



**intimate
'strangers'**
Amy Sedaris gives fans
of her quirky TV clique
Some big-screen 'Candy.'
Page 11

THIRTY YEARS OF NEWS FOR YOUR LIFE. AND YOUR STYLE

www.houstonvoice.com

JULY 7, 2006

Houston athletes are off to Gay Games in Chicago

Team Houston members
are among 12,000
registered for this
year's games

By JEFF BISHOP

The plane tickets are purchased. The hotel rooms are booked, and last-minute conditioning is underway. On June 8, a private pizza party to pick up team jerseys, and to hang out one last time before heading north to Illinois will be held.

Next weekend, Team Houston is going to Chicago for the Gay Games.

Held every four years, the first Gay Games took place in San Francisco in 1982, bringing together 1,350 participants in 11 sports. The games have increased in size since then: 2006 brings together 12,000 registered athletes from over 70 countries competing in 32 sports.

Clear Lake resident, Rex Marzke, 45, will be going to his fourth Gay Games since 1986, to compete in outdoor sand doubles volleyball. Marzke and his partner are flying up on Saturday.

"I've been playing volleyball since '82. I didn't come out until '85, '86," Marzke said. "I don't drink, and so I don't go to gay bars. I saw this flyer for a gay volleyball league, joined it, and competed in the Gay Games in San Francisco in '86. I now mainly play indoor sixes. My volleyball partner is an old friend, and it's our first sand volleyball in 15 years."



Keith Wright is president of Team Houston, the local organization that organized gay teams to compete in this year's Gay Games in Chicago. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

For Deborah de Bram, 45, the atmosphere of the Gay Games is enough to bring her back. Her only trip so far was to Amsterdam in 1998, where she won three medals in tennis: a silver in the Doubles 35-plus mixed, and bronze's in Doubles 35-plus Women and Single 35-plus Women.

"I was with my partner, and we stayed at the host hotel," de Bram said. "In Amsterdam, everywhere we went [gay people] were there. Anytime that you went anywhere — the restaurants, the museums, the bars — you saw the athletes or the spectators. It was really, really awesome. I wanted to go to

Chicago to try to capture that again."

De Bram practices with the Houston Tennis Club, one of the many gay sports organizations in Houston.

"The Houston Tennis Club has been around for 26 years," de Bram said. "Quite a few of the guys who have been around since the inception are still playing." The group meets Wednesday and Friday nights from 7:30 to 9 a.m., and holds a clinic on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, he said.

Robert Lopez, 38, will be playing wherever his team needs him, most

Please see **GAY GAMES** on Page 4



Part of the new batch of gay soap characters with thicker plot-lines, Luke Snyder (Van Hansis, right) on 'As the World Turns' spins on a dramatic axis as he struggles with a crush on his straight friend Kevin (Karl Girolama). (Photo by Lorenzo Bevilacqua courtesy PGP/television illustration by Justin Winslow)

All my gay children

Soap operas continue inclusive,
if incidental use of gay characters

By ZACK HUDSON

"PASSIONS" CHARACTER SIMONE RUSSELL HASN'T had it easy.

Now a young woman in her 20s, Simone (Cathy Jeneën Doe) has spent the majority of her formative years seething at her parents and sister Whitney while trying to steal Chad, Whitney's boyfriend, away from her seemingly perfect older sibling.

But in true soap opera fashion, once her family learned that Chad was possibly Simone and

Please see **SOAP OPERAS** on Page 15



Paul Scott says free
activism training will help
Houston gay families.
Local Life, Page 6

Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee
wants to reinstate legislation
banning gay foster parents.
News, page 5

Actor Johnny Depp says
he has no problem
playing a gay character.
Dish, Page 16





LUBRICANT SALE!!!

ID MILLINIUM 2.5oz - \$9.96 4.9oz - \$12.96 16oz - \$34.95!!	ASTRO GLIDE 2.5oz - \$7.96 5.0oz - \$14.96
ID PLEASURE 17oz - \$19.96	PROBE 2.5oz Regularly \$7.96 NOW \$4.96!!
ID GLIDE 17oz - \$19.96	WET ORIGINAL 10oz - \$14.96

WHY PAY MORE??

GASLIGHT VIDEO 3519 Bellaire Blvd. Houston, TX 713-661-4105	BIG CITY NEWS 10105 Gulf Freeway Houston, TX 713-943-0799
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------



**JOSE MCDONALD
REALTY, INC.**

5444 Westheimer, Ste 1560 • Houston, TX 77056

Single Family Homes
Townhouses
Condos



- ☆ West University
- ☆ The Woodlands
- ☆ Northwest
- ☆ Southwest
- ☆ Heights



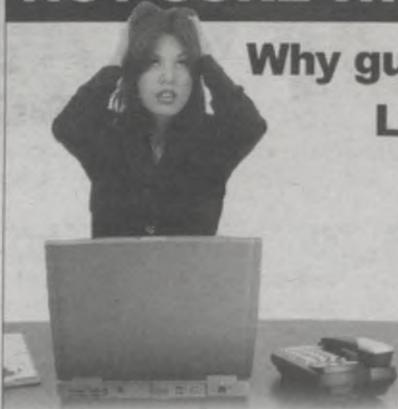
- ☆ Montrose
- ☆ Westbury
- ☆ Midtown
- ☆ Galleria
- ☆ Kingwood

WE SELL BANK & GOVERNMENT FORECLOSURES

Chris Rogers, Realtor 281.755.4500
chrisrogershouston@gmail.com

NOT SURE WHAT'S WRONG?

Why guess?
Let us show you!



- Viruses & Spyware Removed
- Hardware Upgrades
- Wireless Installation
- Advice on Parental Controls
- Custom Built Computer Sales
- Pick-up and Delivery Available

Bring your computer in for a

FREE

Computer Check-Up
while you wait!

Can't come to us? Call for a

FREE

House Call
to your home or business!

DATA DOCTORS
Computer Services X®

"A Better Fix for Your Computer" SINCE 1988
www.datadoctors.com

<p>3145 W. Holcombe Blvd. In the Randalls Center at Buffalo Speedway (713) 838-9100</p>	<p>2055 Westheimer Randalls Center at Shepherd (713) 522-4444</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------

news in brief



Pictured is Houston Municipal Court Judge Barbara Hartle; John Lawrence; Kevin L. Cathcart; Dennis Coleman, who is regional director for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, the gay legal advocacy group; and local gay attorney Jerry Simoneaux.

Texas sodomy case decision remembered in Houston

A commemoration ceremony marking the third anniversary of the Lawrence vs. Texas sodomy case decision was held June 26 at the Bering & James Gallery, followed by a reception at the Houston GLBT Community Center.

In 1998, Harris County Sheriff's deputies, responding to a false report of an armed intruder, entered John Lawrence's Houston apartment and found him and Tyron Garner having sex. Both were arrested and jailed overnight. They pleaded no contest to the Class C misdemeanor and paid a \$200 fine.

The case was appealed to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, which refused to consider the matter. U.S. Supreme Court justices agreed in the fall of 2002 to hear the case, and oral arguments were given before the court in March.

An historic 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision to strike down Texas' so-called "homosexual conduct" law sent cheers throughout the state and country among gay citizens.

The law had banned intimate relations, including oral and anal sex, between consenting adults of the same sex. It did not apply to heterosexual couples.

Get ready for an 'Amazing' Houston Chamber event

The Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce will sponsor "Amazing Race Houston" on Friday July 7 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

This event is always a favorite for members and guests, said chamber officials. Based on the hit CBS Network television show "The Amazing Race," teams are formed and compete along a progressive dinner route as they solve clues, tasks and arrive to each destination for points toward becoming the final winning team of the night.

The chamber has established host destinations for each stop along the route, including a wine and cheese station, salad stop, entree stop and the final destination for dessert.

Chamber officials believe the event is a good opportunity for gay business owners to promote their company and network with others. For more information, call 713-523-7576 or visit www.thechamberhouston.org.

MCC releases fall, summer continuing education training schedule

The Montrose Counseling Center, which serves a large number of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Houstonians, has released the fall and summer training schedule for its Continuing Education Department.

The first training session starts Aug. 18, and will include decisions on Sexually

Transmitted Infections such as Hepatitis and Tuberculosis. Another session on this top will take place Nov. 17. Other sessions include Cultural Diversity and Sensitivity on Sept. 15 and HIV/AIDS on Oct. 20.

The training sessions are open to the public. It last between three and four hours, and require a \$10 per hour fee if paid in advance. An additional \$10 will be charged the day of the sessions if not pre-paid.

All of the sessions will be held at the center, which is located at 701 Richmond Ave. For more information, call the center at 713-529-0037 or visit www.monstrosesecounselingcenter.org.

PFLAG/HATCH scholarships to be awarded July 9

Winners of the PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation scholarships will be announced July 9 at the monthly meeting of the local Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays group.

PFLAG officials said the scholarships honor the outstanding achievement of graduating gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender high school students. Last year, \$103,000 worth of scholarships were handed out to students about to start college.

The meeting will be held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, which is located at 5501 S. Main St., at 2 p.m. For more information on PFLAG or on how to apply for next year's scholarships, call 713-467-3524 or e-mail helpline@pflaghouston.org.

From staff and wire reports

local news

Fort Bend County gay murder case remains open

Police officials now have full name of suspect, but have made no new arrest

By ERIC ERVIN

Sheriff's officials in Fort Bend County now know the name of a second suspect wanted in the murder of a gay man, but have not yet tracked him down.

Officials have recently identified the second suspect as 19 year old Alonzo Guerra. Originally, they only had what was believed to be a possible first name of "Alonso" to go on.

Guerra is wanted in connection with the murder of Arnulfo Quintero Aguilar, 43, of Sugar Land. Police are also looking for Luis Carlos Rodriguez, 27.

"There has not been any more arrests," said Terriann Carlson, a Sheriff's Office spokesperson.

Fort Bend County Sheriff's officials are still not saying if Aguilar was murdered in his home last month because he was gay. Officials said it appeared Aguilar suffered a tragic death of blunt forced trauma to the head.

Police already have one suspect in custody. On June 17, they arrested Alberto Ramos, 17, for allegedly taking part in the murder. Officials said Aguilar met Ramos and the two other men at a Houston area gay bar and invited them to his Sugar Land home.

Officials said Ramos gave a voluntary statement admitting he and two additional suspects went to a bar in the Houston area and targeted Aguilar with intention of robbing him of his money and property.

Aguilar's body was found May 28 by friends who went to his home in 10200 block of Kent Towne Lane in the Townwest subdivision of Sugar Land. After not hearing from him after leaving several phone calls, they contacted police. Police officials said Aguilar had been tied up and beaten with an object such as a baseball bat.

Sheriff's officials said Aguilar had



Arnulfo Quintero Aguilar, 43, was found murdered May 28 in his nearby Sugar Land home. Police have made one arrest in the gay men's death, and are still looking for two more suspects.

been expected at a gathering the previous evening, but never arrived. Friends called him several times, got no reply, and then went to his residence.

The victim's home had been ransacked and a number of items were missing, including his red 1997 Jeep Cherokee.

Police stopped the Jeep last weekend during a spot check. While being questioned, police say Ramos admitted to being involved in the man's death. He's been charged with murder and is being held without bond.

Death penalty possible

Prosecutors have said they might seek the death penalty because robbery was involved, and might file hate crime charges.

They are encouraging local gay residents to help with finding the remaining two suspects. They believe other patrons of the bar might have seen them.

"Certainly if they know something they should call us," Carlson.

Carlson said the victim's family has been posting signs at Houston area gay clubs and neighborhoods. No family members could be reached by press time.

An up to \$5,000 reward is being offered by Fort Bend County Crime Stoppers to anyone with information leading to the two suspects' arrest. All callers can remain anonymous. Anyone with information on their whereabouts is asked to contact the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office at 281-341-4700.

MORE INFO

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Department
1410 Ransom Road
Richmond, Texas 77469
281-341-4700
www.co.fort-bend.tx.us

Fort Bend County Crimestoppers
P.O. Box 1607
Rosenberg, Texas 77471
281-342-8477
www.fortbend-tx-crimestoppers.org

news

Houston athletes join thousands for Gay Games

GAY GAMES, continued from Page 1

likely goalkeeper for the combined Houston/Dallas soccer teams. For preparation, Lopez is mainly trying to get accustomed to the heat.

"For me, personally, the hard part is that we're playing in the afternoon," he said. A full soccer match should be 45 minute halves, at two or three o'clock. Chicago weather this time is very close to Houston weather. Some of the teams coming from the colder parts aren't going to be used to it."

These three athletes will be joining more than 100 other Team Houston members in Chicago. Although they sometimes play with competitors from other states or even countries (de Bram's '96 mixed doubles partner is from France), they are Team Houston for the opening ceremonies. As an added bonus, they get to use the Team Houston pin.

