign equal sign on their shirts to show our commitment to equality," Holloman says. "We also need people to come out to cheer us on as we strive to all finish the marathon."

Holloman, 33, says about 50 people have signed up to cheer on the runners during the race. He says the group plans to host an after-race celebration at a local club.

Members have been training for the marathon since October. They've worked with trainers twice a week, building up endurance by gradually increasing running distance, he says.

Holloman, who stands 5-feet, 9-inches tall and weighs 170 pounds, says he first ran in the marathon four years ago. He says it was hard getting his body use to running again.

"It's a big challenge," Holloman says. "I'm relatively in shape, definitely running helps."

i MORE INFO

Chevron Houston Marathon
Jan. 15, 6:45 a.m. (wheelchair race)
and 7 a.m. (marathon)
George R. Brown Convention Center
1001 Avenida de las Americas
www.hphoustonmarathon.com

From downtown, runners trek through the Heights and Montrose neighborhoods. At mile 9, half marathon runners split off and return to the finish line. Full marathon runners continue through the Rice neighborhood, city of West University Place, Galleria area, Tanglewood and Memorial Park before returning to the convention center.



Local members of Team HRC, which is sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, will run in the Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Half Marathon.

'Very grueling'

Raul Martinez, who has been a member of Frontrunners Houston since 1997, will run in the half marathon. He says he's not capable—mentally and physically—of running the full marathon.

"It's very grueling," Martinez says. "I can do the half marathon, but not the full."

"By the time I can't take any more, it's over. It takes a lot of mental power."

Martinez, 41, says he regularly participates in triathlons. He doesn't consider himself a fitness buff, but loves to stay active.

"It's great exercise," he says.

Martinez stands 5 feet, 8 inches tall and weighs between 140 and 145 pounds. He says he joined Frontrunners so he could exercise with other Houston area gay athletes.

Martinez says having an exercise partner is important, especially when training for a marathon because it offers support and motivation.

"You just can't do it yourself," he says.

Martinez says training for the half marathon should begin at least 12 weeks before the race. For the full marathon, he says some runners start training a year in advance.

Martinez says he builds up endurance by training in increments. He starts off running for 10 miles, then increases to 12 miles, 15 miles and more. In the last month of training, he's up to running around 20 miles.

'Make it a priority'

Frontrunners' members meet twice a week at Memorial Park for a three-mile trek through the area.

There are about 15 members in the group.

Rick Potter says he joined Frontrunners as one of its inaugural members back in 1984. The Patricia Nell Warren novel "The Front Runner" inspired the club, which is part of the International Frontrunners group, an affiliation of gay running and walking clubs around the world.

The book about the relationship between an ex-Marine track coach and his Olympic athlete has sold an estimated 10 million copies worldwide and has been translated into 10 languages. It's hailed as one of the 100 best gay and lesbian novels of all time.

The first club was formed in San Francisco in 1974. There are now 100 clubs in 15 countries throughout the world.

Potter, 57, will run the half marathon. The 5-feet, 10-inches tall computer analyst, who weighs 150 pounds, says he eats a diet high in carbohydrates before running and drinks a lot of water or sports drinks.

"Spaghetti and bread is good [to eat before a race]," Potter says.

Potter runs at night and on the weekends. He doesn't let his busy schedule keep him from exercising.

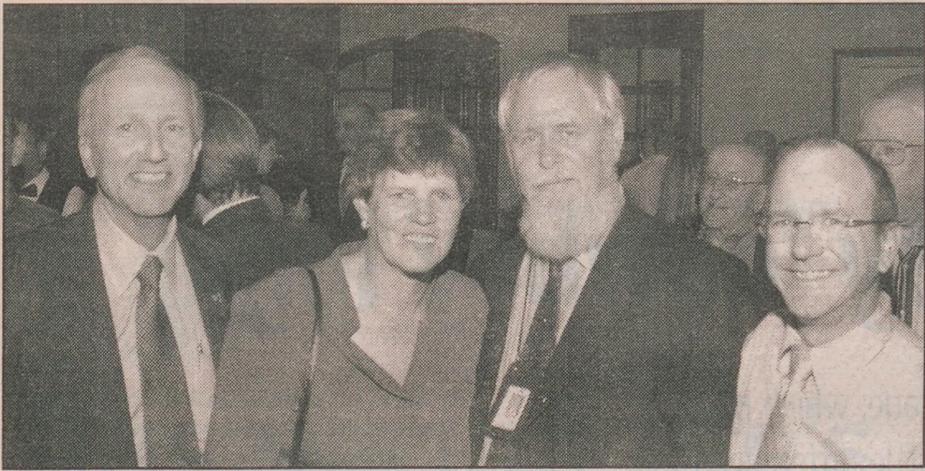
"You have to make it a priority," he says.

Frontrunners members David Brackus and Richard Peoples will run the full marathon. Members Reinel Solano and Al Salinas will join Martinez in the half marathon.

Running the full marathon with Team HRC is Alex Martinez, Bob Thornton, Carrie Arnett, Charles Buchanan, David Moga, Joe Hinojosa, Noe Bernal, Teffani Pope and Tim Surratt. Half marathon runners are 12-year-old Tommy Surratt and Sameer Bhasin.

out in houston

(Photos by Dalton DeHart)



Former Houston City Councilmember **Vince Ryan**, newly-elected At-Large Position 2 Councilmember **Sue Lovell**, Judge **John Paul Barnich** and Judge **Steven Kirkland** at a recent celebration after the new councilmember was sworn into office.



Partygoers, including **Reesa Hedrick** and **Fiona Dawson**, (bottom right), came out on New Year's Eve to ring in 2006 at the Rockin' Red Ribbon celebration held at downtown's Crown Plaza hotel.



Jeanie Tracy helps get the party started with a song at the Spolied Boyz' 'Mezzanine' New Year's Day after party.



GRAND OPENING WEEKEND

*oh no you don't!
our party is
just getting started!*

Live DJ + Prize Giveaways + Drink Specials
and more surprises you don't want to miss

We're keeping the celebrating going!

Friday & Saturday + January 20 & 21
join your new friends at Jeffries
for our official Grand Opening blowout!

Happy Hour prices plus
\$2 vodka drinks ALL NIGHT LONG!

everybody's talking about...

JEFFRIES

BAR + LOUNGE

700 PACIFIC + MONTROSE
OPEN 4PM-2AM EVERY DAY
INFO@JEFFRIESBAR.COM

NON-SMOKING + SMOKING PATIOS
JEFFRIESBAR.COM

Happy Hour 4-8pm + Mon \$2 vodka drinks + Tue \$2 longnecks + Wed \$4 martinis 10pm-2am + Thu \$1 kamikaze shots!

EDITORIAL & PRODUCTION

Executive Editor CHRIS CRAIN

Editor ERIC G. ERVIN

Correspondents DYANA BAGBY, LOU CHIBBARO, JR., MUBARAK DAHIR, MIKE FLEMING, MATTHEW HENNIE, JOHNNY HOOKS, PHIL LAPADULA, RYAN LEE, BRIAN MOYLAN, KEVIN NAFF, YUSEF NAJAFI, KEN SAIN, RHONDA SMITH, STEVE WEINSTEIN, ANDY ZEFFER

Contributors DON MAINES, DAWN RORIE, ELLA TYLER, J.A. CHAPMAN AND RICH ARENSCHIEDT

Photographers DALTON DEHART,

KIMBERLY THOMPSON

Art Director ROB BOEGER

Webmaster ARAM VARTIAN

SALES & ADMINISTRATION

Sales Director

CARRIE FISHER

cfisher@window-media.com

Classified Sales / Office Administrator

JOHNNY HOOKS

jhooks@houstonvoice.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media • 212-242-6863



Publisher- WINDOW MEDIA LLC
 President- WILLIAM WAYBOURN
 Editorial Director- CHRIS CRAIN
 Corporate Controller- BARNETTE HOLSTON
 Corporate Art Director- ROB BOEGER
 Director of Operations- MIKE KITCHENS
 Director of Sales- CARRIE FISHER
 Director of Classified Sales- LEE HYLTON
 Marketing Manager - AUSTIN SNIPES



CHARTER MEMBER

Established 1974 as the *Montrose Star*.

500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200
 Houston, Texas 77006
 (713) 529-8490
 Fax: (713) 529-9531
 www.houstonvoice.com

Office hours: 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays

To submit a letter

Letters should be fewer than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for content and length. We will withhold names upon request, but you must include your name and phone number for verification. Please send mail to Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006; fax (713) 529-9531 or e-mail to editor@houstonvoice.com. Opinions expressed therein do not reflect those of the *Houston Voice*.

All material in *Houston Voice* is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced without the written consent of *Houston Voice*. The sexual orientation of advertisers, photographers, writers and cartoonists published herein is neither inferred or implied. The appearance of names or pictorial representation does not necessarily indicate the sexual orientation of that person or persons.

Houston Voice accepts unsolicited editorial material but cannot take responsibility for its return. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any submission. All rights revert to authors upon publication. Guidelines for freelance contributors are available upon request.

Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

JANUARY 6, 2006

PAGE 10

editorial

Parties defy 'cowboy logic'

When it comes to same-sex marriage, which party a governor belongs to will make little difference in most of the expected 2006 battleground states.

By MATTHEW A. HENNIE

DEMOCRATS COULD MAKE a comeback as chief executives in statehouses around the country in 2006, a year in which Republicans face a challenge in retaining governorships, according to a prediction in the *Wall Street Journal*.

And, according to the *Washington Times*, at least 16 states expect to wrestle with same-sex marriage in this new year. That means the political races could take on even more importance in states that face both a competitive gubernatorial race and a debate over gay marriage: Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New York and Wisconsin.

But would electing Democrats in those states make a difference? Maybe in some, but probably not in most.

WHEN IT COMES TO GAY MARRIAGE we too quickly paint Republicans with a broad brush as being the worst of the worst among elected officials. There's good reason for the stereotype, but many times our "allies" — the label often misused by us on many Democrats — shy away from the issue while Republicans take advantage of the political vacuum.

Anyone remember the presidential election in 2004? It's really the difference between a sin of commission and a sin of omission.

If voters oust GOP chief executives in several states, would it really matter? A look at a few — Alabama, Georgia, Massachusetts and Texas — provides very different answers.

In Texas, Republican Gov. Rick Perry faces a tough bid next year for a second full term. He's struggling within his party and a couple of Democrats are ready to pounce. Included among the challengers is Kinky Friedman, a mystery novelist, cowboy and singer who has launched an independent bid to replace Perry.

Perry supported Proposition 2, a ban on same-sex marriage that adopted by a landslide on Nov. 8. Friedman disavowed the constitutional ban as a GOP plan to use God to beef up its mailing lists, saying on "60 Minutes" and elsewhere that gay couples "have the right to be just as

miserable as the rest of us."

But Democrats in Texas, like their brethren from south Georgia, are as conservative as Republicans and unlikely to stand in the way of stripping away more rights from gay residents.

Even if Friedman — or less likely, a sympathetic Democrat — were to win next November, the issue is a done deal in Texas. Gay marriage is banned twice and Friedman's common sense approach — he calls it "cowboy logic" — to politics would make little difference.

IN GEORGIA, REPUBLICAN GOV.

