

The seventh annual Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival begins this Thursday and runs through mid-June.  
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**Newly released Census 2000 data shows that gay couples may be better educated but are not necessarily richer than other couples.**

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**Lesbian Jewel Gray treasures her parenting experience with foster daughter Tiffany.**

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# Pride 2003 on the horizon

Houston Committee plans host of events for '25 Days of Pride,' starting next week

By PENNY WEAVER

June is almost here, and that month is synonymous with Pride for gays across America.

In Houston, celebrations take on a special meaning this year, as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folks in the Bayou City mark 25 years of Pride.

The New York City Stonewall Riots that began June 27, 1969, are considered the beginning of the modern gay rights movement, and so are commemorated each summer. Houston's own annual Pride celebration began with organized activities in 1978.

This year, the Pride Committee of Houston (PCOH) plans "25 Days of Pride." Major events include the Kick-Off Party on Thursday, June 5; Pride Day at Astroworld



Houston's infamous — and original — Nighttime Pride Parade this year is set for Saturday, June 28. The parade route runs on Westheimer Road from Woodhead to Whitney streets.

on Saturday, June 21; Pride Cabaret on Friday, June 27; the annual Nighttime Pride Parade on Saturday, June 28; and parade Trophy Awards on Sunday, June 29.

Joel Deason, PCOH director of marketing and promotions, said the pace of preparations so far is "spectacular."

"I am really excited," Deason said. "We have celebrities coming into town: We have The Lady Chablis from Savannah and we have Robert Gant from 'Queer As Folk.' I'm really amazed at the community participation."

Please see PRIDE on Page 4

# Democrats pursue gay voters with unprecedented zeal

Civil unions, same-sex marriage split otherwise friendly pool of presidential candidates

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

With months before the first vote is cast in a Democratic presidential primary, the nine candidates are chasing gay votes in an unprecedented fashion, from bickering over gay issues in their first debate to lining up gay-inclusive grassroots efforts in major cities.

Already, battle lines are being drawn over civil unions and same-sex marriage.

"I'd like to see if any other candidate will step up to the plate and say they would federally recognize civil unions," former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean said in a telephone interview this week.



Sen. John Kerry (left) and former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, among the top tier of candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination, bickered with each other recently over who had the strongest record on gay civil rights issues, a marked change for presidential politics, observers said. (Photos by AP)

Dean, who signed into law the state's civil unions legislation nearly three years ago, promotes his support for civil unions on the campaign stump in an effort some political observers see as leading the race

to win over gay Democrats.

While gay voters bask in the attention from the Democratic presidential hopefuls,

Please see GAY VOTE on Page 6



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## local news

# Gay adults can re-live high school dance

### H.A.T.C.H. Alternative Prom open to all ages, geared for gay youth

By PENNY WEAVER

Many gay men and lesbians recall high school prom as an event that they attended with a person of the opposite sex, and often that person was not their first choice for a date.

But romantic feelings of a gay nature are not at all in the closet at the 10th annual H.A.T.C.H. Alternative Prom, according to officials at H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals).

Next Friday, May 30, is prom night at the Historic Magnolia Ballroom in downtown Houston. On that evening, the ballroom will be transformed into a medieval garden for the H.A.T.C.H. prom.

Although H.A.T.C.H. youth coordinate this event on their own, and primarily for themselves, the prom is open to everyone, according to a H.A.T.C.H. press release.

The event is geared especially for all gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth who feel uncomfortable attending their own high school dances because they are afraid of being teased or even physically abused by their peers.

A special invitation is extended to gay adults who may not have had the opportunity to attend their own high school prom dressed as they wished or with a same-sex date, H.A.T.C.H. leaders said. In fact, the dress code includes everything from tuxedos and formal gowns to costume and drag.

DJ Dennis Fetters will spin the music again this year, and like most proms, there will be a photographer to take pictures. The youth will select their own prom court, and each young person attending will be given a token of remembrance for the evening.

The event is free to all youth under the age of 20, and adults may attend by supporting H.A.T.C.H. with a \$25 donation at the door or by becoming a sponsor. One of the reasons the prom is open to everyone is to provide the youth with positive adult role models.

H.A.T.C.H.'s mission is to empower GLBTQ youth to become positive contributors to society by providing a safe social

environment for youth, offering role models and peer support and by sponsoring educational and community outreach opportunities. The H.A.T.C.H. Alternative Prom is one of the most successful fundraisers for the youth program, thanks in large part to a donation by JP Morgan Chase Bank, organization leaders said.

Food for the prom is donated by Bocados, Café Adobe, Café Express, Carter & Cooley, Daily Review Café, don Carlos Catering, Jackson Hicks Catering, Niko Niko's, "Of Course!" Inc., and Whole Foods.

For more information about H.A.T.C.H. or the prom, those interested may contact Deb Murphy, youth services worker, at 713-529-3590. Anyone who may want to become a sponsor for the group and event may contact Sally Huffer at Montrose Counseling Center at 713-529-0037, ext. 324.

### **i** MORE INFO

**H.A.T.C.H. Alternative Prom**  
7 p.m. to midnight, Friday, May 30  
Free to youth, \$25 at the door for adults  
The Historic Magnolia Ballroom  
715 Franklin St. • 713-529-3590

# Group celebrates silver anniversary

### Art contest, next performances set for Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

By PENNY WEAVER

Houston reflects on 25 years of Pride this summer, and another longtime local tradition for gay's also marks a milestone in 2003.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The group is sponsoring an art competition in preparation for its next music CD, and the winning entry in the contest will be used as cover artwork for the chorus's upcoming holiday disc, set for release this fall.

According to a GMCH press release, the winning artist will receive \$500, in addition to being featured on the cover of approximately 2,500 CDs. Second- and third-place winners will receive \$250 and \$100, respectively.

Artists can submit work based on one of two themes: "Grateful," which is the working title of the holiday CD, or "Celebration," reflecting GMCH's achievements throughout its 25 years of musical performances.

"As a vibrant member of Houston's performing arts community, GMCH has made an organizational commitment to providing a collaborative outlet for visual artists," GMCH Executive Director Mary Jean Tiernan said in a press release. "This competition is an opportunity to showcase an artist's work to an extremely loyal, diverse and enthusiastic audience."

The winning artists will be given promi-



(Photo by Dalton DeHart)

nent recognition in all printed materials displaying the artwork. Entries can be submitted in any medium, but must be capable of being photographed and reproduced as printed images, according to the group.

The deadline for submissions is June 7, but Tiernan noted that artists should express their interest in competing to GMCH as soon as possible. Contact information and a complete list of rules are posted on the chorus Web site.

### Tradition continues

The next set of performances for the chorus is "Songs of Our Voices," scheduled to begin June 7. The concert series will feature Robert Seeley's "Exile," plus "The Greatest Hits of ABBA."

James Knapp is artistic director for the group, and Beth McConnell is principal accompanist.

Since its founding in 1979 as The

Montrose Singers, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston has been a highly visible face of diversity in Houston. With more than 100 performers supported by more than 40 volunteer staff members, the group represents a large collective talent among gay Houstonians.

GMCH is a nonprofit organization and is part of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), which has more than 10,000 members worldwide. Its mission is to achieve excellence in men's choral music, according to chorus leaders.

### **i** MORE INFO

**Gay Men's Chorus of Houston**  
"Songs of Our Voices"  
8 p.m. June 7, 10 and 11 • 3 p.m. June 8  
Tickets: \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door  
Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church  
2025 W. 11th St.  
Box Office Tickets: 800-494-8497  
www.gmch.org

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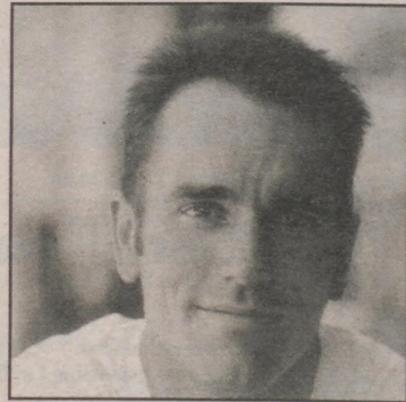
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**LADYFEST TX:** Female talents including Johnny T, drag king performer with Austin's Kings N'Things, converge in the state capital this weekend. Page 5.



**CENSUS:** Newly released 2000 Census data shows that gay couples across the nation are not as wealthy as some previously believed. Page 8.



**GUEST EDITORIAL:** The far-right agenda woven into the new CDC initiative on how to prevent the spread of HIV submarines what's already working, columnist Stephen Fallon says. Page 12.

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## local news

# All Pride grand marshals to be honored this year

PRIDE, continued from Page 1

"[Pride Month is] packed with close to 40 events," he added.

Those activities include the following.

### MAY 29-JUNE 15

#### Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

See page 15 of this issue for details.

### JUNE 5

**7-10 p.m. Kick-Off Party** • Cost: Free  
Heritage Hall, JPMorgan Chase Building,  
707 Travis

The Pride Committee of Houston honors the last 25 years of Pride grand marshals. Attendees will include city officials, community leaders and the Lady Chablis of Savannah, Ga.

#### 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Kick-Off Party... Continued

Showtime: Midnight • Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto  
The Lady Chablis will perform in her Texas Debut. All guests of the Kick-Off Party at JPMorgan Chase will receive complimentary entrance to Rich's for the show.

**7:30 p.m. "The Real Ellen Story"** • Cost: Free  
Theatre New West, 1415 California

This documentary screening is part of the Texas Triangle's Profiles in Pride Series.

### JUNE 7

**11 a.m.-3 p.m. Health and Fitness Fair**  
Cost: Free • Fitness Exchange, 4040 Milam St.  
This event features complimentary health screenings and displays from community chiropractors, massage therapists, personal trainers and more. Nutritious food and beverage samples also will be available.

#### 9 p.m.-5 a.m. Rich's Customer Appreciation Night

VIP entry: \$4  
Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto  
The night includes \$1 drinks from 9 p.m. to midnight, a chance to win 10 Rich's VIP memberships cards and other prizes. Virginia Slymm will take to the stage at 12:30, and a "special" show is planned at 1 a.m. on the main stage.

### JUNE 8

**2 p.m. Concert in the Park** • Cost: Free  
Woodrow Wilson Park, Fairview at Yupon  
The Houston Pride Band begins the celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with this event. The concert will be a collection point for Stone Soup Food Pantry. Ice cream will be served.  
**7-10 p.m. Fitness Exchange 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party**  
Cost: Free for Fitness Exchange members  
South Beach Night Club, 810 Pacific  
Members and the community are invited to an appreciation party to mark Fitness Exchange's silver anniversary.

### JUNE 9

**Grand Marshal Reception**  
Location and details for this event are yet to be announced.

### JUNE 12

**7:30 p.m. "Lance Loud: A Death in an American Family"** • Cost: Free  
Theatre New West, 1415 California  
This documentary screening is part of the Texas Triangle's Profiles in Pride Series.

### JUNE 13

**6-7 p.m., with sponsor reception from 7-9:30 p.m.**  
Civil Rights Celebration benefiting Lambda Legal • Cost: \$25 advance, \$35 at the door  
Meteor, 2306 Genesee

This event celebrates the legal case against Texas' so-called "homosexual conduct" law, which the U.S. Supreme Court is considering. Entertainment will feature Jimmy James, plus Jerry Atwood's Funky Cabaret. Lambda Legal's Ruth Harlow, lead counsel in the Lawrence v. Texas case, will be in attendance.

#### 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Virginia Slymm's Super Special Show

Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto  
Miss Rich's Virginia Slymm will host the evening with a cast of Houston's best female impersonators. The show starts at 10 p.m. in



With thousands of onlookers and hundreds of participants, the Houston Pride Parade takes a lot of preparation. Pride Committee members welcome people to volunteer to assist in coordinating the event. For more information, contact the committee via phone at 713-529-6979, or log onto [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org).

the Leopard Lounge on the second floor of Rich's, and goes until 11:30 p.m.

### JUNE 14

#### 8 a.m.-4 p.m. LHI Rainbow Health Fair

Cost: Free  
Montrose Clinic Building, 215 Westheimer  
Lesbian Health Initiative Houston hosts this health fair for LGBT women, offering free mammograms by appointment, other health screenings at low or no cost, pap smears, well woman exam, blood sugar check and blood pressure check. LHI: 713-603-0023, or [www.lhihouston.org](http://www.lhihouston.org).

#### Noon-5 p.m. Community Law Day

Cost: Free  
Location to be announced.  
More than 20 SLAGH (Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston) attorneys will speak on various topics in classroom settings throughout the day. For more information, call 713-227-1717, or e-mail [info@slagh.org](mailto:info@slagh.org).

#### 9 p.m.-5 a.m. Annie Lennox "Bare" Release Party

Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto  
This event includes promotional giveaways such as the full CD.

### JUNE 18

#### 7-10 p.m. Papi Underwear Fashion Show

Cost: \$10 • South Beach, 810 Pacific  
Featuring DJ Cubanito, this show benefits AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education & Service). Happy Hour drink specials will be served, and a free Mexican buffet from Michaeline's Restaurant & Catering will be available.

### JUNE 19

#### 7:30 p.m. "No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon"

Cost: Free  
Theatre New West, 1415 California  
This documentary screening is part of the Texas Triangle's Profiles in Pride Series.

### JUNE 21

**11 a.m.-10 p.m. Pride Day at Six Flags Astroworld** • Cost: \$35 in advance, \$39.95 at the door; includes all-you-can-eat catered lunch and concerts. Tickets go on sale Friday, May 30.  
Six Flags Astroworld, 610 South Loop, between Kirby and Fannin

The Pride Committee of Houston and Q Patrol benefit from this event. Latin Divas recording artists Miss Lupita and Adassa are featured performers, with a special appearance by Thea Austin, who will debut her new remix of her No. 1 pop hit "Rythym is a Dancer 2003." For more information, call 713-521-0107.

#### 7:30 a.m. Sixth annual Houston Pride 5k Fun Run & Walk

Cost: \$15 early registration before June 13; then \$20  
Sam Houston Park  
This 3.1-mile race begins at Sam Houston Park, with an out-and-back course along Allen Parkway. The event benefits AssistHers and is sponsored by the Houston Montrose Athletic Association. Trophies will be awarded, and all participants receive a T-shirt. Early registration is available until

June 13 at a cost of \$15; later registration is \$20. For more information, go to [www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html), or call 713-661-8919.

#### 9 p.m.-5 a.m. "Official" After Astroworld Party "Rollercoaster"

Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto  
Every guest at Rich's with an Astroworld Ticket receives VIP entry of \$4. Drink specials and a Rollercoaster show at 1 a.m. are planned.

### JUNE 22

#### 1-4 p.m. Family and Youth Day

Cost: Free  
Memorial Park  
JPMorgan Chase hosts this family event, which will include a moonwalk, DJ, face painting, popcorn and cotton candy.

#### 7-9:30 p.m. XALT: Xtreme Adoration of the Lord Together (Praise Day)

Cost: Free  
Community Gospel Church, 4305 Lillian  
Organizers plan an interactive night of praise and worship to God and Jesus featuring local talents in song, sign and poem. A dessert reception and fellowship follows.

### JUNE 23

#### 6-8 p.m. "Outbreak: A Community Forum on Gay Men's Sexual Health"

1415 Bar & Grille, 1415 California  
Montrose Clinic will host this community forum to educate and/or create awareness for the need for gay men to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases.