"Most countries and most of the people in the United States will design a pin based on the logo for either your country or your state for your uniform," de Bram said. "When you meet someone, or even when you play against an opponent, I would

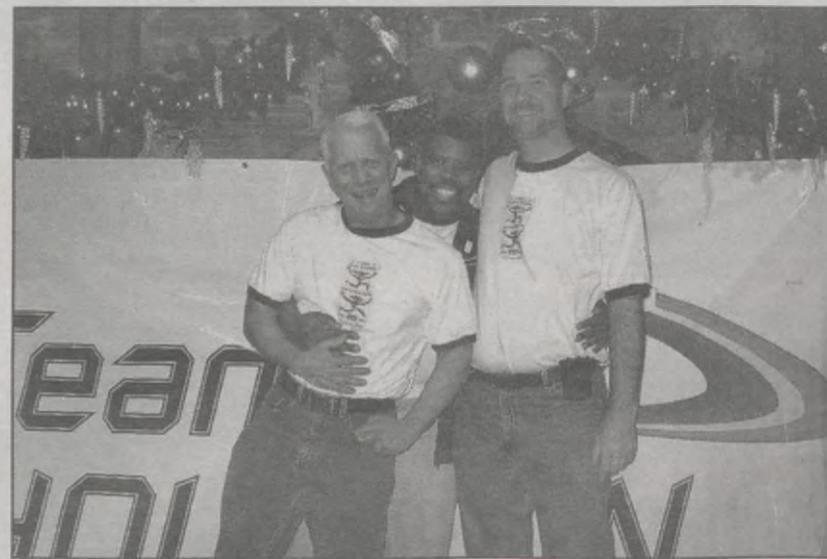
MORE INFO

Gay Games VII
July 15-22
Chicago, Ill.
www.gaygames.com

Team Houston
sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/GayGamesTeamHouston/

trade pins. By the end of the Games, I probably had 25 or 30 pins, and they're all colorful and say the date and the countries."

Team Houston exists as a non-profit organization with two missions: to promote the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender sport experiences, and to organize Team Houston for the Gay Games. Each city team varies, but typically, the role is helping to facilitate registration, team uniforms, and team events both at home and away. Its corporate structure has been in place since the 1992 Gay Games in Vancouver, although Houston athletes have been competing in the Gay Games since its inception.



Recruitment drives like this one were held all over town to get gay athletes to compete in the Gay Games.

"Some of my competitors from '86 are going to be there," Marzke said. "It's nice that every four years y'all get together. I'm

excited to see everyone again."

The next Gay Games is set for 2010 in Cologne, Germany.

Black churches preach acceptance for gays

102 congregations join inaugural 'Faithful Call' event for LGBT equality

By JOSHUA LYNSEN

More than 100 churches, most with predominantly black congregations, stood up last month for gays and gay rights as part of a nationwide event to bring gay worshippers into the fold.

Faithful Call to Justice, held in churches and synagogues across the nation June 24 and 25, was supported by a wide variety of denominations, including Baptist, Catholic and the United Church of Christ. The event was organized by the National Black Justice Coalition.

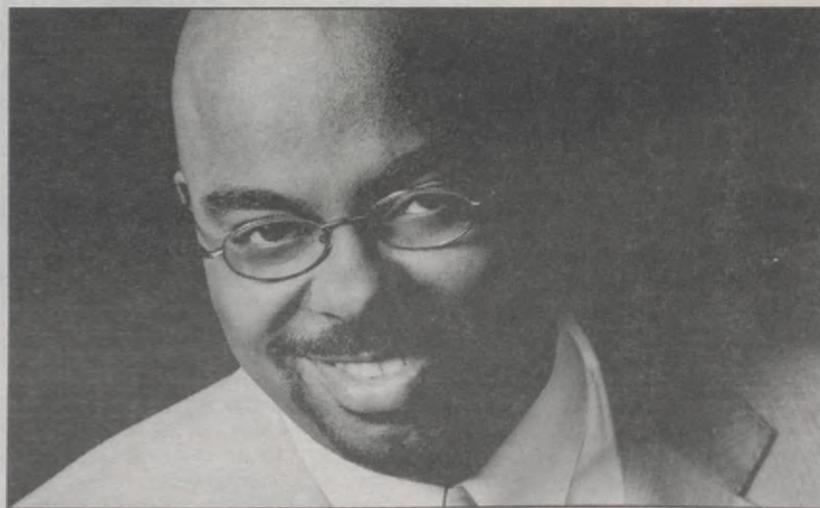
Organizers said the event's theme — that gays have "God-given rights to life, love, liberty, and equal justice under the law" — reached more than 100,000 people.

Rev. Michael Eric Dyson, chair of the coalition's religious advisory board, said sermons given at the 102 participating churches reflected God's love for all.

"Too often, our pulpits and places of worship can transform into soapboxes for bigotry," he said. "I try to speak out against venomous characterizations of LGBT folk, especially those of color, and help them speak truth to power."

Dyson said churches, especially those located in black communities, must continue to welcome and affirm gay members and visitors.

"We all need affirmation, and as black people of all backgrounds, if we can't find



Rev. Ricc Rollins, pastor of the Breath of Life Fellowship Community Church in Tampa, Fla., encourages his mainly gay congregation to invite heterosexuals to join them during worship services.

that through religion and faith, where else should we turn?" he said. "It's time to heal, and love, and truly seek justice for all."

Supporting gay rights

Churches that participated in Faithful Call signed a statement supporting gays and gay rights.

"As faith leaders, we acknowledge the spiritual worth of our gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and same-gender loving brothers and sisters," the statement says. "We welcome their fellowship in worship, and we affirm their God-given rights to life, love, liberty, and equal justice under the law."

Churches from New York to Los Angeles were asked to demonstrate their support by

delivering a sermon, or offering other messages, that affirmed gay rights.

Faithful Call organizers said many of the sermons were extemporaneous, and were unable to provide any transcripts.

But Rev. Ricc Rollins, pastor of Breath of Life Fellowship Community Church in Tampa, Fla., said he challenged his predominantly gay congregation to be true to themselves and their neighbors.

"The mainstream church community is so quick to talk about the homosexual lifestyle," he said. "It is so important that we let people know that this is not a preference, nor a lifestyle. It is who we are."

Rollins also asked his congregation to seek and welcome straight worshippers, just

MORE INFO

National Black Justice Coalition
1725 I St. NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
202-349-3755
www.nbjcoalition.org

as predominantly straight congregations should seek and welcome gay worshippers.

"It's the Lord's house," he said. "No one should feel uncomfortable in the Lord's house."

Mandy Carter, a coalition board member who attended a Faithful Call worship service in Charlotte, N.C., said she had "an absolutely amazing time."

"On my drive back home to Durham," she said, "I remember feeling that my heart and spirit were full."

Some churches opposed event

But while many black churches joined in Faithful Call, others declined to participate. Rue said the NBJC invited hundreds of churches to participate. Many pastors didn't respond. Others expressed outright opposition.

She said one coalition ally advocated a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gay parishioners and was against them openly identifying themselves.

Among the churches that participated, Rue said Faithful Call was well received.

She said there were no indications that attendance or offerings were down at participating churches during Faithful Call weekend.

"It really excited a lot of people," Rue said. "It got a lot of interest. There really was a buzz out there about it."

news in brief

Castro's niece wants Cubans to change attitudes on gays

HAVANA — The niece of leader Fidel Castro wants her countrymen to be more tolerant of homosexuality and bisexuality. In March, 43-year-old Mariela Castro, director of the government-funded National Center for Sex Education, promoted a television soap opera that scandalized many Cubans by depicting bisexuality in a sympathetic light, Reuters reported June 29. The controversial show told the story of a construction worker who leaves his wife and children for the man next door. Now Mariela Castro is campaigning for a law that would give transsexuals sex-change operations and hormonal therapy in addition to new identification documents with their changed gender. The proposed law, up for a December vote, would offer the surgery for free. Castro told Reuters she wants to bring the revolution her uncle fought 47 years ago to the issue of sexuality. "I want to bring the revolution's humanity to those aspects of life that it hasn't reached because of old prejudices," she told Reuters.



Fidel Castro's niece Mariela said she's bringing her uncle's revolutionary ideas to the area of sex, increasing tolerance for gays and transgender people.

Men with older brothers are more likely to be gay

WASHINGTON (AP) — Men who have several older brothers have an increased chance of being gay — whether they were raised together or not — a finding researchers say adds weight to the idea that sexual orientation is based in biology. The increase was seen in men with older brothers from the same mother, but not those who had stepbrothers or adopted brothers who were older. "It's likely to be a prenatal effect," said Anthony F. Bogaert of Brock University in St. Catharines, Canada, who did the research. "This and other studies suggest that there is probably a biological basis" for homosexuality, said Bogaert. He studied four groups of Canadian men, a total of 944 people, analyzing the number of brothers and sisters each had, whether or not they lived with those siblings and whether the siblings were related by blood or adopted. His findings were reported June 27 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. S. Marc Breedlove, a professor at Michigan State University, said the finding "absolutely" confirms a biological basis. The effect of birth order on male homosexuality has been reported previously, but Bogaert's work is the first designed to rule out social or environmental effects.

Gay Microsoft original employee takes his own life

SEATTLE — Leaders of a half-dozen gay rights groups mourned this week the death of Ric Weiland, one of five original employees of Microsoft, who had made large donations to support gay rights and the fight against HIV. Weiland, 53, died last Saturday, June 24, in his Seattle home of self-inflicted gunshot wounds, the King County Medical Examiner's Office reported Friday. Friends say he suffered from depression, the Seattle Times reported. "Ric is someone who quietly, and with great humility, supported the work of many organizations dedicated to advancing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, in a statement. "The breadth and scope of this commitment was immense and unwavering." Weiland attended high school with Paul Allen, who co-founded Microsoft with Bill Gates, and the duo hired Weiland in 1976 as one of the software giant's

original five employees. Weiland retired from Microsoft in 1988 and became a benefactor.

Pentagon admits error in saying homosexuality is mental disorder

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is revising a document that calls homosexuality a mental disorder, officials said June 28. Lawmakers, medical professionals and others had pressed for the change in a document outlining procedures for dealing with disabled service members. "Homosexuality should not have been characterized as a mental disorder in an appendix of a procedural instruction," Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin, a Defense Department spokesman, said. The document outlines discharge policies for service members with physical disabilities, and in a section on defects lists homosexuality alongside mental retardation and personality disorders. Also, this week, a new group was formed to lobby for repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays in the military. The Military Equality Alliance announced its formation on July 5 and will focus on grassroots lobbying in select congressional districts. "We realized that we could contribute in a very significant way by focusing on gaining the support of the public in key Congressional districts and states," said Jim Maloney, the group's director.

Mass. gay activists plan to fight marriage amendment

BOSTON — Gay-rights activists in Massachusetts are urging state residents to contact legislators in advance of a July 12 constitutional convention on whether gays should be banned from marrying. "We need to make sure legislators hear from supporters of equality that discrimination should not be added to the constitution," said Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders Executive Director Lee Swislow in an e-mail July 3. Republican Gov. Mitt Romney and Boston's Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley encouraged the Legislature to schedule a vote on the proposed same-sex marriage ban. To be on the 2008 ballot, the amendment must win the support of at least 50 legislators during the convention, which is a joint session of the House and Senate. It then must win at least 50 votes during a similar convention during the 2007-2008 legislative session.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Move to reinstate overturned foster parent ban in Ark.

Court ruled barring gays is unconstitutional

By KELLY CARSON

Republican Gov. Mike Huckabee is lobbying legislators to reinstate a ban on gay foster parents, but activists are still hailing the Arkansas Supreme Court ruling on June 29 that overturned the nation's only such statewide ban.

The celebration isn't just about the decision itself, but that Arkansas' justices discussed at length mainstream research that contradicts the notion that children are negatively impacted by growing up in gay households.

"The fact that a court in Arkansas can do that and come up with a reasonable conclusion is encouraging," said Carisa Cunningham, director of public affairs for the New England-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders.

Cunningham said because state courts weighing the legality of gay and lesbian marriage often look at issues of children in same-sex families, the Arkansas decision brings to the debate judicial review of the evidence.

In its unanimous ruling upholding a lower state court finding that Arkansas' ban on gays serving as foster parents was unconstitutional, the state Supreme Court said there is no connection between a foster child's well being and the sexual orientation of the child's foster parents.

In the original 2004 decision of a 1999 lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Arkansas' ban, Pulaski County Circuit Court Judge Timothy Fox rejected claims by the state that gays are unsuitable as parents.