Sonny Perdue is expected to face a tough battle against Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor or Secretary of State Cathy Cox, two Democrats fighting it out in their party primary. Perdue allowed legislation creating Amendment 1 to move through the General Assembly in 2004, though he did little publicly to advocate for it. Taylor said nothing about the measure publicly, while Cox criticized it.

Georgia voters loved it and overwhelmingly approved it.

Perdue has shown little appetite for delving into gay issues during his first term, leaving the legislative gay bashing to state lawmakers. He's even been given the chance to support an effort to ban adoptions by gay Georgians and refused to take the bait.

While Taylor worked behind the scenes in past legislative sessions to kill anti-gay legislation, he's becoming more conservative in his gubernatorial run and is attempting to paint Cox as a liberal. It's unlikely, then, that she will come out swinging in favor of gay civil rights.

Like in Texas, gay marriage in Georgia is banned twice. The only way the issue will resurface in the near term is when a judge rules sometime soon on a legal challenge to Amendment 1.

All in all, a change in chief executives wouldn't make much difference to gay marriage in Georgia. (What's needed is a change in the conservative GOP leadership in place in both the state House and Senate.)

IN ALABAMA — ONE OF FOUR STATES scheduled to hold votes on gay marriage in 2006 — a new governor might make a difference. Republican Gov. Bob Riley is

facing a party challenge from Roy Moore. The same Roy Moore who as a state Supreme Court justice installed a Ten Commandments monument in the state Judicial building.

Moore is also ardently anti-gay and while Riley is no friend to gay issues, Moore's campaign next year will give much attention to the same-sex marriage proposal. As governor, Moore would no doubt fight hard against efforts to overturn it once it passes and pursue other punitive anti-gay measures.

It's doubtful, though, that a Democratic gubernatorial candidate in conservative Alabama is going to voice opposition to the amendment. So in Alabama, a change from Republican to Democrat in the governor's mansion would do little, but a change from one Republican (Riley) to another (Moore) would spell trouble.

In Massachusetts, Republican Gov. Mitt Romney is retiring to forge a presidential bid for 2008. Romney supports a ban on gay marriage and has supported efforts in his home state to sidestep the hallmark court decision that allowed gay marriage there. With Romney out, it's hard to see that any viable candidate — Democrat or Republican — could be worse.

According to the *Washington Times*, lawmakers in Wisconsin and Virginia are likely to approve anti-gay marriage amendments next year, while petition drives in Arizona, Florida and Illinois may put amendments before voters.

Lawsuits regarding same-sex marriage are under way in California, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Washington state, according to the paper, though it leaves out the legal challenge in Georgia.

So in all, 17 states will likely deal with gay marriage next year while at the same time, Republicans attempt to keep the 22 of the 36 governorships up for grabs that they currently hold.

But in most states, when it comes to same-sex marriage, it won't matter whether a Republican or a Democrat gets elected. That's something we ought to keep in mind the next time we — without pause — condemn Republicans as chief executives and praise Democrats.

@ Matthew A. Hennie is editor of Southern Voice and can be reached at mhennie@sovo.com.



viewpoint RICH ARENSCHIEDT



We often get caught up in our lives that we sometimes forget to give the greatest gift: ourselves.

Answering life's central question

THANK GOSH CHRISTMAS...OOPS I meant to use my new nondenominational, nondescript, nonsectarian holiday greeting, "Christmasolsticachannukakwanza," is over.

Seems like the "season of miracles" had an extended run last year.

HOUSTON ESCAPED CALAMITY AND we assisted our neighbors with assimilation into our community.

President Bush has admitted weapons of mass destruction were a figment of his terrorist (it's a three syllable word, George) laden imagination. My right wing Republican dad quit the party and much to the elation of his two gay kids, became a very conservative Democrat. Additionally, there's a masterful (albeit

sorrowful) film about "fly" fishing from mamas who let their babies grow up to be (gay) cowboys.

Gas prices have fallen and pundits in Washington, D.C. tell us the economy has "absorbed" a hurricane related negative economic impact of about \$200 billion. I guess they skipped Econ 101 on the day we learned about "Lagging Economic Indicators." The stock market is up in its usual "Santa Claus" rally and Congress is protecting investment profits for the wealthy while inexorably linking the omnibus defense bill to drilling for oil in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge.

DOES ANYBODY REALLY COMPREHEND what's happening in the world? Everyone I talk to has their lederhosens in a knot

about job related uncertainty. People who've lost jobs can't find new ones and those who have jobs treat every workday as if it's their last, bewildered by the fact that their jobs could be transferred to Kuala Lumpur by 9 a.m. tomorrow.

How are people responding? They are spending lots of money and buying lots of stuff. Instead of relying on tangible increases in the job market or real income, continued escalation in the value of everyone's most ill-liquid asset, the home, has duped us all into thinking we have more "moola", spurring consumption. Low cost home equity loans and easy credit have people spending like the rapture is going to occur on Christmas Day. According to "CNN Money" the average consumer has 19 or more charge accounts—literally a house of cards.

What are we buying? Crap mostly. Small "me" centered gigabobs, TIVO, Netflix, MP3 players, video on demand and Ipods. We claim these items will enhance our existence and improve our entertainment. What's the one common denominator here? All of these gizmos serve to further isolate us, diminishing our interactions with each other and filtering our face-to-face contacts, further sterilizing interpersonal communication. Celler phone pictures have now replaced actually looking into a person's eyes to connect.

Everyone I know seems to be in a "hunker down and hoard" manner of working. Maybe it's the war—you think we were celebrating Christmas in Kabul. Driving around these last few days observing other motorists (and several accidents) you wonder if limited access to a shopping mall results in a life threatening condition. The "haves" are intent on "having" and the "have-nots" are increasingly angered and frustrated at being assaulted by ubiquitous messages to purchase items they can never obtain.

"What is my capacity for giving?" It's an interesting question in a world turning increasingly introspective. This examination isn't about the "open your checkbook" transfer of resources—Americans, as proven by this year's events, excel at this practice. This concerns something much more profound—how do we "spend" the moments we are given?

Contrary to popular belief time isn't money—the two things couldn't be more different. Money is cheap and time is valuable. You can always get and give more money, but once you have given your time away it is one of the few assets that cannot be reclaimed. What is our collective capacity to grant "time" to another?

How many times have we looked at, caller ID on our phones and seen the name of a friend or family member and muttered, "I don't have time to talk to them," only to find out from a subsequent voicemail the caller genuinely needed our immediate assistance?

THROUGHOUT THE WHIRLWIND OF December and January plan and be cognizant of the moments you give to those known and unknown to you. Be especially aware of individuals who have endured the death of a partner, parent, spouse or sibling during the last year. The holidays can serve as devastating remembrances of happier times. With some much loss of life over the last year, the sting of death could easily be blunted to us.

Re-examine your capacity for "gifting" your time this year. When racing along the straight-line yuletide trajectory of from-home to mall to party next holiday season, take the time to watch and listen for those children, women, and men who could benefit from little miracles.

Send letters and op-ed column submissions to eervin@houstonvoice.com.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION WE NEED TO ask in the midst of holiday maelstrom is,

@ Rich Arenschielt is a Houston-based freelance writer and can be reached at Rich_Arenschielt@hchd.tmc.edu.

THE Q

What is your New Year's resolution?



To do better than last year because everyone has room for improvement.

JOHN DANIELSON III, 46
Houston
Financial analyst



To quit smoking because even though a lot of people in our community smoke, we must take care of ourselves and our health since many of us do not have children to be available to help us as we get older.

MIKE KREUTZ, 28
Houston
Analyst



To redecorate my house. I want a new look for the new year.

SHARON STONE, 64
Houston
Hypnotist/life coach



I want to have more fun this year because last year was mostly spent on obligations that make it possible to have more fun this year.

STEVE RILEY, 33
Houston
Engineer



I want to lose weight because a friend of mine and I made a bet and the loser has to pay the winner \$500.

SUZY LOVEJOY, 44
Houston
Schoolteacher

Sound off about what's happening in your world at www.houstonvoice.com/soundoff.

Interviews and photos by Dalton DeHart

to the



NEXT LEVEL!

Take Your LIFE

Start 2006 With A
Spiritual Power Surge!

January 8, 15, 22, 29
9 am & 11 am

*"Never underestimate
your power to change!"*
~ H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

RESURRECTION
Metropolitan Community Church
2025 West 11th St. ~ Houston, Texas 77008 (713) 861-9149
www.resurrectionmcc.org

JOSE MCDONALD
MORTGAGE CORPORATION

5444 WESTHEIMER RD #1560 HOUSTON TX 77056 TXMB 49346

BAD CREDIT EXPERTS

- Many "NO MONEY DOWN" Programs
- ZERO DOWN on Rental/Investment Property
- Home Loans Down to a 500 Credit Score
- No Income Verification Loans
- Call us about our \$1,000 Move In
- Bankruptcy, Repo, Collections, We Can Help

"Service so FAST & EASY it should be in the personals!"

STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY

ENDLESS FINANCIAL OPTIONS

CALL & GET APPROVED IN 20 MINUTES FREE

281-658-7220



Jason Baca
MANAGING LOAN OFFICER
TXLO 55934

on the record



"Let me say that I am incredibly proud that in the most diverse city in the world, diversity is seen as a strength, and not an impediment."

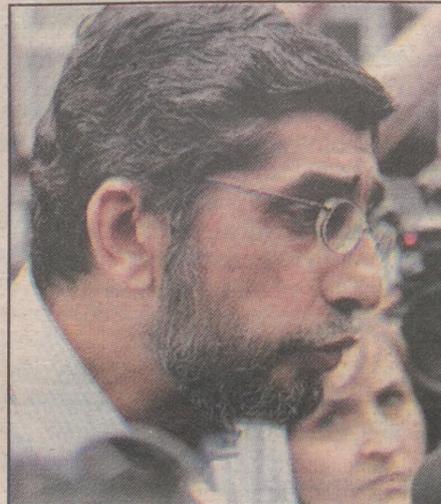
Christine Quinn, on her election Wednesday as the first gay speaker of the New York City Council (Associated Press, Jan. 4)

"Dawn and I are private people, and we simply wish to live our lives in peace and quiet, just as other married couples are permitted to do."

Kathy Reynolds, reacting to the decision by the Judicial Appeals Tribunal of the Cherokee nation rejecting challenges to her marriage to Dawn McKinley, the first gay marriage in the Native American tribe (Tulsa World, Jan. 4)

"I think it's interesting that an American would see fit to contribute to a campaign because she sees the threat of the right in Canada."

Peg Norman, a lesbian running for a seat in Canada's parliament, on why Rosie O'Donnell offered money to help her campaign; Norman had to refuse because Canadian law prohibits donations from non-citizens (Canadian Press, Dec. 26)



"[Homosexuality] is a practice that in terms of health, in terms of the moral issues that comes along in a society, it is not acceptable. Each of our faiths tells us that it is harmful."

Sir Iqbal Sacranie, head of the moderate Muslim Council of Britain (BBC Radio 4, Jan. 3)

"This is an absurd medieval view. One should separate the religious from the secular. Such general condemnation is no longer acceptable in a civilized modern world."

