

New studies show gays might be able to teach heterosexuals something about maintaining romance. Page 15



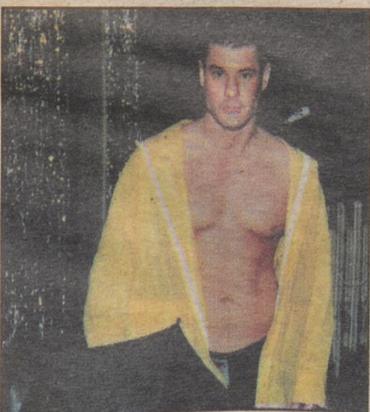
### INSIDE



**Ken Donnelly, executive director of the Pride Committee of Houston, Inc., details the group's plans for Pride 2002.** Page 3



**Pro-gay candidate Chris Bell is endorsed by former opponents in the runoff against Carroll Robinson for the U.S. Congress.** Page 4



**'Saturday Night at Billy's' offers up an evening of pure fun and entertainment.** Page 18

## Man says killing in self-defense

Cross-dressing millionaire charged in grisly murder of Galveston Island neighbor

By PENNY WEAVER

GALVESTON, Texas — A cross-dressing millionaire charged in the murder of an elderly neighbor says the killing was in self-defense, according to his attorney.

In a case that has drawn national attention, new media reports allege that the suspect routinely lured young men to his Galveston apartment for drugs and sex.

This week, a Houston lawyer who represents New York real estate heir Robert Durst said in court that Durst will admit to the killing but will plead not guilty by reason of self-defense and accident.

Durst, 58, is charged in the murder of Morris Black, 71. Black's dismembered body was found Sept. 30 in Galveston Bay. The planned June trial in the case has been postponed to September.

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Cross-dressing millionaire **Robert Durst**, shown in court this week, will plead *not guilty* by reason of self-defense and accident in the death and dismemberment of **Morris Black**, 71, of Galveston, Durst's attorney said Wednesday. (Photos by AP)

## Surviving 9/11 partners face legal wilderness

Without wills, many face federal and state laws that don't recognize gay relationships

By RHONDA SMITH

George Cuellar, an openly gay business owner in New Jersey, expects to receive funds from the multimillion-dollar federal compensation program for survivors of the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Luke A. Dudek, his partner of 20 years, was killed at the World Trade Center.

"Because we had a will since 1989," Cuellar

said, "that will make a big difference."

New York resident David O'Leary, whose partner Michel Lepore died during the attack, also expects to be indirectly compensated, even though neither man had a will.

"I am blessed with having such a good relationship with Michael's family," O'Leary said, "because they deferred to me on any decisions pertaining to him."

But California resident Keith Bradkowski, whose partner was killed Sept. 11 on American Airlines flight 11, has not been as lucky.

Jeff Collman, a flight attendant for American, did not have a will. And Collman's biological father and stepmother, Dwayne

> Continued on Page 7



American Airlines flight attendant **Jeffrey Collman** died without a will on Sept. 11, when his plane struck the World Trade Center. Now his surviving partner of 11 years, Keith Bradkowski, faces being shut out of the federal victims' compensation fund, a private payment from American Airlines, and under California law governing what happens to Collman's possessions.

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## local news

## Organizers gear up for a whole new Pride

Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. includes a new executive director, seeks more volunteers

By ELLA TYLER

The disco ball is out and a light show is in, but participants in the Houston Pride Parade 2002 will still drive, walk, march, dance or sashay along Westheimer this year, according to Brian Keever, who has helped organize the parade for 20 years.

"We already have 25 applications," he said this week.

However, many events that had become part of Pride festivities have been cut from the official Pride 2002 calendar.

"We will have a week of special events, each one focusing on a different segment of the community," said Ken Donnelly, executive director of Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. "The kickoff will be on June 21, hopefully at Sonoma, and the parade will be on the 29th. We're finalizing the details on some events, but there will be a youth and family day and an event that celebrates Pride World Wide, our theme this year."

Donnelly is especially excited about an event at the Alley Theatre on June 28.

"Its working title is 'Before the Parade Passes By,'" he said. "It's a cabaret night that began when someone had what



**Ken Donnelly** became executive director of Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. last fall after the resignation of long-time Pride leader Jack Valinski. (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

seemed like a wild idea — "Why don't we put on a show?" Now it's like a high-end talent show. It reaches out to the performing arts segment of our community and gives people a chance to dress up, too."

Donnelly said the scaled-back calendar is the result of a combination of factors:

"We were a victim of our own success. It had gotten so that Pride Week began at the end of May with the film festival and went on to July," he said. "We had all these events to market and put together, so by the parade, we were burned out and tired."

"You got a happy feeling — not at the parade, but a few days later when you woke up," he added.

Another shake-up for the Pride Committee this year was the departure of Jack Valinski, long-time Pride executive director.

"When Jack resigned in December, he said he was worried about where money and volunteers would come from, and his point was made more relevant when he left," Donnelly said. "We decided that all we really had to do this year was put on the parade. Everything after that had to justify how it met our mission statement. We zero-based Pride."

"We looked at whether a project educated the community, celebrated Pride or commemorated our history. If it didn't, we eliminated it, or moved parts to other events," Donnelly explained. "For example, Astroworld didn't serve our mission and was too much of a financial risk. It's been replaced by family day. Instead of the festival, we decided to have vendors along the parade route."

The idea is, at least in part, to bring Pride back to basics.

"In a way, we're getting back to our roots," Donnelly said. "The first Pride Week didn't have a parade, just seven days of community based events, beginning with Town Hall."

"We've also reduced our dependence on big sponsors," he said. "We're glad that Silver Eagle, the local Budweiser distributor, ID Lube, Wells Fargo and Chase are back, but we're doing smaller fund-raising projects, too."

Keever said he is hopeful for Pride's future as more people begin to assist each year.

"Now that Jack is gone, I'm the senior member of the board. I'm really pleased to

see a group of energetic new volunteers," Keever said.

Donnelly, who volunteered to serve as executive director after Valinski resigned, is not a total newcomer to the organization. He edited the official Pride Magazine last year.

"It was a good background for this job, because I had to know something about every facet of Pride to do the magazine," he noted.

Donnelly, who has experience in project management, attended his first Houston Pride Parade in the late 1990s.

"I think it was four years ago — it was the 'Pride, Power and Pizzazz' one, with the disco ball," he said. "I had recently moved here and just come out, and felt very comfortable. 'These are people like me,' I thought. I knew I wanted to work with it."

Organizers encourage gay Houstonians to get involved with planning and preparing for this year's events.

"We want people to feel that Pride belongs to them," Donnelly said. "We are looking for input, comments and ideas — not just about what doesn't work, but what does work. We have plenty of things for volunteers to do."

**INFO**  
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Above: Stepping off at the Sunday run as a family are **Ron Thurston** (left) and **John Iannuzzo** with their cocker spaniels, Lola and Belle. Right: Partners **Amanda Prazak** and **Lisa Reyes** brought their canines along Sunday to help raise funds for animals without a home. Far right, top: **David Pigozzi** (left) and **Gary Hamblen** signed in for the Humane Society's fund-raiser with their Weimaraners, Silver and Shadow. Far right, bottom: Taking a break from the fun run are couple **Ginny Riley** and **Remi Hueckel**, with their dogs in tow. (Photos by Dalton Dehart)

## K-9 run attracts hundreds

Both four-legged and two-legged Houstonians participated last weekend in an event that netted thousands of dollars to help homeless animals. Held Sunday, the 21st annual Houston Humane Society K-9 Fun Run raises funds for the society's work in services such as pet adoption, education and low-cost spay/neuter clinics. The run at Sam Houston Park downtown included a one-mile competitive race, non-competitive jog, and a non-competitive walk. Final numbers on the amount raised at the run were not available by press time this week.



## local news

## Runoffs include two races key for gay voters

Final decision for Democratic candidates for District 25, U.S. Senate is April 9

By PENNY WEAVER

As the April 9 runoff election approaches, gay Houstonians may have a tough decision in at least one Democratic race.

In the competition for U.S. Congress District 25, which encompasses most of Houston and Harris County, candidates Chris Bell and Carroll Robinson are the two choices in the Democratic runoff. Both have gay-friendly records.

Bell earned 36.1 percent of the vote in the March 12 primary, while Robinson garnered 27.1 percent. A candidate must receive at least 50 percent of the vote to win a primary; therefore, the two were propelled into the runoff as the top vote-getters.

This week, District 25 candidates Paul Colbert and Stephen King endorsed Bell. Former State Rep. Colbert and attorney King were pushed out of the race when they did not earn enough votes to continue to the runoff.

The Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) initially endorsed



Gay voters may have a tough time deciding between Democrats **Chris Bell** (left) and **Carroll Robinson** in the runoff election for U.S. Congress District 25. Both are known for having pro-gay records on the Houston City Council. (Photos by Dalton Dehart)

Colbert but has endorsed Bell for the runoff election.

The Democratic winner in the District 25 race will face Republican insurance company executive Tom Reiser in the November election. Reiser was unopposed in his party's primary.

Another key race for gay Texans is the battle to replace conservative U.S. Senator Phil Gramm, who retires this year. The winner of the Democratic runoff on April

9 will face Republican John Cornyn, current Texas Attorney General.

Competing in that runoff are former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk and Houstonian Victor Morales. Kirk is well known for actively seeking support from gay voters. He has said he supports domestic partner benefits and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Less is known on gay issues about Kirk's opponent Morales, who is a teacher

and previous political candidate.

HGLPC endorsed Kirk in the runoff after giving its initial endorsement in that Democratic race to Ken Bentsen, who is known as generally favorable in votes related to gay issues.

To run for Senate, Bentsen had vacated his District 25 seat, leading to the opening for which Bell and Robinson now compete.