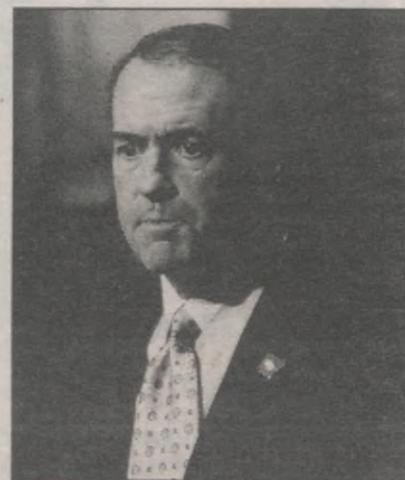
The findings of fact by Fox, upheld by the high court, included:

- Being raised by gay parents doesn't increase the risk of psychological, behavioral, or academic problems.
- Children of gay parents are as well adjusted as those of straight parents.
- There is no factual basis for saying heterosexual parents might be better able to guide children through adolescence.
- There are no reasons that health, safety or welfare of a foster child might be negatively impacted by living in a foster home where there is a gay adult present.
- The blanket exclusion can hurt children by excluding a pool of effective foster parents.

Move to reinstate ban

Soon after the Arkansas high court's decision, Huckabee, the conservative Republican governor, said he hopes the state legislature will reimpose the ban.

"I'm very disappointed that the court seems more interested in what's good for gay couples than what's good for children



Republican Gov. Mike Huckabee says he would like the Arkansas state legislature to reimpose a ban on gays as foster parents after the state's supreme court last week ruled the previous ban unconstitutional. (Photo by Steve Mitchell/AP)

needing foster care," Huckabee said through his spokesperson, Alice Stewart.

The Texas legislature also has tried to bar gay foster parents, but the measure has thus far failed to garner majority support.

Republican Rep. Robert Talton introduced an amendment in the Texas House in 2005 that passed by a 136-6 vote with two abstentions, but failed to pass in a Senate conference committee.

"It is our responsibility to make sure that we protect our most vulnerable children, and I don't think we are doing that if we allow a foster parent that is homosexual or bisexual," Talton said when his amendment was approved by the Texas House.

"There's no doubt in the world that it will come up again," said Dan Quinn, communications director for the Texas Freedom Network, an organization that is working to advance the mainstream agenda of religious freedom and individual liberties to counter the religious right.

Bans weighed elsewhere

But while media attention has focused on the Arkansas decision, other states are considering similar measures, said Ken Upton, senior staff attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

"Kansas has had this issue pop up, but in the last term the legislature expressly declined to let it get beyond a proposal," Upton said.

Upton said fundamentalist Christians are looking at new ways to limit the legal rights of gays and lesbians.

"If you want to hurt gays, you have to attack their relationships," he said. "The only way to oppress and make second-class citizens is to attack relationships with each other and relationships with parents and children."

Kelly Carson can be reached at kcarson@washblade.com.

Free training for gay families

Statewide and national gay groups to conduct educational training on effective advocacy

By ERIC ERVIN

THE STATE GAY RIGHTS ADVOCACY group Equality Texas has partnered with the national Family Pride Coalition and their OUTSpoken Families program to kick off the "Our Stories" educational training sessions, scheduled to make a stop in Houston July 9.

Equality Texas is inviting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents and their allies across the state to participate in a speaker's bureau training session.

The Houston Equal Rights Alliance, a local gay rights group, has joined in the effort, and is supporting outreach efforts throughout the city as part of its ongoing advocacy campaign for gay Houstonians.

Officials believe the training sessions will give gay parents the tools necessary to become effective and knowledgeable speakers and advocates for family equality. They believe this will help the cause of gay families, since participants in the training sessions will be better able to lobby government officials for change.

"These media trainings are essential in working with LGBT families to tell their family stories among their friends, at the grocery store, and to our elected officials," says Paul E. Scott, Equality Texas executive director. "For too long, LGBT families have been left out of the definition of 'family,' and it is imperative that we share our lives to dispel the myths and stereotypes perpetuated by extremists."

In an ongoing effort to coordinate education and advocacy efforts, the statewide gay rights organization, along with the Family Pride Coalition, recently launched a media campaign spotlighting gay families. Representatives with the two gay rights organizations say ultimately it will be these families' stories that will change

people's opinions about gay families.

They point out that for the past four sessions of the Texas Legislature, lawmakers have attempted to restrict same-sex couples from becoming foster parents.

"We know how effective LGBT parents are in reaching our elected officials, and we need to flood the Texas capitol with people willing to stand up for their families," Scott says.

Eva Thibaudeau-Graczyk, who along with her same-sex partner, is the mother of four small children.

"We are the in-betweens," Thibaudeau-Graczyk says. "A menagerie of cultures, geographies, colors and lives brought together by circumstance. We exist in a space that definitions fail to imagine. We are an inter-ethnic, transracial, adoptive, female-headed, gay household of transplanted Yankees living in Houston."

Despite the obvious differences between gay families and straight ones, Thibaudeau-Graczyk points out that both are the same, and have the same values.

"There are so many ways in which we differ from the 'norm', but even more in which we are the same," she says. "In church one week, the children's story was about finding God in the in-between's."

"God was not to be found on the mountain peaks, the blazing desert sands or the ocean's expanse. God did not reside in the extremes of nature or humanity. Rather, God was found in the relationships between people who chose to share their love and resources with each other."

THE BIGGEST CONCERN FOR THIS GAY mother is the effects discrimination could have on her children.

"My life would be much easier if I could just live it without having to worry about my children being harassed, or my marriage over-examined and called perverted," she says. "My life would be simpler if I knew that I didn't have to scrimp and save in order to pay for a second-parent adoption so that my wife wouldn't lose custody of our four children if some tragedy befell me."

The views by conservative groups



Paul Scott, executive director of the statewide gay rights organization Equality Texas, said the group's news educational training program in partnership with the national Family Pride Coalition will benefit gay families by leaving parents as effective and knowledgeable speakers and advocates for equality.

towards the gay population and gay parents doesn't bother Thibaudeau-Graczyk.

"The religious right and the conservative politicians can spew all the rhetoric they want to about how my family is demoralizing the troops in Iraq with our anti-American family values," Thibaudeau-Graczyk says. "They can label and villainize us."

Despite the opposition and discrimination, Thibaudeau-Graczyk's spirits and family unit will not be broken.

"They can try, but I am not ready to stop telling our story," she says. "I am not ready to accept injustice. I am not ready to stop believing in the basic goodness of humanity."

"I keep on thinking that if I can just educate one more person, maybe that will tip the scales. I have my family to think about and because of them, I won't stop living my life."

"It's a good life. It's a blessed life. It's a life that deserves to be heard."

According to the organization's website, Equality Texas' mission is to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression

MORE INFO

Equality Texas
P.O. Box 2340
Austin, Texas 78768
512-474-5475
www.equalitytexas.org

Equality Texas Houston Training
July 9, 1pm to 5pm, lunch at 12:30pm
Bering United Methodist Church
1440 Harold Street
Houston, Texas 77006

by lobbying the Texas Legislature and other government agencies. The organization was formerly called the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

The Equality Texas Foundation conducts research and educates Texans about issues of equality, and helps coordinate efforts of gay and gay-friendly organizations in Texas.

The Equality Texas Political Action Committee works to help gay and gay-friendly politicians elected to the Legislature.

EQUALITY

T E X A S



out in houston

1. Mr. and Mrs. GALLO

Lauren Borg and Jovanni Ray were recently crowned royalty, being named Miss and Mr. GALLO (Gay and Lesbian Latino Organization).

2. Making history

Tootsie Zeis, Judy Reeves, Jade Esteban Estrada and Jim Carper attend a fundraiser for the Gulf Coast Gay & Lesbian Archive Museum.

3. Happy birthday

It was part fundraiser, part celebration last month as Deb Murphy (left) celebrated her birthday during 'Queer Bingo,' which raises money each month for the Houston GLBT Community Center.

4. Theater kickoff

Members of the Masquerade Theatre Company strike a pose during a kickoff party for the upcoming production season.

5. Gospel celebration

Tim Rolader, Marti Rickard, Donna Rickard, Jonathan Wellington, Christian Wellington and Roe Morgan at the recent 'XALT' celebration, which was held at Metropolitan Community Gospel Church.

6. Fond farewell

Local gay activists Larry Simpson (left) and Ken Jones recently received a heart-warming send off before leaving to start a new life together in Mexico. Also pictured is Ruth Davis.

ALL PHOTOS BY DALTON DeHART



Hollywood Bistro & Cafe

EVERYBODY COMES TO HOLLYWOOD!!!

JOIN US FOR **BREAKFAST** DAILY FROM 9AM
Early or Late Night!

Open 9am Daily

Open until 12am or later Sun - Thur and 3am or later Fri - Sat

BREAKFAST SPECIAL* 99¢

Choice of:

Hot Belgian Waffle & Syrup

or

Freshly made Biscuit & Pepper Gravy

**NEW EXPANDED MENU
NOW INCLUDES FRENCH FOOD**

* With purchase of a drink

2409 Grant St. Suite A • Houston, Tx 77006
713-523-8855

COME IN AND ENJOY OUR GREAT NEW MENU SELECTION



New Location, New Attitude

Salsa, Cumbia,
Merengue
Weekly Friday &
Saturday Shows
With Emcee

Same
Great
Music

Monica Adams!

Now Serving

Margaritas

Open Tuesday
thru Thur.

5pm - 2am

Friday & Sunday

5pm - 4am

Saturday 5pm-5am

Vivianas NITE CLUB

4624 Dacoma / Houston TX / 713-681-4101

EDITORIAL & PRODUCTION

Executive Editor CHRIS CRAIN

Editor ERIC ERVIN

Art Director ROB BOEGER

Production Manager ERIC GOINES

Graphic Designer LISA HENDERSON

Graphic Designer JASON LAVINDER

Graphic Designer LOREN CONTRERAS

Correspondents DYANA BAGBY, KELLY CARSON, LOU CHIBBARO, JR., MUBARAK DAHIR, MIKE FLEMING, JOHNNY HOOKS, PHIL LAPADULA, RYAN LEE, JOSHUA LYNSEN, GREG MARZULLO, BRIAN MOYLAN, KEVIN NAFF, ANDY ZEPPER, KATHERINE VOLIN, ELIZABETH PERRY

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

Photographers DALTON DEHART,

KIMBERLY THOMPSON

Online Editor STEVE KOVAL

Webmaster ARAM VARTIAN

Assistant Webmaster STEVE RYAN

SALES & ADMINISTRATION

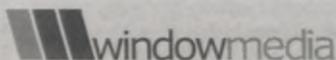
Sales Manager

ED ALVAREZ
ealvarez@houstonvoice.com

Classified Sales / Office Administrator

JOHNNY HOOKS
jhooks@houstonvoice.com

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media • 212-242-6863



PUBLISHER Window Media LLC

PRESIDENT Peter Polimino

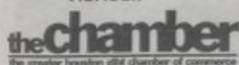
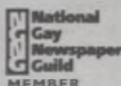
EXEC. V.P. EDITORIAL Chris Crain

ART DIRECTOR Rob Boeger

C.O.O. Mike Kitchens

C.F.O. Steve Myers

MARKETING DIRECTOR William Kapfer



CHARTER MEMBER

Established 1974 as the *Monroe Star*.

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

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

To submit a letter

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

All material in Houston Voice is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced without the written consent of Houston Voice. The sexual orientation of advertisers, photographers, writers and cartoonists published herein is neither affirmed nor implied. The appearance of names or pictorial representation does not necessarily indicate the sexual orientation of that person or persons.

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

Forum

editorial

Who's better than you, Congressman?

No one is better suited than Jim Kolbe to address the plight of gay bi-national couples, and doing so would help right an old wrong at the same time.

By CHRIS CRAIN

IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT life offers an opportunity for redemption — the chance to right an old wrong, to address and perhaps even correct a serious error from the past.

Congressman Jim Kolbe has one of those rare opportunities. With one public act, he could make a symbolic statement that would finally cleanse an ugly mark that will otherwise stain his record in office.

To some, Jim Kolbe's "sin" would be years in public life as a gay Republican, and leaving the party could redeem him. That's the painful path taken by many gay Republicans — including me — disillusioned by the stranglehold social conservatives have on the GOP.

Kolbe owes no apologies for his party membership. To the contrary, he has done an admirable job of sticking to his principles over the decade since he acknowledged, after 12 years representing a moderate district near Tucson, Ariz., that he is gay.

He has stood by his support for gay rights even though it bucked his party leaders, and he withstood shameful treatment from the GOP's right-wing, which literally turned its back on him when he spoke — on international trade issues, not gay rights — at the 2000 Republican National Convention.

A better case could be made that Kolbe ought to atone for a relatively poor gay rights record in his early years in the U.S. House. He was first elected in 1984, and even in the mid-1990s was voting against the interests of his own people — gay people — about half the time, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

But that was before Kolbe came out publicly in 1996. Since then, he has scored at or near a perfect score for each and every term, playing an important private role on a range of gay issues.

JIM KOLBE'S "SIN" IS, RATHER, A SINGLE horrible vote, cast back in 1996 for the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, and now he has a unique opportunity to strike a blow against one of the harshest, most mean-spirited side effects of that nefarious law.