Alan Duncan, the first openly gay Conservative member of the British Parliament, reacting to Sir Iqbal's comments (Pink News, Jan. 4)

"What is wrong with being fearful of Islam? (There is a lot to fear) ... What does a moderate Muslim do, other than excuse the real nutters by adhering to this barmy doctrine?"

George Broadhead, secretary of the British Gay & Lesbian Humanist Association, writing in the December issue of the group's magazine, which also complained that Islam is growing "like a canker" in the U.K. through "unrestrained and irresponsible breeding" (Guardian, Jan. 2)

"A couple of the younger girls on the writing staff said, 'Well, there are these cults of lesbian vampires.' Another said, 'Oh, yeah, it's called getting embraced; I got embraced.'"

Ilene Chaiken, lesbian creator of Showtime's "The L Word," on discussions among the show's writers about a plot line on lesbian vampires in the upcoming season (Associated Press, Jan. 3)

"It would be very tough for someone in that situation. You're talking men, testosterone, egos."

Denver Broncos running back Mike Anderson, on how NFL teams would react to an openly gay player, though he said he would have no personal issues with it (Denver Post, Jan. 2)

"Man, I can't even go there. This is like the taboo subject. It's like talking about race or something. If you talk about it, you're just going to get slaughtered."

PGA Tour golfer and ABC television analyst Paul Azinger, on how male golfers would react to an openly gay player (Denver Post, Jan. 2)

"Having to face a month before he died the realization that my father was a homosexual or bisexual, ... that was so shocking and there was no suspicion of that in our lives, not even in my mother's, who had been married to him for 25 years."

Author Susan Bergman, 48, who died this week of brain cancer, on the motivation behind "Anonymity," the book she wrote about her father's death from AIDS after a lifetime of hidden homosexuality; Bergman's sister is actress Anne Heche, who had a relationship with Ellen DeGeneres before marrying a man (Associated Press, Jan. 2)

eclipse



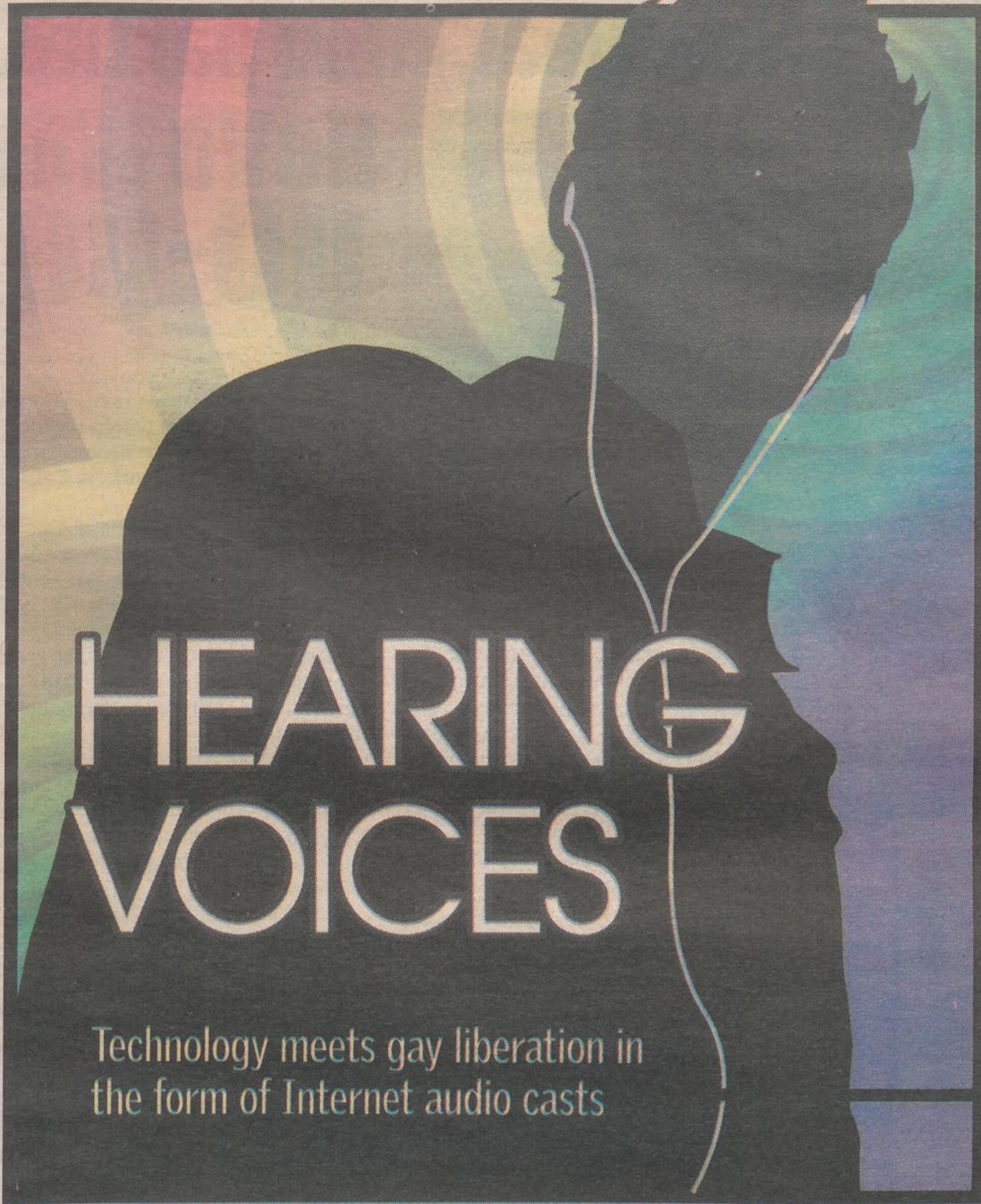
Fashion police

Fashion designer Tom Ford, former creative force behind Gucci, reportedly throws fit on 'Vanity Fair' photo shoot. Page 17

GAY HOUSTON NIGHTLIFE, ARTS & CULTURE

www.houstonvoice.com

JANUARY 6, 2006



Miles Smith and Steve Friess



Madge Weinstein

By GREG MARZULLO

PODCASTING is the newest technology craze and several gay podcasters are at the forefront of the medium.

Anyone with a computer, a microphone and a website can create their own radio show and post it to the Internet. Some podcasts, the name of the Web

radio shows, are pure journalism replete with interviews, and some are audio diaries with people talking about their mundane household chores.

Unlike radio shows though, listeners don't have to be sitting at the other end of a receiver to catch all the action. Podcasters (those creating these aural documents) record their program and post it to a website. The audience then downloads the show and listens

to it whenever they get a chance or feel the urge.

According to some podcasters, hearing a voice is a more powerful experience than reading the written words of a blog.

"Reading is reading — that's fine," says gay podcaster Meynard, who hosts a podcast for bears at www.bearpodcast.com. "It's good to hear the voice of the real author, the real podcaster. You can even hear the expression. It has more impact." Meynard says

he uses a pseudonym because he is not out to his parents.

Steve Friess, based in Las Vegas, hosts a show with his partner, Miles Smith, called "The Strip," and, according to him, listening to someone's vocal expression can do more for an audience member than reading an author's words.

"The most effective part of the Holocaust Museum in D.C. is the room where they play the audio testimonial of survivors," Friess says. Likewise, the most effective means to reach out to Web surfers is through downloadable radio shows, he adds. GAY PODCASTERS COMPRISE a variety of voices addressing a range of topics. The shows range from the highly charged political to the inexplicably mundane.

Chicago resident Richard Bluestein, 38, hosts a popular gay podcast. His drag persona is the "bloated super dyke" Madge

Weinstein, and it's her personality that holds sway over at the podcasting show, "Yeast Radio."

"A year ago when Bush 'won' the second election, I was really pissed off," Bluestein says, and this became the jumpstart for his show. "I expressed outrage, and people need to express outrage — liberal or progressive or whatever we are." Madge had been a character for years in the theatrical circuit, but podcasting gave her opinionated voice an extended shelf life that is now available to listeners all over the world.

Las Vegas-based Friess, who works as a freelance journalist, and his partner Smith, who works as a radio and television producer, take a more journalistic approach rather than a rant on the day's events and their professions helped them to

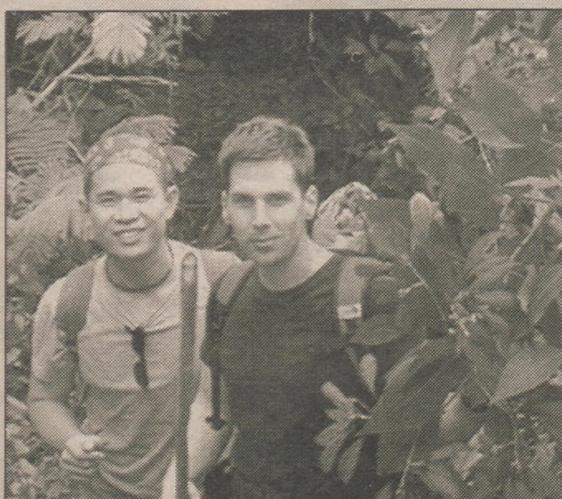
Please see **PODCASTING** on Page 19

DINING: It's a little space, but Bright & Early is big on breakfast and lunch. Page 15

NIGHTLIFE: Start 2006 off right with a party at one of the city's many hotspots. Page 14



Winter Getaways in Asia, Australia, New Zealand & More!



CALL FOR FREE CATALOG

Australia, Cambodia, China, Costa Rica, India,
New Zealand, Saba, Sri Lanka, & Thailand

Start the New Year with a new adventure. Tour Cambodia's temples of Angkor Wat or relax on Vietnam's China Beach; enjoy Bangkok's nightlife or Sydney's Gay Mardi Gras; see the Taj Mahal or experience Costa Rica. Join us for an in-depth tour of a new corner of the world.

Alyson Adventures ♦ Hanns Ebensten Travel

800-825-9766 ♦ 305-294-8174

www.AlysonAdventures.com ♦ www.HETravel.com

houston voice

Help Wanted

Window Media, publisher of the Houston Voice, seeks sales representatives for its growing Houston display sales departments.

Successful candidates will be self-motivated, energetic individuals with strong presentation skills and a burning desire to succeed. Experience in advertising sales preferred.

Competitive compensation package and benefits.

Equal opportunity employer.

Contact Carrie Fisher at
cfisher@window-media.com

nightlife JOHNNY HOOKS



DJs spin at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston to help celebrate the works, life of famed New York City artist.

New year, new parties

WELCOME TO 2006 MY DEARS! SINCE everyone is planning ahead, making resolutions and getting their life in order, let's look at some events you will not want to miss.

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN TO THE Museum of Fine Arts, Houston to gaze at the wonder of **Jean Michel Basquiat's** incredible work, make it a priority to do so before it leaves in February.

Sure, it seems like a long way off, but before you know it, the exhibit will be gone. Having wandered around the giant works of Basquiat several times now, I am still seeing new elements to pieces. There is so much to see, the works are so detailed and so vibrant, you should really go more than once. Admission is only \$7, which is a bargain.

A super fun way to see the exhibit and take a trip back in time is to experience their special evening packages with DJ's, films from the 1980s and cash bar. Thousands have been showing up for these limited edition events and raving about the madness they bring.