Bell is a former Houston City Council member who ran for mayor last fall. He failed to earn enough votes to compete in the mayoral runoff, in which incumbent Mayor Lee Brown defeated challenger Orlando Sanchez.

Robinson is a City Council member who, like Bell, supported Houston's anti-discrimination law last year and opposed the anti-gay City Prop. 2.

As the runoff nears, Robinson has criticized Bell regarding an article in which Bell admitted that he smoked marijuana in college.

In an e-mail distributed to thousands of District 25 voters, Robinson points out Bell's admission in a 2001 Houston Press article and makes other allegations, according to the Houston Chronicle.

Bell denounced Robinson's negative tactics, stating his opponent may feel a sense of urgency as a "second-place candidate," the Chronicle reported.

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## police beat

### Brandon Teena's killer says DNA test will clear him

FALLS CITY, Neb. — John Lotter, one of two men convicted of the 1993 murder of Brandon Teena, 21, a transgendered person who was born Teena Brandon, is asking for a DNA test that he claims will prove he didn't commit the crime, according to the Omaha World-Herald. Lotter received the death penalty for killing Teena and two other people less than a week after Teena reported being raped by Lotter and Marvin Nissen. Nissen received life in prison after testifying against Lotter. Now Lotter has filed a petition under the Nebraska DNA Testing Act for tests on gloves and clothes worn by Nissen, saying the tests would show Nissen actually was the triggerman. Prosecutors argued the results wouldn't matter, because the sentencing panel held both men equally responsible for the killings, but was more lenient with Nissen because he cooperated with law enforcement officials. Meanwhile, former Richardson County Sheriff Charles Laux, accused of mishandling the investigation into Teena's rape, is running for sheriff in nearby Johnson County, the Lincoln Journal Star reported. Laux's questions to Teena when the crime was reported focused on gender identity, not the rape; Teena's mother was awarded nearly \$100,000 in a civil lawsuit against Laux.



John Lotter, one of two men convicted in the 1993 murder of Brandon Teena, says a DNA test would prove he wasn't the triggerman in the crime that gained national attention. (Photo by AP)

### Ohio bashing victim says cops mistreated him

CINCINNATI — A gay man told Cincinnati Police he was injured in a gay-bashing assault March 9, but found himself jailed instead of taken to a hospital, the Cincinnati City Beat reported. Jimmy Bird was walking to a bus stop when two men jumped him from behind, he said. "Someone grabbed my pants pocket and struck me in my back, calling me a 'fucking faggot,'" Bird said, according to the Beat. "They jerked me backwards and kicked me in the side of my head, knocking out my contact lens. I couldn't really see after that, and I had difficulty walking because of being hit in my spine." Bird hobbled to a nearby business and asked someone to call police. After waiting, he went back inside. That's when two employees escorted Bird outside and a customer poured a drink on him, he said. When the police came, Bird was arrested for disorderly conduct while intoxicated. A series of mishaps ensued that include a conviction without a trial and no report or police action on the gay-bashing. "I can accept the general view against gay people from the community," Bird said. "I can't rationalize what happened afterward."

### Trans woman guilty in Mich. murder case

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — A transsexual was convicted March 20 of second-degree murder in the death of her uncle. Vonlee Nicole Titlow was found guilty in Oakland County Circuit Court in the killing of Donald Rogers, 74. She could spend up to life in prison, defense attorney William Cataldo said. Prosecutors said Titlow, formerly known as Harry Titlow, killed her uncle to get money to pay for gender reassignment surgery. Rogers was suffocated in August 2000. Titlow pleaded guilty to manslaughter in October, then recanted. Her aunt, Billie Jean Rogers, 62, also was charged with

first-degree murder in her husband's death, but was found not guilty. Titlow's sentencing is scheduled for April 17.

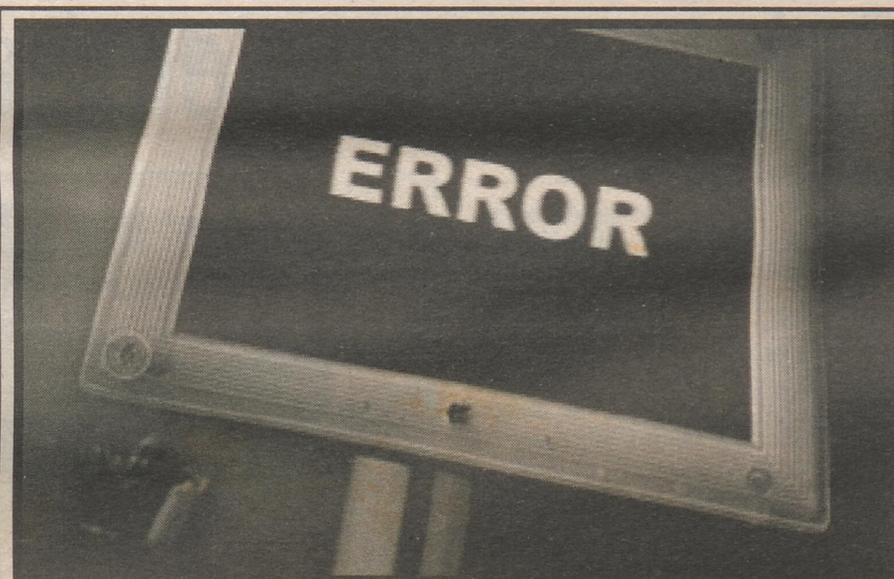
### Wis. man appeals prison term in gay panic case

JEFFERSON, Wis. (AP) — Defense attorneys filed an appeal March 21 in the case of a man sentenced to life in prison for stabbing a man to death in what investigators called a hate crime. Darrin Grosskopf, 33, was convicted in February of killing Keith Ward, 21, in March 2001. The jury found Grosskopf had targeted Ward in part because Ward was gay. According to testimony, the two Waterloo men had returned to Grosskopf's apartment March 30, 2001, after spending much of the day at a party with friends. Ward's body later was found stabbed once in the chest with a buck knife. Grosskopf testified during his trial that he stabbed Ward in self-defense while Ward was sexually assaulting him.

### Park sting in Neb. nabs AIDS activist

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The executive director of the Nebraska AIDS Project was ticketed March 16 on suspicion of lewd conduct. Richard Santee was cited by Sgt. Ron Cole at Lake Cunningham in northwest Omaha, a police report indicated. The citation was issued after Santee allegedly groped Cole while the undercover officer sat in Santee's vehicle, the report said. Santee, 52, declined to comment on the allegations, but said his arrest shows that project workers need to talk to Omaha police about how they conduct street outreach. The Nebraska AIDS Project has previously sent teams to hand out condoms and talk to people at places where risky sexual behavior is likely, said Dr. Mark Goodman, a board member of the group. Santee, who has been executive director for two years, would not say whether he was engaged in outreach work when ticketed.

From staff and wire reports



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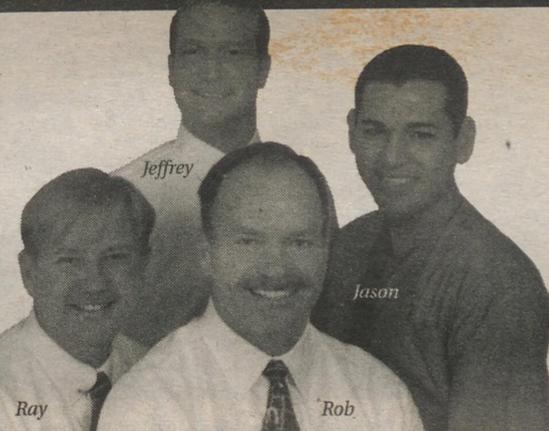
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# Galveston murder draws national attention

➤ Continued from Page 1

In court Wednesday, defense attorney Dick DeGuerin said Durst's intent to enter a plea admitting to the slaying would negate much of the need for DNA evidence.

But DeGuerin did not yet enter a plea on Durst's behalf.

Also, DeGuerin asked for a trial delay, saying he has not received the autopsy report on Black, a South Carolina native. He also said that reviewing the hundreds of pieces of evidence in the case would require a delay in the trial.

State District Court Judge Susan Criss approved a three-month delay for the murder trial to Sept. 9.

Chief Medical Examiner Charles M. Harvey said the autopsy report could be complete next week, adding the delay is due to the nature of the case.

Harvey said the report probably would list Black's death as a homicide, caused "by unknown means."

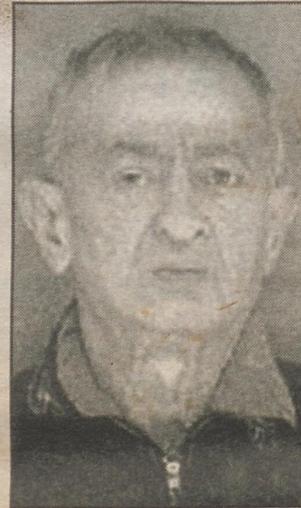
The proposed plea from Durst is the latest turn in a case that has garnered national attention, largely due to Durst's status and background. Criss issued a gag order in the case in December, barring attorneys, police, potential witnesses and others involved in the investigation and trial from talking about it to the press.

Still, many details of the crime and investigation already were made public, including allegations that Durst disguised himself as a woman while he lived in Galveston.

## Evidence led to apartment

Black's torso and body parts — minus the head — were found last fall floating in Galveston Bay.

Police later found garbage bags containing Black's limbs and other items,



Portions of the body of **Morris Black**, 71, were found in Galveston Bay late last September. His accused killer, disguised as a woman, lived in an adjoining apartment in Galveston, according to police. Alleged killer Durst and victim Black lived in this apartment building (left) on Galveston Island.

which investigators traced to an apartment house in the 2200 block of Avenue K in Galveston, according to the Galveston Daily News.