DOMA was a ticking political time bomb foisted by a conservative Republican Congress on Bill Clinton, the Democratic president who cowardly signed it into law.

Kolbe paid a quick psychological price. He believed — wrongly, as it turns out — that the Advocate was planning to publish an article outing him for supporting DOMA, so

Kolbe acknowledged publicly that he is gay.

Still, in all the years since, Kolbe has never renounced the DOMA vote and, remarkably enough, hasn't yet spoken out in favor of gay marriage, even though he has lobbied against a federal marriage amendment.

Perhaps he rationalizes his support for DOMA the way some others have, as "states rights" legislation that really just prevents one state that marries gay couples from "forcing" every other state to legally recognize those marriage licenses.

But Kolbe knows better than that. DOMA goes much further, blocking the federal government as well from giving any legal recognition to married gay couples.

Among the thousand-odd federal rights and benefits afforded to married heterosexual couples, but blocked from gay couples by DOMA, is the ability of a gay American to sponsor a same-sex spouse who is not American for permanent residence in the U.S.

Without federal recognition of their relationships, many gay Americans are faced with a cruel choice when temporary visas inevitably expire: end the relationship or live in exile. It's one thing for the U.S. government to deprive gay taxpayers of their rightful benefits as married Americans, but it's quite another to force them to choose between their partner and their country.

KOLBE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THE intolerably harsh treatment of gay bi-national couples. In fact, the issue lies at the intersection point of his public and private lives.

Among House Republicans, Kolbe has gained stature as a leading moderate on general immigration reform issues. In the current debate, he has backed a combination of stricter border control popular among many back home in Arizona, while offering to those undocumented immigrants already in the U.S. a path toward citizenship.

Because his views on immigration are largely aligned with President Bush, Kolbe is viewed as a key White House ally in the House, where his party leaders are much more strident.

On the personal side, as Kolbe acknowledged in an interview with the Blade this week, he is in a relationship with a foreigner, a man from Panama living in the U.S. on a temporary visa. Kolbe was even escorted by his handsome partner, who he has declined to identify, to the Log Cabin Republican's national convention.

At the black-tie gala that concluded that gathering on April 29, Kolbe was honored for his years of service, and he gave by all

HOUSTON VOICE

JULY 7, 2006

PAGE 8

accounts a rousing speech that called on gay Republicans to speak out against injustice against gays whenever they see it.

As they listened to Kolbe's speech, a number of high profile gay Republicans in attendance no doubt thought about the struggle bi-national couples face. For no good reason beyond coincidence, three top officers in the previous Log Cabin leadership slate are, like Kolbe, in relationships with foreigners from Latin America.

Again, I include myself in their number.

So it is 1996 all over again, and Congressman Kolbe's personal and private lives are coming together in one piece of legislation. This time around, Kolbe has co-sponsored the Uniting American Families Act, which would allow gay Americans to sponsor their foreign partners for permanent residence here.

It's fair to ask why he has not leveraged his influence on immigration reform, and his unique access to White House policy makers, to raise UAFAs and the plight of gay bi-national couples. The answer he gave, in an interview this week with the Blade, was that immigration reform was already too dicey, and too divisive, to throw homosexuality into the mix.

"There aren't enough people who know about this problem," he said. "It's a matter of making more people aware of it."

So let's connect the dots. There is no single person in a better position than Jim Kolbe to "make more people aware of it," and the most important people at that.

He is retiring at the end of this term, so he can speak more freely than most. By all accounts his post-Congress plans don't include lobbying his former colleagues, so offending ultra-right Republicans carries no professional risk.

By voting for the Defense of Marriage Act, Jim Kolbe helped get us — and himself and some of his closest gay Republican friends — into this mess. Maybe a stirring speech from the House floor, or even his well-known negotiating prowess, can't win passage this term for UAFAs.

But when it comes to "making more people aware of" this injustice, who's better than you, Congressman?

@ Chris Crain
is executive
editor of
Houston Voice and can
be reached at ccrain
@houstonvoice.com.



viewpoint K. PEARSON BROWN



With my long rap sheet, they'd be saying, 'Put the diamond ring down and step away from the U-Haul.'

Call the lesbian love police

MAYBE IT WOULD SAVE US ALL SOME frustration and heartache if there was such thing as lesbian love police. I imagine members of the force looking like Angelina Jolie in "Tomb Raider," strapping and taut, commanding our attention and our obedience.

They'd carry handcuffs dangling from their belts to use in particularly dicey cases. Officers would step in when a wrongful courtship begins and order, "Stop! Back away from each other before somebody gets hurt."

An intervention from the lesbian police would have halted me years ago from my pursuit of "Jane," a lesbian DJ with a cache of come-on lines, a closet full of steel-toed cowboy boots and a babe-ready Yamaha.

After a spin around the city with me riding bitch and a few fuzzy navels — the drink — we found ourselves arm wrestling in a dark bar. When she wooed me with, "Go on with your bad self, girlfriend," I realized not only were our styles worlds apart, but I needed an interpreter.

Nevertheless, next thing I knew, I was in a two-year tumultuous affair that should have never happened.

Same thing with "Barbara." She was a

burly TV camerawoman who could hoist a 55-pound camera over her shoulder with no sweat. Like the Harley Davidson she rode in on, she was loud and imposing, but she could make me laugh like no one else.

My first impression and my first rebuff was, "You're too butch for me." But a few jokes and Jell-O shots later, her wisecracking ways were irresistible. Before I knew it, it was two years later, and we were separating because, after all, she was too butch for me.

Did I mention I left her for "Jane"?

PRECEDING THE DYKES ON bikes was "Marty," a decade my senior, who even without a motorcycle had a penchant for leather and roughing it up. After eight months, I finally threw in my whip, deciding I preferred a kindler, gentler love.

Had a love cop stood between me and these and other doomed dalliances, perhaps I might have sooner met my match. If only someone had read me my rights a long time ago: "You have the right to a relationship that does not require therapy after three months."

"You have the right to a partner who does not flirt shamelessly with other

women in front of you. You have the right to a lover who does not announce to everyone that you need to work out more when you are in a bikini at a pool party."

But there is no lesbian police force, and the West Hollywood sheriff's department doesn't count.

SO WHAT DO I DO, NOW that I am in love? The kind of love that makes me want to jump on a sofa. She's beautiful, smart, sexy and sweet, and I want to be with her forever.

I have to wonder what a lesbian love cop would be advising me now: "Slow down. Put the diamond ring down. Step away from the U-Haul."

The reality is that lesbian love is a lawless place. The best we can do is to write our own rules and govern ourselves accordingly.

So as I plan to move in next month with my soul mate after a three-month romance, I realize the authorities would probably say we should wait.

But by now, I'm a repeat offender, a felon with a long rap sheet. I've done hard time and learned my lessons. I deserve to be put away for life, with the woman I love.



@ K. Pearson Brown is a Los-Angeles based writer and public relations director. She can be reached at LezTalkWeHo@aol.com.

THE

Q
The country recently celebrated its 230th birthday.

Do you think gay Americans are better off than those in other countries?



Yes. We are able to live our lives free to be who we are, which is not true in many other countries.

TORRGY MASON, 24
Houston
Club promotions



We are blessed to be in America. Many of our brethren live in conditions far worse than we do, yet we still have a long way to go to enjoy the same rights and privileges as other Americans do.

JOHAN EVERSTITJN, 38
Houston
Financial advisor



Yes. This country has more resources for GLBT people. We're lucky because we are a young country with many people who have progressive ideas, and we are not persecuted and punished for our ideas nearly as much as people in many other countries. We could be better off, but we are slowly winning more and more rights.

LIZ WALDEN, 57
Houston
College professor



We are better off because I think most Americans believe in equality for all. We do have a lot of room for improvement. We need to elect politicians that believe in equality for all, also.

NORMAN SALVATO, 56
Houston
Event/party rental



Yes. In this country, we have a lot more freedom and can generally be who we really are. In some other countries, people are subject to very harsh punishment for being GLBT.

STEVEN GOMEZ, 34
Houston
Travel agent

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

Interviews and photos by Dalton DeHart

**Many Americans do not know that
gay and lesbian troops have served
with honor in the Middle East.**

**Some have even made
the ultimate sacrifice.**

A memorial is being established to honor gay, lesbian and bisexual service members who have been killed or wounded in action.

Please contact us to add a name or make a contribution. Your confidentiality will be strictly maintained and the soldier's honor will be upheld.

Sponsored by The Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California, Santa Barbara and the GLBT Historical Society.

CSSMM

**Memorial@gaymilitary.org
(805) 893-5664**



http://www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu/memorial

JOSE MCDONALD MORTGAGE CORPORATION

5444 WESTHEIMER RD # 1560 HOUSTON TX 77056 TXMB 49346

"THE BAD CREDIT EXPERTS"

Jason Baca

Managing Loan Officer
TXLO 55934



- Many "No Money Down" Programs
- Zero Down on Rental/Investment Property
- Home Loans down to a 500 credit score
- No Income Verification Loans
- Call us about a \$1,000 Move-In
- Bankruptcy, Repo, Collections? We Can Help.

**Strict Confidentiality
Endless Financial Options
Call & Get Approved in
20 Minutes... FREE**

281-658-7220 • 713-888-0101

on the record



"Here's every England fan's chance to get revenge on the world's biggest winker. Our human dartboard shows Portuguese nancy boy Cristiano Ronaldo."

London tabloid The Sun, on Portugal soccer player Cristiano Ronaldo (center), who angered British fans by encouraging referees to eject a player from England during the two countries' World Cup quarterfinal match, won by Portugal (The Sun, July 4)

"The Sun's homophobic sneers against Portuguese football star Cristiano Ronaldo are out of order. We urge the Football Association to prove its proclaimed commitment to tackling homophobia by reporting The Sun to the Press Complaints Council."

Peter Tatchell of the British gay human rights group OutRage, responding to the Sun's coverage (Press Release, July 5)

"I probably would consider myself a bigger role model today since coming out than I was before, and for a whole different audience... I know a lot of people look at me and say, 'Wow, Sheryl is well known, a great athlete, a single parent, a black female and gay.'"

Lesbian WNBA star Sheryl Swoopes (Windy City Times, July 5)

"I think we'll win. I believe the courts will recognize the constitutional principle that you can't give rights to straight couples but deny them to same-sex couples."

Roberta A. Kaplan, an attorney who argued a gay marriage case in New York, predicting victory in the case; a ruling that was expected Thursday (washingtonblade.com, July 5)

"That is bull[bleep]. Tickets are going through the moon."

Ken Sunshine, a spokesperson for Barbra Streisand's tour promoters, denying reports that the gay icon's latest farewell tour is suffering from poor ticket sales (New York Post, July 5)



"Corporate America has never been in touch with moral America. Corporate America is just trying to placate this community that has a lot of money... The homosexual community is spending their efforts on corporate America because they can't get America to do what they want through the legislative process."

Andrea Lafferty, executive director of the anti-gay Traditional Values Coalition, on news that the majority of Fortune 500 companies now off domestic partner benefits (San Francisco Chronicle, June 30)

"This film is spreading obscenity and debauchery, which is totally against Egyptian moral values."

Mustafa Bakri, an independent member of Parliament who led a campaign against the film 'The Yacoubian Building,' saying it defames Egypt, in part, by portraying homosexuality; legislators will review the movie after 112 MPs demanded that gay scenes be censored (Guardian, July 5)

"The civil unions and marriage ban is wrong because it would mark the first time we have ever amended our constitution to limit freedom."

A statement issued by four former Wisconsin governors — Democrats Patrick Lucey, Martin Schreiber and Tony Earl and Republican Lee Sherman Dreyfus — opposing a state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage (Capital Times, June 28)

"Whether you are gay or straight, everyone needs someone to love. While we may not agree on every issue, we are united in the values of love, understanding and tolerance."

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in an address to the gay partisan group Log Cabin Republicans last week; he vetoed same-sex marriage legislation passed by the state's legislature in 2005 (L.A. Times, June 30)

"What does Arnold Schwarzenegger believe in beyond trying to save his own job? One day he is vetoing civil rights bills, and the next day this."

Dan Newman, spokesperson for Schwarzenegger's Democratic opponent, State Treasurer Phil Angelides, who backs gay marriage (L.A. Times, June 30)



eclipse

GAY HOUSTON NIGHTLIFE, ARTS & CULTURE

www.houstonvoice.com

singing the blues



Diva Diana Ross' lost jazz album, 'Blue,' is made available to her adoring public.

Page 14

JULY 7, 2006

Sweeter than candy

Comic Amy Sedaris brings cult TV hit 'Strangers With Candy' to the big screen

By ANDY ZEFFER

GAY, GAY, GAY, GAY, gay, gay!" Amy Sedaris cries gleefully over the phone.

Sedaris is used to the gay factors of life. For starters, there is her best-selling writer-humorist brother, David Sedaris, with whom she is close.