The next event is planned for Saturday, Jan. 14 from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. They are really pulling out all the stops for this penultimate event. Hear **DJ Shepard Fairey**, also known as Obey Giant from Los Angeles, as well as **DJ Ceeplus and the House of Bad Knives and DJ Samp**, from the "Reprogram" show on Houston's own 90.1 KPFT radio, and **DJ Starsign** from Austin.

HotGG is most excited by the live performance from **I am the World Trade Center**, who hail from Athens. This alternative-indie band is an up and coming group that will have you saying "I saw them when" once they hit the mainstream. As always, the event is hosted by **Craig "BBC" Long** and **"The Bench All Star B-Boy Crew."**

Also, when was the last time you saw the movie **"Xanadu"** on the big screen? Ok, maybe never, you babes in the woods, but it is a disco wonder to behold. HotGG has always believed this movie would be a great remake for Britney Spears! It starts at midnight, and in case you don't know, combines the swinging tunes of the 1940s with the glitter-ball disco music of the 1970s and the then-emerging New Wave sound. Admission is only \$10. For more information, visit www.mfah.org or call 713-639-7300. The museum is located at 1001 Bissonnet St.

FRIDAY, JAN. 6 COME UNHINGED with a great party. **David Lewis**, of **David Lewis Images** sends this fabu-

HoVo on the go-go

lous invite over for all you kids. **Unhinged Productions** invites their VIP Circle (that's you) to join their board of directors at the opening night party of their newest show, **"A Tale of Two Cities."**

Everett Quinton's "A Tale of Two Cities" is a hilarious one-man adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic about the French Revolution. Heads will be rolling, with laughter of course! The opening night celebration will be at Stages Repertory Theatre and will begin at 7 p.m. with the performance starting at 8 p.m.

According to a press release, this is one wacky adaptation of "A Tale of Two Cities". An aspiring drag performer opens his door and finds, "What in the gay hell?", a baby on his doorstep.

"He's a straight baby, but we can co-exist," the performer says. I know it can be done."

To stop the baby from crying, he proceeds to tell it a Grimm fairy tale. When this proves insufficient, he performs the entire narrative of Dickens' classic story about the French Revolution, playing all the roles—male and female! Don't miss this event. RSVP by e-mailing **Tricia Lynn** at tlynn@houston.rr.com or by calling 281-353-5843. Stages Repertory Theatre is located at 3201 Allen Parkway, one block west of the Waugh and Allen intersection.

FINALLY HOP OVER TO **SOUTH BEACH** (the nightclub) on Saturday Jan. 7 and enter to win \$500 cash or a free trip for two to Miami's South Beach. The drawing will be at 1 a.m. Then on Wednesday, Jan. 11 you can enter to win tickets to the **Ricky Martin** concert here. Remember "She bangs, she bangs!" The drawings are at 11:30 p.m., 12:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.southbeachthenightclub.com.

@ If you have any club announcements or events, e-mail them to jhooks@houstonvoice.com or call 713-529-8490. See you on the Go-Go!

dining J.A. CHAPMAN

Houston coffee pioneer's grandson
teams up with restaurateur and turns
old car wash into breakfast, lunch spot.

Off to a good start

THIS YEAR MAKE A NEW YEAR'S resolution that's easy to keep. Vow to drink only the best coffee and then treat yourself to a perfectly roasted cup at Bright & Early.

Bright & Early, a tiny drive-through coffee kiosk, has been a fixture on the corner of Washington and Durham for several years. The former car wash location may not look like much from the outside, but it houses some of the very best coffee available in Houston.

Bright & Early is co-owned by Ben Berryhill of Café Annie fame and Mills Duncan of the Duncan Coffee Company. Great-grandson and namesake of Houston coffee pioneer Herschel Mills Duncan, the younger Duncan revived the family business in 1997.

Duncan Coffee uses the finest Arabica beans and delivers all coffee immediately after roasting. The difference is immediately apparent. As my coffee fanatic friend commented, "Now, that's a good cup of coffee."

Bright & Early is named after Duncan's great-grandfather's first coffee blend, and it's an appropriate name for this breakfast and lunch spot. Both sides of the tiny kiosk have drive-through windows, or you can step inside to order and eat at one of the small tables out front.

The coffees are a smooth medium-roast and vary daily. A regular cup of coffee ranges from \$1.25 to \$2.25 and specialty drinks are \$2.90 to \$3.90.

The café Mexicano, boasting a blend of chocolate and cinnamon, is a spicy way to start your day. Chocoholics will appreciate the mocha, which packs a real chocolate punch.

A variety of breakfast items are available, all easily eaten in the car. The omelet-in-a-cup (\$2.29) is an ingenious mixture of eggs, cheddar cheese and ham or bacon, all swirled together on one of the milk steamers. It's remarkably light and tasty. I asked one of the cashiers how they came up with it. She shrugged her shoulders, gave a little chuckle and said, "someone was bored one day, I guess."

If eggs aren't your thing, choose from an assortment of breakfast pastries, from bagels (\$1.49) to Krispy Kreme donuts (\$0.79) to kolaches with fruit, bacon, sausage or ham (\$0.99-\$2.39). Be sure to get there early if you want a fruit kolache. On a recent visit, they were sold out by 8:00 a.m.

Bright & Early also serves lunch, ranging from salads to sandwiches and wraps, made fresh to your specifications. The Dijon smoked turkey sandwich (\$7.95) is a hefty helping of nicely smoked turkey, American cheese, and Dijon mustard, with your choice of toppings. All sand-



Bright & Early serves up breakfast and lunch items in a tiny space.

wiches and wraps come with chips and a drink, making them a real meal.

The people at Bright & Early are very friendly, which is part of its charm. They'll chat with you and help you decide what to order. Unlike some larger chain coffee shops, it seems like the folks here are genuinely interested in making sure you're happy.

Beware the drive-through microphones don't work as well as they could. Orders made on both drive-through didn't get communicated clearly, resulting in a hold up at the cashier. Both times the mix-ups were fixed quickly and with a smile.

It's a little unclear as to what the name of the coffee shop really is because only the outside signs bear the Bright & Early name. However, all cups, take-out menus and coffee club cards show the Duncan Coffee Company logo.

Employees hinted that the shop might be changing its name to the Duncan Deli to more accurately reflect the relationship with the coffee company, but it still sounds a little uncertain.

No matter what it's called, Bright & Early serves up some of the very best coffee in Houston. Drinking this delicious, locally roasted brew is an easy resolution to keep.



Bright & Early

4825 Washington Ave.
Houston, Texas 77007
713-861-9588

www.duncancoffee.com

Food: 101 101 101 101
Service: 101 101 101 101
Value: 101 101 101 1/2
Scene: 101 101 101

☛ = Stay home and eat cereal
101 101 = Well, if you really must
101 101 101 = Fine for all but the finicky
101 101 101 101 = Worth more than a 20-minute drive
101 101 101 101 101 = As good as you'll find in this city

7 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATIONS
INCLUDING
BEST PICTURE DRAMA
BEST DIRECTOR • ANG LEE BEST ACTOR • HEATH LEDGER
BEST SCREENPLAY • LARRY MCMURTRY & DIANA OSSANA
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS • MICHELLE WILLIAMS

"A BIG, SWEEPING, AND RAPTUREOUS HOLLYWOOD LOVE STORY!"
It could turn out to be the most revolutionary movie of the year. A film in which love feels almost as if it were being invented."
— OWEN GLEIBERMAN, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

★★★★★! UNMISSABLE AND UNFORGETTABLE!"
PETER TRAVERS, ROLLING STONE

★★★★★. EXQUISITE IN ITS BEAUTY...
Ledger's work is a masterpiece."
— AMY BIANCOLLI, HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Los Angeles Film Critics Association Winner
New York Film Critics Circle Winner
Boston Society of Film Critics Winner
San Francisco Film Critics Circle Winner
Dallas-Fort Worth Film Critics Association Winner
Southeastern Film Critics Association Winner
St. Louis Gateway Film Critics Association Winner
Florida Film Critics Circle Winner
Utah Film Critics Association Winner
Las Vegas Film Critics Society Winner

BEST PICTURE

HEATH LEDGER
JAKE GYLLENHAAL

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
LOVE IS A FORCE OF NATURE

R www.brokebackmountain.com ARTWORK ©2005 FOCUS FEATURES LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. FOCUS FEATURES

PREMIERE ENGAGEMENTS NOW PLAYING!

CINEMARK CINEMARK @ MARKET ST Six Pines Rd @ Lake Robbins 800/FANDANGO #2117	EDWARDS THEATRES MARQ'E 23 Katy Frwy @ Silber Rd 800/FANDANGO #371	LANDMARK THEATRES RIVER OAKS 2009 W. Gray St. 713/866-8861	AMC STUDIO 30 2949 Dunvale 281/319-4AMC	AMC WILLOWBROOK 24 Hwy 249 & Gessner Rd 281/319-4AMC
--	--	--	---	--

Share your feelings about the film, the connections you felt and how watching it might have brought back memories of your own at www.brokebackmountain.com

Don't Get Sold Out! For advance ticket sales log on to www.fandango.com or www.movietickets.com
For group sales information log on to www.brokebackmountain.com/groupsales or please call 877-BROKEBACK.

Fort Lauderdale Real Estate

ANDY WEISER
Put Coldwell Banker's
Top Producer to work for You

954-560-9667

COLDWELL BANKER

www.AndyWeiser.com

GIVE YOUR GOOD TASTE THE HOME IT DESERVES

Qualify as one of our Home Managers and you get to live in a luxurious home that you enjoy at a cost far lower than you'd imagine. Visit our website at www.showhomes.com to see how you can start living this enviable and surprisingly affordable lifestyle today.

showhomes
from vacant house to valued home

www.showhomes.com
2425 West Loop South #200 Houston Texas 77027
(713) 629-4440 Office

New Year's Resolution: Look FABULOUS!

SKIN Renaissance

L A S E R C E N T E R

Give Yourself the Gift of Beauty...
5 or 10 years younger
 is more affordable
 than you think!

Skin Rejuvenation for
 Wrinkles • Rosacea • Melasma
 Brown Spots/Blemishes
 Facial Sagging • Face Veins

Also:

Hair Removal • Acne (active & scars)
 Laser Peel/Resurfacing
 Botox® • Restylane® • Radiesse™ • Sculptra™

Gay owned and operated!

Call for your FREE consultation!

713.942.SKIN (7546)

106 Westheimer at Bagby

See before and after pictures at
www.skinrenaissance.net

Octavio Barrios, M.D.

houston VOICE

Help Wanted

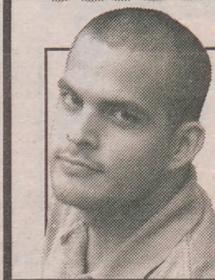
Window Media, publisher of the Houston Voice,
 seeks sales representatives for its growing
 Houston display sales departments.

Successful candidates will be self-motivated, ener-
 getic individuals with strong presentation skills and
 a burning desire to succeed. Experience
 in advertising sales preferred.

Competitive compensation package and bene-
 fits.
 Equal opportunity employer.

Contact Carrie Fisher at
cfisher@window-media.com

television RYAN LEE



Bravo show features gay weddings,
 but the result isn't as authentic as
 one Atlanta participant expected.