After officials identified the body parts as the remains of Black, a South Carolina native who lived in that apartment house, and collected other evidence, they arrested Durst on Oct. 9. Police believe the suspect lived in an apartment across the hall from the victim, according to the Daily News.

Police said they found a bloody knife

and boots in the unit where they believe Durst lived. Also found was blood on the apartment's front door, the carpet, kitchen floor and the kitchen's walls, according to police affidavits.

The Daily News reported that the apartment was rented for \$300 a month to a mute woman who called herself Dorothy Ciner and claimed to be Durst's sister-in-law.

In mid-October, police began to investigate the possibility that the renter was not who she claimed to be.

"There is a Dorothy Ciner who went to high school with Mr. Durst," Galveston police Lt. Michael Putnal told the Daily News last fall. "She called us after hearing her name was in the papers, and said, 'I've never even been to Galveston.'"

No women's clothing or other female items were found in the apartment, police said.

Klaus Dillmann, who owns the apartment building, told police he never saw Durst and Ciner at the same time, the Daily News reported. The woman claimed to have a throat problem and only communicated with him through notes, Dillmann said.

He also told police that Ciner appeared to be wearing a wig and appeared to be about the same size and build as Durst, according to the Daily News.

"We're not ready to say anything conclusively, but these things certainly might suggest that's a possibility [that Ciner and Durst are one person]," Putnal told the Daily News in October.

After his arrest, Durst posted \$300,000 bond, but became a fugitive on Oct. 16 when he failed to appear at a court hearing in the case. A grand jury indicted him on charges of murder and jumping bail, and police in Pennsylvania arrested him in late

November after a nationwide manhunt.

Durst was returned to Galveston in January.

## Durst allegedly lured gay men

The millionaire New Yorker lived in Galveston as a transvestite who used drugs to lure young men to his apartment for sex, according to press reports from earlier this month.

A cross-dressing male prostitute identified in a magazine article only as Frankie claims to have provided the crack cocaine that Durst used as bait to land dates with men.

"That man got money," said Frankie, according to the GQ article. "He could pull people. He didn't get it on his merits, his attitude or his attributes."

The GQ story details Durst's double life in Galveston, where he lived for nearly a year before Black was slain.

Durst frequently would don dresses and wigs and spend time at gay bar Garza's Kon Tiki, using the name Roberta Klein, according to the story. A bartender at Kon Tiki told the New York Daily News that there had been rumors that Durst was a customer but couldn't confirm GQ's account.

Frankie claims to have trolled busy Seawall Boulevard with Durst, according to the magazine story. He allegedly helped Durst attract men, who would then be lured with drugs and money to Durst's nearby apartment.

But Durst dressed normally for a family wedding in Houston a week before Black's murder, the article states.

A New Orleans landlord said Durst used a ruse similar to what Galveston police believe he used — posing as a woman — to rent an apartment in the Crescent City, according to media reports.

## Missing pieces in the case

Medical examiners said determining a cause of death is almost impossible while the victim's head is still missing. DeGuerin said neither he nor his client knows the whereabouts of Black's head.

"Everyone's looking for the head," DeGuerin told the Daily News Wednesday. "The prosecution's looking; we're looking, and I believe there are some third parties looking as well."

Durst remains in custody. Heightening publicity in the case, New York officials want to talk to Durst about the 1982 disappearance of his wife, Kathleen. Los Angeles police want to question Durst about the September 2000 shooting death of one of his friends, crime author Susan Berman.

Berman, a longtime friend of Durst's, was found dead in her home weeks before she was to talk to New York state police about the disappearance of Kathleen Durst, according to press reports. She had been shot once in the back of the head.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.



Durst, assisted here by an unidentified deputy, was arrested Oct. 9 and charged with Black's murder.

# State laws make gays' estates more complex

➤ Continued from Page 1

and Kay Collman, contend that money from the federal compensation program that is likely to go to the deceased man's estate belongs to them, not to Bradkowski.

Collman and Bradkowski had registered with California officials in late 2000 as domestic partners, and had been together 11 years.

"It has been so divisive, even in the best of families," said Bradkowski, an unemployed registered nurse. "When wills are not filled out, it causes fights. So that's something that I'm now preaching about."

Jennifer Middleton, a staff attorney at the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund in New York City who has been assisting surviving same-sex partners of the Sept. 11 attacks, said about 21 people have approached that organization for help.

"There are probably at least twice that number of people who, for whatever reason, have chosen not to come forward," Middleton said. "But among this group that has come forward, only a small number had wills."

Having a will should make a huge difference, Middleton said, when families begin approaching the federal government to apply for their share of the multimillion-dollar federal compensation program.

Lambda is working with the Empire State Pride Agenda and the Anti-Violence Project in New York, as well as the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, to help survivors who had same-sex partners.

On March 7, the U.S. Justice Department declined requests by gay advocacy groups to add language recognizing the eligibility of domestic partners in its final regulations governing the federal compensation program. The final regulations leave it up to state probate laws to decide which survivors are eligible for a federal compensation payment that could exceed \$1 million or more. Except for Vermont and Hawaii, state probate laws don't recognize domestic partners. It is unclear how state laws in California will affect federal compensation payments, lawyers there said.

"The individuals who had wills are in far better positions to make a claim through the federal victims' compensation fund," Middleton said. "That's because the will clearly states the person's intention to leave their entire estate to the partner. So in most cases we expect that people [whose partners] left wills will receive compensation from the federal fund."

Jennifer Pizer, a senior staff attorney at Lambda's Los Angeles office, is representing Bradkowski in legal matters pertaining to Collman's estate that involve the federal government as well as American Airlines.

American Airlines gave \$25,000 to each family that lost a relative on its jets Sept. 11. Bradkowski did not receive a payment from American, however.

Pizer said she has been negotiating with American Airlines officials at the company's headquarters in Dallas for the past six

months over who is entitled to the \$25,000 and other compensation for Collman's death.

"The question is whether American should recognize Bradkowski as a domestic partner who was enrolled as [Collman's] beneficiary," she said, "or whether the airline must follow state inheritance laws."

At the core of this dispute is the question of whether Bradkowski or Collman's biological parents, who are divorced, are entitled to compensation for the flight attendant's death.

"The question is what does it mean to have an employee benefits program where you recognized domestic partners," Pizer said. "Does the airline have a legal duty to be true to that?"

American Airlines officials did not return a call from the Blade for comment.

Another looming challenge facing Bradkowski is whether he is eligible to receive funds from the federal compensation program for survivors of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Kenneth Feinberg, the federal official in charge of the victims' compensation fund, has said he would consider an appeal from gay surviving spouses if they feel the rules unfairly leave them out of the process.

"If the victim died with a will, and the will says, 'I leave my estate to my fiancé, I leave my estate to my gay partner,' — I will honor that will," Feinberg recently said. "I'm not looking to discriminate."

Gay civil rights and legal groups have noted that if a gay victim did not leave a will naming his or her partner as a beneficiary, it would be up to the victim's relatives to decide whether the partner should receive any portion of the federal compensation money.

"What would have been fair would have been to have provisions in the federal regulations recognizing that lesbian and gay partners in committed relationships should be treated as other family members," said Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco.

Pizer in Lambda's Los Angeles office said the federal regulations have "enormous gray areas" and Feinberg has "very substantial discretion" in how he decides to handle appeals for compensation from gay victims.

"California law provides the right to bring a wrongful death action if a couple is registered as a domestic partner with the state," she said. "California, Hawaii and Vermont all provide relevant legal protection," she said. "But in California, the domestic partner law is fairly confusing."

Until Feinberg begins reviewing particular cases, Pizer said, "we don't know for certain what will happen."

Middleton, at Lambda's New York office, said she plans to submit claims to Feinberg for surviving same-sex partners of Sept. 11 victims, "but we don't know yet how they'll be treated."

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

## A will 'makes an enormous difference'

By RHONDA SMITH

Jennifer Middleton, a staff attorney at the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund who has been assisting surviving partners of gay people who died as result of the attacks on Sept. 11, strongly encourages clients to have a will.

"A will can't completely protect people in the event of a tragedy like [Sept. 11]," she said, "but it certainly makes an enormous difference."

Shannon Minter, legal director of the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights, said the cost to have a lawyer help execute a will varies nationwide but could range from \$100 for a basic will to several thousand dollars if a person has many assets.

Lambda Legal and Whitman-Walker Clinic officials said the most common documents gays should execute are health care proxies, living wills, powers of attorney, and wills. Spriggs said Whitman-Walker Clinic also recommends that clients execute a "Letter of Disposition of Bodily Remains."

A health care proxy, or health care power of attorney, empowers a trusted representative to make decisions for another person should he or she become

ill and is unable to verbalize wishes about medical treatment.

A living will, sometimes known as a "medical directive" or "advanced directive," outlines a person's wishes regarding end-of-life care.

A letter of disposition of bodily remains outlines how a person wants his or her body to be handled after death. It generally is a good idea to include a clause in the will outlining this information, Spriggs said, but in many jurisdictions residents are required to execute this letter as well.

A power of attorney grants legal authority for someone to act on a person's behalf in legal and financial matters. Lambda Legal officials said many states have standard power-of-attorney forms that can be obtained at local banks, from lawyers, and at legal stationery stores.

A last will and testament outlines how and to whom a person would like his or her property distributed. An attorney should be consulted to execute this document. Lambda officials said without a legal will that outlines what a person wants, state intestacy laws automatically dictate that the person's biological family will inherit all of the deceased person's property and possessions.