### JUNE 25

#### 8:30-10 a.m. Explaining HIV Drug Resistance: A Patient-friendly Approach

Cost: Free, but RSVP required  
The Center for AIDS, 1407 Hawthorne  
This meeting will be led by Andrew Zolopa, M.D., clinical chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine. For more information, call the center at 713-527-8219.

### JUNE 26

#### 7:30 p.m. "Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay"

Cost: Free  
Theatre New West, 1415 California  
This documentary screening is part of the Texas Triangle's Profiles in Pride Series.

#### 7:30 p.m. (lobby opens); 8:30 p.m. (play begins) "Could Angels Be Blessed"

Cost: \$10, with proceeds benefiting GCAM Theatre Suburbia, 1410 West 43<sup>rd</sup>  
This performance is a look at love, life and expectations. Light refreshments will be served at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender History.

### JUNE 27

#### 11 a.m.-5 p.m. National HIV Testing Day

Cost: Free • Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer  
The free rapid HIV antibody test provides results in less than 30 minutes.

#### 8 p.m. Pride Cabaret: Before the Parade Passes

#### By...Again! • Cost: \$50

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave  
A VIP Reception will follow the night's performance by some of the most popular local talents.

#### 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Baile 2003

Cost: \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door  
Radisson Astrodome, Sam Houston Ballroom, 8686 Kirby Drive

This Pride Week celebration is a black-tie event and Hispanic celebration, including dance with musica latina. The fund-raiser benefits gay organizations and includes a silent auction from 9 p.m. to midnight, and reception hors d'oeuvres at 9:30 p.m.

#### 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Steel Pride

Cost: Donations accepted at the door  
Meteor, 2306 Genesee

Grey Party Inc. presents a night of pride, music and entertainment to announce Steel Weekend, the group's new October GLBT fund-raiser.

#### 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Out of the Bars and into the Streets with Q Patrol

Cost: Free  
Meet at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207

Houstonians are welcome to join Q Patrol on a special patrol through Montrose. For information, call 713-528-SAFE.

#### 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Official Pre-Parade Party

Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto  
"Silver" is the theme for this event, with special guest performer "Lady Bunny." The show begins at 12:30 and 1:30 a.m. on the main stage.

### JUNE 28

#### 6-8 p.m. Pre-Parade Concert featuring Amber

Details to be announced.  
**8:45 p.m. America's Original Nighttime Pride Parade** • Cost: Free

Parade runs on lower Westheimer from Woodhead to Whitney  
The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade will include a synchronized light show and pyrotechnics display at the grandstand, located at Yoakum Street across from Mary's...Naturally. Bleacher seating with a prime view is available for a \$25 donation to the Pride Committee.

#### 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Official Post-Parade Pride Party

Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto  
"25" is the theme for the night, with recording artist Amber. Showtime is 1 a.m. on the main stage.

#### 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Out of the Bars and into the Streets with Q Patrol

Cost: Free  
Meet at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207

### JUNE 29

#### 4 p.m. Pride Parade Awards Ceremony

Meteor, 2306 Genesee  
Parade emcee Ernie Manouse and "Queer As Folk" cast member Robert Gant will help present trophies honoring the best of the best of Houston's Pride Parade entries.

#### 6-10 p.m. "All the World's a Stage"

By invitation only  
Ovations, 2536 Suite B, Time Blvd. At Kirby  
This evening of gay theater and song benefits Unhinged Productions. For more information, call 713-547-0440.

#### "Queer As Folk": The Babylon Tour

South Beach, 810 Pacific  
The Babylon Tour, which tours the country in May, June and July, recreates the vibrant nightclub featured in the television series. The tour stops in Houston at South Beach, with music provided by DJ Tracy Young and a special appearance by "Queer As Folk" cast member Robert Gant.

## MORE INFO

Pride Committee of Houston  
P.O. Box 66071 • Houston, TX 77266-6071  
Phone: 713-529-6979 • Fax: 713-529-6929  
[www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)  
e-mail: [info@pridehouston.org](mailto:info@pridehouston.org)

## around houston

### Suspect arrested in beating death, charged with murder

Houston police have arrested a man involved in the death of Raymond L. Adams, 76, who was beaten to death at his home, 9515 Pagewood Lane, about 9 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, according to a Houston Police Department press release. Steve Alan Morgan, 47, has been charged with murder in the 174th State District Court. HPD Homicide Division Investigators C.Y. Park and I.F. Flores reported that Adams returned from a walk to his town home on May 14, where Morgan waited to confront him. Morgan had recently moved in to the town home with Adams. Unable to pay rent, Morgan learned that Adams was looking for another roommate and planned to evict him, police reported. Morgan told police that there was a confrontation when Adams came home and he repeatedly struck Adams with a blunt object. Adams sustained severe blunt trauma to the head and died at the scene, according to HPD. At press time this week, HPD spokesman John Cannon said he still could not confirm whether or not the men were gay or were a couple. Homicide detectives handling the case could not be reached by press time.

### Bering Support Network starts crossdressers' group

Starting Thursday, a six-week group for crossdressers and their spouses is being offered by the Bering Support Network, the counseling program of Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. The group, called "S H E & M E," will meet May 29 through July 3. According to a Bering press release, crossdressers and their significant others face many unique challenges in establishing and growing in a relationship. S H E & M E will focus on the crossdressing relationship and the achievement of personal growth and healthy relationship skills. The group is offered free of charge, but a pre-group interview is required with the facilitator before those interested can participate. Melissa Beason Smith, LPC-I, is facilitator of the sessions, and she may be reached at 713-526-1017, extension 206.

#### **i** MORE INFO

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church  
Bering Support Network  
1440 Harold St. • 713-526-1017  
www.beringumc.org

### Women sought for club to mentor young lesbians

H.A.T.C.H., the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals, plans to restart "Grrrl Club" and needs adult women to mentor the youth in the program. According to a press release from Montrose Counseling Center, of which H.A.T.C.H. is a part, the goal of the mentors in Grrrl Club is to improve the mental, physical and emotional health of young lesbians and female bisexuals involved in the group. Mentors connect the younger women with other adult members of the feminist, lesbian and female bisexual communities. Grrrl Club is looking for mentors who are able to commit between four and six hours each month. Training will be provided. The initial group of mentors will work with Grrrl Club youth to help design the beginning activity schedule.

#### **i** MORE INFO

H.A.T.C.H. Grrrl Club  
For more information,  
Contact Deb Murphy, Youth Services Worker  
713-529-3590

### Ladyfest TX scheduled this weekend in Austin

The grassroots festival Ladyfest TX, showcasing women in music, film, visual arts and spoken word, is being held this weekend in Austin. Musical talents featured will include Tribe 8, Sarah Dougher, Tami Hart, New York City hard rockers Triple Crème and Japan's Mummy The Peepshow. The festival will include the showing of 23 films from 18 independent directors. Highlights include "Hot and Bothered: Feminist Pornography," a groundbreaking documentary by Becky Goldberg. Sunday is Spoken Word Night, and performances are slated by Johnny T, co-founder of Austin's drag king troupe Kings N'Things, and Genevieve Van Cleve. In addition, more than 30 workshops and panels on a wide variety of topics are planned, plus an art show titled "Bizarra" at Gallery Lombardi.

#### **i** MORE INFO

Ladyfest TX  
May 22-25 • Austin, TX  
Tickets: \$40 • www.ladyfesttx.org  
e-mail: ladyfesttx@hotmail.com

### Play performance benefits GLBT center

The Houston GLBT Community Center benefited from funds raised last week as Theatre New West presented the first performance of its new production, "Jerker." J.D. Doyle, host of the music segment "Queer Music Heritage" on KPFT's "Queer Voices," said the production "is as fresh and real as it was when first produced during the height of the AIDS crisis. It is surprisingly funny, and yet it draws you into the lives of its two men, tantalizing our visual and emotional senses as they find love over the telephone." On a new schedule, the play now runs through July 12, with the possibility of an open-ended run, according to Watts. A special benefit performance is set for Wednesday, June 11, to assist The Center for AIDS: Hope & Remembrance Project.

PENNY WEAVER

#### **i** MORE INFO

'Jerker'  
8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, through July 12  
Next benefit night: Wednesday, June 11  
Tickets: \$20  
Theatre New West  
1415 California St. • 713-522-2204

## GAY MEN'S CHORUS of HOUSTON

SONGS OF OUR

# VOICES

James Knapp  
Artistic Director

Beth McConnell  
Principal Accompanist

A reunion of soul and flesh...

where the journey home  
always begins.

Saturday  
June 7, 8:00 pm

Sunday  
June 8, 3:00 pm

Tuesday  
June 10, 8:00 pm

Wednesday  
June 11, 8:00 pm

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2025 W. 11th Street

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## national news

# Democrats split on support for civil unions

GAY VOTE, continued from Page 1

the strategy shouldn't be a surprise, said U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), one of three openly gay members of Congress and a supporter of presidential candidate and Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.).

"The country is getting less and less prejudiced and the Democrats are becoming more and more interested in civil rights," Frank said during a May 12 appearance in Atlanta, Ga. "The increased attention to gay voters is a given; the interesting part is the effect. Twenty years ago the gay issue was used as a wedge against Democrats. That's changed now, but the Republicans are still having to pander to the homophobes and they all have to be nice to [U.S. Sen. Rick] Santorum (R-Pa.) whether they like it or not."

The candidates want to win over gay voters, but just as critical, according to political observers, are their cash-heavy wallets.

"It's a combination of several things," said Tige Watts, a gay political consultant in Columbia, S.C. "First, there are particular demographic groups you must nail down to win the nomination — African Americans and then gays. Also, you see the issues of fairness and equality come out front every 10 to 20 years, and we're cycling through that. Plus, there is this mad dash for fundraising, and gays and lesbians make up a disproportionate part of that fundraising pool."

And support for gay civil rights, traditionally, has come from the Democratic Party, according to Larry J. Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

"GLBT issues are important within the Democratic Party since gay voters are a significant constituency both in the nominating process and in the general election," he said. "My sense is that no candidate will be the overwhelming favorite of gay voters in the primary."



Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) delivered a rousing speech to about 1,500 people at a May 10 HRC Dinner in Atlanta where he outlined support for several gay issues, including adoption. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

## Party of hopefuls

The fight for the Democratic presidential nomination is among eight men and one woman: Dean, Kerry, U.S. Sens. John Edwards (D-N.C.), Bob Graham (D-Fla.), Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.); U.S. Reps. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo) and Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio); former Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun, and Rev. Al Sharpton, a New York civil rights activist.

Some gay activists are calling the field an embarrassment of riches.

Winnie Stachelberg, political director for the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign, lauded the Democrats as "collectively having a tremendous record on LGBT issues."

"It's absolutely wonderful to see the breadth of support there," Stachelberg said.

Five of the six candidates who are current members of Congress scored a perfect 100 on the HRC's recent report card. Only

Graham scored lower, receiving a 71 in part for his refusal to co-sponsor the Employment Non-Discrimination Act or sign an anti-bias policy for his office.

"We're in the process of developing our candidate survey, and we're looking for other innovative ways to differentiate the candidates," Stachelberg said.

HRC is still "quite a ways off" from making any endorsements, she said.

Sharpton, Moseley Braun and Dean aren't ranked by HRC, but Moseley Braun "gets big points," according to Stachelberg, for being one of only 12 lawmakers to vote against the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.

"And Sharpton is the only one I know of to publicly advocate for gay marriage," Stachelberg said. "So they can't be excluded from this."

Neither Sharpton nor Moseley Braun's campaigns responded to repeated interview requests by press time.

## Civil unions vs. marriage

There is some difference between the candidates when it comes to support for civil unions and same-sex marriage.

Either through previous press reports or statements, or interviews with the candidates or campaign staffers this week, just two said they support legal recognition of gay marriages — Kucinich and Sharpton.

Dean, steadfast in his support of civil unions, is joined by Gephardt, Kerry, and Moseley Braun.

"I support civil unions, and I support states in passing those laws," Gephardt said through a spokesperson this week. "I also support extending full and equal benefits to gay partners."

Edwards, Graham and Lieberman stopped short of supporting civil unions, but have not said they oppose them.

"I'm driving the Democratic platform

on two issues: healthcare and civil unions," said Dean, a physician. "There are candidates who don't believe in civil unions, like Edwards and Lieberman. That and 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' should be the litmus tests for gay voters for this election."

Dean also said he would repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and challenged other candidates to follow his lead.

Graham's press secretary, Jamal Simmons, who also served as communications director for former gay-friendly Sen. Max Cleland's (D-Ga.) unsuccessful reelection bid last year, declined interview requests for Graham. But Simmons said Graham does not support civil unions.

"He did vote for DOMA, and he does not support using the word 'marriage' for anyone other than a man and a woman," he said. "He hasn't really looked into civil unions."

In 2000, during a vice presidential candidate's debate with Dick Cheney, Lieberman said his mind "is open to taking some action that will address these elements of unfairness while respecting the traditional religious and civil institution of marriage," when asked about civil unions.

In an interview with Houston Voice this week, Lieberman would not respond to specific questions about civil unions. But he did cite his support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and domestic partner benefits.

"In March, I pledged to make a concerted push this year to give federal employees' domestic partners the same benefits afforded the spouses of their fellow employees," he said. "And I reaffirmed my commitment to passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which dates back to 1975 in the Connecticut State Senate, when I first pledged my strong support for a similar measure."

"I've long believed in extending the

Please see GAY VOTE on Page 7

# Log Cabin talks AIDS, judicial picks with White House

## Focus on GOP 'inclusiveness' at annual LCR convention

By JOE CREA

WASHINGTON — In the aftermath of Sen. Rick Santorum's (R-Pa.) disparaging remarks about gay sex, the Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay GOP group, met on May 9 with senior White House officials as part of their annual three-day convention.

About 200 LCR members met with three White House officials: Dr. Joseph O'Neill, the gay White House AIDS czar, Brett Kavanaugh, associate White House counsel, and Holly Kuzmich, associate director of the White House domestic policy council, at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

The discussions focused on AIDS, education and nominees to the federal bench, according to Mark Mead, political director for LCR.

Patrick Guerriero, Log Cabin's execu-

tive director, told the New York Times that the meetings with White House officials were "substantive and really terrific policy discussions," but noted that the Santorum controversy was not discussed.

"The core of the Republican Party, from the White House to Congress, understands that we're an important part of the American family," Guerriero told the Times.

Santorum came under fire after likening gay sex to incest and polygamy in an April 7 interview with the Associated Press.

Abner Mason, chair of the International Committee for the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and executive director for the non-profit AIDS Responsibility Project, met privately with O'Neill on May 9 and said he was pleased with the tone of the convention.

"It was tremendously inspiring to see so many gay Republicans excited about what, generally, the administration has accomplished and the presidential AIDS initiative specifically," said Mason, a former Log Cabin official. "The president's AIDS initia-

tive confirms the confidence that gay Republicans had that the president would be a true compassionate conservative."

## Conservatives condemn meeting

In a "Washington Update" e-mail provided by Ken Connor, president of the Family Research Council, Connor condemned the White House for meeting with LCR members.

"Following the White House meeting, Log Cabin members renewed the attack, calling Sen. Santorum's remarks in defense of marriage 'stupid' and saying his views do not represent the mainstream of the Republican Party," Connor wrote.

In the e-mail, Connor also wrote that should the GOP fail to stand for "the sanctity of marriage, then traditional values voters have little reason to give the party their loyalty."

Ken Lisaius, a White House spokesperson, downplayed the meeting, saying that it was one of many policy meetings that interest groups often seek, according to the

Associated Press.

Guerriero told AP that in light of Santorum's remarks, much work is still needed to improve acceptance of gays within the GOP.