And being an actor virtually guarantees coming into contact with lots of gay people. Then there are the gay characters on her cult-show-turned-motion-picture, "Strangers With Candy," which comes to theaters in wide release on July 14.

Given the cast of characters, the irreverent nature and off-the-wall humor of



Amy Sedaris plays ex-con Jerri Blank in the capriciously comical 'Strangers With Candy,' based on the Comedy Central TV show. (Photo courtesy of ThinkFilm)

"Strangers," it is no surprise a large portion of its following are gay fans.

"I think misfits tend to love it," Sedaris says. "And Comedy Central never got behind the series, so it is because of those people that it is what it is today. I'd rather do a show like that than a network show that is up in your face telling you to watch it because it is full of pretty people."

PRETTY IS ONE THING SEDARIS' character in the film is not. For those unfamiliar with the TV show, Jerri Blank is a 46 year-old ex-junkie and con who returns to high school in a bid to start her life over.

After being released from jail to find her father in a coma, Blank goes on a quest to win the high school science fair. Throw in an inept principal, an art teacher and science teacher in a gay love affair, unrequited love from the school jock and a loathsome stepfamily, and all kinds of hilarity ensues.

The origins of Jerri Blank can be traced to Sedaris' brother David, she says. "There was a woman David knew in Chicago, and it became me trying to imitate David trying to imitate this woman," Sedaris explains. "So I had to get the voice down and the body developed over the years, and I had a fatty suit made. People comment that I don't really look like her, or they get disappointed I don't have her background."

It is fair to say that "Strangers With Candy" is equally offensive to everybody. Joining her in the twisted humor are Comedy Central political jokesters Stephen Colbert and Paul Dinello.

Colbert plays science teacher Charles "Chuck" Noblet, and Dinello plays art teacher Geoffrey Jellineck. The two carry on an illicit love affair. Dinello also directed the film.

Sedaris met her collaborators years ago when they all became members of Chicago's

MORE INFO

'Strangers With Candy'
Friday, July 14 in wide release
Angelika Film Center
510 Texas Avenue
713-225-1470



Actress Amy Sedaris has captured a large gay fan base with her show 'Strangers With Candy.' A movie version of the Comedy Central hit show opens July 14.

famed Second City comedy troupe.

"We've worked together for over 20 years, and none of us are ever going to change," Sedaris says. "We know too much about each other. We never plan when we are going to work together. I'll just call Paul, and he'll call Stephen, and it kind of happens."

Other big names appearing in "Strangers" are Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew Broderick, Ian Holm and Phillip Seymour Hoffman.

"I called a lot of them up, and they said they'd do it," Sedaris says. "Sir Ian Holm's son told him to do it."

AS FOR THE SOMETIMES-FUN AND sometimes-dark humor of "Strangers," Sedaris says people generally accept it.

"I would have more heroine marks and tattoos, but I don't want to be in make-up that long," she says. "That's why I wear turtlenecks. And I don't think a lot of people want to see track marks."

In supporting roles in films like like "Maid In Manhattan" and "Bewitched," Sedaris does not have any of her haggard Jerri Blank trappings. She says that in her film career, she has an uncanny ability to be found in scenes that are cut in editing or have nothing to do with the rest of the film.

"I like small roles like that," she says. "If the part is longer than five lines, I don't want to be in it. I am not very good at doing other peoples' things. It is hard for me to understand how you can be talking if you already know what you are going to be saying. Some people can look at a script and say those lines like they've never heard them before. I am just not trained that way I think of myself as more of a clown than an actress."

Clowning around even comes into play with the forthcoming cookbook Sedaris is working on for release in October. Well reputed for her delicious cupcakes and cheese balls, the book includes all her "jackpot recipes," she says.

And in Sedaris family fashion, the book has a twist.

"It will also include a crafts section," Sedaris says. "Because I like making crafts. I wrote it for illiterate people, so it is very visual. Paul Dinello is making fun of me trying to take something seriously, so it is also very humorous."

As for her "Strangers" character Jerri Blank, Sedaris says she will always hold the character dear to her heart.

"Jerri Blank is like a rash," Sedaris says. "You never know when she is going to reappear."

NIGHTLIFE: HotGG gets the party started this weekend, with a run down of hot events. Page 12

BOOKS: Houston area lesbian poet publishes her first book, with a collection of poems exploring her soul. Page 13

houston nightlife JOHNNY HOOKS

The party after the storm

If a rainy July 4th has your spirits down, let these events brighten up your nightlife

WELCOME BACK TO HOVO ON THE GO-GO! After the post-Pride crash and the soggy Fourth of July this week, we'll get to see some fantastic new pictures from a new photographer on the scene, laugh out loud with a lesbian comic and say good-bye to a former Houston Voice "Best Of" award winner.

RYAN FUGATE HAS BEEN A FIXTURE here in Houston for many years. He is an artist, one of the best massage therapists in town and his longtime partner, David Lewis, is a well-known photographer whose work among the likes of the Voice photographer Dalton DeHart, Yvonne Feece and John Conroy make this a nationally known city for photography.

Just witness the bi-annual exhibit "Foto-fest" every other year. So for Fugate to step out of the shadows of his peers and mount his own exhibition, quite frankly, takes a lot of guts. Not to worry, Fugate's work is splendid. To see for yourself, save the date of **Thursday, July 27 at Meteor** from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

You'll enjoy happy-hour prices and yummy bites. To see his new works on canvas, which were inspired from his trip last summer to Vienna, Austria where he studied under the renowned artist and painter professor Phillip Rubinov Jacobson, drop by this event and sneak a peek.

This weekend Fugate will exhibit his paintings at a new gallery located at the **Lovett Inn**, 501 Lovett Blvd. The event, called "**Grand Opening Weekend**" will feature an artists reception on **Friday, July 7** from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., and an open house on **Saturday, July 8**, from noon until 5 p.m. Beneficiaries of the event include the Houston SPCA and Montrose



An exhibit displaying the photography of Ryan Fugate will take place July 27 at Meteor nightclub.



Lesbian comic Suzanne Westenhofer will keep them rolling in the aisles during her July 13 show at the Houston Improv.

Counseling Center. Fugate will share wall space with many other well-known local artists, so bring your credit card and dig deep to help our four legged friends and the counseling center. For more information, call the Lovett Inn at 713-522-5224 or online at www.houston-art-gallery.com.

ARE YOU READY TO LAUGH IT UP with one of "our" own? Then make sure you head over to the **Houston Improv** located at 7620 Katy Freeway in the Marq*E Center on **Thursday, July 13** at 8:30 p.m. Nationally known, out-lesbian comic **Suzanne Westenhofer**. According to her bio, in 1991 Westenhofer appeared on a groundbreaking episode of the Sally Jesse Raphael show called, "Breaking the Lesbian Stereotype...Lesbians Who Don't Look Like Lesbians". Says, Suzanne, "In the 12 years since that showed aired, I still get mail from people who tell me how that show changed their lives. It changed mine too."

She recently opened for the Indigo Girls and can currently be seen as a regular celebrity panelist on the Game Show Networks' remake of the classic game show, "I've Got a Secret." This one night only show is a benefit for the cancer related Pink Bracelet project and tickets are just \$25. The Improv's full dinner menu will be available. For more information, call the Houston Improv at 713-333-8800 or visit www.improv.com.

SIPPORA GALLERY, VOTED BEST gallery by the readers of the Houston Voice in 2004, is closing Aug. 1. "It is time that I turn my attention to my own artistic path," says owner **Amy Meyers**. "But before the doors are shut and locked, I am hosting one final exhibition."

And HotGG certainly wishes her well, but will miss her daring and unconventional receptions. Your last chance to see what all the fuss is about is during the exhibit "Kaleidoscope." The final party is **Friday, July 7** from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. The Kaleidoscope show will feature artists **Allan Rodewald, Ron Gordon, and Jim Leen**. The reception features those infamous nude body painted models by Maia. Sippora is located at 234 West Gray St. and can be reached at www.sippora.com or by phone at 713-520-1085.

KRISTINE W IS A DANCE DIVA AND full-fledged legend in the world of electronic music. She makes a triumphant return to Houston on **Saturday, July 15** for a "Christmas in July" concert at **Richs!** This time she brings her full setup of backup dancers with her and tickets are going fast with their reasonable \$20 price tag. You can get yours while supplies last at M2M Fashions, 3400 Montrose Blvd., the Hollywood SuperCenter, 807 Fairview St., Lab 5 Fashions, 309 Gray St., Flounce Boutique at 1621 Westheimer Road, and Flounce Menz at 1625 Westheimer Rod. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.richs-houston.com.

appts.



Rev. Steven Baines will be on hand to discuss 'A Blinding Flash of the Obvious' on Wednesday.

SATURDAY JULY 8

An opening reception will be held today for artist **LEN DAVIS' SHOW "SLICES OF LIFE"** at the Hooks-Epstein Galleries, 2631 Colquitt St. The reception runs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and the show continues through August 12. For more information, call 713-522-0178 or visit www.hooksepsteingalleries.com.

THE STARBUCKS MIXED MEDIA MUSIC SERIES returns to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston with live performances by popular Montreal-based wunderkind **CHROMEO** and Houston's own **SPAIN COLORED ORANGE**. Austin's **WAXPLOTTATION DJS** and **PRINCE KLASSEN** will then hit the decks with resident DJ **CEEPLUS** and the **HOUSE OF BAD KNIVES**, and emcees **Craig "BBC" Long** and **E.P. Sarah**, from 8 p.m. to midnight. The event is open to those who are 18 and over only, with general admission \$10, students with ID \$5 and free for museum members. For more information, call 713-639-7300 or visit www.mfah.org.

TUESDAY JULY 11

People for the American Way, The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, Atticus Circle, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Equality Texas and the Houston Equal Rights Alliance invite you to an reception and screening of the film "**A BLINDING FLASH OF THE OBVIOUS**" at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin, in Channing Hall on Wednesday, July 12. The documentary is about the 2004 Cincinnati campaign "**CITIZENS TO RESTORE FAIRNESS**," a group that helped repeal the city's 11-year-old anti-gay law that discriminated against gay, lesbian and bisexual citizens. You must RSVP by today to attend. E-mail Joy Authur at joy@pfaw.org or call 512-476-7329. A \$20 donation is suggested. Panelists include the filmmaker, Rev. Steven Baines; Houston City Controller Annise Parker; Jerry Simoneaux, gay rights activist and attorney; Tammi Wallace, president of Houston Equal Rights Alliance; and moderator Deece Eckstein, director of the Texas/Southwest region for People for the American Way.

THURSDAY JULY 13

The **SUMMER ISRAELI FILM SERIES** continues this month with "**BONJOUR MONSIEUR SCHLOMI**" tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 5601 S Braeswood Blvd. The film focuses on the tough life of a genius 16 year old Schlomi, who is forced to act as a caretaker for his dysfunctional family. For more information call 713-729-3200 or log onto www.jcc-houston.org.

WEDNESDAY JULY 12

The film "**A BLINDING FLASH OF THE OBVIOUS**" reception and screening is tonight. The reception is from 5:30 - 6 p.m. and the viewing and panel discussion is from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Panelists include the filmmaker, Rev. Steven Baines, Houston City Controller, the Honorable Annise Parker, Equal rights activist and Attorney, Jerry Simoneaux, President of Houston Equal Rights Alliance, Tammi Wallace, and moderator Deece Eckstein, Director of People for the American Way, Texas/Southwest region. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin, Channing Hall.

books AMANDA MAHMOUDI

Houston 'Soul' sister

Local lesbian publishes book of poetry that examines her inner self

A COMMON STEREOTYPE OF POETS IS that they wander through life with their heads in the clouds. Imagine the surprise to find poet Dee Main at home in a small town just outside of nearby Dickinson, Tex., with her wife, children and dog.

Her first book "Soul of a Poet" hit stores a couple of weeks ago, and Main still cannot believe it.

"I live in my brain," she explained. "And I know how messed up it is. To think that anyone would be interested in what I write is incredible."

After reading a full binder of her poetry, Main's wife thought otherwise. She encouraged her to share her work with others. Main has since created the website www.mypoeticdreams.com on which she states, "If you can dream it, I can write about it."

She writes personalized poems based on suggestion, promising to express thoughts and emotions from the client's perspective. The poems in her book do not necessarily reflect her own experiences.

It is important for her to challenge herself and her readers. She claims that her work has brought people to tears or left them in complete shock.

"When you read this poetry, try to figure out if it's my experience or someone else's," she said.

She cites popular authors like Patricia Cornwell and Stephen King among her favorites. She also likes writers who make her laugh like the late Erma Bombeck, Judy Blume and Dr. Seuss.

Main first began writing poetry in high school. That is when reading the works of Edgar Allen Poe and Shel Silverstein made its impact on her as a writer.

"They both had the ability to make poetry understandable," she said. "Before



Lesbian poet Dee Main of nearby Dickinson recently had her first book of poetry published. Main said she began writing when she was in high school.

that, I had no desire whatsoever to read. It took me a few years to realize that I had talent and others do too."