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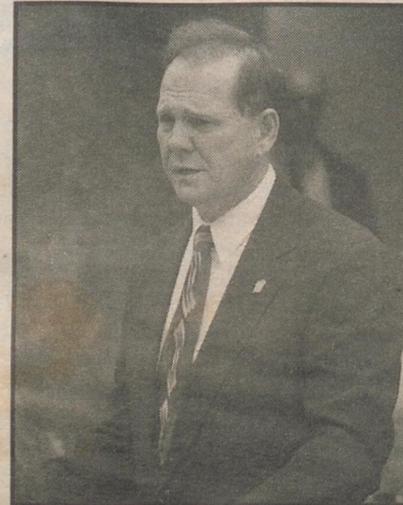
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## around the nation

### Embattled Ala. judge speaks out on controversy

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A judicial panel dismissed a bias complaint on March 21 against state Chief Justice Roy Moore, who called homosexuality an “inherent evil” in ruling that a lesbian was an unfit mother. Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund filed the complaint last month, alleging Moore could not be an impartial judge in cases involving gay litigants. The statement by the Judicial Inquiry Commission cleared Moore of the charges, saying in a letter that it does not act against judges unless there is evidence of “ill will,” according to Lambda attorney Ruth Harlow. On March 21, the Birmingham City Council in a 7-1 vote denounced Moore in a resolution stating that Moore’s ruling wrongly singled out a specific demographic group. Moore made a second public statement about the controversy March 23, saying that while he does believe homosexuality is evil, those who practice it may not be. “I think the biggest confusion people have is putting the person with the act,” Moore said, according to the Birmingham News. “The person can be separated from the act and in Alabama law indeed is.”



‘All I did was cite the law,’ Chief Justice Roy Moore said in defending his 35-page ruling in a recent case that ignited a national firestorm of controversy. Moore said gays are ‘abhorrent, immoral and detestable’ in the ruling. (Photo by Todd Van Ernst/AP)

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### Oldest gay bathhouse in U.S. closes over code violations

BUFFALO, NY — The Bull Mastiff, open since the late 1800s and reportedly the oldest continually operating gay bathhouse in the U.S., shut down Monday under pressure from city building inspectors, the Buffalo News reported. The club first heard from the city in May, following a large party with a sadomasochistic theme, according to owner Lynne Kiser. Now the city claims the operation poses a fire hazard. “The city doesn’t want me here, and they are going after me through the building codes,” Kiser said. According to Kiser, the Bull Mastiff is continuing a gay tradition since 1892. Kiser hired an attorney to fight the closure order, arguing the private club has a “grandfather clause” that allows its building violations. “Just because it’s been operating for 30 years or so doesn’t make it a legal use,” said Lou Petrucci, chief building inspector.

### Fort Bragg underreports gays kicked out of Army

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — The number of gay soldiers kicked out of the Army here last year is six times higher than originally reported, officials say. Twenty-four gay soldiers, not four, were dismissed during 2001 under the Army’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy at the military installation, officials said March 22. Discharge paperwork for most of the gay discharges incorrectly coded them as “completion of required active service.” Post officials said the discharges were miscoded to protect the soldiers’ privacy, but that the policy has been changed. The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, an advocacy group for gays in the military, first questioned Fort Bragg’s bookkeeping in its annual report, which showed a 2001 all-time high for gay discharges. “We applaud Fort Bragg for listening to the report and paying attention to our results,” said Steve Ralls, a spokesperson for SLDN.

### O’Donnell steps up opposition to Fla. law

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — In her continued public support for repealing a Florida law banning gays from adopting children, lesbian talk show host Rosie O’Donnell bought full page ads in major Florida newspapers March 21 imploring state legislators to repeal the measure. “I will spend all the money I have made in this television show — and it is a sick amount of money — to fight this law,” she said. But lawmakers can’t consider the request this year since the legislative session ended March 22. State Rep. Randy Ball (R-Titusville), a key proponent of keeping the law, said in an automated e-mail that “Placing a child into a homosexual household is like placing a child into a whirlwind of sexual partners, disease and depression.” O’Donnell also wants her name and voice removed from “Artists and Orphans: A True Drama,” an Oscar-nominated documentary she narrated, after learning that the filmmakers are involved with an anti-gay school.

### Gay politician pushes on for lt. gov. in Mass.

SAUGUS, Mass. — When acting Gov. Jane Swift made a March 19 announcement that she was pulling out of the governor’s race, she left Patrick C. Guerriero, a gay man campaigning for lieutenant governor on Swift’s ticket, suddenly without a running mate. Guerriero now must gain the confidence of gubernatorial hopeful Mitt Romney, who was quoted calling homosexuality perverse in 1993, a comment he now denies making. Romney’s wife, son and daughter-in-law signed a petition that put a proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and domestic partner benefits on the 2004 state ballot. A spokesperson said Romney, head of the successful Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, opposes the amendment and supports current laws that allow for some domestic partner benefits to public employees.

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## national news

## From outside the movement, Latina lesbians push for change

## Ingrid Durán uses the system to call for equality

By RHONDA SMITH

Ingrid Durán believes politics can be polite, and progress is measured in inches, not miles. So perhaps that's why the president and chief executive officer of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute is not as well known in the gay civil rights movement as other more vocal leaders.

"I'm one of those people who believes things have to be done in baby steps. You have to spoon feed people things slowly," the 36-year-old lesbian said. "You can't just bang them over the head and say, 'Hey, you need to address this issue,' because you won't get anywhere."

She contrasted her style of activism to that of Mandy Carter, a longtime gay civil rights activist and another lesbian of color, who opted for what Durán termed a "confrontational" approach during the debate several years ago on the Millennium March on Washington.

"To me, that doesn't get you very far," she said. "My approach is to work through the system."

During those Millennium March debates, Carter literally cursed and cried to focus attention on a movement she said lacks diversity and increasingly is being led by white gay men and lesbians. Durán, a California

native who completed four years in the U.S. Marines, chose instead to serve on the board that organized the Millennium March.

"I was sitting back and listening and did all my bickering to the board," she said. "I wanted to see if I could make any inroads." In retrospect, however, Durán said Carter correctly characterized the problems.

"In the end, when you saw who was coming on stage at the March, there were only a few people of color. And we had to fight to get the ones that we got up there," Durán said. "Those are some of the things that disturbed me. It just solidified for me the fact that we're still an afterthought — as Latinos, as people of color. We're still not looked at as part of the discussion."

## Outside the movement

This perception of being excluded has often led Durán and other Latina lesbians to do their advocacy work for the gay civil rights movement at organizations that focus on issues beyond gay civil rights issues.

"My work has always been through NOW," said Olga Vives, a 55-year-old activist originally from Cuba.

Vives was elected Action Vice President for the National Organization for Women during the group's national conference last summer. She describes herself as "a mother of three, an immigrant, a lesbian, a Hispanic, an organizer and a Midwesterner." Before moving to Washington, D.C., to assume her latest role with NOW, Vives was a women's rights advocate in Illinois for decades.



As the 36-year-old president and CEO of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Ingrid Durán personifies the trend among Latina lesbians to work on gay civil rights issues through organizations with a broader focus than simply gay rights.

Vives said Latina lesbians face unique cultural issues that can make their fight for social justice sometimes seem removed from the traditional gay civil rights struggle.

"In the Latina community, there are issues that are very different in the sense of the roles of women and how lesbians are viewed," she said.

Ingrid Rivera, the former senior field organizer for the Racial and Economic Justice Initiative at the Policy Institute of

the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force in New York City, echoed Vives.

"Latina lesbians come with multiple identities, and because the GLBT movement has been predominantly white, we come into it not only with a queer analysis but also we have to think about racial and, at other times, economic as well as class issues," said Rivera, who recently resigned from NGLTF to work as a consultant. "Race, economic and class issues are not factored into the queer movement."

## Building gay/Latino bridges

Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest gay political organization nationwide, has approached Durán, among other gays of color, to ask if they can help HRC strengthen its political ties to coalitions of color on Capitol Hill and beyond.

Durán was promoted last October to her current position at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, a national nonprofit and non-partisan organization that focuses on developing young Latino political leaders.

In that post, she said she has worked to get Hispanic Congress members to address issues related to HIV/AIDS. Her hope is that CHC members might also be supportive on federal legislation such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Durán says the goal is for HRC to build stronger ties with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, like they continue to do with the Congressional Black Caucus.

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## STAFF

Executive Editor CHRIS CRAIN

Editor PENNY WEAVER  
editor@houstonvoice.com

Production BONNIE NAUGLE

Contributors LOU CHIBBARO JR.,  
GEORGE JONTE, LISA KEEN, KATHREEN LEE,  
RHONDA SMITH, ELLA TYLER

Webmaster DOUGLAS WRIGHT

Photographers DALTON DEHART,  
KIMBERLY THOMPSON

Advertising Sales  
JIM NIXON—Regional Sales Manager  
jnixon@houstonvoice.com

WANDA FAULKNER—Senior Account Executive  
wfaulkner@houstonvoice.com  
cell (713)269-5743

CARLA LAUBSCHER—Account Executive  
claubscher@houstonvoice.com

Administration & Sales Support  
CAROLYN A. ROBERTS  
croberts@houstonvoice.com

National Advertising Representative  
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Issue 1118

# Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

MARCH 29, 2002

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## viewpoint

# Gay celebrity witch hunts

Ellen and Melissa and their very public breakups are examples of why we shouldn't coerce the famous into coming out before they can handle it like Rosie will.

By LISA KEEN

**I** WAS REMINDED recently of an old Gary Larson cartoon, one that I cut out and kept on my desk for years. It's the one where a group of dogs is standing alongside a busy highway watching as another dog darts and dodges through traffic to make it from one side of the road to the other side, to join the group. The cartoon captures the dog just as he's made it safely past the last lane of traffic, and one of the other dogs declares, "All right, Rusty's in the club!" Rusty and the pack of dogs are jubilant about the newcomer's arrival.

When it comes to the gay community, I get the feeling that we're not all so welcoming of newcomers, especially when they are celebrities. But it is fascinating to watch a celebrity go through the coming out process — crossing the dangerous road from the shadows of presumed heterosexuality to becoming an openly gay identity. Most of us can remember exactly when and how we took our first steps. It's like growing up, when some of us reach sexual maturity sooner than we reached emotional maturity. And, as we all know, it's different for everybody.