"If we were completely satisfied that the Republican Party was as inclusive as we wished, we would cease to exist," Guerriero said. "It's obvious that the issue of inclusiveness in the Republican Party is going to be a major issue."

The three-day long convention consisted of various get-out-the-vote workshops and congressional briefings. The convention concluded with a black-tie dinner at the Westin Embassy Row Hotel where the featured speaker was Morton Kondracke, co-host of the Fox News Channel show "The Beltway Boys."

## MORE INFO

Log Cabin Republicans  
1607 17th Street, NW • Washington, D.C. 20009  
202-347-5306 • www.lcr.org

## national news

## Gephardt's daughter may be factor in race

GAY VOTE, continued from Page 6

promise of America to all of God's children, and in this campaign I'm going to stand up for what I think is right, regardless of the political consequences," Lieberman added.

Kucinich, probably the least known nationally, is "the strongest supporter of gay rights in the field," according to Jeff Cohen, Kucinich's campaign communications director.

"He doesn't just believe in civil unions by the states, he believes in outright gay marriage," Cohen said. "He believes heterosexual couples and gay and lesbian couples should be treated exactly the same."

## Dueling in Dixie

The candidates swung South, a region in which they lost every state to Bush in 2000, for their first debate, gathering in Columbia, S.C. on May 3. Gay issues bubbled to the surface.

"My position in fact is stronger than Governor Dean's," said Kerry, unsolicited, in reference to Dean's accusation a few days earlier that Kerry wasn't committed to fighting for gay rights. "In addition to that, when he questions my courage, I really think that anybody who has measured the tests that I think I have performed over the last years on any number of fights in the United States Congress, as well as my service in Vietnam, that I don't need any lectures in courage from Howard Dean."

Also when asked during the debate, Edwards, Lieberman and Moseley Braun all said they do not agree with laws such as South Carolina's ban on consensual sodomy.

"As long as the Democrats chances are better than zero, you have to try. Candidates like to get the popular vote in addition to the electoral vote, so it makes sense. Come September you may decide to put your money elsewhere, but for at least right now it's smart," Frank said.

At an event in Georgia, Dean said, "I think if you talked to Republican voters, most of whom are white, and asked them, 'Have you received a good raise in the past two years, are you better off personally and financially, do you feel more secure?' the answer would be no. And to those people I would say you should consider voting Democratic this time around."

Dean also leads an emerging grassroots campaign mechanism, local candidate "meet ups." Meetup.com is an Internet service that facilitates local gatherings "anywhere, for anything," according to its Web site.

Southerners are showing active support for the candidate, according to Tim Cairl, a gay organizer for Dean.

"He has provided universal [health] coverage in Vermont, he's protected basic civil rights by signing the Civil Union Act, and he continually points out his concern for national security by promoting proper funding for homeland security," Cairl said. "His enthusiasm and direct candor are refreshing."

There are "many, many GLBT volun-

teers" in the group, he said.

The other candidates also received hits on the Web site.

## Family factor

While some of the candidates, including Edwards, have gay staffers in their campaign organizations, Gephardt upped the ante May 8 when he announced his daughter would quit her job and join his campaign.

Gephardt said on CNBC's "Capitol Report" that Chrissy Gephardt, a 30-year-old social worker who was previously married and divorced, would help his campaign on a broad array of issues, including health care and poverty.

"Chrissy is a lesbian. She is a great young woman. She's doing great work," he said on the show. "I am very proud of her."

Gephardt's campaign Web site, in a section about his family, makes a brief reference to Chrissy's live-in partner, Amy Loder.

Gephardt and his campaign refused to discuss the matter this week, citing an agreement with People. The magazine interviewed Gephardt and his daughter in a story that appears in the May 23 issue.

"I was afraid they would not love me anymore — and that I would ruin my father's career," Chrissy told People about her April 2001 coming out to her parents.

It took months of therapy for Chrissy to break the news to her husband, Marc Leibole,

whom she married in 1997, according to the magazine. When she did, they both cried.

"It was hard for both of us," Leibole told People. "I'm glad she discovered it before we had a family."

A month later, she told her parents, who later invited Chrissy and Loder to live with them for five months, until they found jobs and a place to live, according to the magazine.

"We love our kids unconditionally," Gephardt told People. "We wanted her to know we supported her."

Mary Cheney, the lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney, worked for him during the 2000 campaign as his full-time personal aide. But Cheney and his wife, Lynne, did not speak publicly about their daughter's sexual orientation.

Whether Gephardt's announcement will have any impact on the race "depends on how close things get," said Watts, the gay political consultant.

"Having a gay child will help a candidate relate to gay and lesbian voters in a way other candidates can't," he said.

Whether Cheney will get any residual bump from gay voters because of his daughter also depends on how the numbers fall during the general election, according to Watts.

"If it's real close, you'll see him talk more about her. He'll say they're not a discriminatory administration, but of course there's plenty of ammunition there for a Democratic candidate," he said.

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## national news

## Census data refutes notion that gays make more money

HRC hails report, says it shows  
gays are like everyone else

By JOE CREA

Gay men and lesbians might not be as wealthy as many previously thought, but they are slightly better educated than their heterosexual counterparts, according to recently released 2000 Census Bureau data.

According to the data from seven states, including California and Florida, the individual and household incomes of same-sex couples is not terribly different from those of their heterosexual counterparts, said Dr. Gary J. Gates, a research associate and demographer for the Urban Institute, a non-partisan economic and social policy research organization commissioned by the Human Rights Campaign to analyze the Census data.

According to the study, same-sex couples earned median wages of \$31,500 compared to \$32,000 for heterosexual married couples.

"There's become this myth of affluence in the gay community, and as a result it has become the subject of the marketing worlds," Gates said. "But when you look at the data, the incomes and household incomes are not terribly different than other [heterosexual couples.]"

"The new study completely debunks that myth," said David Smith, communications

director for HRC. "It shows that gay families are mirror images of non-gay families."

The data was culled from the 2000 Census and represents a sampling of Census records from one in 100 U.S. households. The study does not include information about the single gay and lesbian population, nor does it cover gay men and lesbians in relationships who don't live in the same residence.

"Not all of us are in a relationship or live together in the same home with our partners," Smith said. "We don't all fit the same mold. The Census data looks at one specific aspect of our community."

HRC commissioned the Urban Institute to analyze Census data made available for 15 states; HRC then chose seven states with higher numbers of gay and lesbian couples to review more closely. Those states include California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Texas.

The other eight states are Alabama, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wyoming. Smith said that most of the statistical data from those eight states was too small to accurately represent the gays and lesbians living there.

Upon the release of data for more states — groups of states are being released on a weekly basis — HRC and the Urban Institute will compile information on several geographical areas. Gates noted that, according to the study, same-sex couples had higher levels of education than heterosexuals yet their

income was not much different. The study shows that 35 percent of people living with same-sex partners had a college degree compared with 28 percent of married people and 19 percent of unmarried heterosexuals.

The study also highlights that 64 percent of gays and lesbians are homeowners compared with 78 percent of married heterosexuals and 41 percent of unmarried heterosexuals.

### Improvement over 1990

The Census Bureau questionnaire did not ask the sexual orientation of each respondent. Researchers identified gay and lesbian families when the questionnaire's respondent listed another same-sex adult in his/her household as "husband/wife," or "unmarried partner."

Smith said that if a respondent checked the "married" box on the 1990 Census form, yet lived with a person of the same sex, the Census would change the gender of the person in the home, assuming the respondent "made a mistake."

Lisa Neidert, head of the data archives at the Population Studies Center, said that currently, the Census only makes edits if same-sex respondents note they are married.

"There's no such thing since [gay marriage] is not recognized," Neidert said. "[The Census] would turn them into partners."

Smith said that two forms were filled out by respondents in 2000; a shorter form asked the participants who they were, how many lived in their household and what their sexes were. Those

results were released in August of 2001 and helped determine congressional seats for states.

The longer form, which is being released in handfuls, is more detailed, inquiring about home ownership, income, military service, family size and citizenship.

According to an HRC report, Census 2000 counted 601,209 same-sex unmarried partner households in the United States. The report noted that that was a 314 percent increase from 1990, when only 145,130 same-sex partner households were tallied. HRC officials estimate that the gay and lesbian population in the United States is 5 percent of the total population.

"[The 1990 data] was the first time we had empirical evidence that gay and lesbian families exist in most communities throughout America," Gates said. "Now, with the new release, not only do they exist, but on many measures they often don't look much different from other couples."

### MORE INFO

Urban Institute • 2100 M Street, N.W.  
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202 833-7200 • www.urban.org

Population Studies Center  
University of Michigan • 426 Thompson St.  
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## around the nation

### Santorum graduation speech draws student protest

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — About 100 graduates walked out of Saint Joseph University's commencement exercises May 18 rather than see U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) receive an honorary degree. Some students had urged the Jesuit university to rescind Santorum's invitation to speak over an interview last month in which Santorum likened homosexuality to bigamy, polygamy, incest and adultery. At the commencement, students were about evenly divided between boos and applause as a group of graduates filed out just before Santorum was introduced. About 15 Santorum opponents also protested on the street outside of the graduation exercises, while other students who remained in the ceremony tied rainbow tassels to their graduation caps, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer. Santorum, a Catholic, told students in his speech to "rebel against popular culture" because their Catholic education had shown them "divine revelation."



U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) told graduates at Saint Joseph University they should 'rebel against popular culture.' Some students walked out before the speech to protest Santorum's recent anti-gay remarks. (Photo by AP)

### Wash. teacher uses racial slur to argue against gay remark

SEATTLE — The Seattle chapter of the NAACP wants Cleveland High School teacher Brian Emanuels fired for using a racial epithet to make the point that students shouldn't use "gay" as a slur, the Seattle Times reported. Emanuels apologized for the remark, which he said was prompted by the student using "gay" to denigrate an assignment. According to the Seattle Post Intelligencer, the teacher took the student outside of the classroom, then asked how he would like to be called the racial slur. When other students defended using "gay" as a negative expression, Emanuel allegedly used the slur again. At a news conference May 15, Emanuels, who is on paid administrative leave pending an investigation, said he told the class neither term was appropriate. "I used the word, and right after I asked, 'Is it OK for me to use that term?' Of course not. It's a highly offensive word," he said.

### Trans mayor candidate in Mich. opposes birth name on ballot

LANSING, Mich. — Melissa Sue Robinson, a male-to-female transsexual running for mayor of Lansing, has objected to a law requiring her to list both her current female name and her previous male name on ballots, WDIV-TV in Detroit reported. "What they're trying to do is make me use the name that I formerly went by as Charles Edward Steaelens Jr. ... side by side with Melissa Sue Robinson," Robinson said. She changed her name five years ago after gender reassignment surgery. State law requires ballots to show both names for anyone who has had a name change in the last decade, according to Lansing City Clerk Debbie Miller. Robinson, founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Transgendered People, said the law discriminates. "When it comes to a transgender person ... having to put a male name next to a female name doesn't look great," she said.

### Miami-Dade United Way drops Boy Scout funding

MIAMI (AP) — The United Way of Miami-Dade will no longer provide the local chapter of the Boy Scouts of America a \$480,000 annual grant, saying that it made the decision over the scouts' policy that prohibits gay sensitivity training for its leaders. The grant represents about 20 percent of the South Florida Council's entire operating budget. The decision becomes effective June 30. Miami-Dade's United Way based its decision to suspend funding on its belief that the Boy Scouts agreed in 2001 to implement gay-inclusive sensitivity training for leaders. "The fact that they're doing business in a diverse community carries with it a responsibility to that diverse community," said Harve Mogul, United Way's Miami-Dade president and CEO. Jeff Herrmann, an executive for the scouts' South Florida Council, said the Boy Scouts never agreed to such a deal. The Boy Scouts prohibit gay leaders, resulting in years of debate around the country about United Way contributions. At least 50 United Way offices nationwide have suspended Scout grants.

### N.C. activists continue push for domestic partner benefits

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Mecklenburg Gay & Lesbian Political Action Committee held a press conference May 14 saying the city of Charlotte has the authority to offer domestic partner benefits to its employees and change its charter to include sexual orientation in non-discrimination policies, the Charlotte Observer reported. "It's about whether the city is willing to recognize it has gay and lesbian employees and is ready to send a message to them about whether it's willing to be an open city," said Connie Vetter, leader of MeckPAC. But City Attorney Mac McCarley told the City Council the city doesn't clearly have the right to offer the benefits, which would likely result in a lawsuit, and would need the state legislature's approval to change the city charter. Similar benefits are in place in Chapel Hill, Durham and Carrboro.

From staff and wire reports

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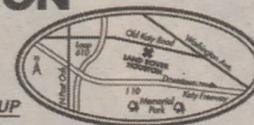
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Morning Prayer 10am  
Movie Night 7pm  
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### Monday • May 26

Memorial Day  
Office Closed - No Mass

### Friday • May 30

Morning Prayer 10am

### Monday • June 2

Eucharist 7:30pm

### Thursday • June 5

Potluck 7pm  
Mitchell Katine, speaker

### Friday • June 6

Morning Prayer 10am



## medical report

### One in five adults says government keeping HIV vaccine secret



Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, said the federal agency will boost its education efforts to combat a misconception that the government is hiding an HIV vaccine. (Photo by AP)

NEW YORK — Some 20 percent of adults erroneously believe that a vaccine for HIV already exists but is being kept from the public, according to a survey of 3,500 adults by the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, Reuters reported. The federal agency funds research into the prevention and treatment of HIV infection and AIDS. While the poll shows that Americans are committed to finding a vaccine — some 84 percent of respondents rate the vaccine effort as either "extremely" or "very" important — large numbers of U.S. citizens remain ignorant of the slow rate of progress in the chase for an AIDS vaccine. Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, NIAID director, said his agency plans to strengthen education efforts "to help correct misconceptions and advance public understanding of ongoing and future HIV vaccine research." Some 44 percent of respondents also were unsure if vaccine trials might pose risks for participants, a misconception that could hamper volunteer recruitment for clinical trials.

### Gay health concerns broader than HIV, summit organizers say

RALEIGH, N.C. — Health workers and gay activists are focused on HIV while excluding other serious gay health concerns, according to organizers of the third National Gay Men's Health Summit, according to the Raleigh News & Observer. More than 300 people joined the May 7-11 gathering. "We need to look at why a disproportionate number of gay men has eating disorders and depression," Erik Libey, a conference organizer, told the newspaper. "Gay men need to learn how they can come out to their doctor. We can't forget about HIV/AIDS. We just need to shift the momentum a little bit." More than 150 workshop sessions and plenaries covered the most diverse collection of topics in the summit's history, including substance use, mental health, domestic violence, and prostate cancer. "We are really excited to see the exciting work taking place on gay men's health around the nation and around the world," said summit organizer Eric Rofes. "Cutting-edge work with men of color, start-up gay men's health projects in Tucson, San Francisco, and Geneva, Switzerland, and the increasing attention to aging and ageism, really made this an exciting summit to me."

affected by HIV/AIDS from throughout the world. The report found that \$1.9 billion was spent last year on HIV prevention. The United Nations AIDS agency estimates that \$5.7 billion will be needed by 2005 and \$6.6 billion by 2007.