Lights, camera — reality

JONATHAN JAXSON NEVER THOUGHT about how scripted reality TV program-
 ming actually is, until his same-sex wed-
 ding ceremony was recorded for Bravo's
 latest reality hit, "Party/Party."

When invited by the gay-friendly cable
 network to participate in the show —
 which looks each week at the unique
 ways two families plan the same type of
 party — Jaxson says he expected a single
 camera crew to spend about three days
 with him and his partner, Jeff Ward, as
 they prepared to wed in Jacksonville, Fla.

Instead, Bravo sent at least five cam-
 era teams to record almost the entire
 month of October. The show turned out
 to be more scripted than the documen-
 tary format Jaxson expected. The fin-
 ished product airs on Jan. 17.

"I realized the reality of reality TV,
 and how everything is so staged and put
 together and such," says Jaxson, 21. "It
 really took away from the moments we
 had for ourselves."

During supposedly "confessional"
 interviews, Jaxson, Ward and their
 guests were routinely asked to do re-
 takes, and were coached to "have a little
 more anger because [Bravo] wanted
 drama," Jaxson says.

The show's producers even decided
 that Jaxson's best friend should "sur-
 prise" him by attending the wedding.
 Jaxson was already expecting his best
 friend, so he had to act surprised — com-
 plete with faux tears.

PART OF THE DRAMA BRAVO EXECU-
 tives wanted to explore is the May-
 September relationship between Jaxson
 and Ward, who is 41.

The two first met online in 2001, short-
 ly after Jaxson moved to Atlanta. Jaxson
 was living on the streets after his parents
 essentially disowned by him for coming
 out of the closet on "The Sally Jesse
 Raphael Show."

On their first date, the men strolled
 from Outwrite Bookstore &
 Coffeehouse to Piedmont Park. On their
 second date, Jaxson moved in with
 Ward in Kennesaw.

"He helped me understand what a
 relationship is all about," Jaxson says.

Jaxson nonchalantly proposed to
 Ward in 2001 during a stroll in New
 York's Central Park, but the two made



Part-time Atlanta residents Jeff Ward (left) and
 Jonathan Jaxson exchange vows on the Jan. 10
 episode of Bravo's reality series 'Party/Party.'
 (Photo courtesy Bravo)

their engagement official during a
 Jamaican cruise last summer.

A venue in St. Simon's Island initially
 refused to host the wedding, forcing
 Jaxson and Ward to move the ceremony
 to their hometown, Jacksonville. The cou-
 ple, who still own a home in Kennesaw,
 wanted to marry in the conservative city
 as a symbolic gesture, Jaxson says.

"We didn't want to travel to Toronto,
 and we didn't want to go to
 Massachusetts — we wanted to have it
 here in Florida, one of the worst states to
 try to get married as a gay couple,"
 Jaxson says. "We didn't want people who
 are gay or lesbian to feel limited by a doc-
 ument. We don't need a document to
 make it official; we have it in our hearts."

ANOTHER DRAMATIC STORYLINE
 incorporated into the "Party/Party"
 episode is Jaxson's fruitless efforts to
 have either of his parents at the wed-
 ding. His 72-year-old grandmother
 attended and expressed her support for
 the first time.

"Between the drama, there was so
 much love and compassion, and I really
 think that really comes through in the
 episode," Jaxson says.

Jaxson and Ward's wedding was a
 \$50,000, South Beach-themed affair held
 in Alltel Stadium, home of the NFL's
 Jacksonville Jaguars.

"It was really cool to see these people
 who worked at the stadium in
 Jacksonville — it was the first time any
 of them met gay people, and they have a
 whole other perception now," Jaxson
 says. "The great thing was we were able
 to have our wedding on film, and break a
 lot of stereotypes for viewers, and show
 them we're just people, and we love."

On the episode, their party is contrast-
 ed to the muted marriage ceremony of a
 conservative gay couple from Miami.

i MORE INFO

'Party/Party: Gay Weddings'
 Jan. 17, Midnight
 Bravo
http://www.bravotv.com/Party_Party/

dish

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

Label whore

Ford's fashion disaster, Olivier revealed, and movie 'Idol'

FORMER GUCCI DESIGNER **TOM FORD** likes his models to be clothed in the perfect garments, even if that means tearing the clothes apart.

Ford is the come-hither hottie who helped Gucci reach its billion-dollar fashion superpower status before retiring from the company in 2004.

Currently he is the creative director for Vanity Fair's upcoming Hollywood issue, and according to the New York Post's gossipy Page Six, the big cheeses at the magazine are getting nervous.

The source-on-the-set from the photo shoots in Los Angeles said the fashion assistants have been forced into tearing labels out of non-designer clothes.

"He would like a dress and then look at the label and send it back because he hates that particular designer," the Post's source says.

Finally, one of the peons decided to trump Ford's finicky demands and cut out the labels altogether.

All of this is supposedly making Vanity Fair's editor **GRAYDON CARTER** a little edgy.

"Graydon's a conservative guy, and Tom's out there telling people everyone in the issue's going to be naked," the source says, adding that the entire situation has been a big fiasco.

Sir and sir

Gay rumors have long swirled around the British lion of stage and screen **Sir LAURENCE OLIVIER**, but the latest biography of the actor helps to set the record, um, straight.

Though Olivier was married to Scarlet O'Hara herself, **VIVIEN LEIGH**, and later got hitched to another famed British actress, **JOAN PLOWRIGHT**, there were rumors of sexual dalliances with men.

The author of the newest biography, simply titled

"Olivier," was written by Terry Coleman, an English journalist, novelist and historian. Coleman told the Associated Press that verifying the bisexual rumors was difficult.

"I did check it and talked to a number of people," Coleman said.

Another Olivier biography suggested that Olivier was romantically involved with well-loved comic actor **DANNY KAYE**, who allegedly was gay.

"What I did find was evidence of a homosexual affair in 1937 with an actor



The chest-hair sporting, ever seductive designer **Tom Ford** gets all 'Mommie Dearest' on the set of the photo shoot for Vanity Fair's Hollywood issue. (Photo by AP/Jennifer Graylock)

called Henry Ainley," Coleman told the AP. "[Ainley] was a big name of the 1910s and 1920s. I'm not sure this is a terribly important thing."

Well, it may not be important, but it's certainly relevant. And frankly, my dear Coleman, we do give a damn.

Idol worship

Dish has been known to joke about how gay certain "American Idol" runners-up may be, but there is no joking about **WILL YOUNG**, the original gay idol.

Young, who won Britain's first "Pop Idol," on which the Fox version is based, is now making his silver screen debut in "Mrs. Henderson Presents." Based on a true story, the movie follows Laura Henderson (the ever-incredible Dame **JUDI DENCH**) who transformed a run-down theater into England's answer to the Moulin Rouge during World War II.

"Pop Idol," debuted in the U.K. in 2002. Young came out just after winning the show and that didn't stop his first single "Anything Is Possible/Evergreen" from selling like hot cakes.

In the movie, young plays a World War II stage performer. Director **STEPHEN FREARS** (who made gay favorites "Dangerous Liaisons" and "My Beautiful Laundrette") had some trepidation in hiring Young, according to Newsweek, and he auditioned the singer eight times for the role.



Sir Laurence Olivier



Will Young



Send comments, suggestions to Dish@houstonvoice.com

relax
WITH US

UPPER DECK HOTEL & BAR SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

- 30 MINUTES FROM MEXICO
- TWO HOT TUBS
- NEW HEATED SWIMMING POOL
- BAR AND RESTAURANT
- FISHING, HORSEBACK RIDING, WIND SURFING, SAILING AND MUCH MORE!
- 1/2 BLOCK FROM THE BEACH
- TRAVEL AGENT BOOKINGS WELCOME



UPPER DECK HOTEL & BAR
South Padre Island Texas
956-761-5953 • GayPadre@UpperDeckHotel.com
www.UpperDeckHotel.com

CUBBIE'S BONE



professional pet sitting services

We're tail waggin' good...no woofin'!

ALEXIS SALAZAR
OWNER

SERVING HOUSTON'S
INNER LOOP

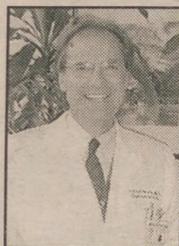
t 832.338.8307
f 713.636.9473

asalazar188@houston.rr.com

INSURED & BONDED



HEMORRHOIDS?



Why Suffer Needlessly?
Non-Surgical "Lunch-Hour" Procedure
Virtually Painless • Affordable
PARK PLAZA GASTROENTEROLGY & ASSOCIATES
Experienced Board Certified M.D.
Plaza Medical Center • Museum District

1200 Binz Street • Suite 1198
713.522.1788
www.FredWorthMD.com

cover story

'Book of Daniel' offers several strong gay characters

TV DRAMAS, continued from Page 1

The 'Word' is out

"YOUR OTHER GLOVE IS DOWNSTAIRS," Ilene Chaiken, the lesbian creator, executive producer and writer of "The L Word," tells one of her daughters moments before the child gets on the bus to go to school.

Though she is familiar with motherhood, Chaiken, 48, says that the relationship and struggles of "The L Word's" new mothers, Bette (Jennifer Beals) and Tina (Laurel Holloman), aren't based on her life.

"My having a child has informed their story," she says. "The arguments we have about parenting — you can't get away from that experience. But their story, the dramatic narrative of their story is not taken from my life."

The introduction of baby Angelica isn't the only change for the third season of the show.

"I had a very specific notion about how I wanted this season to work when we set out," Chaiken says. "The second season was a little darker than I like to go. We tend to deal with real issues, and sometimes it tries to get dark."

"I loved the fun and humor of the first season and it seems our audience did too," she adds. "We made a conscious decision to go back to that and make it more talky and paced like life as we see it and go to the humor whenever we could. It's not an out-and-out comedy, but it's more funny."

And the humor often comes from class clown Alice (Leisha Hailey), who at the outset of the season is hysterically hysterical about her recent breakup with Dana (Erin Daniels).

Also adding some zest this season is gay actor Alan Cumming as outré "pansexual" club promoter Billie Blaike, who comes onboard to help Kit (Pam Grier) run her restaurant The Planet.

But the most prominent addition to the cast is Daniela Sea as Moira, a butch lesbian who Jenny (Mia Kirshner) befriends when living at her parents' house in the Midwest. Jenny brings Moira back to Los Angeles.

Without giving too much away, Moira eventually decides to make the transition to become a man.

"The transgender story for us is a big story," Chaiken says. "In our group [of writers], we had a number of women who had exes who were now men or becoming men and going through the permutations of gender redefinition."

Chaiken says the most difficult aspect of the story was finding an actress who was believable in the role.

"I was aware that it could be gruesome if we cast someone you didn't believe," she says. "On the occasions when Hollywood decides to do trans stories, it can be really bad. Having lived in a community and known lots of transgender people, we know there are certain things we look for in mannerism and voice, and I wanted it to be real."

Daniella was the one person who I absolutely believed in this part."

Not by the 'Book'

JACK KENNY, THE GAY CREATOR OF "The Book of Daniel," is tired of the media calling his show's central character, Episcopalian Rev. Daniel Webster (Aiden Quinn), "pill-popping."

"[The adjective makes] it sound like he encourages it," Kenny, 47, says. "Yes he has a problem with prescription medication. He's struggling with it and trying to overcome it as we all struggle with our weakness on a daily basis — whether its donuts or vodka."