In those years, Main lived in at least eight states and tried more professions than she would like to admit.

"I've done a lot," she said ruefully. "Let's just leave it at that."

MAIN IS ELUSIVE ABOUT HER professional past. Now she works full-time arranging construction and asset evaluation for Viewpoint Energy. Her goal is to build a career in writing.

"This book is really just the tip of the iceberg," she promises.

She is already submitting her second book to publishers, this one a collection of lesbian erotica with a comedic twist.

Even though the process of publishing "Soul of a Poet" was relatively easy, Main has been left on her own to promote the book. She schedules all of her appearances and readings.

She will be at the Paperback Swap N'Shop in Dickinson on July 15, Midsummer Books in Galveston on July 22 and at Hollywood Book & Café in Houston on August 19.

She contains her excitement with perspective and determination.

"My poetry stands on its own," said Main. "I say that I'm gay. Not a lot of authors are capable of doing that."

"Gays and lesbians are still frowned upon, especially here in Texas. This is the biggest problem. It could either help my career or it would be suicide. If people don't want to buy my book because I'm gay, they're losing out."

Her creative struggle began a long time ago, but now it is there for everyone to see. Stereotypes will come and go. In the end the poet, with her head in the clouds and feet on the ground, shall persevere.

i MORE INFO

'Soul of a Poet'
PublishAmerica
\$9.95
www.publishamerica.com

Book Signing and Reading Events
Paperback Swap N'Shop
July 15
Dickinson, Texas

Midsummer Books
July 22
Galveston, Texas

Hollywood Book & Café
Aug. 19
Houston, Texas

LAACADEMIA CLUB

GRAND OPENING WEEKEND
SATURDAY, JULY 22 & SUNDAY, JULY 23

FREE COVER UNTIL MIDNIGHT!
BARTENDER'S SPECIAL ALL WEEKEND LONG!

SATURDAY, JULY 22

NOCHE CARIBOL

Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia, Bachata... and more!

21 & Over Only

All Well \$2

All Beer \$2

SUNDAY, JULY 23

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

Reggeaton, Hip-Hop, Roch En Espana, Pop, Dance... and more!

18 & Up

All Well \$2

All Beer \$2

Margaritas \$2

713.334.5422

5829 South Gessner

Houston, Texas 77036

www.myspace.com/laacademia



music ANDY ZEFFER

Lady sings the 'Blue'

Never-released album of jazz standards serves as reminder why Diana Ross became a star

THE TIME WAS THE EARLY '70S, AND Diana Ross' star as a soloist was well on the rise.

Much of her success had to do with her motion picture debut in the 1972 Bille Holiday biopic, "Lady Sings the Blues." When it was first announced that Ross would portray the jazz legend, critics were doubtful. Ross looked nothing like Holiday, and her recognizably sweet, high voice was drastically different from Holiday's tortured, soulful vocal instrument.

Yet instead of trying to impersonate Holiday, Ross knocked down Holiday's phrasing and adapted her own sparrow singing style to the jazz standards featured in "Lady Sings the Blues."

The film was a huge hit and Ross was rewarded with a nomination for the Best Actress Academy Award. The competition that year was stiff, and Ross lost out to another rising star, gay icon Liza

Minnelli in "Cabaret." Still, with a high profile and a number one soundtrack LP, Ross was riding high.

The "Lady Sings the Blues" soundtrack was produced, arranged and conducted by Gil Askey. Inspired by the success of the soundtrack, Askey went on to record twelve more jazz standards with Ross. Renditions include well-known favorites such as Cole Porter's "Let's Do It," the Gershwins' "I Loves Ya Porgy," and "What a Diff'rence a Day Makes," "Had You Been Around" and "Can't Get Started With You."

Surprisingly, the album was shelved and never saw the light of day.

LEGEND HAS IT THAT MOTOWN honcho and Ross svengali Berry Gordy feared the singer became too jazzy after immersing herself in the film, and that she would lose touch with her general audience.

A music-world Midas with an uncanny sensibility of what the public craved, Gordy's gut instincts proved correct. In 1973, Ross hit #1 with the blockbuster pop hit, "Touch Me In the Morning." The unreleased jazz tracks were soon forgotten and gathered dust in the Motown vaults. Until now.

Simply titled "Blue," the stellar set of standards hits store shelves more than three decades after it was recorded.



Gay fans will love the newly released Diana Ross CD 'Blue,' rescued from rotting in the vaults of Motown Records.

Understated and never over the top, Ross masters the subtleties and raw emotion necessary for good jazz.

She tells the stories of hope and heartache with just the right amount of sadness, coyness and sultriness. Her manner is in direct contrast to her huge pop anthems and over-the-top stage persona that became the stuff of legend — and parody for countless drag queens.

It is almost difficult for listeners to think this is the same Ross with the massive hair and sequined gowns flying behind her, the image that the public knows so well.

i MORE INFO

'Blue'
Diana Ross
Motown Records
www.motown.com

THE SUCCESS OF ROSS' SINGING CAREER blazed through the '70s with hits like "Love Hangover" and "Upside Down," and into the '80s with "Endless Love" and "Missing You."

Unfortunately, by the end of the '80s, Ross became a commercial commodity that she and her handlers didn't know exactly what to do with. Widely spread reports of her outrageous bitchy behavior did not help, nor did well-documented books like "Call Her Miss Ross" and Supremes partner Mary Wilson's tell-all "Dreamgirl: My Life as a Supreme."

Ross' last big episode of visibility was not due to a hit record, but to a 2002 DUI. Tabloid fodder aside, Ross is a deserving music legend, a trailblazer for the likes of Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston and so many others.

With "Blue," her face and voice are back in front of millions where they belong. The album captures Ross at her best, during a time that cemented her as a breakout star blazing with promise and ambition.

Music lovers of all kinds should appreciate this rediscovered gem, and diehard Ross fans should revel in it.

Start Now! Look FABULOUS this Summer!
Package Discounts—Save \$100's

SKIN Renaissance LASER CENTER



Non-Surgical Alternatives
For Healthier & Younger
Looking Skin

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

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

GLBT Friendly
Gay owned and operated!

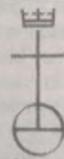
Call for your FREE consultation
713.942.SKIN (7546)
106 Westheimer at Bagby

See before and after pictures at
www.skinrenaissance.net

Octavio Barrios, M.D.



**BETHEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH (UCC)**
An Open and Affirming Congregation



Shelter for the **SPIRITUALLY HOMELESS**

1107 Shepherd Drive @ Center Street
Houston, TX 77007 • 713-861-6670
www.bethelhouston.org

The Rev. Walter L. McFadden, Pastor

Saturday Noche de Oracion 7:00 PM
Sunday Christian Education 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship and Communion 10:30 AM

The Rev. Ralph C. Lasher, Assistant Pastor

HEMORRHOIDS?



Why Suffer Needlessly?
Non-Surgical "Lunch-Hour" Procedure
Virtually Painless • Affordable
**PARK PLAZA GASTROENTEROLGY & ASSOCI-
ATES**

Experienced Board Certified M.D.
Plaza Medical Center • Museum District

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

arts cover story

More gay characters found on daytime soaps than ever

SOAP OPERAS, continued from Page 1

Whitney's half brother, Simone's skull-duggery barely registered a blip on the family melodrama radar.

So what's a sexy — but ignored — vixen like Simone to do? The answer is simple: Leave town and carry on an affair with a slightly older woman, then come home to come out as a lesbian to her mostly supportive family and friends, of course.

Welcome to Harmony. Population: Suffering.

"Passions" also throws together a 300 year old witch, a mermaid and American daytime television's very first African-American lesbian in Simone.

And you thought the Gay Pride floats were awesome.

Viewers who tune into soap operas for a little "love in the afternoon" might get a different kind of love — one that dared not speak its name much on soaps for years — now that the well appointed bedrooms and boardrooms of four shows regularly feature active, young — and hot — gay characters.

Since Bianca Montgomery, daughter of Susan Lucci's Erika Kane on "All My Children" came out to her mother in 2000, soap scribes began fiddling with the sexual identities of tortured teen characters. With four current openly gay characters, daytime soaps stir up more gay drama than any other era in the genre's 54-year history on television.

THE SOAPS TOOK THEIR FIRST SHOT AT offering a gay character back in 1963 on "All My Children." Dr. Lynn Carson, played by Donna Pescow, came out as a lesbian to a patient with a crush — and that's about as sexual as the good doctor, or any other gay soap character, would get for quite some time. A gay man whose never-seen partner with AIDS came later, followed by a couple of gay teens who battled community homophobia in the 1990s.

Before and after the first wave of gay characters on daytime, "Dynasty," "Dallas," and "Melrose Place" fans would get to see the steamy — albeit sexless — suffering of gay men who would question their sexuality, confront familial pressures, homophobia, and the growing AIDS crisis during primetime soaps.

"I think prime time did that first — integrating gay characters — and now daytime is playing catch-up," says Film and TV Studies professor Stephen Tropiano, author of "The Prime Time Closet: A History of Gays and Lesbians on TV" (Applause Books).

Tropiano says that historically, one of the largest hurdles for gay characters on any show is interference from nervous television network executives.

The characters "would not only be denied fulfilling and lasting relationships with other men, but their identities as gay men would be filtered through their positioning as heterosexuals within their respective plot lines," he says.

Before Bianca's gay character was written into "All My Children," the purpose of gay characters was to make a point or explain homosexuality for the audience — a



When Simone (Cathy Jeneén Doe) came out as gay on the NBC Daytime drama 'Passions,' she became the first African-American lesbian in soap opera history. (Photo by Paul Drinkwater courtesy NBC Universal)

task handled within the course of a few episodes. The distraught parents or angry bullies who caused the early gay characters so much turmoil would suddenly see the light. Then the story — and the character — would simply vanish.

Since the idea of making a central character on a soap gay wouldn't fly with network brass, the secondary characters were simply too difficult to write. Daytime dramas are always set in close-knit communities where the characters know each other and are usually connected in some way.

"The gay person who has no family on a soap opera is a sitting duck. They're there to suffer, teach us a lesson, and then go away," says Daniel R. Coleridge, TVGuide.com soap columnist and author of "The Q Guide to Soap Operas (Alyson), which hits bookstores in September.

THE DAYS OF GAY CHARACTERS WHO exist simply to be thrown away appear to have slipped by like so much sand through the hour glass.

"Welcome to the real world," says Jean Passanante, head writer of "As the World Turns." "Things have evolved enough now

i MORE INFO

'All My Children'
Weekdays at 1 p.m.
ABC

'As the World Turns'
Weekdays at 2 p.m.
CBS

'General Hospital'
Weekdays at 4 p.m.
ABC

'Passions'
Weekdays at 2 p.m.
NBC

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
www.glaad.org

Luke on 'As the World Turns' blog
<http://blog.myspace.com/atwtluke>

that we're able to make Luke Snyder, the son of a central couple, gay, as opposed to a day player character that nobody really knows," she explains.

Passanante has arguably created more gay characters for daytime television than any other writer. She was head writer on "All My Children" when Bianca came out and worked on "One Life to Live" in the 1990s when the character Billy Douglas, another troubled gay teen, came out to his priest and inadvertently sparked a massive wave of homophobia in fictional Llanview, where "One Life to Live" is set.

Even the priest became the target of an anti-gay witchhunt. Billy's most significant connection to anyone in Llanview was to Joey Buchanan, the teenage son of the show's main character. When the story culminated, so did Billy's presence in Llanview.

"At that point, I don't think there would have been any question of making the son of the central couple gay," Passanante says. "It gives you an idea of how much better things are now."

Damon Romine, media entertainment director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, says that the newest batch of gay characters make soaps worth tuning in.

"It is significant that the soaps are including these characters, and I hope these shows continue to explore their lives and all the interesting stories that can be told," Romine says. "When a daytime character comes out, it's still news because it's so rare, and it's historic that three soaps on three different networks each feature a gay character, and that these characters are part of the soap's core families."

Since soaps are all about telling stories, the gay kids get into their share of hijinks. On "As the World Turns," 17 year old Luke Snyder, scion of super couple Lily and Holden, is grappling with a crush on his straight best friend, being blackmailed for being gay, coming out to his parents, and avoiding the sticky tentacles of a stream of "ex-gay" counselors ready to whisk him off

to aversion therapy camps — and perhaps most troubling — just being a teenager.

"The 'world turns' around Luke's sexuality," laughs Coleridge. "Its 'when am I going to get over this crush on this boy who isn't interested in me?' He isn't a PSA ad; he's a real person."

That said, Van Hansis, the actor who plays Luke, appeared alongside soap legend Martha Byrne, who plays his mother, in a Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Public Service Announcement that aired immediately after an "As the World Turns" episode in May.

THE PSA ITSELF CAUSED SOME MINOR turbulence with the Traditional Values Coalition, a conservative national political lobby, which asked its members to boycott the episode and fire off letters to the show's producers.