### Ore. students cancel blood drive over ban on donations from gay men

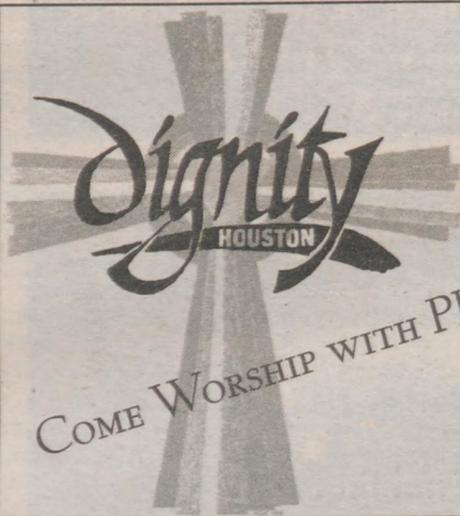
ASHLAND, Ore. (AP) — Students at Southern Oregon University say they will cancel their blood drive this term because eligibility to donate discriminates against gay men. Students say that goes against the university's anti-discrimination policy and continues to label AIDS and HIV as a gay men's disease. "I know I've been yelling about it for years," said Daniel Conner. "I'm a gay man and I don't like being forced to lie to help people." Guidelines established by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration say males who had same-sex encounters even once since 1977 are ineligible. Dr. Leslie Holness, medical officer for the division of blood applications for the FDA, said that although the screening process is not ideal, it is continuously reviewed.

### Swiss zoo offers tour on gay animals

ZURICH — A Zurich zoo is offering guided tours during the city's "Warm May" festival to highlight homosexuality among animals, according to SwissInfo.org. "I don't know of any species that is exclusively heterosexual," tour guide Myriam Schärz said. "There are studies of this going back hundreds of years, although scientists were previously reluctant to explore the matter further for fear that they would themselves be branded gay." The one-hour tour includes information Schärz cites from biologist Bruce Bagemihl's groundbreaking 1999 study "Biological Exuberance," which documented same-sex activity in more than 450 animal species. "I'm just interested in animals and nature, and of course I'm gay," said one of the men waiting for the tour. "So I just wanted to hear the arguments and of course see the gay animals."

From staff and wire reports

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### Global spending on HIV falls short, report says

SEATTLE (AP) — Worldwide spending on prevention of the AIDS-causing virus falls short by \$3.8 billion of what will be needed by 2005, according to a new report by the Global HIV Prevention Working Group. Fewer than one in five people at risk of HIV infection has access to prevention programs, the report states. "Twenty years into the AIDS epidemic, most people in the world still don't have access to effective HIV prevention," said Dr. Helene Gayle, the group's co-chair who is director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's global HIV/AIDS program. "Clearly, there's no magic bullet that can stop the epidemic on its own." The Working Group is made up of about 40 leaders in public health, clinical care, biomedical, behavioral, and social research, and people

## police beat

### Fla. woman found guilty in shooting of former partner

PENSACOLA — A jury rejected arguments May 14 that a woman was insane when she shot her former partner and a would-be defender in a church parking lot in April 2002, according to the Pensacola News Journal. Andrea Cobb was convicted of attempted first-degree murder in the shooting of estranged lover Joyce Anderson and guilty of attempted second-degree murder and aggravated battery in the shooting of Nancy Browning, who was disabled by a bullet lodged near her spine. Browning stepped into the dispute to protect Anderson, despite not knowing either woman. "I think justice has been served," Browning said after the verdict. Cobb faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years to life in prison when sentenced June 10. Prosecutors argued that Cobb's determined pursuit of Anderson proved premeditated revenge. Cobb's lawyer said the behavior was so out of character that Cobb must have gone insane.



A Florida jury found Andrea Cobb guilty of two counts of attempted murder last week in the shootings of her former partner and a stranger.

### Suspect in N.J. killing surrenders to police

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Police arrested a suspect May 15 in the stabbing death of a teenager who rebuffed the romantic advances of two men at a bus stop by saying she was a lesbian. The arrest came as 300 protesters rallied outside City Hall, decrying the death of Sakia Gunn, who was stabbed in the chest on May 10. Richard McCullough, 29, turned himself in to police just as the rally was breaking up, Lt. Derek Glenn said. Police issued an arrest warrant for him two days before. Protesters, including some members of gay civil rights groups and friends as well as schoolmates of the slain girl, decried her death and called for stronger legal protection for gays and lesbians. "Nobody had the right to take my child away," Sakia's mother, Latona Gunn told the crowd. Sakia and her girlfriend were waiting for a bus after a night in Greenwich Village, Glenn said.

### Pa. gay activist among those indicted on fraud charges

PHILADELPHIA — A federal grand jury indicted three people on fraud charges May 15, alleging that they misused city money earmarked for gender identity counseling to adolescents, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer. Joseph L. Lewis Jr., Janis P. Moore and Tyrone Smith operated the program from which the indictment charges \$130,000 was used for Lewis' personal expenses. Lewis' attorney, Walter M. Phillips Jr., said his client would plead not guilty. Smith, a veteran gay activist best known as founder of a support group for HIV-positive black gay men, was listed as the program's "sexual-identity counselor." The indictment alleges that Lewis falsely billed the city for services never provided and that Moore and Smith were paid to create phony paperwork justifying the invoices. Most of the money allegedly paid Lewis' office and apartment rent, leases on two BMWs, a Jersey Shore timeshare, and expenses for Lewis' horse. The indictment alleges that Moore misrepresented her qualifications as a grants writer for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons from 1990 to 1994 when in fact she was a federal inmate during that time.

### Clergy included in arrests during Minn., Utah sex stings

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Two priests and a Lutheran pastor were arrested in separate police sex stings last week. One priest and the pastor were charged with groping undercover officers May 15 in a St. Paul park. Rev. Edward Francis McGrath is accused of rubbing his own genital area and then cupping an officer's genitals and squeezing them. Diocese leader Bishop Bernard Harrington said McGrath "has been an excellent and much-loved priest, serving the people of our diocese well in both administrative and pastoral capacities." Lutheran pastor Jonathan J. Marxhausen, 38, allegedly squeezed an officer's groin the same night. The next day in Ogden, Utah, Rev. Mario Arbelaez Olarte was arrested for allegedly arranging sex over the Internet with an officer posing as a 15-year-old boy. "I thought this person was older," he reportedly told the Ogden Standard-Examiner.

### Coroner says slain Pa. man could have survived stab wound

SCRANTON, Pa. — A coroner said May 12 that gay activist Michael Pierson would have likely survived a January stab wound if his boyfriend told police about the injury immediately, the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader reported. But police said Kenneth Stephens did not alert authorities that he stabbed Pierson until the body was found in a lake two months later. The testimony came at Stephens' preliminary hearing in which a judge held him over for trial on one count of criminal homicide. Dr. Gary Ross said it probably took Pierson up to 30 minutes to die, but that he might have lived up to three hours after the stabbing. Police initially responded Jan. 28 when Stephens reported Pierson stabbed him. When police arrived, Stephens was wounded and Pierson was not at the scene. Ross testified Stephens' wounds appeared to be self-inflicted. Trooper Joseph Pacifico testified he interviewed Stephens after Pierson's autopsy and said he admitted stabbing Pierson in self defense.

From staff and wire reports

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Issue 1178

# Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

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## guest editorial

# How not to prevent HIV

The new CDC initiative on how to prevent the spread of HIV is stained with an ultra-right agenda that sacrifices what's working for unproven tactics.

By STEPHEN FALLON

**T**HE CENTERS FOR DISEASE Control & Prevention has been infiltrated.

No, there aren't terrorists wandering the hallways with forged employee badges. This infiltration is more insidious.

It has reached CDC's own journal, *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report*, which recently published a new HIV prevention initiative that is stained with an ultra-conservative agenda.

While the new initiative includes some valid individual steps to fighting HIV, the way it will be imposed is nothing short of an attack. Just like the Greeks hid soldiers inside the apparent gift of their Trojan Horse, the new initiative hides a stealthy agenda to de-fund HIV prevention agencies nationwide.

The initiative says that CDC will focus its efforts on four strategies to reduce HIV infections:

- Test pregnant women for infection
- Utilize rapid HIV testing technologies
- Notify sex partners of infected people
- Counsel HIV infected persons to protect their sexual partners.

On their face, these ideas hold merit, though not enough to justify how they'll be imposed. The initiative notes that, "CDC also will require grantees to employ standardized procedures for prevention interventions and evaluation activities." In plain language, that means that these new strategies are intended to replace, not supplement, current services.

At least \$90 million will be pulled from currently effective prevention programs in favor of these new experiments. The initiative's language could actually justify de-funding *all* agencies nationwide unless they march to these four new steps. What would that mean in your community?

- No more condom distribution at street corners and nightclubs
- No more peer education or hotlines to help high-risk HIV negative people lower

their risk behaviors.

- No more group workshops to help people gain confidence in negotiating safer sex with partners.

- No more informative posters or pamphlets.

- No more health fairs or community events that build healthy reminders into gay men's everyday lives.

All of those strategies are called Health Education & Risk Reduction. The new directive is aimed at containment, not education. It imposes prefab national solutions, overruling local agencies that have their finger on the pulse of their communities' needs and values.

Just like the Greeks hid soldiers inside the apparent gift of their Trojan Horse, the new initiative hides a stealthy agenda to de-fund HIV prevention agencies nationwide.

THIS KAFKAESQUE DIRECTIVE follows on the heels of an exhaustive audit of all directly funded HIV prevention programs nationwide. The audit was intended to prove HIV prevention programs are immoral. It sputtered to a conclusion three months ago, when it failed to find any wrongdoing even at the much-maligned Stop AIDS Project of San Francisco.

Now follow the political football here: The feds spend a year trying to prove that current programs are doing something wrong. When the investigation accidentally proves that these programs are doing the job right, a new initiative is announced that conveniently moves monies out of risk reduction and into a

new medical model of containment.

Here's what's really creepy: The new initiative was drafted without any input from the CDC/HRSA Advisory Board. Conservative former Congressman Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) was praising the initiative before the CDC's own project officers had any idea what was going to appear in their own journal. Who's really in charge here?

It's wrong to fund these new experiments at the expense of programs declared effective in the CDC's own "Compendium of Best Practices." Is there any chance that the new strategies will outperform the proven ones?

**Pregnant women:** HIV-positive women who take medications reduce the odds of passing the virus to their child, from about 25 percent to just 2 percent. But the impact won't be large; newborns only account for 300 of our 40,000 new infections each year in the United States.

**Rapid HIV testing:** Many people never return weeks later for their HIV test results. Rapid testing allows people to receive their test results in minutes rather than weeks. This is exciting technology, but it is not a panacea to solve all testing problems. Any change in testing needs to overcome fears that prevent people from testing in the first place.

**Partner notification:** With wildfire diseases like SARS, notification and containment strategies make sense. But HIV is different. People are reluctant to identify sex partners that they may have put at risk, or they may not even know a partner's name.

**Prevention for positives:** The CDC used to aim HIV prevention programs almost exclusively at HIV-negative individuals. Program planners finally realized that they needed to engage HIV-positive persons in prevention, too, urging them to protect partners.

This makes sense. What doesn't make sense is the either/or strategy. People mingle, date, and have sex across HIV status lines. To focus prevention solely on one group or another makes about as much sense as buying a car that has either an engine or brakes.

The initiative as proposed is no gift, and it will leave more casualties in the war on HIV.

Stephen Fallon, Ph.D., runs a Florida-based consulting firm and can be reached at [sfallon@skills4.org](mailto:sfallon@skills4.org).



**viewpoint** JENNIFER VANASCO



Lesbian Babe Didrikson Zaharias co-founded the LPGA to improve competition in ladies golf. That's all Annika Sorenstam is trying to do.

# From Babe to Annika

IN 1950, ATHLETE EXTRAORDINAIRE (and lesbian) Babe Didrikson Zaharias co-founded the Ladies Professional Golf Association because she was frustrated by the lack of competition.

Now, more than 50 years later, Annika Sorenstam — the greatest player in Babe's LPGA — is seeking to make the cut against the men who are playing at Colonial in the PGA Tour this week.

Why? Because she's frustrated by the lack of competition, too.

If you pay any attention to sports (or you're a typical lesbian golf nut), you know what's happened. Sorenstam didn't qualify for the Colonial, but since sponsors have 12 spots they can award at their discretion, she was invited to play.

Of course she was. In the past two years, Sorenstam has won more tournaments than anyone else in the game. Anyone. Even Tiger Woods.

The world was thrown into an uproar. Media commentators started weighing in on whether she should — or could — play with the men. They mourned the unknown man who had missed his chance to play because she was in the tournament. It was widely

reported that golfer Vijay Singh said, "I hope she misses the cut."

Later, Singh said that his comments weren't a personal attack and that they were misconstrued.

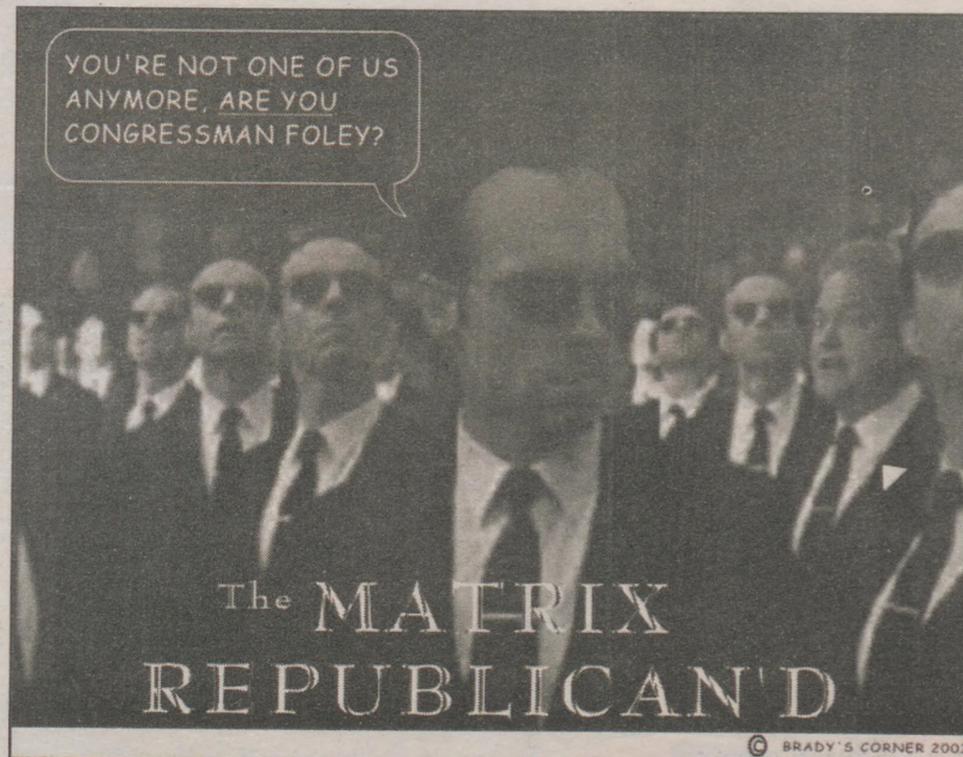
"I actually said that if I miss the cut, I'd rather she miss the cut as well. I hoped she'd miss the cut because I don't want to have a woman beat me," Singh said, according to USA Today. He added, "She doesn't belong here."

Like the boys on the playground, Singh didn't want to get beaten by a girl. Seems like not much has changed in 50 years.

IN 1945, ZAHARIAS PLAYED IN THE PGA AT the Los Angeles Open. Reports differ as to whether she made the cut after the first 36 holes and then faltered once the competition started or whether she never made the cut at all.

I don't know if the men of the PGA were threatened by her playing, but they must not have been — the organization has no rules saying women can't play. It just assumes they won't.