At first blush, the show makes it sound like it would be a gritty independent movie. The wealthy, Vicodin "struggling" minister who talks to Jesus (no, really) has a wife who loves her afternoon martini, a drug-dealing daughter, a randy adopted Asian son, and a gay son who isn't entirely out of the closet.

In the hands of Kenny, a veteran sitcom writer, the show takes on a fun levity that likens these character twists to everyday struggles.

"I suppose in the back of my head there was the voice saying that there weren't many sitcoms going on at the time, so I made the switch over [to



A med student played by Christian Campbell (left) finds it hard to be the gay son of a prominent minister (Aiden Quinn) on NBC's 'The Book of Daniel.' (Photo by Justin Lubin)

drama],” says Kenny, who created “Titus” and “Wanda at Large” for Fox with his writing partner Brian Hargrove and also worked on NBC’s sitcom “Caroline in the City” for two years.

“So many writers have done that,” Kenny continues. “I think it’s a question if you can write good characters and good dialogue and good stories, then you can do it in any format.”

And there are plenty of good characters on “Daniel.” Peter Webster (“Trick’s”

Christian Campbell) is like David Fischer from “Six Feet Under,” the over-achiever of the family who is dealing with the loss of his twin brother. Though he is out to the immediate family, he’s still in the closet at work as a med student and at church. The character says he doesn’t want to be labeled as the minister’s “openly gay” son.

Kenny says that the character is based more on his partner of 24 years than himself.

“He is from that WASP world where we don’t talk about things, we keep it private and keep it to ourselves,” Kenny says. “That’s a very WASP mentality. It’s not about shame it’s about privacy.”

Also on the show is Daniel’s sister-in-law Victoria (Cheryl White) who starts a relationship with her husband’s secretary, Jesse (Alana De La Gaza), after her husband leaves town. Rather than describing her as a lesbian, Kenny refers to her as a “swinging pendulum of sexual orientation.”

There’s also a gay mobster who gets involved with the building of the church’s new school.

With so many gay characters, Kenny doesn’t want to give critics the wrong idea, he says.

“I don’t want people to think I have an agenda,” he says. “My only agenda is to tell good stories.”

Women from 'L'

The lovely lesbians of Los Angeles can be hard to keep track of. Here's a refresher course.

Bette Porter

(Jennifer Beals): Sexy and fashionable, art curator Bette is at the center of a circle of lesbian friends. At the end of season two, Bette lost her job but got back together with Tina, her partner of seven years.



Tina Kennard (Laurel Holloman): Though she's been together with Bette for years and gave birth to their daughter Angelica, this is the first lesbian relationship for the former movie executive.

Kit Porter (Pam Grier): Bette's straight half sister is a former singer and recovering alcoholic. She stays in the ladies' lives as the owner of The Planet, their local hangout.



Shane McCutcheon (Katherine Moening): Butch hairstylist Shane was the love 'em and leave 'em type that all the ladies wanted (and had), until she settled down with Carmen.

Jenny Schecter (Mia Kirshner): Jenny moved next door to Bette and Tina with her boyfriend, but the writer eventually discovered her true orientation. After suffering a nervous breakdown last season, she returned to her parent's house in the Midwest.



Carmen de la Pica (Sarah Shahi): The hottest DJ in town, Jenny and Shane fought it out over this hottie before she chose Shane. However, Carmen's family doesn't know their relationship is romantic.



Dana Fairbanks (Erin Daniels): A pro tennis player and Olivia cruise spokesperson, Dana outed herself to the world. In the process she dropped Alice for her former flame Lara.



Alice Pieszecki (Leisha Hailey): Often the comic relief, this bisexual radio host is obsessive about her love interests, especially her ex Dana.



Helena Peabody (Rachel Shelley): This wealthy Brit can have just about anything she wants, except the new object of her affection.

eclipse

Gay voices are streaming over Internet podcasts

PODCASTING, continued from Page 13

focus the show's direction.

"We saw a great opportunity to do journalism, to do real interviews with prominent people," Friess says. Past shows have included the mayor of Las Vegas, Oscar B. Goodman, Vegas hotel mogul Steve Wynn, and the stars of the city's production of the musical "Avenue Q."

"Our show is not necessarily gay inasmuch as we don't focus on gay issues," Friess says. "But we are gay and we love Broadway and entertainment. Sometimes our interests direct us that way."

Friess says the homogenized radio market allows for podcasters to be edgy with their broadcasts. As with blogs, since there are no editors or higher-ups looking on, no material gets cuts.

As more gays catch onto this new trend, media companies are taking notice. Gay television channel Here! TV started its own podcasts that will feature interviews with various people involved with the station. At the launch party, drag impresario and playwright Charles Busch, the cast of Here's steamy show "Dante's Cove" and actress Judith Light were all announced as guests on the podcast show hosted by Sara Logue and Josh Rosenzweig.

Bravo is issuing a weekly "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" podcast — one of the most popular downloads on iTunes — on its website. The Fab Five offer tips on their various areas of expertise including choosing wines and how to best iron a shirt.

GAY VOICES AROUND THE country are recording their experiences, and D.C. is no



Jamie Mann

exception. Jared Degnan and Jaime Mann are two gay podcasters in the area and their shows couldn't be more different.

Degnan's show is part of his website, www.20somethingmarketing.com. He saw a gap in the post-college professional life of marketing people, and he originally wanted to blog about the experience. After listening to podcasts, though, he changed his mind about the medium for his work.

"It's a formally engaging look at marketing and life as a 20-something professional," Degnan, 25, says. He reports that his listeners are asking questions about how to deal with their bosses and what level of ambition is appropriate for a newly hired marketing consultant.

While Degnan's show has a tight focus on business practices, Mann focuses on the everyday inanities that make up most people's lives.

"I like to make commentary about goofy things," Mann says. "How often do you sit around with your friends and talk about nothing in particular, but for some reason it's so addictive? My first [podcast] is me in the kitchen reheating Chinese food."

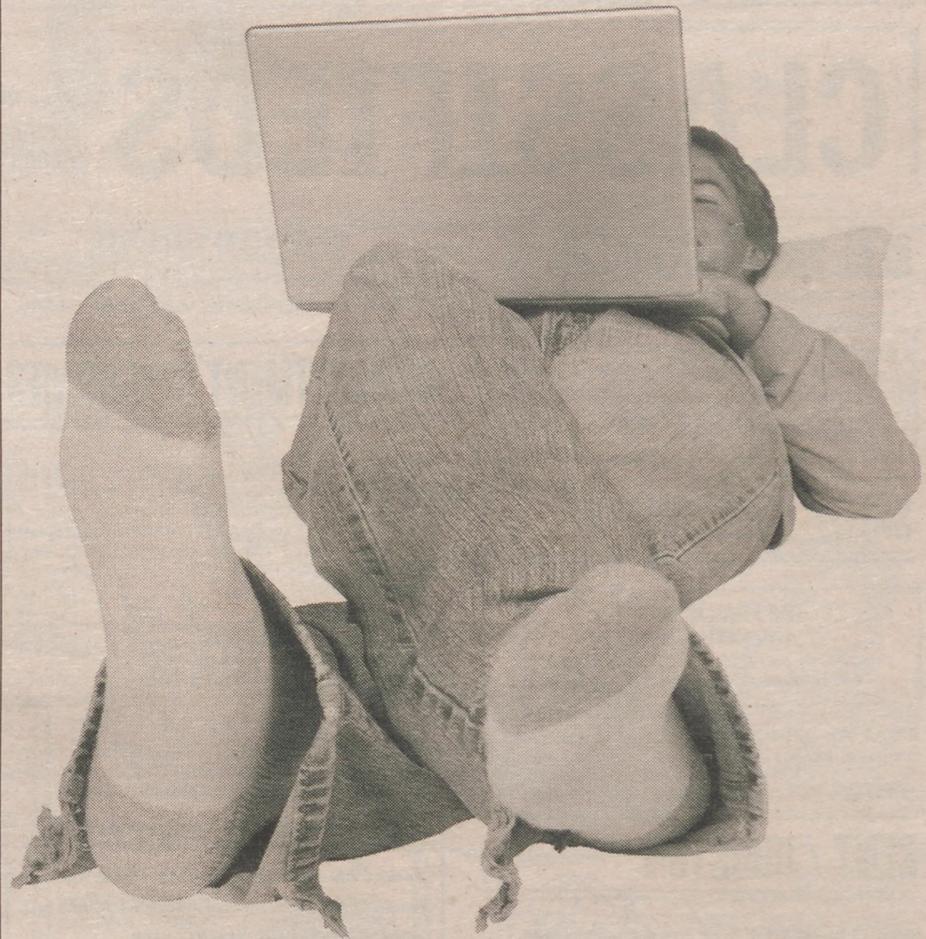
NOT ALL VOICES ARE REPRESENTED yet in the podcasting scene. Qpodder.com, started by Bluestein, is the clearinghouse for gay podcasters. It provides a variety of links and information about gay podcasting, yet there is a surprising dearth of lesbian podcasters on the site.

"Qpodder has 126 casts listed, and maybe 10 percent are lesbian," says Degnan. "It's parallel to a lot of the beginnings of gay media."

Podcasters both gay and straight from all over the country recently attended a national convention on the subject — the Portable Media Expo and Podcasting Conference in Ontario, California — and the number of women was very small.

"At the conference, only 15% were women, gay or straight," says Friess who attended the event.

ARE YOU A GAY NEWS JUNKIE?



Get the latest gay news
and entertainment,
along with headlines
from around the
world, at the NEW

houstonvoice.com

i MORE INFO

The Strip
www.SteveFriess.com/podcast/

Madge Weinstein
www.yeastradio.com

Bear Podcast
www.bearpodcast.com

Q Podder
www.qpodder.org

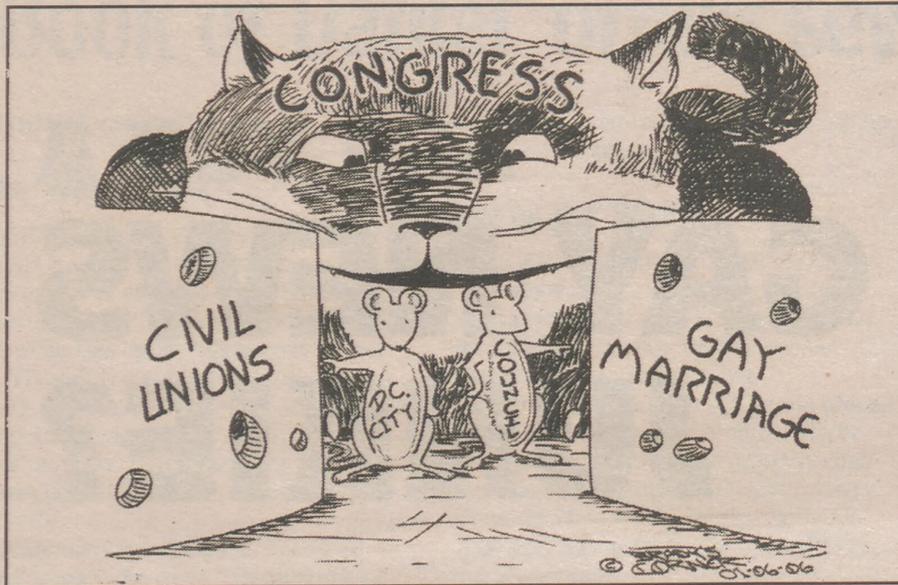
Jaime Mann
www.trickakissintime.com

Jared Degnan
www.20somethingmarketing.com

'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy'
www.bravotv.com/Queer_Eye_for_the_Straight_Guy/Podcasts

Here! TV
www.heretv.com

brady's corner



services

TELL THEM
YOU FOUND THEM IN
THE
DIRECTORY

STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD Bold or box your ad for added attraction. Contact our customer service reps for more details. (877) 863-1885.