Both processes — growing up and coming out — start with simply feeling the attraction, then testing out our feelings and confirming they are genuine. We had to explore the relationship of our feelings to the world around us, assess the benefits and risks of acting on those feelings, and then make the decision to be in the world who we really are in our hearts.

THAT'S WHY IT surprises me to see how distressed some of us get when it becomes apparent that a famous person has started the journey to being out. Celebrity talk show host Rosie O'Donnell is the latest to publicly share that she is gay, and I gather that some gays are dismayed that O'Donnell, 39, has taken as long as she did.

There are some legitimate reasons for dismay. When a celebrity starts into the

coming out process, there is inevitably a time period when the public begins to realize the famous person is probably gay but the information seems to be concealed. The celebrity claims she just doesn't want to talk about her "private" life or that his fans don't want to know. This is ludicrous; people love trivia about celebrities.

It is during this phase of openly hiding their sexual orientation — the phase between being totally closeted and totally out — that the most damage is done. The celebrity's self-esteem is ravaged, and the public's sense that there's something wrong with being gay is given validity. The celebrity is saying, in essence, "I'm afraid that being gay will make me seem unworthy of your admiration and respect."

If every lesbian and gay man could just suddenly be out of the closet, the global enlightenment of the experience would make all our lives much easier. Those of us who are out would not have to bear the brunt of discrimination quite so harshly because there would be so many more people to share the burden of educating our heterosexual family, friends, and citizens.

But coming out happens one person at a time, and I'm not inclined to thrust the weight of world enlightenment on people who have barely taken their first steps out of the closet. I think there's some wisdom in letting celebrities come out slowly.

Melissa Etheridge and Ellen DeGeneres provide the perfect case in point. When they came out, they became poster lesbians. Their relationships were trotted out as examples and then, boom, within a couple of years, both relationships crashed very publicly. No matter how many gay couples we could point to who had been together for decades, the public saw "two mommies" split and Anne Heche reel into the arms of a man.

It would be nice if these celebrities and others could have gone through more of the stumbles and missteps of the coming out journey before landing so prominently in the public eye. But the unfortu-

nate reality is many of them would never have become famous had they been openly gay first. And, regardless, their being out has, without a doubt, helped the cause more than it has hurt.

WHAT BOTHERS ME is the goading that takes place in some quarters of the gay press to push famous people out of the closet. It has the feel of a witch hunt being promoted by witches.

Maybe those of us who are openly gay and carry out our work and our lives in relative obscurity feel a certain entitlement to pass judgment on those who are not yet with us. We expect them to be as brave in their big fishponds as we are in our much smaller ones, forgetting that we ever had the jitters and the false starts when it came to making our own revelations. We also have the advantage of control that they, by virtue of their fame, do not. Generally speaking, we can tell family, friends, co-workers, retail clerks, and census takers what we want to tell them and tell them when we're ready to handle their reactions.

Celebrities are asked, and they have much less control over what they are asked and when. So, when we needle them with our public speculations, we take from them what little control they do have.

We should not be coercing people into coming out before they can handle it. We can't make them "gay" by saying we've seen them with a person of the same gender. It takes more even than having sex with a person of the same gender to make them gay. It takes saying, "I am gay" and, until a person voluntarily states those words to the world — the whole world or one person at a time — he or she has not arrived. They may have the genes, but they don't have grades.

Each of us who chooses to say "I am gay" does so because we have reached that point in the coming out journey where being honest about who we are is critical to our well-being.

And as far as I can tell, "Rosie's in the club!"

@ Lisa Keen is senior political correspondent for the Houston Voice and can be reached at lkeen@washblade.com.



# letters

## Straight-bashers as bad as gay-bashers

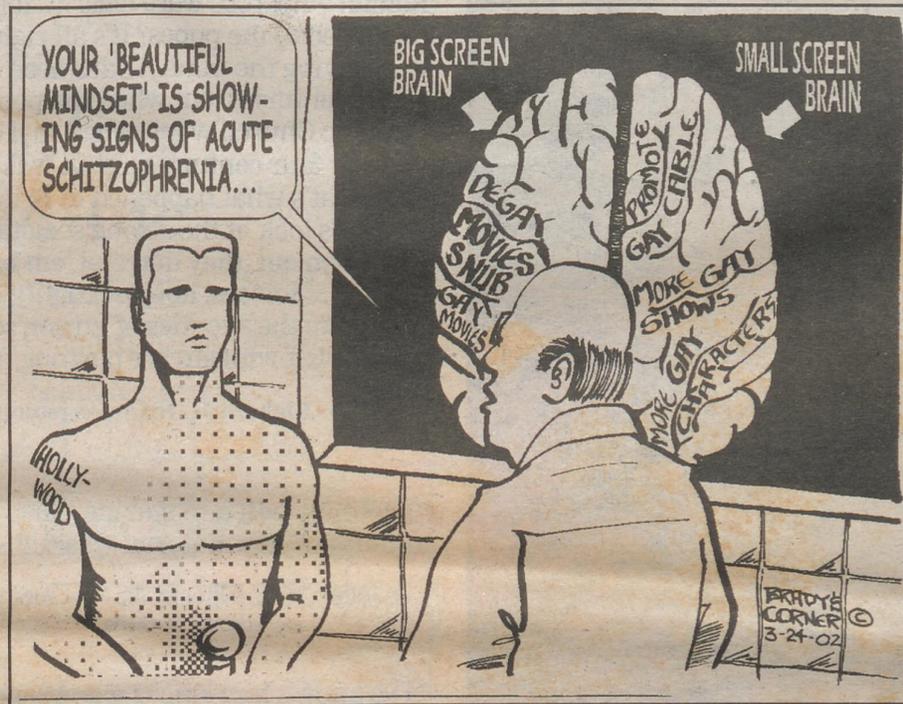
To the Editor:

A straight co-worker of mine was leaving a Montrose video store one day this week when two gay men in their big "butch" pickup truck — who apparently thought their truck made them "more butch" or maybe "more straight" — began harassing and, yes, bashing my co-worker.

They did so not only in the parking lot of the video store, but down the street as she walked back to our place of business. My co-worker was quite shaken up. I am not going to repeat what was said, but suffice it to say it was quite mean and vulgar.

These two men have shamed our community. Apparently the "idea" behind gay bashing — to make certain segments of our greater community feel bad about who they are and how they look, dress, walk or talk — has snaked its way into the gay community itself. We should all be ashamed and disgusted.

My friends, this is not acceptable behavior for our community. This is the exact behavior that we abhor in people who yell "faggots" from their cars as they speed through Montrose; behavior we claim to abhor in people like Rev. Fred Phelps and his followers who verbally harass and bash gays. How can we say we abhor this behavior in people outside our community while committing the same sin? Turnabout is not fair play.



My co-worker is a great friend to me as an openly gay man, and she is an ally for all gay Houstonians. We should be proud to call her a "sister" to the gay community, not bashing her for her "perceived" differences.

These two men have shamed not only themselves, but our community by their actions and words. They should know better.

Timothy M. Lankford  
Houston

## Late activist's family thanks gay Houston

To the Editor:

My family and I first came to Houston on Feb. 27, under the worst of circumstances, to arrange for the cremation and funeral services for my brother, gay activist William N. Agosto. Bill was hit so severely by a careless driver the evening of Feb. 25 near his home in the Heights section

that he never regained consciousness and died the next day in Ben Taub Hospital.

In a state of shock and despair, we came to Houston and, as total strangers, did not know what to expect. But the welcome we received from Bill's many friends was overwhelming and immediately put to rest any concerns.

We felt the immediate comfort from the community that helped us immensely to deal with this sudden and awful tragedy. I can't describe fully how thankful we are to so many who aided in arranging a most exquisite and perfectly appropriate service and tribute for Bill held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston on March 3, just three days after our arrival.

I particularly need to acknowledge the heartfelt, unselfish support from Rev. Bill Clark, pastor of the Henry David Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation. This wonderful congregation put together the service and ensuing refreshments and gathering, and what a surprise it was for us.

I can't leave out the invaluable assistance we received in so many ways from Clarence Bagby, a close personal friend of Bill's.

We will always be grateful to the people of Houston, who came to us in our time of great need with such loving kindness and hospitality.

Gonzalo A. Agosto  
Westfield, N.J.

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner



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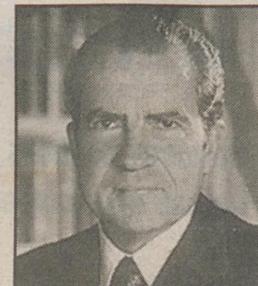
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**on the record**

"I don't want to see this country to go that way. You know what happened to the Greeks. Homosexuality destroyed them. ... Do you know what happened to the Romans? The last six Roman emperors were fags. ... You know what happened to the popes? It's all right that popes were laying the nuns. That's been going on for years, centuries, but when the popes, when the Catholic Church went to hell in, I don't know, three or four centuries ago, it was homosexual. ... Now, that's what happened to Britain, it happened earlier to France. And let's look at the strong societies. The Russians. Goddamn it, they root them out, they don't let 'em hang around at all. You know what I mean? ... You see, homosexuality, dope, uh, immorality in general. These are the enemies of strong societies. That's why the Communists and the left-wingers are pushing it. They're trying to destroy us."



Richard M. Nixon, in recently released Oval Office tapes from May 13, 1971 (Washington Post, March 21)

"I actually edit a magazine that's pretty gay ... If anything inhibits the amount of gay material we publish, it's me."

Adam Moss, editor of the New York Times Sunday Magazine, at a March 12 forum of gay editors working in the mainstream media (Wall Street Journal, March 15)

"I've known him since I was 20 and that's just not true — I should know."