But the more Zaharias came under public scrutiny, the more she feminized herself. She was called "the muscle moll" — until she grew out her hair and started wearing dresses. Oh,



and she entered into what might have been a cover marriage with wrestler George Zaharias.

Happily, there have been no slurs like that toward Sorenstam. No one has said that she is less of a woman because she's competing against the boys. What they say is that once she steps onto the course, she makes the boys less than men.

That's crazy. Being good at golf isn't something that is woven into the male — and not the female — genetic code.

Golf is a mental game. Skill in it is honed by practice, not by what's in one's underwear.

IN ANY CASE, THIS ISN'T A MAN VS. woman battle. This isn't 1973's "Battle of the Sexes," starring tennis stars Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs. This is not Annika Sorenstam, representing all female kind, against one individual who likewise represents his entire sex.

This is Annika Sorenstam against the course, testing herself to see how good she really is against some of the best players in the world.

This is a personal test, not a public trial. And there should be nothing emasculating about it.

And because it's a personal test, it doesn't matter if Sorenstam doesn't win the tournament (though she might, because she's that good) or make the cut to play (though she probably will).

She doesn't need to because she's not doing it for the girls. She's doing it for herself. She's used to equality in her native, progressive Sweden and so she's simply acting like she's equal.

In July, golf pro Suzy Whaley will play in the PGA tour at the Hartford Open. She qualified for it last year.

Someday, a woman playing in the PGA tour won't receive media attention because she's the best woman golfer. She'll get it because she's the best.

And no one will tell her she doesn't belong.

@ Jennifer Vanasco is a Chicago-based syndicated columnist and can be reached at [vanasco@chicagofreepress.com](mailto:vanasco@chicagofreepress.com).

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of ETHAN GREEN

by Eric Orner



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## on the record

"I have been sneered at, ridiculed, cold-shouldered. I think they see me as the visual representation of a show they feel gets it wrong and is not representative of their lives and [is] unbelievable."

**Gale Harold**, who plays "snarky, cruel and lascivious" Brian on "Queer As Folk," on the reaction he often gets from gay viewers of the Showtime series (Associated Press, May 7)

"I think the whole bravery thing is a sound bite ... The only people I think are brave in relationship to the stories we're telling are the people they're based on, and the 'out' actors who work on our show ... What do I have to be worried about? I'm a straight white male, working on a show playing a gay man. I don't really think I'm going to be typecast."

**Gale Harold**, on his "Queer As Folk" role (Associated Press, May 7)



"Every school we go to — every one — students just assume that we're homosexual, and when we walk through the hallways, we get called gay. And fag and lesbian. Sometimes it's just little kids — little teeny kids, which blows my mind."

**Marisa Fiuza**, a 17-year-old senior who plays second base for Provincetown High School, on reaction the softball team gets from students at other schools, given the reputation of Provincetown, Mass., as a gay and lesbian resort (Boston Globe, May 11)

"We fear the focus will now become homosexual indoctrination among young girls."

**Anti-gay activist Rev. Don Wildmon**, on the hiring of bisexual feminist and former NOW director **Patricia Ireland** as the new chief executive officer of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)



"They have raised the tolerance bar here. It's not good enough to say, as the senator said, 'I love this person. I accept this person. But my teaching argues against the act.' You now have to reject your religious doctrine — if you want to call anybody a bigot, then you should call Justice Byron White and the pope a bigot."

**Republican moderate Mary Matalin**, defending comments by Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) that favored criminalization of gay sex acts, and making reference to Justice White, the Kennedy appointee who authored the court's opinion in the Bowers vs. Hardwick case upholding the Georgia sodomy law (NBC's "Meet the Press," May 10)

"I think it's the most cockamamy thing in the world. We don't care if you're homosexual, you just can't act on your sexual impulses."

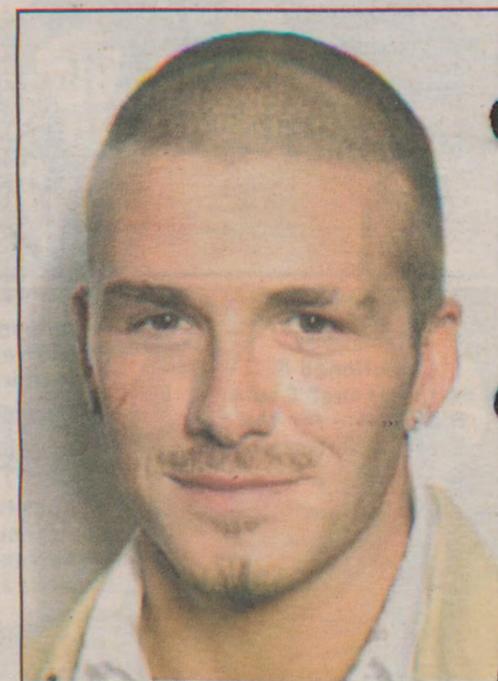
**Democratic consultant James Carville**, taking issue with his wife, Mary Matalin, as well as Sen. Santorum, and the position of his own Roman Catholic faith, on homosexuality (NBC's "Meet the Press," May 10)

"Jeers to too many visitors. NBC's 'Will & Grace' isn't the only series using guest stars as sweep stunts, but it is the most egregious abuser (and, no, Madonna still can't act.) Airing the recent clips episode of celebrity visitors only furthered the show's growing reputation as this decade's 'Love Boat.'"

"Cheers and Jeers" column (TV Guide, May 17)

"He's a big flirt and he loves it. He walks around the kitchen going: 'I'm a gay icon, I'm a gay icon.'"

**Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham**, on her husband, superstar soccer player **David Beckham** and his celebrity status among British gays (Associated Press, May 11)





**OUT ON THE TOWN:** GoGirlsRock! brings rock'n'roll by and for womyn to the Bayou City. **Page 18.**

**SPORTS:** Gay Houstonians welcome athletes from across the nation to Montrose Softball League's Lone Star Classic. **Page 19.**



# Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE  
MAY 23, 2003  
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## Queer celluloid

Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival kicks off this week

By JOSHUA CLEVELAND

**T**HIS YEAR'S HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN Film Festival has attracted a set of memorable films and videos for the viewing audience, plus visits to the Bayou City by actors and directors from many of those works.

When the seventh annual festival begins next week, actor Larry Sullivan, who stars in "The Trip," one of the festival's opening flicks, will be on hand to help kick off the big event and the first few showings of that film here in Houston.

Film and television fans probably know Sullivan from his roles on "Six Feet Under" and "Will and Grace." He's also been on "West Wing," "Young and the Restless," "Felicity" and "JAG".

The festival kick-off party this year features a sing-along version of "Chicago - All That Jazz," the Oscar-winning musical directed and written by gay men. Party-goers are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite characters.

Those who don't know the words by heart can read the lyrics off the screen and try to out-sing Renee, Richard, Catherine and Queen Latifah.

The kick-off begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29, at the Landmark River Oaks Theater. The film rolls at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance at [www.hglff.org](http://www.hglff.org). Refreshments will be served.

This year's film fest lineup is as follows, according to the HGLFF Web site.

### Landmark Theatre/River Oaks

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#### Chicago • 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29

The Landmark Theatre River Oaks hosts the opening-night party to the festival with a showing of this popular musical. Patrons are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite Chicago star and be ready to sing along.

#### Hairspray • Midnight on May 30 and 31

This film, written and directed by openly gay John Waters, is the basis for the recent Broadway hit starring Harvey Fierstein. The musical tells a story of teenage dancing and race relations in 1950s Baltimore and stars Ricki Lake and Divine.

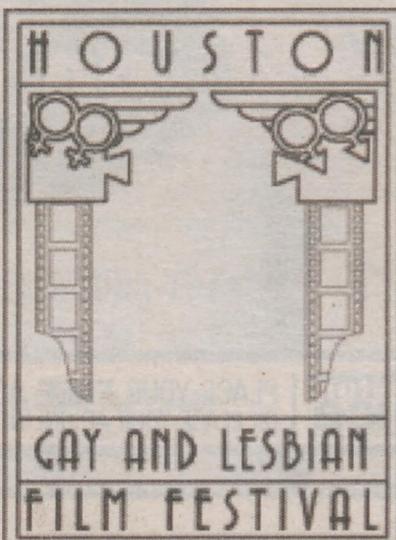
#### Valley of the Dolls • Midnight on June 6

This classic film stars Patty Duke, Barbara Perkins, Sharon Tate and Susan Hayward in the tale based on Jacqueline Susann's novel of drugs and scandal on the seamy side of Hollywood.

#### Psycho Beach Party • Midnight on June 13 and 14

Charles Busch wrote the screenplay for this 1960s-

genre parody, and his latest work, "Die Mommie Die," is a Sundance hit that is creating a new sensation. He takes on the drag role of Captain Monica Stark in this HGLFF pick.



### Landmark's Greenway Theatre

5 Greenway Plaza • 713-626-0402

#### The Trip • May 30 and 31, June 1, 2-5

Various times

Two men from two very different worlds run into each other with comedic yet touching results in this story directed by Miles Swain and starring Larry Sullivan and Steve Braun. A politically conservative journalist falls in love with a gay rights activist, and the pair embark on a road trip to Mexico where their relationship gets a chance to rekindle.

### The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

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#### The Wild Party • 5 p.m. May 31

Clara Bow is a wild girl at a woman's college who falls for her professor. As their love grows, the professor demands that Clara abandon her crazy ways in this light-hearted comedy.

#### Sarah and Son • 7 p.m. May 31

An opera singer fights to reclaim her son and enlists an attorney's help.

#### Guardian of the Frontier • 9 p.m. May 31 and 7 p.m. June 1

Directed by Maja Weiss, this film tells the story of three girlfriends who go canoeing on the river between Slovenia and Croatia. Their trip unfortunately takes them into the path of a self-appointed border guard.

#### Working Girls

5 p.m. June 1

Directed by Dorothy Arzner, this work is filled with delightful double entendres as audiences are told the story of two sisters from Indiana who travel to Manhattan to look for work.

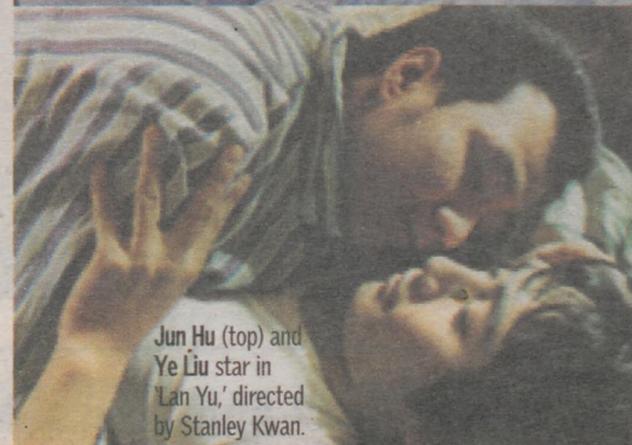
#### Family Fundamentals

7 p.m. June 2

Director Arthur Dong will be present at the showing of this film, which documents what happens when parents believe that their own children represent an element that is a threat to the human race. A community discussion follows the screening.



Steve Braun (left) and Larry Sullivan star in Miles Swain's 'The Trip.'



Jun Hu (top) and Ye Liu star in 'Lan Yu,' directed by Stanley Kwan.



Above: Directors Annie Goldson and Peter Wells tell the story of Georgina Beyer, the world's first transsexual to hold elected office, in 'Georgie Girl.' Left: Erica Shaffer, Helen Lesnick and Michele Greene star in 'A Family Affair.'



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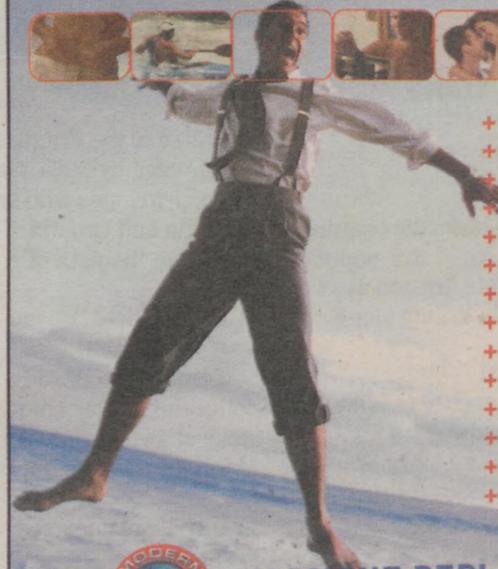
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# out on the bayou

## 'The Trip' actor in Houston for film's local premier

FILM FEST, continued from Page 15

### Aurora Picture Show

800 Aurora St. • 713-868-2102

#### Look Up Your Sons and Daughters: Anti-Queer Films 1950-1990

8 p.m. June 5 and 6

Bill Taylor of Out on Screen, Vancouver's Queer Film and Video Film Fest, presents this series of anti-gay films from the 1950s through the 1990s. He will lead discussion about the works and their homophobic messages. Included are "Dating Do's and Don't's," "Red Light Green Light," "Boys Beware," "Perversion for Profit," "The Report: The Gay Agenda" and "The Report: The Heterosexual Agenda."

### DiverseWorks

1117 East Freeway • 713-223-8346

#### Huge Issue: RAW • 8 p.m. June 7

This compilation of 20 new shorts is from the producers of Huge, winner of the 2001 HGLFF Viewer's Choice Award. Without a budget, producers gave directors one day to shoot and two days to edit a three-minute digital video interpreting the word "raw" in any way they saw fit. The results are "Huge Issue: RAW."



On the film festival roster is 'Lock Up Your Sons and Daughters,' a compilation of anti-gay social-engineering films presented by Bill Taylor from Out On Screen, Vancouver's Queer Film & Video Film Fest.

#### I Look Up to the Sky Now • 4 p.m. June 8

This documentary takes a look at New York City's queer youth with humor, passion and pathos. DiverseWorks, HATCH and PFLAG host a post-screening reception and discussion with producer and director Barbara Bickart, video artist Kevin Santos and Turned Up Volume project manager Jama Shelton.

### Angelika Theatre

510 Texas Ave. • 713-225-5232

#### Friends and Family

June 6-8: 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m.  
June 9-12: 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

When a gay couple's parents come to New York to visit, the men's secret life as mobsters is suddenly threatened. In hopes of throwing off their parents, the two enlist the help of their mob friends to help create a fake catering company, with hilarious results.

#### A Family Affair

June 6-8: Noon, 2:20 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

June 9-12: 4:40 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

After moving home to her overly gay-friendly Jewish family, Rachel Rosen (Helen Lesnick) deals with her recent breakup and her family's desire for her to find the right woman. She soon finds a new love, but her family and friends wait for her to submarine the relationship. Lesbian comedienne Suzanne Westenhoefer plays Rachel's sister-in-law.

#### Food of Love • June 13-20 • Various times

A music student and his teacher learn about life, love and commitment. But their relationship has different implications for both men.

### Rice Cinema

Entrance 8, University Boulevard at Stockton  
713-348-4853

#### The Business of Fancydancing

7 p.m. June 13-15

After his friend commits suicide, gay poet Seymour (Evan Adams) returns home to the Spokane Indian Reservation. The film explores the interconnections between sexuality and racial identity.

#### Lan Yu • 9 p.m. June 13-15

Lan Yu is a country boy who is studying architecture in the city when he meets an closeted, lonely middle-aged Beijing bureaucrat. The two begin a passionate affair.

#### The Odds of Recovery • 2 p.m. June 14 and 15

Journey through 20 years of accidents and ailments as Su Friedrich learns about her body — the hard way.