The Tire Man

Alignments
Brakes

2314 Washington
713-880-4747

CLASSIFIEDS

Visit houstonvoice.com to place your ad. Up to 25 words only \$12.50 per week. 50¢ each additional word. Fax toll-free 1.888.409.6768, or call toll-free 1.877.863.1885. Deadline for online ads: 8am Wednesday. For other submissions: 5:30pm Tuesday.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD Is your home special? Tell our readers about it. Guarantee they will see it with our new features. **Bold** or box your ad for added attraction. Contact our customer service reps for more details. (877) 863-1885.

SALE / HOUSTON

THE TIME IS RIGHT... ADVERTISE NOW!!
Advertise with the **HOUSTON VOICE CLASSIFIEDS!**
Call to place your ad! 1 (877) 863-1885.

GREAT MID-CENTURY MODERNS! up & coming area at loop's edge. Featured in Wall St. Journal! Glenbrookvalley.com. over 4,000 sq ft home on 21,800 sq ft ravine lot! \$249,900. Others well under \$200k. Robert Searcy - (832) 279-5332.

RENT / HOUSTON

HEIGHTS DUPLEX 1-1, Newly Renovated, Hdwds & Tile, Carport, Ctrl A/H. \$800/mo + \$500 Deposit. Water included. (713) 818-8583. Available Immediately.

RENT IT FAST with our new features. Draw attention to your ad by using our **bold** or box feature. Contact our customer service reps for more details. (877) 863-1885.

SPACIOUS 1 BR Hi Rise located at Lamar Towers. Master BR with large sitting area. Living/dining area is 40x60. Electronic drapes, curved walls, extensive woodwork throughout with over 2,100 sq ft (HCAD). Priced at \$2,400/mo. Will lease furnished or unfurnished. Call (713) 349-7238. Ben Pfeffer CBU Realtors.

RENT / ELSEWHERE

3-BEACH BUNGALOWS W/heated pools. Easy walk to Clubs and cafes. Steps to Beach. FULL AMENITIES! Short/long-term available. (888) 541-5151. www.bellegrae.com/palmshadows

SHARE / HOUSTON

SGWM SEEKS ROOMMATE to share 2 BR, 2 BA condo in River Oaks. Security gates, pool, all appls w/WD, DSL, cable TV, priv BR. Non-smoker & NO drugs please. (713) 520-7662.

SGWM SEEKS EMPLOYED

person to share 2/1 home; WD, cable, private yard no smoking or drugs! One block from Heights Transit Station. \$500/mo furnished (713) 862-5123. (jbaker3@houston.rr.com).

COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

ANNOUNCE YOUR UNION The Houston Voice is proud to announce the addition of a "Commitment Ceremonies" category to our Classified listings. When making arrangements for your Union, don't forget to include the most important aspect of all...announcing the date. Publishing your union is easy & simple. Call (877) 863-1885 ext 223 to put the finishing touches on your ceremony.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DRUG ISSUES, HOMELESS? 30 day, post-addiction residential, work study to independence basic training. Accepting, encouraging environment. Daytime only. (832) 512-5467.

COLONY OAKS APARTMENTS (Bellaire @ Chimney Rock)(GWM-42) I just moved to Colony Oaks & would like to meet my gay neighbors. Please just call & say Hello! Tim (713) 614-8680

EMPLOYMENT

FREELANCE REPORTERS NEEDED

to cover HARD news.
Deadline & Computer skills a must!
Send resume & three clips to:

Editor
Houston Voice
500 Lovett #200
Houston, Texas 77006

GROUPS

ON THE NORTH Side? Feeling OUTSIDE OF THE LOOP?! Join The North Houston GLBT Social Group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NhouGLBTSocialgroup> Meet other GLBT folk in your part of town! Sign up today!

VEHICLES

place it today...
sell it tomorrow

SAME DAY WEBSITE POSTING

RUN IT 'TILL YOU SELL IT. Take advantage of our new "Run it 'till you sell it" promotional. Place an ad to sell your car and email a photo of the car and run the ad until it sells. It's only \$39.99. Call our friendly staff toll free today! (877) 863-1885.

WEBSITES

WWW.YOURHOUSEBOY.COM Looking for a house? Looking for a boy? We bring you together. WWW.YOURHOUSEBOY.COM

EMALEME.COM IS HERE! AV Chats, Profiles & IM's. Enjoy our integrated MP3 player. The hottest Male 2 Male site on the net today! Are you ready? www.emaleme.com

OBITUARIES

STEVEN R. MARTIN, 35 known to many in Houston as "Sleepyboy" passed away on December 29, 2005 at his new home in Seattle with his partner, Thad by his side. You were always up for fun, and always there for a good laugh. You will be missed. We love you. Thilfiger, Ashke, Chaste, ZeroNT, Gumbeaux and Tenish.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Beautiful Home
Home Repair & Remodeling
Cabinets & Furniture

Workmanship & Quality GUARANTEED

Decades of Experience. Kitchens a specialty. Insured
Office: 713-880-1666 Cell: 713-291-3395
Call John!
BBB Member Greater Houston

CLEANING SERVICES

MAIDS IN TROUSERS CLEANING with a Gentlemanly Flair! Pet Sitting also offered. 713-868-1148 H, or 713-498-2359 C.

PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEO

713-240-5508

davidlewisimages.com

LOOKING FOR MALE models for upcoming projects. www.stevendavid.com or call (713) 826-1208

CLASSIFIEDS

MASSAGE



ZEPPELIN MASSAGE
 Voted one of the best massage therapists
3 YEARS IN A ROW
 SPORTS & DEEP TISSUE
Tom Zeppelin RMT
713.542.0426
 www.zeppelinmassage.com

THE ART OF GIVING PLEASURE Tall, masculine, muscular, state licensed, AMTA certified, 11 years exp. Incredible, full body total release! \$75. Inner Loop/SW. Mike, (713) 963-9603



ryan Fugate
 R.M.T., N.M.T., REIKI J.T.
 rfugate.com
 713-269-7926
 Therapeutic Massage



MASSAGE
 Full Body Relaxation
 manmassage.net
713.942.2399
ROLAND
 • Montrose location
 • 7 days/evenings
 • VISA/MasterCard
 • Outcalls welcome



REWARD YOURSELF
 A NICE TOUCH/RELAXATION
 OF BODY AND MIND BY
LEE
832 978-7017
 CENTRALLY LOCATED
 7 DAYS/EVENINGS
 OUTCALLS WELCOME



DISCOVER MY UNIQUE THAISWE massage! Ben 469.363.9390

COUNSELING / SUPPORT

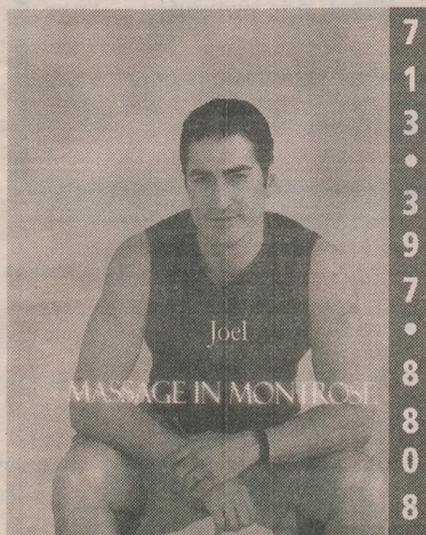
**THE TIME IS RIGHT...
 ADVERTISE NOW!!**
 Advertise with the **HOUSTON VOICE CLASSIFIEDS!**
 Call our friendly classifieds staff to place ad!
 1 (877) 863-1885.

BODY / SOUL

MANSCAPING MEN'S WAXING & clipping. Private location in Montrose. Call Dale (713) 529-5952 for appt.

PERSONALS / MEN

FREE LIVE HOT Gay Chat
ManScan-Personals-More!
(563) 843-8844
Only L.D. Rates 18 plus 24 Hrs.



Joel
 MASSAGE IN MONTROSE

7
1
3
•
3
9
7
•
8
8
0
8



jason college guy
 • therapeutic • swedish • sports
 • deep tissue • myotherapy
 • relaxation therapy
NEW Steam Room!!!
 Montrose Studio
 713-524-5400
 www.jasonrmt.com

BodyWorks By Lou
 Professional Massage & Personal Training
 Memorial Park & Clear Lake locations.
 (713) 904-2885
 Swedish • Deep Tissue • Aromatherapy • Hot Stone
 Lou Pope MT 085714



lifestylemassagetherapist
 LOCATED IN UPPER KIRBY
Kenton 713.515.2882
 4HAND Massage Available

SENSUAL MASSAGE IN/OUT Calls welcome. Studio centrally located in Memorial. 200lbs, 6' Muscular Italian Man. Companion svcs also welcome. You won't be disappointed. Rocky (832) 563-3962.



CHELSEA BOYS
 BY GLEN HANSON and ALLAN NEUWIRTH

SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER SKY'S RECENT ADVENTURES AS A REALITY TV STAR...

ANNIE, I KNOW YOU THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA, BUT BEIN' A CONTESTANT ON THE "ADAM & STEVE" THING WAS LIKE A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME... I MEAN, SURE, MY STAND AGAINST THEIR DUMB-ASS CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP GOT ME ON THE COVER OF THE ADVOCATE...

P.R. GOLD, DUDE!

AND I GOT TO BE GRAND MARSHAL OF THE PRIDE PARADE THIS YEAR --

INSTANT DATES!

AND N.Y. FAG MAG THREW A PARTY IN MY HONOR AT X-LOUNGE.

FREE LIQUOR!

YEAH. BUT NONE OF THIS HAS GOTTEN ME ANY CLOSER TO BEIN' TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS AN ARTIST! EVERY LEGIT GALLERY IN TOWN TURNED ME DOWN FOR A SHOW... THE ONLY PLACE THAT WAS EVEN REMOTELY INTERESTED WAS SOME EAST VILLAGE SHIT-HOLE THAT WANTED ME TO SHOW UP WEARING MY "ADAM & STEVE" FIG-LEAF COSTUME.

WELL, DUDE, YOU HAD IT ALL IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND. AND IF YOU'D JUST PLAYED THEIR GAME, YOU COULDA WON!

THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE JUST EPITOMIZED THE WORST ASPECTS OF "GAY CULTURE"... THE CATTINESS, THE BACKSTABBING, THE HYPOCRISY, THE OBSESSION WITH PHYSICAL PERFECTION.

LIKE YOU'VE NEVER BENEFITED FROM THAT, RIGHT, QUASIMODO?