Alicia Nash on rumors that her husband, mathematician John Nash, the subject of the Oscar-winning film "A Beautiful Mind," is gay ("60 Minutes," March 17)



"Speaking of security, same-sex frisking is now required, and Rosie O'Donnell has been brought in to do double duty. ... I feel sorry for Rosie. Last week, she admitted she was gay, and the next day, her girlfriend left her! Yep, she claimed she had no idea; she thought Rosie was just warm and friendly and just liked to cuddle upside down."

Joan Rivers in her annual pre-Oscars, red carpet monologue (E! Network)

"A few months ago, my son, Parker, had a play date with a friend from soccer. His friend asked, 'Why do you have two mommies?' He said, 'They're gay. Ever hear of it?,' and his friend said, 'No.' Parker said, 'You know the Thomas the Tank Engine toys, how they all connect by magnets. And there is always that train that won't connect to the other ones and you have to find another train that won't connect to any of the other ones and then those two trains connect? Those two trains are totally gay!'"

Rosie O'Donnell discussing how her son taught her about diversity (NBC's "The Colin Quinn Show," March 19)

"A heterosexual husband."

Elton John's response, when asked what he would give Liza Minnelli as a wedding gift. During a commercial break while in New York filming a British TV special, the singer began playing "Here Comes the Bride" and told the audience, "I'm so glad I'm here, so I don't have to be at that wedding! ... If you want to get married, get married. I mean, I love publicity, but puh-lease!" (New York Post, March 20)



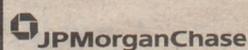
Nathan Lane: "We love each other."  
 Matthew Broderick: "We do. I hate to admit it."  
 Lane: "He hates to admit it. I'll openly admit I love Matthew."  
 Broderick: "I love you, too."

Gay actor Nathan Lane and his straight sidekick, Matthew Broderick, in their award-winning run as the leads in the hit Broadway show "The Producers" (New York Times, March 17)

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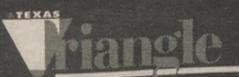
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# Out on the Bayou

Houston Voice • March 29, 2002

## Keep it together

That Valentine bouquet has started to fade, so how do we keep our relationships in bloom?

By LISA KEEN

Most people know that St. Valentine is the patron saint of lovers, but relatively few know the story of St. Dwyn, the Welsh equivalent. According to history, this beautiful daughter of a 5th Century Welsh king resisted marriage. She dreamed that God gave her a sweet drink that stopped a suitor by freezing him. But Dwyn was kind and wanted all lovers to find happiness. So, she prayed for three things: that her frozen suitor would be restored, that she would never marry, and that all lovers would find happiness. She eventually became a nun and there is reportedly a wishing well in the village of Llandwyn on the west coast of Wales where lovers still go to learn the future of their relationships.

Given the relative paucity of information available on the survival rate of same-sex relationships, gay couples might well consider the trip. Just before Valentine's Day this year, the U.S. Census Bureau released its "most comprehensive look at marital patterns" nationally in 10 years. Among other statistics, it noted that about 6,400 couples get married every day and that almost nine out of ten Americans gets married at some point in his or her lifetime. About half of these marriages end in divorce after about eight years.

In the year 2000, 52 percent of women and 56 percent of men over the age of 15 were married. In this same year, 35 percent of people ages 25 to 34 were single and had never been married, as were 15 percent of those between the ages of 35 and 44.

The Census Bureau analysis did not address this point but, technically speaking, most gay men and lesbians are included in that statistic for the "never marrieds." Some gays have been married to a heterosexual spouse; some still are and others are divorced. But there is little data about the committed same-sex relationships that most gays enter into.

Nevertheless, there is some information, albeit from relatively small groups of research subjects. Studies in the 1970s indicated that gay couples were not that far behind the national heterosexual norm in terms of partnering up: about 70 percent of gay men and 80 percent of lesbians were in coupled relationships. Studies in the 1980s, including many by researcher Lawrence Kurdek, indicated that relationship satisfaction for gay couples was similar to that for heterosexuals. A partner was more likely to be satisfied with a relationship if he or she believed there were few alternative partners and many barriers to leaving the relationship. And, not surprisingly, given the AIDS epidemic, studies in the 1990s showed that increasing numbers of gay men were staying in monogamous relationships.



TO DATE, ONLY ONE study has attempted to quantify break-up rates among gay couples. That study, led by John Gottman in Seattle, involved only 40 couples and found that about 20 percent of gay couples had broken up over a 12-year period, compared to about 40 percent of an equal number of heterosexual relationships.

Gottman followed 40 same-sex couples between the ages of 21 and 40 who had been together at least two years, had no children, and had never lived with a heterosexual partner. These couples were compared with 40 heterosexual married couples from an ongoing study in Indiana, with the straight couples being selected to match the gay couples in terms of length of relationship and the level of satisfaction with the relationship. The researchers then gave a mathematical value to various emotions and quantified how often and how long couples expressed those emotions. Then they devised a

mathematical formula to evaluate their results.

The results of the study, published last year, indicated that same-sex and heterosexual relationships are "fundamentally different." In same-sex couples, issues are "presented and received" in a positive fashion, where in heterosexual relationships, issues are presented and received in a negative fashion. When a partner in a gay relationship initiated discussion of an issue, he or she did so with less belligerence, less fear and tension, less sadness and whining, and a less domineering fashion than when a partner in a heterosexual relationship initiates such a discussion. These characteristics in same-sex couples, said Gottman, reflect a greater respect for equality of partners than is experienced in heterosexual relationships.

> Continued on Page 17

## appts.

### friday, march 29

The **Mercury Baroque Ensemble** presents a concert featuring Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's famous "Stabat Mater," a piece for two voices and strings that is a cornerstone of baroque music. Tickets: \$20 or \$10 for students and seniors. 8 p.m. Lowe Theater, St. John's School, 2700 Buffalo Speedway. 713-498-4853.

www.MercuryBaroqueEnsemble.org.

### saturday, march 30

Christmas Songfest sponsors a "**Kindred Spirits Reunion.**" Everyone is invited to rekindle memories of the 1980s, when Kindred Spirits was in full swing, providing a classy, upscale environment for men and women to socialize. The club also worked to bring HIV awareness, education and support in the community. Refreshments and music will be provided. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Bering Memorial United Methodist Church/HIV Medical Services. Tickets: \$25 at the door. 8 p.m. Edwin Hornberger Conference Center, 2151 W. Holcombe Blvd. For more information, call House of Coleman at 713-523-2521.

### sunday, march 31

A fund-raiser party for local service organizations, **Bunnies on the Bayou 2002** is this weekend. Groups that benefit this year are AIDS Foundation Houston, Bering-Omega Community Services, PWA Coalition of Houston, **Montrose Clinic, Montrose Counseling Center, Steven's House, HATCH, The Assistance Fund and AssistHers.** \$25 entry donation. 21 and up; ID required. 1-6 p.m. Wortham Center, Fish Plaza, 500 Texas Ave. www.bunnies.org.



Gay artist Ken Gonzales-Day's photographic essay work is on display at FotoFest Inc. through Sunday.

### through sunday, march 31

Gay artist **Ken Gonzales-Day** is among those whose work is on display with FotoFest Inc., a celebration of photographic artwork. His exhibition, titled "The Bone-Grass Boy: The Secret Banks of the Conejos River," includes homoerotic illustrations. Through March 31. FotoFest, Inc., 1113 Vine St., Suite 101. 713-223-5522. www.fotofest.org.

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# Heterosexuals may have something to learn from gays

➤ Continued from Page 15

"[B]ased on our results," wrote Gottman, "heterosexual relationships may have a great deal to learn from homosexual relationships insofar as homosexual relationships seem to have found a way to begin conflict discussions in a more positive and less negative manner, and to continue to have a positive rather than a negative influence on one another."

Gottman speculated that same-sex couples may manage conflicts better than heterosexual couples because of their greater respect for equity between partners and because "there are fewer barriers to leaving homosexual than heterosexual relationships."

"It is well known," said Gottman, "that the status hierarchy in heterosexual relationships breeds hostility, particularly from women, who tend to have less power than men, and who also typically bring up most of the relationship issues. Because there are fewer barriers to leaving homosexual compared to heterosexual relationships, homosexual couples may be more careful in the way they accept influence from one another."

The study did find, however, that when a gay man becomes "too negative" in presenting a conflict issue to his partner, the partner's attempt to try and "repair" the positive feelings between the two men is slower than with other couples.

Gottman found another interesting difference between lesbians and gay men. He found that, for lesbians, the most appreciated sign of support was affection while, for gay men, it was validation.

"Affection is a more loving, overtly demonstrative act," said Gottman, "whereas validation is a more cognitive act. Both convey support, but they do it differently."

So, if same-sex couples partner up with about the same frequency as heterosexual couples and they handle conflicts better, then shouldn't it stand to reason that same-sex couples would have a better track record when it comes to relationship longevity? The answers are mixed.

Gottman and his colleagues measured the actual physiological arousal — the heart rate, blood pressure and perspiration — that couples had when talking to each other. They found that when partners in a same-sex relationship experience a low state of physiological arousal, they are more likely to eventually break up. Just the opposite was true for heterosexual couples.

"Why should this be the case? We suggest that for gay and lesbian couples," wrote Gottman, "physiological reactivity may be related to mental effort, involvement, and emotional engagement, and that it thus may index a positive state of involvement rather than detachment."

Gottman's work will be published in a new book called "Mathematics of Marriage" (MIT Press) later this year.

THE WORK OF ANOTHER RESEARCHER suggests that the skills same-sex couples demonstrate in dealing with conflicts are the greatest predictors of longevity.

"All couples face the same basic problem," says Diane Sollee, a social worker and founder of the Coalition for Marriage, Family & Couples Education, "managing conflict and disagreement and preventing these from eroding and or

contaminating the love that they rode in on."