#### Georgie Girl • 4 p.m. June 14 and 15

This flick tells the amazing story of Georgina Beyer, a transsexual who journeyed from obscurity to become the first transsexual to hold elected office. The piece alternates with footage from her days as an exotic dancer to her current life in government.



### MORE INFO

Seventh Annual Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival • May 29-June 15  
Various venues • HGLFF  
3400 Montrose, Suite 207 • www.hgloff.org

## reasons? WHY?

I appreciate being a part of this community! I want to see Fitness Exchange as more than a health club. It is a community center! So I use the Houston Voice to show my appreciation, and as my invitation to its readers.

—Mary Ann McBee  
Fitness Exchange



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out on the town JOHNNY HOOKS



But rock'n'roll showcase  
and other events have  
room for the guys, too

## It's a womyn's week

HELLO HOUSTON! I HAVE TO ADMIT, dear readers, that I am in a celluloid fog! This is *really* the summer of the sequel, even if last summer seemed like it. Call it my "SUMMER 2: End of the Trilogy!" X2, Matrix 2, Charlie's Angels 2, 2Fast 2Furious, Legally Blonde 2, Matrix 3, T-3, Spy Kids 3, LOTR 3... you get my drift.

As much as it pains me to leave the air-conditioned comfort of the theater, I must. Off we go to a few REAL LIVE events.

This week the column tends to be one for the ladies — and womyn, if you'll forgive my dangling appendage and check out these happenings, there's sure to be a gyrlish smile on all your faces!

What do I spy with my gay little eye this week? Read on...

### Saturday, May 24

Doors open at 7 p.m., show time is 9 p.m.  
\$5 - GoGirlsRock!

The Rhythm Room, 1815 Washington  
713-863-0943 • www.gogirlsrock.com

### WOMEN + MUSIC = GOGIRLSROCK!

"Come see what the fuss is about"

Hosted by the incomparable Mandy Guiberteau Smith (of the Mandy Smith Group), this showcase is a national one, and the experience is all about indie womyn and the music they make.

That doesn't mean that we men won't have anything to oogle at — witness guitarist James Wilhite of the James/Reese Project, co-founded with Laurie Reese. James is "described by several seasoned Houston guitar gurus as one of the best young talents on the scene... James (or as he is called by his peers, "Damn James") continues to flex his musical muscles as a founding member of the James/Reese Project." Well I don't know about MUSCLES, skinny white-boy that he is, but James always leaves me salivating for more of his guitar licks. Call me a groupie, but I love the rock'n'roll boys (a LOT of good that did me in high school!).

But I digress, dear readers...

Along with the James/Reese Project, check out Hillary Arwen, Myrna Sanders, Beryl Grady and Osirus, "cuz chicks rock!"

### May 23, 24, 25

9 p.m. BBC America - see local listings

### TIPPING THE VELVET

Ok, so maybe riot grrrrls at a blues place are not your cup of tea... perhaps this UK import from the BBC will be.

A BBC drama, you yawn? What if I told you it's called "Tipping the Velvet" and it's a three-part story that follows our, ahem, heroine (hyroine?) lesbian Nan Astley, deliciously played by Rachael Stirling, daughter of icon Diana Rigg, in her London adventures.

"The exciting world of the 19th century

music hall provides the backdrop for Nan's first love affair with Kitty (Keeley Hawes), a popular male impersonator. They become a double act, both on and off stage, but their manager, Walter (John Bowe), wins Kitty's hand as she ultimately chooses the safety of a traditional life rather than risking public disapproval through her true feelings for Nan.

"Devastated by Kitty's betrayal, Nan takes to the streets to survive, in her guise as a male impersonator, and finds a niche as a 'male' prostitute. She is drawn to Florence (Jodhi May), but is unable to tell her the truth about her secret street life. Instead, she is spotted by the wealthy widow, Diana Lethaby (Anna Chancellor), a woman in her 30s who is amoral, capricious and predatory. She introduces Nan to a world of luxury and debauchery," read promos for the film.

Part "Moulin Rouge," part "Sapphic Brideshead Revisited," this BBC America show is not to be missed. Catch it for Lilith's sake!

OK PEOPLE, THIS NEXT EVENT IS NEXT WEEKEND, but I want to let you know about it NOW, so you are sure to get tickets that will be worth your time.

WHY? 'Cause this will be FUN and it's for a GOOD CAUSE and fabulous people like girlfriend Lisa Benitez, Paul Brockman, Charlotte Fischer, girlfriend Graham Gemoets, Katharine DeLaune, Lara Kopriva (of the late blender flyer), Jeff Shell, Jose Solis (snake-boy!) EJ Farhood and Meredith Johnson are not afraid to stand up for women's rights!

### Saturday, May 31

8 p.m. to Midnight • PPYL Disco Groove:  
The Majestic Metro, 911 Preston • 713-831-6574

PLANNED PARENTHOOD YOUNG LEADERS (PPYL - "people" - get it?) invites you to celebrate the '70s at DISCO GROOVE, benefiting Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas.

\$35 = you in the door and complimentary wine, beer, and nibbles.

\$100 = entry for 2 people with admission to the VIP area (special drinks and a dessert bar!) and recognition at the event.

Want more info? www.pphouston.org/disco

### Friday, May 30, through Sunday, June 1

ALL Borders Books locations

JUST TO FINISH OFF NEXT WEEKEND, ALL Borders Books locations are donating a percentage of any sale to the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival IF YOU MENTION THE FILM FEST.

Log onto at www.hglff.org for more info on HOT films like "The Trip" and "A Family Affair." See you Out on the Town, Houston!

**sports** LEE DAVIS

MSL hosts annual tournament and other gay sports leagues play on

**Summer in full swing****Lone Star Classic**

The Montrose Softball League (MSL) hosts its Lone Star Classic Softball Tournament this weekend! Boys and girls from all over the United States will be in town.

Registration is Friday, May 23, at Meteor, 2306 Genesee, from 8 to 11 p.m. Drop on by and show our visitors some of that Houston pride.

The host hotel is the Houston Renaissance Hotel. Games will be played at the Softball Country Club on South Main, south of 610. For more info, contact the MSL at [www.montrosesoftballleague.com](http://www.montrosesoftballleague.com).

**Service for two**

The Houston Tennis Club meets on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. For weekend play, check them out on Sundays from 9 a.m. until noon. For more information, contact the club at 713-692-2701 or log on to [www.houston-tennisclub.org/html/login.asp](http://www.houston-tennisclub.org/html/login.asp).

**Flags available**

The Houston Women's Flag Football League is always looking for players. For more information, and hopefully when the weather cools a bit, call 713-981-6753.

**Looking for goals?**

The Montrose Soccer Club of Houston is open to men and women who have experience playing soccer. Join the club at 1 p.m. each Sunday afternoon at Woodrow Wilson School, located at Yupon and Fairview, in Montrose.

The only requirements for membership that those interested be team players, know the rules of soccer and have basic skills (you don't have to be a pro, just played before). Members don't even have to be gay, just willing to be mistaken for gay.

For more information, send an e-mail to [MontroseSC@soccer.com](mailto:MontroseSC@soccer.com) or go to <http://www.geocities.com/MontroseSoccer>, or log on to other sites such as the International Gay & Lesbian Football Association, Oak Lawn Soccer Club, or West Hollywood Soccer Club. If you have the international flair, contact the Munich Elves (yeah, in Germany).

**'Ferries' on board**

On Saturday, July 26, the Rainbow Fishing Club plans a deep-sea fishing trip with Captain Elliott's Ferry Boats out of Freeport. The cost for the 12-hour trip is \$75 with a \$40.00 deposit.

For those who really want to be on this trip, the club will have to receive reservations and deposits immediately. Departure is at 6 a.m. with a return to the docks at 6 p.m. All fishing equipment and bait are supplied by the boats, as well as ice for your fish. This charter company is virtu-

ally booked for the entire summer already, so hurry!

Contact the Rainbow Fishing Club via phone at 713-523-6381, or by e-mail: [rainbowfishingclub@hotmail.com](mailto:rainbowfishingclub@hotmail.com).

**Gay rodeo**

Don't forget the sport of rodeo in our great state. For all of you dudes and dudettes, contact the Texas Gay Rodeo Association at 281-873-0641, or write the group at P. O. Box 130855, Houston, Texas, 77219-0585.

**Gay basketball**

Replies are still coming in! It looks like it won't be long before this sport gets its tipoff.

Again: Anyone interested in a gay basketball league? If so, please e-mail me here at the Voice (via [editor@houstonvoice.com](mailto:editor@houstonvoice.com)). I'm looking forward to a lot of replies to match the number of inquiries so far!

**World series softball**

NAGAAA (North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association) holds its 27 annual tournament in Washington, D.C., beginning Aug. 17. Plan your trip now and support your local teams in attendance with team representations from all over the United States and Canada.

Rooms will fill up fast, so contact the organizers of this great tournament at [information@Series2003.org](mailto:information@Series2003.org), or call 202-543-0326.

**MSL stats**

The Montrose Softball League (MSL) announced that as of Week 7, the Houston Force, lone competitor in the A Division, is at 9-1. In the B Division, BRB has a record of 5-4, Rich's is at 4-4 and the Bucs are 4-5.

The C Division is still champed by Meteor at 11-3, followed by the Butchers at 10-3, Drillers at 8-6, Outpost at 5-8, Swallows at 4-10 and 24-Hour Fitness at 2-10. The D Division is led by The Trojans at 14-0, followed by Doc's Jocks at 13-1, Mary's at 12-2, Bolts at 7-7, Toros at 7-7, N'Motion at 6-8, Wave at 6-8, Herricanes at 4-9, Grizzlies at 3-9 and the Sharks at 3-11.

The season is coming to a close soon and team selections will be made for representation in the gay softball world series in Washington D.C. Best of luck to all the teams.

Speaking of fun, the MSL is hosting its annual casino trip on Saturday, July 12. A chartered bus departs Guava Lamp at 2 p.m. and returns around midnight. Cost of the trip per person is \$20.

Contact the MSL at its web site at [www.montrosesoftballleague.com](http://www.montrosesoftballleague.com) for information.

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# Q Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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61	62	63			64				65			
66					67				68			
69					70				71			

## "Family Portrait"

### Across

- Type of father Robert Reed played
- Actor John of "Nowhere" and "Flawless"
- Affleck's "Chasing Amy" crush
- Alley Oop's girlfriend
- "Swan \_\_\_\_\_"
- Stars that shoot off
- Gomer Pyle's branch
- Wilde country
- They go down south for the winter
- Mapplethorpe, for one
- Immigrant from the land of Murasaki Shikibu
- Part of RSVP
- Prog. that employed Berenice Abbott
- School of Marcel Duchamp
- Porgy and bass
- What one does to one's loins
- City infamous for shutting down a Mapplethorpe exhibit
- Loads
- What fifty million Frenchmen never drink
- Was laid up in bed
- Musician and muse who posed for Mapplethorpe
- Debussy's daddy
- Periodical boners
- Rank Billie Jean, e.g.
- Saint, in Rio

- Stonewall Jackson's country (abbr.)
- Irish rebel Casement
- Mapplethorpe's one-time New York City residence
- Fruit of Adam and Steve?
- "Monty Python Live at the Hollywood \_\_\_\_\_"
- John Goodman's "Normal, \_\_\_\_\_"
- Showing skin, in a way
- Treated as a sexual object
- "\_\_\_\_\_ in the Clowns"
- Lorca's "Later"
- New York Times Magazine editor Adam
- "Showboat"'s "Nobody \_\_\_\_\_ But Me"

### Down

- Wet course at a Star Canyon restaurant
- Big Lovely band singer
- Rosie's favorite dolls
- Agreements of goodwill, and perhaps grace
- Like Whitman's "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"
- Drag queen's leg need
- Pod in Craig Claiborne's gumbo
- Drips out slowly
- Jolie of "The Bone Collector"
- Active one
- Liberty, in "QAF"
- Rainey and Kettle
- Cole Porter's "\_\_\_\_\_ America First"
- Ref for Woolf
- System for a Johnny Mathis song
- Melville mammal
- Pears of a gay pair
- Broadway whisper
- Day, to Caligula
- Lover of Henry and June
- Cut quickly
- Stands with mouth open
- Samurai writer Saikaku
- Like bell-bottom jeans
- What a computer may spit out
- Like a hottie
- They threw bean balls at Billy Bean, perhaps
- Enc. to Brendan Lemon
- They come, bringing good news
- Non-Greek Homeric exclamation?
- "Yes I Am," for Etheridge
- Poke in the backside
- Honestly, \_\_\_\_\_ (gay cartoon strip of old)
- Straps at Rita's stable
- Caesar & \_\_\_\_\_ (Sonny & Cher, once)
- Matching notes for Rorem?
- Props for frat hazing
- L.A.'s Mother \_\_\_\_\_ bar
- Nutty fruitcake center?
- Martin Duberman degree
- Contemporary of Philip Johnson

Answers on Page 22

## parenting ELLA TYLER



Houston lesbian happy with choice of foster parenting over Montrose nightlife

# It's a 'glorious experience'

Jewel Gray describes her relationship with 16-year-old Tiffany, her foster daughter, as, "The most glorious experience I've had."

Tiffany, who is mentally retarded, has lived with Jewel for five years. "I met her when I was working at a group home in north Houston that was closing down, and when they asked if I wanted her, I jumped at the opportunity," Gray recalls.

Tiffany's parents live in Houston, and see her from time to time, but can't handle her behaviors. By the time she was 5, she was tearing up the house, Gray says. "However, I've been trained to handle children like her, so I can deal with her," she explains.

Tiffany and Jewel live in far southwest Houston, where Tiffany is a ninth grader at a public school. She is in special education classes, but rides the regular bus to school. This is the first year she has done that.

"She's made huge leaps in taking care of herself this year. She can walk through the apartments to the bus stop by herself, for example," Gray says. "With a normal kid, it's hard to recognize success, but it's easy with these kids," she adds.

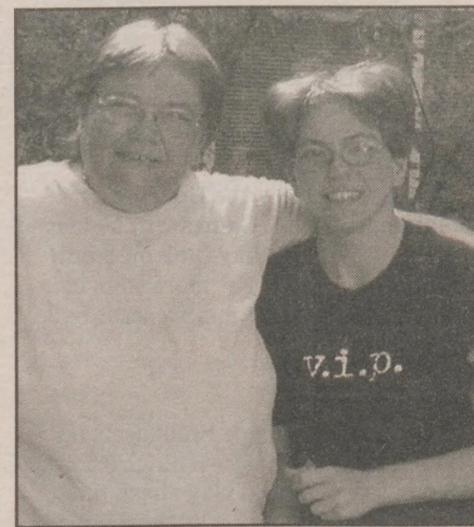
Gray looks on Tiffany as her legacy. "I'm not going to have children, but she is what I will leave behind," she says. "It's that way for any parent." She believes that she can make a particular difference in Tiffany's life.

"There are two choices for her. She can stay in institutions or, with the right kind of education, can live independently with minimal supervision," she says. "Some people treat being foster parents for retarded people as just 'warehousing,' but I take it as a responsibility to educate. I would always play educational games with my nieces and nephews, too."

GRAY WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE bill introduced in the Texas legislature that would ban gays from being foster parents. "It weighed heavy on my mind until it died in the House committee. But it will be brought up again," she says.

Gray says, "It would definitely have affected me, but it also would have hurt Tiffany and her parents. People don't seem to realize that foster care is not just for abused and neglected children. Having a mentally challenged child, especially if you're not trained, can be overwhelming," she said.