Hansis, unlike Luke, is both straight and undaunted by the minor controversy.

"How can accepting somebody for who they are be a negative thing?" Hansis asks Houston Voice.

Luke, the latest soap character to come out, joins Bianca, Simone, and Lucas Jones on "General Hospital." The boys are garnering attention, but their female counterparts are, so far, garnering the most affection.

On "All My Children," Bianca, who drops in from time to time for big stories, currently resides in Paris with best friend and longtime crush Maggie. The two left with a loving but strictly platonic relationship, but Bianca since revealed that they are very much in love and raising Bianca's daughter, Miranda — don't ask — together. In 2002, Bianca got lucky, sort of, by scoring a hot goodbye kiss with Lena, the corporate spy who was raiding Erika's company.

Simone is currently without a girlfriend, but she shared several steamy onscreen kisses with Rae, her first girlfriend. She is enjoying a much better life since coming out.

"Basically, her role was to be bitchy to her older sister, who was nothing but kind to her," says Coleridge of Simone. "She just became a much more likeable character because she was no longer obsessed with stealing her sister's boyfriend."

Coming out hasn't been easy for any of the characters, but the male characters seem to face the most danger when they do. A gay basher who tricked Lucas attacked him. It's a device soap writers use to hedge bets about how fans will react to the characters, Coleridge says.

"As is typical on a soap, Lucas had to be gay-bashed," he says. "Once you place someone into the victim role, we at home have to feel sorry for them."

Still, the gay storylines do make an impact, according to Romine.

"These stories have the ability to reach the many different generations of viewers who watch daytime and share with them stories of our lives," he says. "What viewers are seeing is that more and more of their own neighbors and friends are dealing with these issues, and the soaps are merely reflecting the reality of the world we live in."

Club: (713) 278-2582
Mansoor: (281) 785-9088

ENERGY
Presents...



ALL NITE
\$2 Well
\$2 Domestic
\$3 Import

FRESAS Y CHOCOLATE

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT
Crystal

Two Clubs, Two DJ's, Twice The Fun
59 S.W. FWY AND HILLCROFT

DJ COOL RAUL in the Main Room featuring the hottest Salsa, Merengue, Bachata and Cumbia.

DJ D-ONE (direct from NYC) spinning in the unique New York Room with the best in Hip-Hop, Reggaeton and Dance Music

Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency

Your agents...your advocates. Auto Home Renters Life Health Business And much more!

6575 W Loop S, Suite 185 : Bellaire, TX 77401 : www.SchmerlerAgency.com : 713.661.7700

FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP
FARMERS

Jason Garcia Rob Schmerler Elijah Kobolka

**ALL THE NEWS.
For your Life,
And your Style...
...at your Speed.**

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

Gay on the high seas

Depp's gay pirate fantasies, Boy George gets trashy and queens terrorize the Big Easy

DISH HAS A CERTAIN LOVE OF THE SEA, especially when it involves cute sailors, but there's something especially hot about that long-held pirate fantasy. Throw **JOHNNY DEPP** into the mix, and that midnight dream becomes downright pornographic.

Depp doesn't shy from making a gay connection with his infamous characterization of Captain Jack Sparrow from 2003's "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl."

In an interview in Rolling Stone, he more than suggested that his fey portrayal comes from a willingness to enjoy the boys of the sea.

"I liked the idea of [Jack] being ambiguous," Depp told the magazine.

"Women were thought to be bad luck on ships. And these pirates would go out for years at a time. So, you know, there is a possibility that one thing might lead to another. You're lonely. You have an extra ration of rum. 'Cabin boy!'"

Dish can easily picture the Captain climbing **ORLANDO BLOOM'S** mast and hoisting the sail.

Depp will be doing the pirate prance again in the upcoming "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest."

Boy George's dirty job

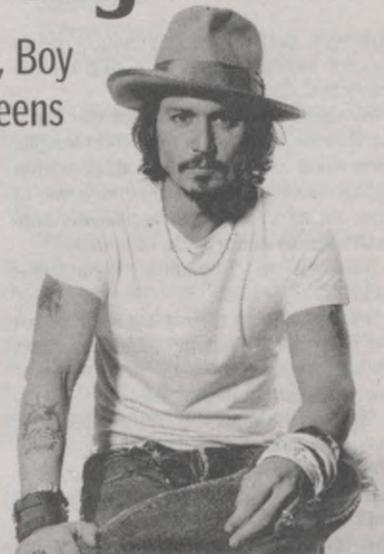
Talking all this trash reminds Dish of **BOY GEORGE'S** new gig. He'll be working with the New York City sanitation department between now and August hauling trash, according to PR-inside.com, a site where press releases are posted for media organizations.

Boy George, born George O'Dowd, was sentenced by a city judge on Tuesday, June 27, to five days of community service with the trash picker-uppers. If the pop star doesn't complete his five days of service by August 28, he could face jail time.

"You have to do the community service," Judge Anthony Ferrara told George in court. "It's up to you whether you make it an exercise in humiliation or humility."

Humility for a man who helped create "Taboo," an entire Broadway musical about his life and music?

This whole drama stems from a nasty and embarrassing



The gorgeous **Johnny Depp** has no fear of playing gay, especially as the fey Jack Sparrow in "Pirates of the Caribbean." (Photo by Matt Sayles/AP)



Orlando Bloom

incident involving cocaine in Boy George's apartment. George called in a burglary report to the police in October of 2005, but when the police arrived to check out his apartment, they found a stash of cocaine.

Added to the entire mess is a lawsuit against George and his agent. A Miami, Fla., HIV/AIDS organization, Care Resource, is suing the pair for backing out of a contract. George was scheduled to be a guest DJ for the 21st annual White Party but backed out of the deal after his October arrest. Care Resource is suing for almost \$15,000.

Drag queens gone berserk

"The drag queens are coming! Lock your doors! Draw the blinds! Warn your neighbors!"

So it goes apparently in New Orleans where a roving band of marauding drag queens is stealing shoes, handbags and other girly accoutrement from local shops. The New Orleans City Business weekly newspaper reported the event with alarmingly florid language.

"In the ensuing weeks, the gang of transvestites continued their reign of terror," staff writer Richard Webster writes.

Robyn Lewis, owner of Dark Charm fashion store for women, said there are thieving queens, but it's not nearly that dramatic.

"We're not hiding under our counters terrorized by a bunch of men in drag," Lewis told the Blade. "Journalists!"

However, she did admit to being part of a local drag-queen phone tree.

Whenever one of the shop owners sees the bejeweled ladies heading their way, he or she gets on the horn and sounds the alarm.



Boy George

@ Send comments, suggestions to
Dish@houstonvoice.com

CLASSIFIEDS

RENT / HOUSTON

GREAT GARAGE APARTMENT Garage Apartment for rent! 2 BR/1BA, very large apartment, WD, off street parking. Heights area 45N at 610 Loop. \$675 plus 1 month deposit. Call Steve 281-660-9182

HEIGHTS ROOM TO RENT by SGM. 2/1 home, WD, cable, priv yard, no smoking or drugs! One block from Heights Transit Station. \$425/mo + utilities, furnished, (713) 862-5123.

MONTROSE/MUSEUM AREA Large 1 BR, 1 BA located in the coveted Montrose/Museum area! \$530 Month 713-529-5993

NICE MIDTOWN EFF. Midtown efficiency near HCC and Baldwin Park. New appliances. Very Nice! 560 Sq. Ft. \$500 ALL BILLS PAID! 713-858-7105

EMPLOYMENT

CONTRACTOR SEEKING HELP! Montrose Building Contractor looking for helper. Some experience would be helpful but not necessary. 713-529-5993

DENTAL CHAIR SIDE ASSISTANT FOR MONTROSE PRACTICE Outstanding permanent position for special person in a small, busy boutique practice. You must be gay or gay friendly and experienced with the gbt community. Compensation and benefits commensurate with training and qualifications following "probationary" period. You must be fully trained, licensed, and certified in 4-handed dental assisting including XCP, Pano, Impressions, ZOOM, nitrous oxide, universal precautions, dental software. Outstanding skills in patient relations, teamwork, and communications; flexibility and adaptability are required. Send cover letter illustrating suitability and interest, along with references, credentials, and resume to OfficeJen@sbcbglobal.net

PRIVATE CHEF ST Croix, US Virgin Islands, Nova Scotia Canada. Go to: homepage.mac.com/jefferson/

SERVICES

FREE BOXES, TAPE & BUBBLE WRAP
Free Exact Online Quote

DrMove.com

281-779-7002 or 1-888-Dr-Move-1
Call Now For 10% off! Promo Code 228
DOT # 8589368

PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEO

AMAZING PHOTOS! Events, portraits, body shots, headshots, pet/family pictures. Free consultation. David Lewis Images, 713-240-5508



davidlewis
IMAGES

713-240-5508



davidlewisimages.com

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

MASSAGE



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

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

THE ART OF GIVING PLEASURE! THE ART OF GIVING PLEASURE Tall, masculine, muscular, state licensed, AMTA certified, 12 years exp. Incredible, full body total release! \$75. Inner Loop/SW. Mike (713) 963-9603.

TOTAL TENSION RELEASE. Good looking 25 yo fitness instructor. Great body, strong hands, discretion assured. Blake (832) 633-1272



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



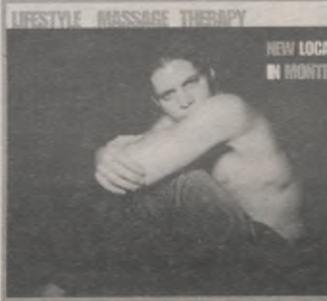
713 • 397 • 8808
Joel
MASSAGE IN MONTROSE



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



713 • 824 • 6230
ROBERT RMT
[713] 824-6230
www.twinpix.com/robert
Massage Therapy
deep tissue • SWEDISH



LIFESTYLE MASSAGE THERAPY
NEW LOCATION
IN MONTROSE
CALL KENTON AT 713.515.2882 - 713.527.0889

www.houstonvoice.com

www.houstonvoice.com



CHELSEA BOYS
BY GLEN HANSON AND ALLAN NEUWIRTH
THE OPENING NIGHT OF SKY'S GALLERY SHOW "STAGES OF WOMANHOOD" HAS FINALLY ARRIVED...

GREAT JOB, GRANOLA. WHO'D'A THOUGHT A BIG FAG LIKE YOU COULD PULL OFF AN ART SHOW THAT'S ESSENTIALLY ALL ABOUT PUSSEY?

SKY, YOU'VE CREATED AN AWESOME CELEBRATION OF THE FEMALE SPIRIT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU POSED NUDE FOR THIS "THING"... AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED?!

IT'S A WORK OF ART, DAVE. AND NO, I'M NOT.

I THINK YOU LOOK PRETTY, MOMMY!

HI, SKY. COOL STATUES!

THANKS... HEY, LITTLE DUDE!

WOW. JUST LOOK AT THE TENSIVON BETWEEN MY SISTER AND HER HUSBAND. IT BREAKS MY HEART THAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT SEPARATING.

DRA-MA! OOPS -- IT'S CURTIS. SORRY, AH GOTTA TAKE THIS...

HELLO? HELLO! BABY, MAN RECEPTION SUCKS! LEMME MOVE SOMEWHERE ELSE!

SURE, MAN.

THERE'S THE ART CRITIC FROM THE VILLAGE VOICE! I GOTTA GO DO THE SHMOOZE THANG, SHP 'SCUSE ME.

WATCH THE KIDS. I HAVE TO GO TO THE LADIES ROOM.

WHATEVER. JUST HURRY UP. I WANNA LEAVE SOON.

MEANWHILE, ON THE CELL PHONE:
HEY, SEXY! JUST CALLING TO SEE IF YOU'VE BEEN GIVING ANY MORE THOUGHT TO MOVIN' IN WITH ME...

YEAH... I BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT IT... BUT IT'S SUCH A BIG STEP, CURTIS. I MEAN, ARE YA SURE WE'RE--

RISA, I'VE BEEN GOIN' CRAZY WATCHING YOU ACROSS THE ROOM ALL NIGHT AND NOT BEIN' ABLE TO, LIKE, TOUCH YOU OR KISS YOU...

GOTTAGO, BABY! I'LL TALK 'YALATSA!

SKY, PLEASE... I -- I CAN'T DO THIS ANY MORE. MY LIFE IS JUST TOO COMPLICATED RIGHT NOW. BETWEEN YOU, AND DAVE, AND THE KIDS, AND MY MOTHER, AND... AND...

WHAT? ... I'M PREGNANT.

OH SHIT!! CALL JERRY SPRINGER!! AH DONE STRUCK TH' MUTHAN LODD!