All couples fight about the same things, she says: money, children, sex, priori-



ties, and housework. But successful couples have the skills that enable them to address the conflicts while "the number one predictor of a relationship's dissolution is the avoidance of conflicts."

Sollee added, however, that "same-sex couples have additional problems specific to living gay in America. A number of researchers in the 1980s came to this same conclusion, including David P. McWhirter and Andrew M. Mattison in their book "The Male Couple." Their research found that the social stigma that often accompanies homosexuality can be internalized in many couples, causing damage to their relationships. Others have suggested that gay men have more difficulty dealing with the loss of "limerance" — or sexual passion — in their relationships.

According to a study coming out in a book to be published this summer, "Lesbian Love and Relationships" (from Haworth Press), a lesbian's commitment to a relationship is influenced by the same three things that affect the endurance of heterosexual relationships: how satisfied she is in the relationship, the quality of alternatives to the relationships (including other potential partners, friends, her work, and her appreciation of time alone), and how much she has invested in her current relationship (or what she would lose if she left the relationship). Another study in the book notes that "negative cultural attitudes" about homosexuality can cause a lesbian to "devalue" her relationship.

Kurdek, the early pioneer researcher, said in an interview that he thinks heterosexual relationships may have an advantage when it comes to survival "if only because there are institutionalized supports and barriers protecting them." That's true, he said, even when the spouses in the heterosexual relationship are unhappy, especially when children are present.

But despite the additional burdens for gay

couples and missing out on the benefits that heterosexuals have, same-sex couples still have their own advantages and, some say, are more capable of carrying out long-term relationships

"can't talk to each other about sexual issues, for instance. "When it comes to talking about such things as the frequency or the quality of lovemaking," said Gottman, "heterosexuals are so embarrassed about having a conversation about this, they can't even say words like breast or penis. But gay men and lesbians are just amazing. They can be honest in a way you don't see in heterosexual relationships."

"All other things being equal, same-sex relationships would be more successful [than heterosexual ones] if they had the societal and community support they should have," said Gottman, who is heterosexual. "The quality of homosexual interaction in conflict-discussions is superior. It starts out more positively, it's less negative, and partners are moving one another in a more positive direction — something we're just not seeing in heterosexual relationships."

## 'The Male Couple'

David P. McWhirter and Andrew M. Mattison  
Prentice-Hall, 1984

## 'Lesbian Love and Relationships'

Edited by Suzanna M. Rose  
Haworth Press, due for release in April 2002

## 'Mathematics of Marriage'

John Gottman  
MIT Press, due for release in June 2002

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## on stage

THEATER REVIEW

## 'Billy's' full of fun

Bienvenue piece brings  
audience scantily clad men  
and pure entertainment

By GEORGE JONTE

An outing at Bienvenue Theatre translates into pure fun with the troupe's current production, "Saturday Night at Billy's."

The piece revolves around the backstage conversations in a women's night-club on a Saturday night as the male strippers prepare for their individual performances.

There's no real plot to speak of. Playwright Ed Allen has designed a script in which the storyline deals with the guys, their relationships, and their future plans, should Billy's Club be shut down by the City Council — which is a distinct possibility. Other than that, the script is good for an evening of laughter and pure entertainment.



Erik Soliz (left), Jeffrey Seals and Joseph Hart are among the actors who bring 'Saturday Night at Billy's' to life at Bienvenue Theatre in Houston. (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

sleep with everything that walks.

Joseph Hart is most likable as Al, another one of the more serious members of the group. Having lost his lover several years before to the "dread disease," he is having trouble moving on with his life and another relationship. Sadly, he finds himself still dancing in the strip club after nearly 10 years.

Rounding out the cast, Enri De La Rosa plays Matt, the new kid on the block. This actor's small amount of theatrical experience serves him well in this role, allowing innocence to prevail.

Director Randall Jobe has pulled out all the stops. He has directed the show with fast pace, milking it for everything it's worth, while allowing an occasional poignant moment to give the audience a little food for thought. He has inserted proper sight gags, as well making for a quite entertaining two hours.

The playwright gives the director artistic license with the finale, which is a dance number in which all the cast participates. Jobe has designed a take-off on "The Full Monty" — complete with yellow slickers and umbrellas, and it works well.

But I have to warn you: This time the Bienvenue cast doesn't give you "the full monty" — well, they do, but in darkness, allowing everyone to use their imaginations or create their own scenarios. Good choice!

It isn't Shakespeare, but it's an evening of sheer fun and entertainment.

Director Randall Jobe ... has directed the show with fast pace, milking it for everything it's worth, while allowing an occasional poignant moment to give the audience a little food for thought.

The first act might well be named "Boys In The Band Working at La Bare." It's full of the typical "queen" repartee and campiness. The second act takes an occasional serious turn as the playwright forces the characters to look inward at their lives, their relationships, and their future — if there is one!

Darien Dane (Corky) is hysterical as the truly campy one of the bunch. His dialogue sizzles with stinging one-liners, and Dane delivers them deftly. Drew Manning turns in a pleasing performance as Danny, the life partner (they've been together 10 years) of Dane's character — obviously the stabilizing influence in the relationship as he looks at life just a tad more seriously than Corky.

Erik Soliz (Tom), in contrast, plays the character everyone loves to hate and hates to love. He is trying to prove to everyone or, perhaps himself, that he's really straight, that his foray into men is only an occasional fling. We, of course, learn differently. His philosophy has been to lead another character, Newt — played affably by Jeffrey Seals — into believing he is the only one for Tom, while Tom continues to

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At right, Yvonne Aguirre, Deborah Hope and Susan Oltmanns-Koozin; at top, Paul Locklear & Kelly Willams. Fernando Dovalina playwright; Chris Jimmerson, director  
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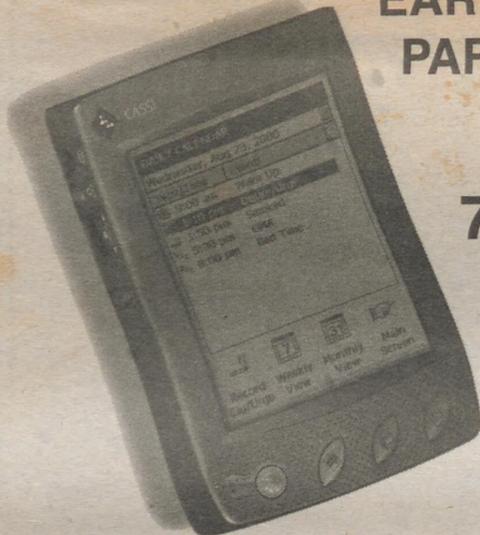
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# eating out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Cozy café hits, misses

In Kin's pleasant atmosphere, some dishes excel, while others need refinement

By KATHREEN LEE

Nestled in a mini strip mall toward the northern fringes of Rice Village, Kin's Café offers a casual and cozy intimate atmosphere characteristic of many village establishments. With only 10 tables and a 50-person seating capacity, eating at Kin's seems more like eating in Chef Kin Ng's dining room rather than his restaurant.

Luminescent candles at each table cast a dancing mix of warm glows and shadows on the soft splash of pastel colors adorning the snug wall space and simple cup-like lamp shades. In a small corner of Kin's Café, a brightly colored mural left over from the days when Nit Noi inhabited the space depicts cheerful diners at a restaurant enjoying their meal.

Bamboo scrolls illustrating serene mountain scenes, rice paper paneled accordion room dividers, and the blatant "No MSG" sign add the faint touch of décor typical of Chinese restaurants.

It is surprising that such a modestly sized restaurant could offer the number and variety of fares available at Kin's. With more than 80 entrees to choose from, Kin's not only covers the standard Chinese restaurant dishes such as fried rice, Lo Mein, Sweet and Sour Chicken (Pork, Beef, Shrimp), General Tso's Chicken, and Beef (Shrimp, Chicken, Pork) with Snow Peas, but also offers a number of its own unique fares.

For instance, the Pan Fried Canada Seabass (\$15.95) is one of Chef Kin's special creations. Because the seabass does not itself have an overwhelming fishy taste, the tender white meat often serves as the chef's carte blanche to experiment with different sauces and garnishes. For the Canada Seabass, Chef Kin produced his own special Bacon Soy Sauce, which he lathered over the fish.

While the pan-fried fish carried a crunchy exterior and soft interior for a favorable mix of textures, the overwhelmingly salty sauce made the dish difficult to consume. Furthermore, the sauce did not convey any hint of bacon and just seemed more like glutinous soy gravy.

Despite this misadventure with the seabass, Kin's Cafe does boast a wide array of other seafood entrees. For instance, a diner could select from Portugal Baked Seafood Delight (\$13.95), a blend of shrimp, sole fillet, crab, and scallops; Golden Frog Legs (\$12.95); Mango Scallop (\$12.95); and live fresh seafood. Boston Lobster, Seattle Dungeness Crab and Seattle Oysters are all kept alive and fresh in Kin's own tank until a patron personally selects it for an entrée.

If you are a vegetarian or watching your weight, Kin's Café also offers a special Diet Dishes section including fares such as Steamed Salmon with reduced fat/sugar sauces (\$13.95) and Steamed Mixed Vegetables (\$6.95).

Some of Kin's most interesting dishes can be found in its eclectic appetizers. The Fried Paper Bag Quails (\$3.95) include two half servings of quail fried in a white wax paper bag and lathered with a sauce similar to the one served on the seabass. Once again, the tender meat and the unique style of preparation were well received, but the overwhelmingly salty sauce detracted from the dish's strengths.

One of the most disappointing appetizers was the steamed vegetable dumplings. Shredded carrots, potatoes, spinach and onions comprised the dumpling's stuffings, but a strong sour and acidic taste emanating from the less-than-fresh spinach defused the succulent flavor.