Tiffany's parents wrote letters saying that they see the arrangement as a blessing, Gray reports. They are strongly supportive of Gray and other gay and lesbian Texans as foster parents. "They got their



Jewel Gray says her foster daughter, Tiffany, is a wonderful part of her life. Tiffany's parents are highly supportive of Gray as a foster parent for the teenager, and the fact that Gray is a lesbian is not an issue, she says. (Photo by Penny Weaver)

family members to write too. I wanted them to make it clear that they, as parents, had utmost confidence in the situation," she says. "I didn't want it to be seen as just gay people screaming."

"One of the worst features of this bill was that it didn't let parents make their own decision," she adds.

Gray says that she's not the PTA type, so she doesn't participate in formal school activities, but she gets along well with Tiffany's teachers. "I'm very involved with them, and they probably know I'm a lesbian. I don't announce it, but I don't hide it," she says. "We talk often to be sure we're on the same page with what she's supposed to be doing at home."

TIFFANY'S CLASSMATES MIGHT know there's something different about Gray, but they haven't labeled it. "Tiffany and I did talk about how she wanted to explain our relationship, and she decided to say I was her aunt," Gray reveals.

Tiffany's parents are "cool" with her participating in gay and lesbian events, according to Gray. "So we 'worked' at the [Pride] parade. Guess who worked?" Gray says with a smile. "And she goes with me when I go work at the Gulf Coast Archives."

Gray admits that many people can't understand why she does foster parenting. She says, "They think I'm crazy. They tell me, 'You could be out in the community having fun and going to bars,' and I just say 'Been there, done that.'"

She continues, "I want to commit to a few good organizations like After Hours on KPFT, and AssistHers, and take care of my kid. I've grown up."

# community calendar

## SATURDAY, MAY 24

**Men's Gathering of Houston.** Dialogue meeting, 6:30-9:30 p.m. "Insanity: Doing the Same Thing Over and Over Expecting Different Results — Breaking the Cycle!" First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, 5200 Fannin. Church phone: 713-526-5200. Men's Gathering of Houston: 713-528-4461.

## EVERY SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Lambda Center.** Alcoholics Anonymous. 11:30 a.m. Eye Opener Group, 8 p.m. Saturday Night Live, 9:30 p.m. Willing Ones Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, noon-5 p.m. • CATS (Community Awareness for Transgender Support) board meeting, 7 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## SUNDAY, MAY 25

**BFLAG.** Monthly meeting of the Blind Friends & Family of Lesbians, Gays, Transgenders & Bisexuals. 2 p.m. 4204 Garrott. For more information, call 713-526-6526 or e-mail wordgarden@houston.rr.com.

**Classic Chassis Car Club.** Golden Girls weekend in Austin, May 25, 26 and 27. Dinner, car show, awards banquet and more. www.goldengirls.org. CCCC-Houston: 713-797-8615. www.classicchassisclub.org.

**Film and discussion.** The film "It's Elementary" has been banned by churches across the country and shows that happens when educators address gay issues with students in age-appropriate ways. View the film and join the discussion. 9:30 a.m. Henry David Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 3945 D/E Greenbriar, Stafford, TX 77477. 281-277-TUUC. www.tuuc.org.

**Integrity-GLBT Episcopalians & Friends.** 12:30 brunch. Meets every fourth Sunday. Maria Selma Restaurant, 1619 Richmond.

## EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Gay Bowling Leagues.** 7 p.m. Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd. 713-861-1187.

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

**GLOBAL.** Gay Lesbian Or Bisexual Alliance. University of Houston GLBT student group meeting. 2 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.uh.edu/~global. E-mail: global@bayou.uh.edu.

**Grace Assembly Church.** Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 11 a.m. service. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

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

**H.A.T.C.H.** Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets 6-9 p.m. For meeting information, call 713-529-3590. www.hatchyouth.org.

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

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

**Lambda Center.** Alcoholics Anonymous. 9:30 a.m. Came to Believe Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

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

**Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church.** Services at 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 281-298-2780.

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

**St. Patrick's Reformed Catholic Mission.** Sunday Mass at noon. Holy Unions available. Group meets at the Hair Express, 3310 Delaware, Beaumont, Texas 77703. 409-781-8152. E-mail: bwatson1@gt.rr.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • GLBT Community Church with Rev. Melissa Wood: Bible study, 10-10:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.geocities.com/glbtc • STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys), 7 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## MONDAY, MAY 26

### EVERY MONDAY

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

**Free HIV Testing.** Houston Area Community Services. 9 a.m.-noon at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Bricks, 617 Fairview. 713-830-3000.

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

**Gay Bowling Leagues.** Women's league. 6:45 p.m. Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarnef Drive. 713-861-1187.

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

**Grace Assembly Church.** Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 7 p.m. aerobics class. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

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

**Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club.** Practice from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

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

**Lambda Center.** Alcoholics Anonymous. 8 p.m. Beginners' Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## TUESDAY, MAY 27

**Houston Outdoor Group.** General meeting and newsletter mailout. Don and Ray's, 713-522-7809. HOGline: 713-KAMPOUT. www.absentmind.net/hog.

**"Living with HIV."** Spanish-language daytime support group. 11:30 a.m. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. 713-529-0037.

### EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

**GLBT Pentecostals.** Bible study, prayer, 7 p.m. in the Heights. For info: 936-931-3761; e-mail: www.Wgb1947@cs.com.

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group, 7 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

**Center for AIDS.** Women's mixer, 7 p.m. 1407 Hawthorne. 713-527-8210.

**HGLP.** Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents newsletter mailout. 7 p.m. Buffet Express, 8622 Stella Link. For more information, call Raymond and Richard, 281-403-9087. www.hglp.org.

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

**Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA).** 8:15 p.m. meeting. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond Ave., room 15.

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

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

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Mary's, 1100 Westheimer; 9 p.m.-midnight at Ripcord, 715 Fairview; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at E.J.'s, 2517 Ralph; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin. 713-830-3000.

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

**Gay Bowling Leagues.** 6:30 p.m. Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd. 713-861-1187.

**Grace Assembly Church.** Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 7 p.m. aerobics class. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

**Houston Pride Band.** Open rehearsal, 7:30-9:30 p.m. 1307 Yale. 713-862-1488.

**Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club.** Practice from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, 2-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • S&M Night (Snacks and Movies), 7 p.m. • Houston Pride Band rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## THURSDAY, MAY 29

### EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight at Brazos River Bottom (BRB), 2400 Brazos, and Cousins, 817 Fairview. 713-830-3000.

**Free HIV Testing.** 7-9 p.m. at All Star News, 3415 Katy Freeway. Health clinic with free testing for HIV and syphilis. 713-869-7878.

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

**Gay Bowling Leagues.** Luci Duos. 9 p.m. Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarnef Drive. 713-861-1187.

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

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

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

**Lake Livingston GLBT Support Group.** 7 p.m. dinner and discussion. Grace Assembly Church, 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## FRIDAY, MAY 30

### EVERY FRIDAY

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

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Meatrack, 2915 San Jacinto; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at E.J.'s and at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.

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

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

**Grace Assembly Church.** Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 7 p.m. aerobics class. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

**H.A.T.C.H.** Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets 7-10 p.m. For meeting information, call 713-529-3590. www.hatchyouth.org.

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

**ECHOS.** This non-profit ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany is dedicated to helping people access health and social service systems. Free medical services include HIV, STD and hepatitis testing. Call for dates and times of services. 9610 S. Gessner. 713-270-0369. E-mail: echos-houston@swbell.net.

**Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston.** Volunteers offer a friendly ear to callers in need of information, nonjudgmental support and anonymous counseling to the GLBT community. 713-529-3211. www.gayswitchboardhouston.org.

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

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

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

**Pride Committee of Houston.** Volunteers sought for Pride 2003 preparations. This is the 25th Pride celebration. www.pridehouston.org. E-mail: volunteers@pridehouston.org. 713-529-6979.

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

# appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

## SPECIAL THIS WEEKEND

**Burt Bacharach,** one of the most prolific composers of the 20th century, joins the Houston Symphony for three evening performances. Bacharach's songs include "I Say a Little Prayer," "That's What Friends Are For" and "What the World Needs Now." 8 p.m. Friday, May 23, and Saturday, May 24. 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 25. Tickets: \$25-79. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. 713-224-7575. www.houstonsymphony.org.

## SATURDAY, MAY 24



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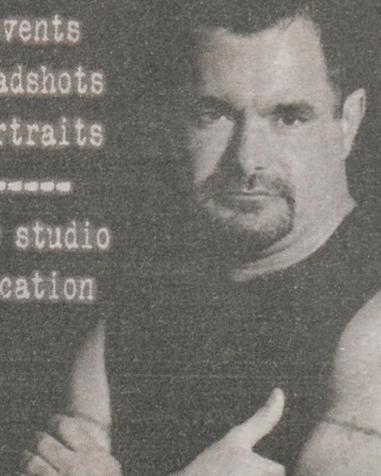
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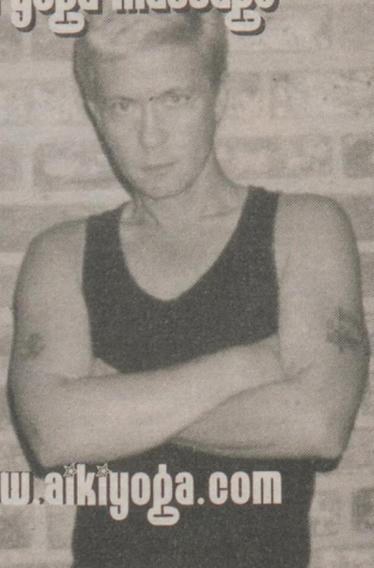
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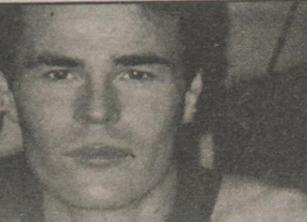
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## astrology JILL DEARMAN



## My Stars!

May 23 - 29

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

You could feel torn between your home life and your work life, dear Aries. It's a stressful but exciting time. Try not to wig out and self-destruct, because in reality, you can have it all. Just pace yourself and set some real boundaries with the people you work for and the people you love. A Leo needs more communication from you, so start talking — in bed and out.

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

Venus, your ruler, is conjunct with communicative Mercury in your sign all week long. This groovy little aspect could stir up some urges to experiment sexually. A Sag is ready, willing, and able. With so many cosmic forces speaking to your libido, please don't inhibit yourself. You have a chance to play, so take advantage.

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

You may get wrapped up in a drama at work just before the weekend. Try to restrain yourself from starting a scene, baby. Instead, create a real drama by funneling your passion into something more artistic. A Scorpio can see your star quality from a mile away. Focus on your job while you're still in demand there, honey.

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

Several planets are hanging out in your house of exes during late May, darling. No wonder you're feeling like the sexiest but sickest person on the block. You want them all back, don't you? Just be careful whom you dish with. News travels fast now that Mercury is no longer retrograde. If you are ready to commit, a Capricorn will meet you more than halfway.

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

Mars moves next to Neptune in your house of love, so make an effort to get out more. Weekend parties await, and it seems like all you can do is charm, charm, charm! If you've been obsessing about a work screwup from weeks ago (while Mercury was retrograde), lighten up. Let an Aries be dazzled by you.

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

Work and money issues could take top priority over the next week or so. Try to sock some dough away for rainy day (or a day when you need to take off and explore a new continent). And start spending some of your time with the friends you adore most. A new Gemini acquaintance is definitely putting out a "do me" vibe.

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

You may have to walk away from a person or situation that is too strong a reminder of past misery. It's okay, doll. You don't have to resolve all mysteries this week. A Virgo can bring the perfect balance of order and chaos back into your world. You may not get all the answers you want during the new moon on May 31, but you are asking the right questions.

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

The planets are conspiring to give you a massive wake-up call. Your unconscious is on fire and full of secret signals. Listen to your psyche, not your own stupid theories about the ideal romance or perfect job. Stop fighting with other people, and start battling with yourself. In the end, let your emotions beat out your silly logic. A Virgo has a sexual message for you.

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

You may feel a little out of control as the new moon lands in your opposite sign of Gemini on May 31. But honey, you're out of control in a good way. The world is offering you gifts. Are you strong enough to accept them graciously? An Aquarius is a gift horse (or should I say whore?) who wants to be looked in the mouth. Don't say no!

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

The moon moves into your house of romance on June 1, so take a chance in your love life. Use your subtle and flirtatious conversation to bed down a protesting but willing Aries. Make a vow to reacquaint yourself with your seductive side. Put the past behind you and start anew, you old curmudgeon.

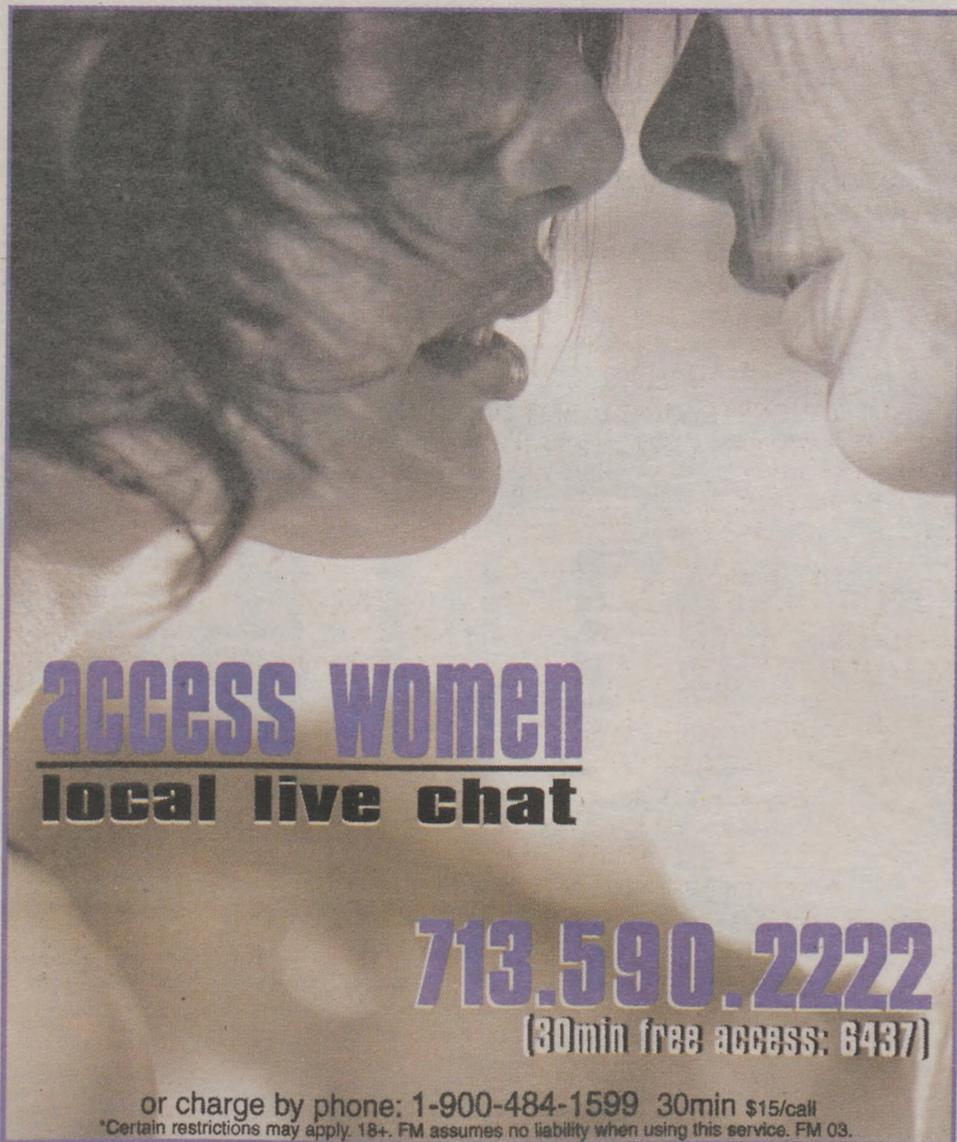
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)**

Many exciting things are in store in the days ahead, sweetie. The new moon on May 31 falls in your house of creativity and love affairs. Admit that you want to have a sweet little orgy with your dearest fellow performers and go for it! Spin the bottle and let the chips fall where they may. Another Aquarius could land in your lap.