WHATEVER. I FEEL LIKE I LOST WHO I AM ON THAT SHOW. I NEED TO GET BACK TO ME. SOMETHING THAT ALLOWS ME TO BE TRUE TO MYSELF.

NO... WHILE I'M WORKING ON MY SCULPTURES, I'M TRAINING TO BE AN INSTRUCTOR AT THE "HOMOLISTIC NUDE YOGA" STUDIO WITH SEBASTIAN CHAKRA.

"SEBASTIAN CHAKRA"? YOU'RE KIDDIN' ME, RIGHT?

THIS WAY I CAN EARN MONEY, AND, LIKE SEBASTIAN SAYS, HELP BRING SPIRITUALITY TO GAY MEN IN N.Y.C.!

RIGHT, DUDE. A BUNCH OF NAKED GAY MEN IN CHELSEA DOING THE DOWNWARD DOG IN FRONT OF EACH OTHER IS TRULY THE PATH TO SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT.

UGH... YOU'RE SO CYNICAL!

ESCORTS

"TRENT" HOT & ATHLETICALLY endowed. Discreet, safe & always ready for some hot action!!! (281) 370-7626 or (281) 743-4363.

ALEX 35YR, 5'8, 155lbs, dark hair/eyes, masc, top hung/ huge, 10x7. (713) 385-9374.

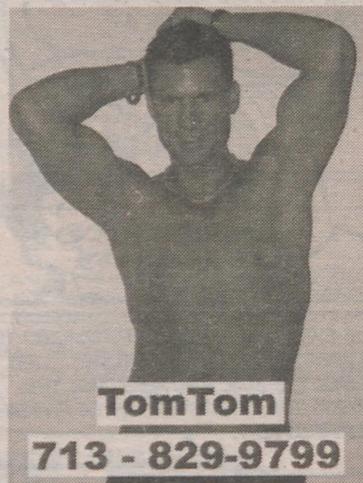
BODYWORK



CHADRMT.COM
713.446.6122
MONTROSE STUDIO
TRAINED IN A
VARIETY OF TECHNIQUES!



bodyworks 10!
MASCULINE * PROFESSIONAL * DISCREET
deep pressure body rubs
CLASSICALLY TRAINED
6'2" 200lb
RENOVATED!
713 303 4941



TomTom
713 - 829-9799

DEADLINES
8am Wednesday
for online submissions only.
5:30pm Tuesday
for all other submissions.

Executive Adult



★ **Superstore
& Theatre**

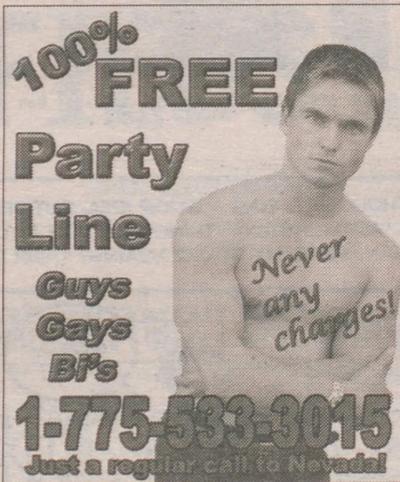
14002 Northwest Frwy
(Hwy 290) between
Tidwell & Fairbanks-
N. Houston
Open 7am til 5 am!
713-462-5100
www.executiveXXXvideo.com

TEXAS HOSPITALITY!



Friendly 6', 235lb
Blue-eyed Cowboy
Full Body Massage
And Body Worship
Stripping Available!
Joseph 281-687-3735

ADULTS ONLY



100% **FREE**
**Party
Line**
Guys
Gays
Bf's
Never
any
charges!
1-775-533-3015
Just a regular call to Nevada!

**ARE YOU A
GAY NEWS
JUNKIE?**



Get the latest gay news
and entertainment,
along with headlines
from around the
world, at the NEW

houstonvoice.com

ADULT CLASSIFIEDS

HOW TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD:

BY WEB: www.houstonvoice.com **By e-mail:** classifieds@houstonvoice.com **By fax:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Houston Classifieds, 888-409-6768. **By phone:** Call in with completed order form to 877-863-1885. **By mail:** Mail completed order form with payment to Houston Voice Classifieds, 500 Lovett Blvd, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77006.

In person: Bring completed order form with payment to the Houston Voice offices (M-F, 9-5 pm) 500 Lovett Blvd, Suite 200, Houston.

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.

DEADLINES: 8am Wednesday for online submissions only.
5:30pm Tuesday for all other submissions.

i am ready.

houstonvoice.com




are you ready to **h/wire** the latest **h/w** blog
get the latest breaking
news and opinion; as well
as gay-related politics,
entertainment and trends.

PLUGIN?

all the news for your life and your style. **houston voice**



bitch SESSION

There used to be a standard for dancing on the box. What ever happened?

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS COME OVER, drink my booze, eat my food, go out with me to dinner and get into bed with me, but you won't commit to being my boyfriend. I think you're what's called a scrub.

YOU MAY THINK YOU ARE THE LANDED gentry, but everything about you screams trash.

I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE PREPPY LOOKIN' fags wearing pennyloafers with pennies in them. Bring them back!

I'M A REAL PREPPY LOOKING GUY, and I was told that I didn't get a job because I had pennies in my pennyloafers and that was "too faggy." What do you think about that?

Bitch Boy responds: I think I can't believe we received two bitches about pennies in pennyloafers the same week!

THE GOOD THING ABOUT THE POPE'S ban on gay priests is now they'll have to start ordaining women because there won't be any men left.

TO THE QUEEN WHO COMPLAINED about how people act high and mighty when they're in a relationship: Bitch, don't be mad cuz you ain't got no man!

THE ONLY REASON BLACK ACADEMI- cians and politicians support gay marriage is that they can't solve real problems like black homelessness and unemployment. They'll support any issue that's in vogue.

I WEAR BOXERS BECAUSE I HAVE BIG feet, not because I am a nerd, a loser or fat.
Bitch Boy responds: Come again?

IF YOU HAD BIG LOW-HANGERS LIKE me, you'd need boxers. Those briefs make everything crammed and uncomfortable.
Bitch Boy responds: Oh, now I get it.

WHY IS IT EVERY TIME I BREAK UP with an effeminate man, he gets all clingy on me, saying how much he misses me and still loves me? Get a life!

TO THE GUY WHO WARNED THAT SO- called friends talk about you when you're not around. My father warned me I only need two friends in life: one to talk about me and the other to tell me what he said. Sounds like you're the former for him and the latter for me. Think about it.

TO THE GUY WHO SAID IF YOU HAVE casual sex, you're a sex addict: Mind your own fucking business and quit judging people!

Bitch Boy responds: Defensive much?

HEY BLACK GUYS: WHAT'S WITH THIS "in the life" crap? You're gay like the rest of us, so just deal with it!

WHEN I AM DRIVING YOU HOME FROM the club, do not make me stop at every friggin' McDonald's just because you're drunk and hungry!

TO THE BITCH ABOUT GETTING OVER biphobia: By being bisexual, you are spreading STDs to both teams. Just pick a team and stick with it!

AFTER TREATING PEOPLE LIKE CRAP most of your adult life, things are suddenly not so great for you lately. It's called karma.

STRAIGHT PEOPLE LOVE TO GET cracked out and whore around with strangers just as much as gay people, and unlike us, they are allowed to marry.

TO THE SO-CALLED "MUSCLE BEAR" who slams thin guys with beards. I doubt you were a founding member of this subculture, so stop being so territorial. I don't even use "muscle" in my online screen name and you pissed me off.

WHY ARE WE BEARS, LEATHERMEN

and Log Cabin Republicans instead of just human?

TO THE JACKASS WHO WANTS TO know why there aren't more visible gay Native Americans: because the white man killed them off.

THE FAKE PENIS IN YOUR PANTS looks like a fake penis in your pants. You're not being admired; you're being mocked.

WHY ISN'T ANYONE CONCERNED with the presidential penis anymore and what is unusual about it and what he might be doing with it?

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE IN A SUIT, YOU think you're better than everybody else. You're still cruising a tearoom, so you're a skank like the rest of us.

TO THE BITTER DESTRUCTIVE, LONE- ly, sad queen who keyed my car: You must really have some road rage issues if you had cards printed up to critique the way people park. What goes around comes around, and when the shit hits the fan, I hope you get covered.

SOMEONE WHO OWNS A \$650,000 condo doesn't have a job, they have a career. For him being an escort must be a career; after all, it is the oldest profession.

I AM A GAY ESCORT/MESSAGE THER- apist/hooker and what kills me is these guys online who are down on me for being an escort when they're just jealous because I can sell mine and they can't give theirs away.

I'M NOT A TWINK OR A BEAR OR A troll. I'm 28 and where do we normal guys go to hang out and have fun?

WHEN PEOPLE TELL YOU THEY DON'T care what you think, they're telling you to shut the fuck up.

THIS IS A STRAIGHT BITCH WHO WORKS out a gay job: I read "Bitch Session" because it's funny, not because I don't know if I'm gay or not.

I'M NOT "ACTING" MASCULINE. I AM masculine. It's as natural to me as your femininity. And masculine is not synonymous with being "on the DL." I'm an out masculine man who likes other out masculine men.

IF YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS "LAID back," why is it so hard for you to reply to an e-mail?

BROTHER, TELL ME WHY YOU GOTTA cry just because you ain't always fly in the eye of the white guy?

THE FRIENDS WE KEEP ARE A reflection of ourselves. In your case, the reflection is not a pretty picture.

YOU'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING FOR anyone in your life, and you complain about people not being there for you.

YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR JOB, your friends, your boyfriend and everything else you can think about — anything to keep from dealing with the real problem: you. You are an emotional human drain for people.

IF THE FAT UGLY TROLLS IN THE steamroom would spend as much energy working out as they do pestering cute guys, maybe just maybe they would get some attention.

SO MANY PEOPLE BITCH ABOUT THE nightlife here, but I recently went to San Francisco, and their nightlife sucks! San Fran might be the motherland, but our clubs are dance palaces by comparison!

IF I HAVE TO LISTEN TO ONE MORE hissy fit, I'm going to buy a stroller for you.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER. YOU enabled your drama queen ex for two years. Mental stability is obviously not a requirement for you.

HOW COME THE THREAT OF AVIAN bird flu gets our government running to stockpile vaccines, but very little was done in the '80s when AIDS was discovered with an almost 100 percent fatality rate?

I DON'T THINK TEXT MESSAGING IS dumbing down communication. It's actually enabling communication for people who can't hear.

Editors' note: These are real bitches, sent in by real readers, about gay life's little annoyances, and the big ones, too. Got a bitch? Call 1-800-858-8088 or e-mail: bitch@houstonvoice.com



CHRISTMAS TREES, ORNAMENTS & GIFTS

WE HAVE YOUR
COLORS FOR
THE HOLIDAYS!

Σrōs
1207

Proudly Gay
Owned & Operated

713-944-6010 • 1207 Spencer Hwy • S.Houston • I-45 to College Exit, left 2 miles • OPEN DAILY!

i am ready.

houstonvoice.com



are you ready to

hovo wire the latest hovo

get the latest breaking news and opinion, as well as gay-related politics, entertainment and trends.



all the news for your life and your style.

houston
VOICE