The Lettuce Wraps with Diced Chicken (\$6) was one of the more successful dishes. Fresh bowl-shaped lettuce shells are used to wrap diced chickens and scallions infused in a warm sweet sauce. The cold and crisp lettuce wraps complemented the warm and tender chicken meat to create a flavorful combination.

Kin's intimate space and personalized service creates a congenial atmosphere for pleasant dining. However, while the cuisine fares seem to have the basic qualities, the dishes could use a bit more refinement and tweaking before all the flavors are mastered.



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## Kin's Cafe Chinese Cuisine



Kin's Café  
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Food: ●●●●●

Service: ●●●●●

Value: ●●●●●

Scene: ●●●●●

●●● Opt for bread, water at home

●●●● OK, if you really must

●●●●● Fine for most

●●●●●● Worth the drive, so live a little

●●●●●●● As good as it gets

FOOD FILE

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**Second Annual**  
**Fiesta Ball Extravaganza 2002**

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

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*Proceeds benefit the Ministry of Maranatha Fellowship MCC!*  
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**3333 Fannin, Suite 106, at 10AM**

For more information, call the church office 713.528.6756

March 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday "What Does it Take For You to Believe?" Rev. Janet Parker  
 Please join us for Praise & Worship. We would love to have you visit us.

Church Service begins at 10am and  
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# community calendar

## saturday, march 30

**NAMES Project Yard Sale.** Last weekend of each month. 713-52NAMES.

## every saturday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • CATS (Community Awareness for Transgender Support) Board of Directors meeting, 1-4 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## sunday, march 31

**PFLAG-Houston. Meeting.** 2 p.m. 713-867-9020. www.pflaghouston.org/meetings.html.

## every sunday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houston-tennisclub@aol.com

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

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

**Resurrection MCC.** Services. 9 and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.

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

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

**Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Adult discussion, 9:45 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

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

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

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in 2-5 p.m. • STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys) meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## monday, april 1

### every monday

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

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

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

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

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

## tuesday, april 2

**Lesbian Health Initiative of Houston, Inc.** Nonprofit organization working for lesbian health meets the first Tuesday of each month. 7 p.m., 404 Westheimer. 713-603-0023. LHlHouston00@aol.com

### every tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous.** Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

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

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

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

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

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

### wednesday, april 3

**Bering Omega Care Center.** First Wednesdays lecture series. "HIV and Uncertainty," 6 p.m. Reservations required. 713-520-7070, ext. 141.

**Classic Chassis Car Club.** Monthly meeting at The World Café, 1340 West Gray. 713-797-8615. www.classicchassiscarclub.org.

### every wednesday

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

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

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

**Houston Pride Band.** Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-524-0218.

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

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

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

**Spiritual Uplift service.** 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

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

### thursday, april 4

**Gay/Lesbian Jewish Study Group.** Meets the first Thursday of the month. 7:30-9 p.m. at Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood Blvd. Alan: 713-523-3673 or Rabbi Glickman: 713-771-6221.

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

### every thursday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Lambda Skating Club.** 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

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

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

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

**Spanish Charla Conversation Group.** Empire Cafe, 7 p.m. Email charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.

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

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

### friday, april 5

**CATS meeting.** Community Awareness for Transgender Support (CATS) meets from 6 p.m. to midnight in Alvin, 2315 Mustang Road, No. 14. 281-585-8089. e-mail: tghelp@tghelp.org.

### every friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### volunteer/self-help

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

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

**Montrose Counseling Center Permanent Endowment, Inc.,** a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is looking for an attorney who wants to give back to the community by providing pro bono legal counsel to its Board of Directors. Attorneys with estate planning or real estate experience are encouraged to respond. Please send a letter of inquiry with your resume/CV to: Montrose Counseling Center Endowment — LC, Attn: Executive Director, 701 Richmond Avenue, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713.526.4367. No phone calls.

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

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### MR. PRIME CHOICE

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### SONOMA

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**PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR.** The director of public policy is responsible for coordinating the policy initiative of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC). Demonstrated public policy experience (youth and/or LGBTQ experience preferred) at the federal level, exceptional written and verbal communications skills, and a strong commitment to grassroots multi-issue organizing are essential.

**YMSM OF COLOR HIV SPECIALIST.** The specialist will be responsible for supporting the implementation of NYAC's HIV/STD prevention education programs and technical assistance for youth-service providers and YMSMs of color. Demonstrated experience working on issues impacting young men who have sex with men and working within communities of color experiencing health disparities are essential. Applicants should also have an applied knowledge of organizational and program development as they relate to youth, LGBTQ populations, and/or communities of color.

Applicants must be committed to social justice and working with and for LGBTQ youth in an anti-racist environment. Please send cover letter, resume, and writing sample to: NYAC, PPD or YMSM Review, 1638 R Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009. No calls. People of color, transgender people, women, young people, and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. Please visit our web site at www.nyacyouth.org to download job descriptions. Application Deadline: March 15th.

### FREE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Offering free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals. Including job preparedness, training, resume development, and job searching assistance. For more info call 713-981-1543

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### MONTROSE COTTAGES

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### OFFICE FOR RENT

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

## Q Puzzle

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## "L OF A TEAM"

### Across

- Vidal's "The \_\_\_ Man"
- Poppycock
- You eat around this one's hole
- Low-voiced lady
- It comes before a date?
- Like sex being done right, to Woody Allen
- Voyeur's confession
- Ginsberg's "In Back of the \_\_\_"
- Practiced Cather's art
- "Camelot" couple
- Prissy temper tantrum
- Neither Log Cabin Rep. nor Stonewall Dem.
- Sound of a sudden, involuntary discharge
- "Big Boned Gal" singer
- "Some of My Best Friends" network
- Cotton Club singer Waters
- Tops
- Rate at which you come
- Tim Barela's comic strip couple
- Take an active part in S and M
- "If I Only \_\_\_ Brain"
- Paul of "Hollywood Squares"
- Elton John's lang.
- Puts the tongue between the cheeks
- Karen does this on Jack on "Will and Grace"

- You can shoot off with this
- Poet Angelou
- College couple defended by Darrow
- Lorde of verse
- Subject of autoerotic fantasy?
- Sculptor Stebbins
- Boyd's "Gay Priest: an \_\_\_ Journey"
- About, in memos
- Travel with your first mate
- The Indigo Girls' "\_\_\_ Complicated"
- Circle of life for "The Lion King"?
- "Island of Lost Souls" director Kenton

- What fruits do in orchards
- Feminizing trail
- Soapmaking need
- Gay leader?
- Like Berstein's paper
- Didn't dine out
- Cheech's male partner
- Male deliveries?
- Jodie Foster's role with the King
- Antonio Banderas' meat
- Chicken hawk and falcon
- Eyelid problem
- River in Roehm's country
- Cukor's rib donor
- Writer with a family name?
- Sometime label of Dusty Springfield
- Andrew \_\_\_ Webber
- Julia's pal in "My Best Friend's Wedding"
- Director Lipman
- They didn't beat the Bushes
- Moraga's mother
- Moon, to fifty million Frenchmen
- First name in Pulitzer Prize poetry
- Bear's den
- Hump on the beach
- Barbra's "Funny Girl" guy
- Disney's "\_\_\_ and the Detectives"
- "Show Boat" bundle
- Feel poorly

Answers on Page 25



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# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



## March 29-April 4



### ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

The moon and Uranus shack up in your house of friends in early April and could bring you some wanted and unwanted attention from one or two of your buds. You may be accused of crossing boundaries, and you may have to fess up to your unconscious desires! It's an arousing but erratic time. A Capricorn can deal with all your idiosyncrasies.



### TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

This is a key time for you to revisit the past — in your mind and heart, darling. You don't need to hook up with crazy exes to prove a point. The goal is to let go and move on, and only you can do that. A Capricorn doesn't want to let you go.



### GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Saturn is not letting you off the hook, darling. If you want to go the whole nine yards in your career, you've got to step out onto the field. (I know you love those sports metaphors, you butch thing you). Seriously, baby. It's not like you to be this stubborn. Make some moves. A Scorpio can give you mystical tips to help you in the practical world.



### CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

Feeling sluggish? Pluto calls for you to make a radical change in the way you treat your body. Do the opposite of what you usually do, and know that your ultimate goal is to achieve total balance. A Sag may mess with your equilibrium for awhile.



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

Don't worry so much about long-term love. Enjoy true passion now, baby. Let go of one inhibition, and the others will follow suit. An Aries makes you feel free.



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

Neptune and Saturn are sending you mixed messages re: your work life. Here's the deal — you need to find a way to balance your need for security with your need to express yourself creatively. Set aside time each day to meditate on this issue. An Aquarius holds (one of) the keys.



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

Pluto encourages you to work harder on your ideas before putting them into actual use. April is your time to conceptualize. What's your rush? Plan, think, and think some more. A Gemini helps you to brainstorm.



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

This is a great time of year for you to clean off your desk and finish up work that has been haunting you for months. A fresh start is right around the corner. Get ready for it. A Gemini will be there for you - when you're ready.



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

Your ruler Jupiter wants you to stop screwing around and start getting serious about love. What is your problem, darling? Get moving, and get serious about marriage. That's right, babe! A Taurus needs you now and forever.



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

Your loved ones are longing for your attention, baby, so don't be cold and withholding. Your affection means more than your money, you materialistic whore. A Cancer is your best ally.



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

You've got to move more quickly, darling. Your speedy, chatty, clever, and fast-paced third house is accentuated this month. Spontaneous social plans and last-minute changes at work are all lucky for you. So don't be too rigid, sweetie. A Leo is ready (for anything) when you are.



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

Balance the material and the spiritual worlds as best you can during this cycle. You may be more focused on bucks than Buddhas, but you really can give yourself an East-meets-West experience this April. Try. A Scorpio will help.

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

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