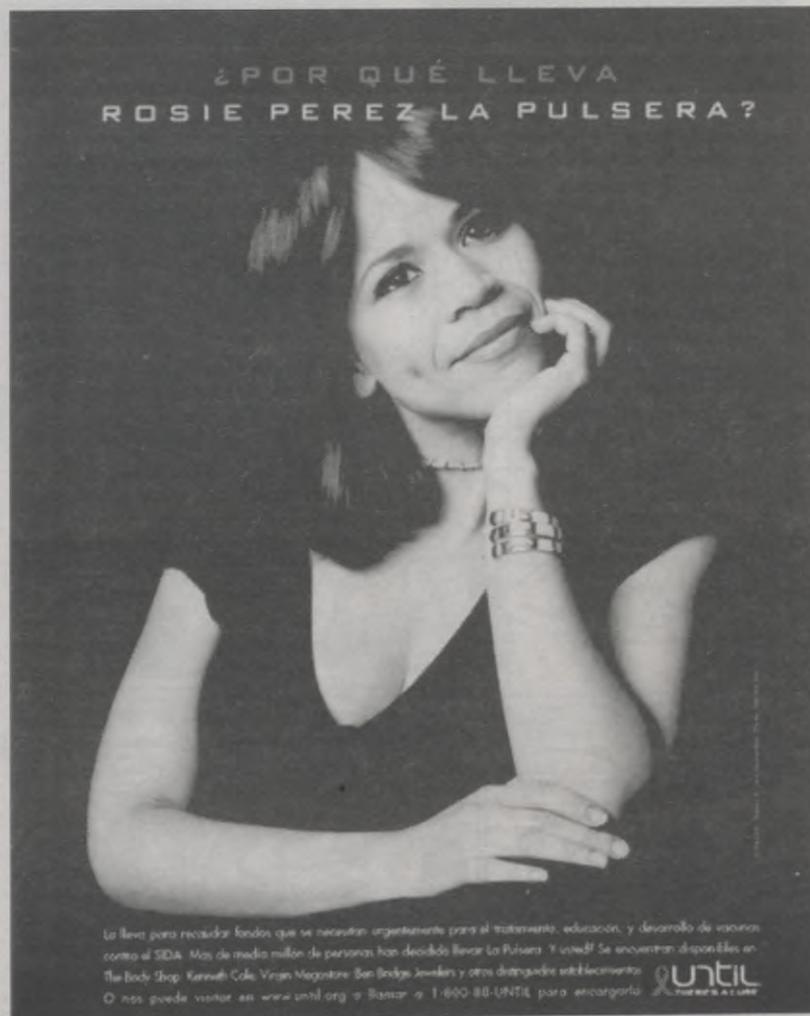
Copyright: Catalina Direct Photo: Paul and Bobby Madison



GO DIRECT AND SAVE on the Pre-condom Classic-DVDs from director William Higgins, especially the 20th Anniversary Edition of **BROTHER LOAD: THE PAUL AND BOBBY MADISON STORY.**

Free Information Pack available.
800 - 562 - 1891
www.catalinavideo.com

¿POR QUÉ LLEVA ROSIE PEREZ LA PULSERA?



La lleva para recaudar fondos que se necesitan urgentemente para el tratamiento, educación, y desarrollo de vacunas contra el SIDA. Más de medio millón de personas han decidido llevar La Pulsera. Y usted? Se encuentran disponibles en The Body Shop, Kmart, CVS, Virgin Megastore, Benetton Jewellers y otros distinguidos establecimientos. O nos puede visitar en www.until.org o llamar a 1-800-88-UNTIL para encargarla.

until
 THE UNITS FOR THE PREVENTION OF AID

ADULT CLASSIFIEDS

ESCORTS

WWW.BOYSBOYSBOYS.NET Escort Boys for Companionship. Call for Appointment. (713)-726-6241 WebcamBoys online. Currently hiring all positions (NO computer needed!) www.boysboysboys.net

PHONE FANTASY

FREE LIVE HOT GAY CHAT
 ManScan-Personals-More!
 (563) 843-8884.
 18 yrs. +, 24 Hrs.

HOT YOUNG SINGLE guys want to chat with you today. Call 1-888-494-HUNK. Rates as low as \$1.99 per min. Call now! Adults Only!

BODY WORK



27yr old hardbody black stud ready to rub you the right way! Call for an appointment.
281.831.3869

100% FREE

Party Line Guys Gays BFs

Never any charges!

1-775-533-3012
 Just a regular call to Nevada!

All New Gay Text Chat
 Just text the word "BLADE" to 85000
10¢ - \$1.99 per message rec'd. Pre Chatting 18+

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

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

Ad policy: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

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

FULL SERVICE LEATHER STORE

LEATHER FOREVER

604 WESTHEIMER @ STANFORD
713.526.6940

CUSTOM WORK BY JUANCARLOS

WD VIDEO

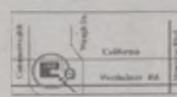
FORMERLY **Q-VIDEO**

OVER 6,000 TITLES DVD & VHS!

THANK YOU HOUSTON FOR 20 YEARS AND COUNTING!

NEW MEMBERS 1st RENTAL FREE!

RENT 3 VIDEOS GET 1 VIDEO FREE!



OPEN 7 DAYS 11 AM - MIDNIGHT
1415 CALIFORNIA • 713.522.4485

ManScan
text-type-text

Try it free!

txt STUB to 69121

or call **800-FREE-GAY**

first 15 msgs free!

Then \$35 per msg sent + std msg rates.

STUB: Help call 800-982-7777 or text "HELP" to 69121. 194 msg sent / 14141 Credits / 14141 Credits / 14141 Credits. Std msg rates & other charges may apply. Chrgs will appear on cell bill. Not available to 14141 users. 18+ at registration. 2 and 10101. Entertainment purposes only. *Text to 69121 only. © 2006 ManScan.com



bitch session

IF I WANTED TO HAVE ORAL SEX with a condom on, I would just give head to a dildo.

I FINALLY GET LUCKY AND PICK up a trick, and now I know why I don't do it that often. I don't know how to make them disappear.

"DISEASE FREE, UB2." CAN THE guys who put this lame-ass line in their personal ads really prove that they aren't carrying herpes, hepatitis, HPV and so on?

IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME OUT of your boring life to notice what people are doing at clubs and gyms, maybe you should wonder why you're not getting laid.
Bitch Boy responds: To bitch...

THERE'S NOTHING TO BITCH ABOUT anymore!
Bitch Boy responds: ... or not to bitch...

IF YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BITCH about, you must be dead or your life is so dull and boring you're too numb to realize you need to bitch about it! No one is ever that happy for long.
Bitch Boy responds: ... that is the question!

I'M SICK OF GAY REPUBLICANS who justify backing a party against gay rights by saying they aren't single-issue voters. But then they vote on a single issue like "the war on terror." You're only fooling yourself!

CAN YOU BITCHES WHO CALL US pretentious for talking about upcoming vacations and home improvements tell us what topics you approve of?

TO THE BITCH ABOUT DJS GETTING all the attention: All the brilliant lighting in the world won't make up for a lousy DJ. People go to the clubs for three primary things: sex, drinking and music. No one is there for the lighting.
Bitch Boy responds: Yes but consider the reverse: Bad (as in bright) lighting sends the queens scattering like cockroaches.

IN RESPONSE TO BITCH BOY ASKING if anyone has met a man who uses a condom during oral sex: Actually yes, my neighbor says he always uses a condom for that.

I UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN over safety but what is sexually stimulating about the taste of latex? Yuck.

I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW escorts can deal with having sex with people they are not attracted to? Yes, you're getting paid good money, but how can you stomach being intimate with some of the people who pay for those services?

HI BITCH BOY! I ALWAYS ADORE your blatant sarcasm, but why is there no Biotch Gyrll or a "Session" not so male-drenched? Insert rude response here:
Bitch Boy responds: Because I'm very in touch with my feminine side. Nothing stopping you gals from creating a womyn-born-womyn-only "safe space" to do your bitching!

ESCORTS SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO get paid their full fee if the John doesn't like what you look like after you first meet and you go no further than that. Some people have no business being escorts. Forget about tightening the leash. If your so-called girlfriend is throwing other women in your face, it's time to cut the leash. The nerve of her!

A BOY IS SOMEONE UNDER 18, SO why do so many people who are obviously men advertise themselves as such? Just because you shave off your body hair, do drugs and act like you're still in high school with no direction in life?

WHY LABEL YOUR COLOR AS caramel? You're either Hispanic, black, white or Asian.
Bitch Boy responds: You trying to get laid or taking the Census?

WHY DO PEOPLE WITH SNOT IN their nose go out to the bars and then snort it up repeatedly within earshot of everyone else? Do you really think anyone will find you appealing like that?

I DO SUPPORT MY COUNTRY IN A time of war. In fact, I love my country enough that I tried to warn people that the war would be a huge mistake, which it has turned out to be.

I HAVE A LOT OF MONEY BECAUSE I don't go straight to the bars after work to piss it all away.

IF YOU PLAN TO ADVERTISE YOUR business in a gay publication, don't put your ugly mug in for everyone to see.

I MUST BE A LESBIAN TRAPPED IN A gay man's body. I'm a whiz at plumbing, but I'm hopeless at arranging flowers.

Nightly gay prayer: "Oh Lord, watch over me while I lay me down, my hot abs to keep."

Bitch Boy responds: How's your mullet hangin'?

IF THERE'S JUST ENOUGH ROOM IN the bar for a walkway, it's intended for foot traffic, not two fat-asses getting it on and making the rest of us sick to our stomachs. For the love of all that is holy, get out of the bar and onto a treadmill!

IF I MET A HANDSOME AND TOGETHER guy who told me upfront that he had Hepatitis C, I would find a way to have a satisfying safe-sex life with him. So all you guys who've told me how attractive I am but run the other way because I have HIV, I hope your desire to screw without a condom is a good trade-off for your loneliness.

TO THE STRAIGHT WOMAN AT WORK who just can't seem to understand why I, a gay man, do not want to marry a woman: Why would I marry someone like you and end up divorced four years later like your gay ex-husband?

I'M FED UP WITH PRETENTIOUS queens whose online profiles profess an interest in "documentaries." Name the last documentary you saw and give me a synopsis, bitch!

SO YOU LIVE IN A FABULOUS efficiency apartment that costs a grand a month and you can't afford to see a movie on our date. Why not move out of the gay ghetto? What's the point of being in the center of it all if you can't afford to do anything?

I'M SO SICK OF BORING, monotonous gay-themed movies. Aren't we supposed to be witty and artistic? Why can't we make a decent movie about ourselves?

JUST BECAUSE YOU GOT PLOWED in front of a camera for \$1,000 doesn't make you a "porn star." It makes you someone who got plowed in front of a camera for \$1,000.

STOP BEING SO JUDGMENTAL ABOUT those who struggle to "move on." Most gay guys quickly jump from one "love" to the next, often while they're still involved. Forgive some of us for having feelings.

TO THE PERSON WHO GRIPED about civil unions being recognized in only one state — not true. Not only in Vermont, but also in New Jersey. I blame the gay media, which refuses to acknowledge it because it was signed into law by a Republican governor.

Bitch Boy responds: Err, you mean Connecticut, not New Jersey, which had a big ole queen as a governor, but he was a closet case and only signed into law domestic partnerships.

IF SHE'S YOUR "BEST FRIEND" who just happens to be your ex, why did you spend Saturday night with your arms around her waist? At least be honest with yourself, even if you can't be with me.

STOP WORKING TO GET MY attention. I'm not blind, so if I found you attractive you'd already have my attention. Staring at me, standing in front of me, dancing next to me, and shaking what I'm leaning on are annoying and only make you even less attractive.

EVER NOTICE HOW JOAN COLLINS is starting to look more and more like a drag queen every year?

WHY ARE ALL-FEMALE COLLEGES liberal, lesbian paradises while the all-male colleges are the most conservative, militaristic and gay-hostile schools around? Maybe it's because, after all these years, girls still just wanna have fun.

IF YOU "NEG4NEG" GUYS ARE SO paranoid about catching something, then why the hell are you advertising on a sex site in the first place?

WHAT'S SO DAMN WRONG WITH the Peter Pan Syndrome? The alternative is boring and overrated!

AS A LATINO, I FIND IT EXTREMELY distasteful and a major turn-off when someone says, "I love Latin men." I don't tell white guys, "I love Caucasians." Am I supposed to be flattered that you are enamored by my Latino-ness?
Bitch Boy responds: I believe the correct term is "Latinocity."

I AGREE WITH THE GUY WHO SAYS being masculine is natural to him. The main reason so many gay guys act effeminate is because they think of themselves as female.

JUST BECAUSE YOU WEAR A HAT all the time doesn't mean you're not bald, it just means that you're insecure.

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

STERLING McCALL

ACURA



**Friendly Service
Supporting your Community**

**Come Out and Be Yourself
at Sterling McCall Acura**



Mike Chan
Your Community Representative

General Sales Manager
Direct: **713.596.2365**
MChan@SterlingMcCallAcura.com



713.596.2300
10455 Southwest Freeway • Houston, TX 77074
www.SterlingMcCallAcura.com