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

You could feel a little more randy than usual during the new moon on May 31. Instead of playing it cool, you could show just how hot you really are with a Taurus. A major change is coming your way, and you can feel it. Rather than resist it, move toward it. Pull yourself out of your rut. A change in your family life is imminent.

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



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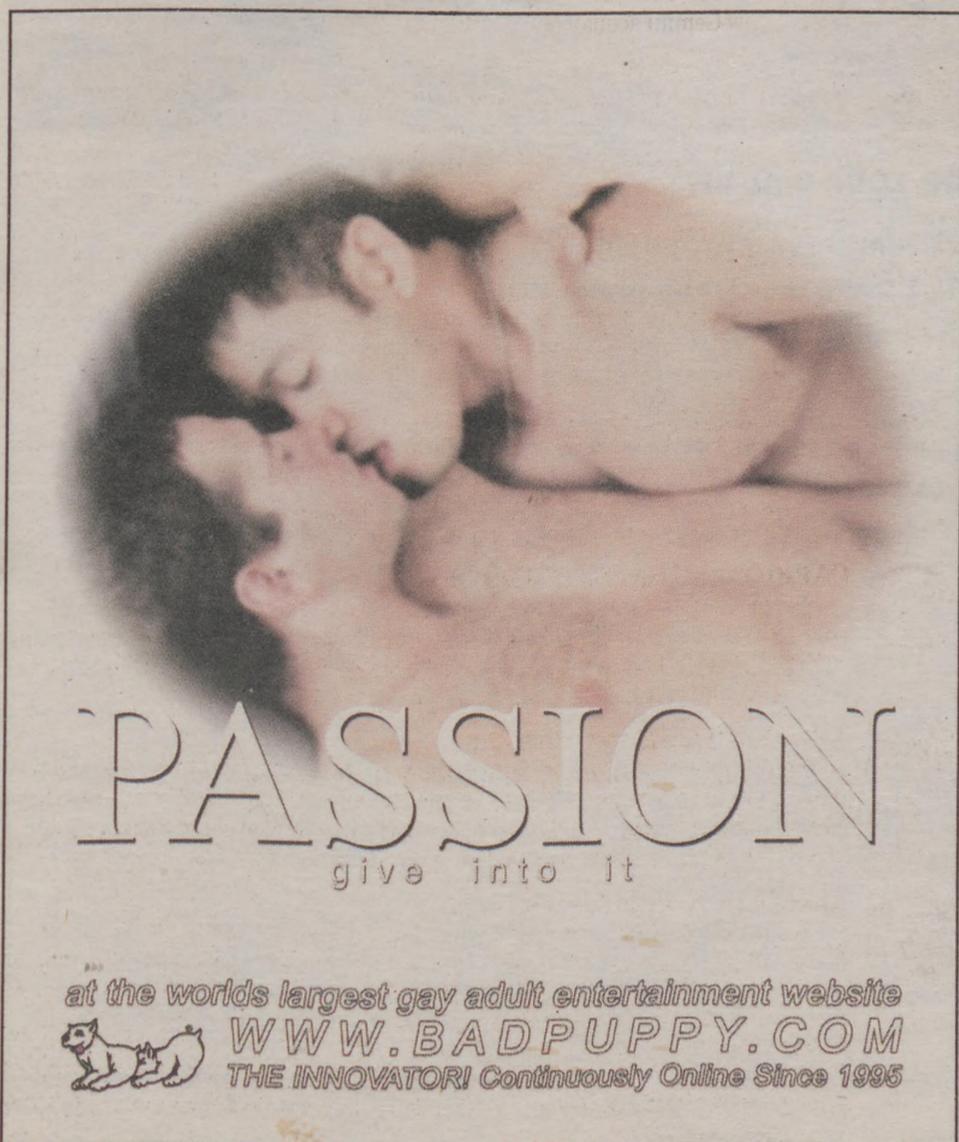
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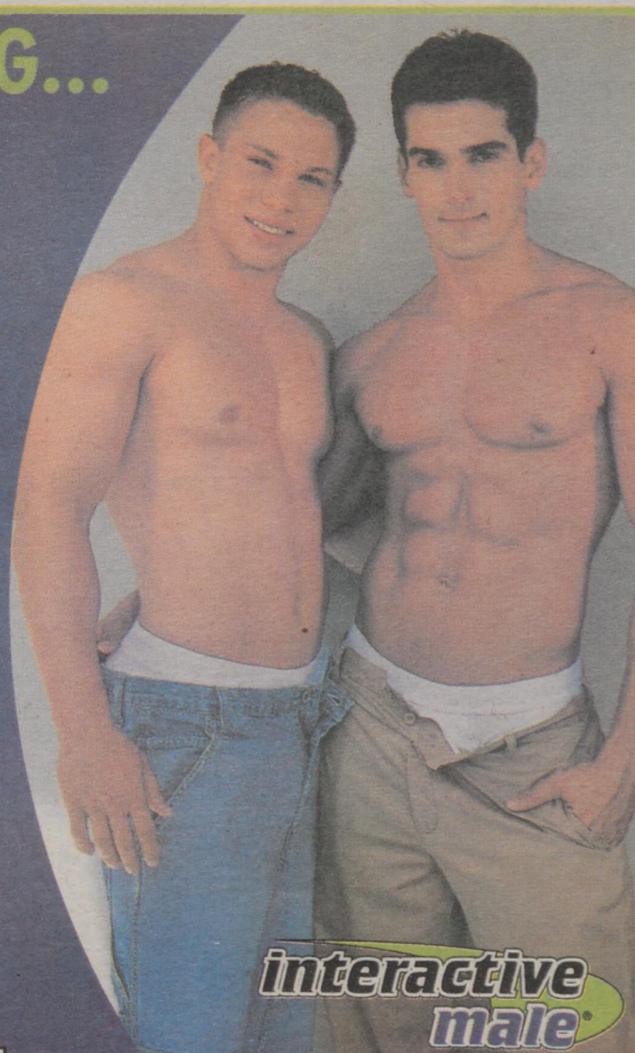
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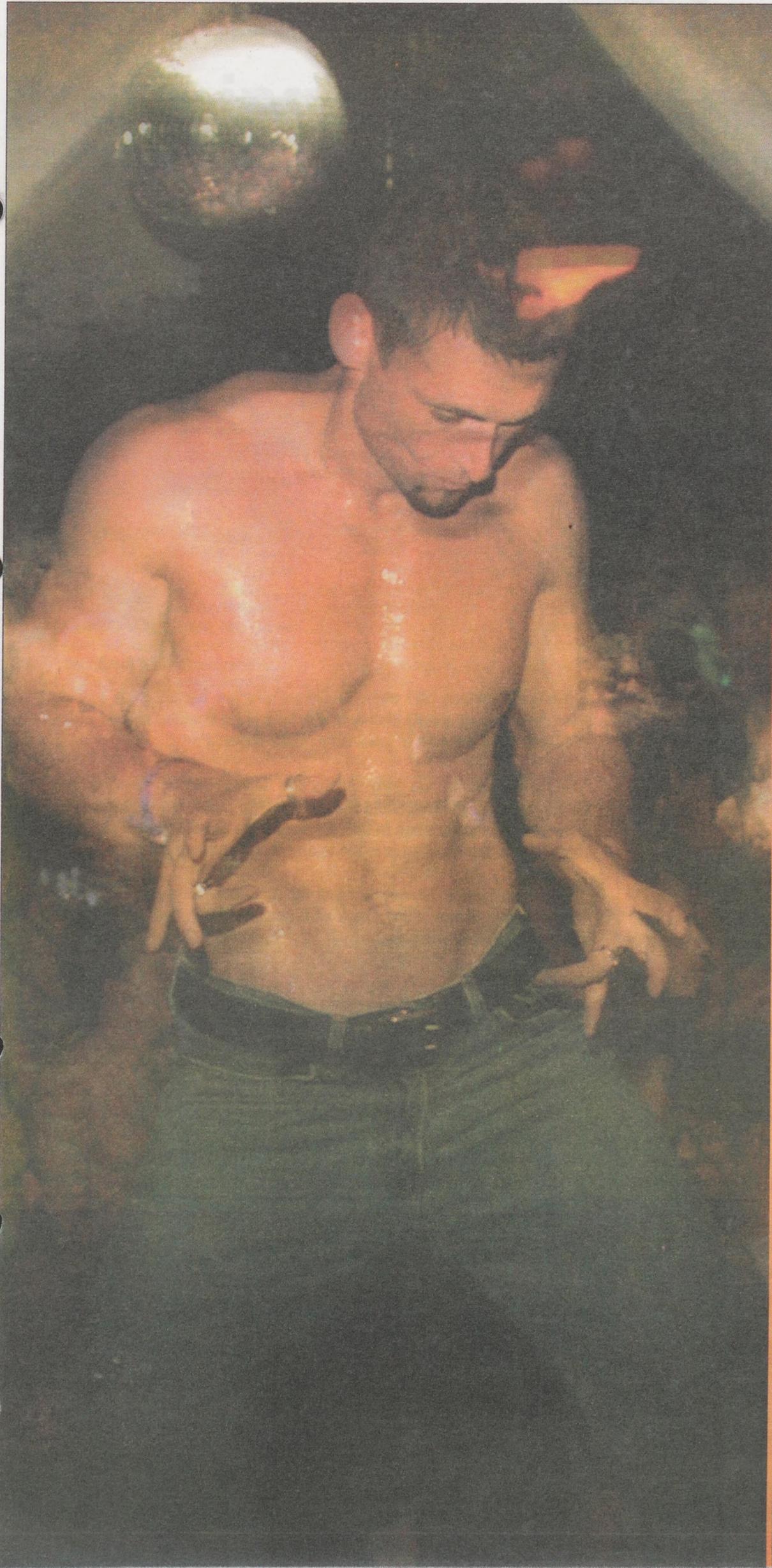
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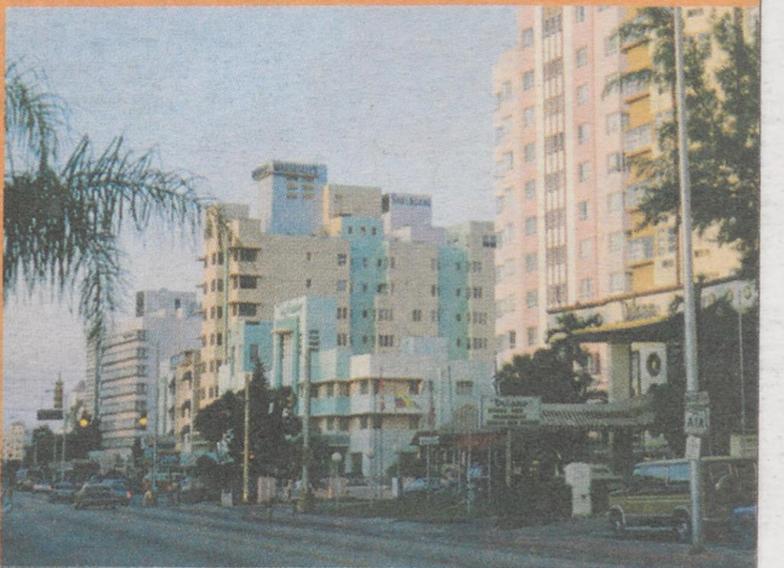
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**Dinosaurs on the Loose**

Known for his bigger than life spectacles, this year there's no bones about it - STARS is going to be a party of JURASSIC Proportions. This is a tall order even by Mark Baker's standards. The smallest of his newest party attendees- the Triceratops stands 20' tall while the Brontosaurus towers 50' into the sky.

"Last year, one of the biggest challenges of STAR PARTY 2002 was just getting the stamp of approval to do the event," Baker says of his Islands of Adventure Party. "This was the first time Universal had let anyone create a private ticketed event on their property."



After proving to the Universal suits that his parties are the hottest ticket in town - everyone is onboard to make sure that STARS 2003 is Gay Days' most spectacular mega-event. A party you have to see to believe!

**When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth**

The idea: Transform the entire Universal Studios backlot with a dark, steamy prehistoric jungle lit only by the fires of an erupting volcano. Then add towering Dinosaurs to create the "DINO-STARS Party".

"DINO-STARS will be the party spectacular that the Gay Day Weekend has NEVER seen", says Mark about the 2003 event. Right now gigantic, fully-dimensional Dinosaurs are in their California warehouse getting ready for shipping and the FX team is working on the 30' erupting volcano.

On Universal's end, they are doubling the amount of bars and adding one in an air-conditioned sound stage with seating. Chill, hydrate and relax among dinosaur movie props.

**You've never seen a party like this!**

According to an after Gay Days online exit poll, Mark Baker's STARS PARTY was hailed as the favorite event. "This was THE event of the Gay Days 2002" so wrote the popular circuit party website .thecircuitdog.com.

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# Producing parties not as easy as it looks

Planning, promoting, and pulling off some of the biggest circuit parties in the U.S. is no easy task. Just ask Mark Baker, promoter of four of the highest profile parties at this year's Gay Days at Disney in Orlando, Florida. But if anyone can pull it off, it's Baker. After all, he's been involved with the annual Gay Days event for half of its twelve-year existence. "The first party - at a TGIFriday's - had 600 people. I was thrilled!" he recalls.

With events from Walt Disney World to Universal Studios Orlando, Gay Days is an annual must-do for party lovers and fun seekers of all types.

The Gay Days story is by now well known: What started as a modest get-together by a handful of locals has turned into the largest party weekend in the U.S. That gathering of about 3,000 has grown to an annual crowd of more than 125,000, with this year's attendance anticipated to top even that.

With the rising attendance also come higher expectations. Each year's parties have to be bigger and more creative than the ones that preceded them. It's a challenge that Baker accepts. He believes this year will deliver spectaculars that attendees will not soon forget.

The weekend festivities begin with the Friday night Colosseum Party at Universal's Hard Rock Live and adjoining Hard Rock Café. These two enor-

mous spaces will combine to accommodate the 6,000 expected guests. Those attending will be treated to a "Circus Eroticus," a three-ring circus-themed party with music by DJ Abel.

Night owls will want to check out the Magic Journeys parties on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights from midnight to 10 a.m. Billed as "The Biggest Late Night Parties in the World," these after-hours events at Arabian Nights will host a total of over 13,000 people.

Since Arabian Nights remains open to the public as an equestrian attraction during the Gay Days weekend, the venue has to be created every night. Each evening, after the last show guests leave the Arabian Nights arena, Baker's production crew moves in to install a 7,500 sq. ft. dance floor in just two hours. With the arrival of morning, the crew returns the arena to its original state, and then comes back that night to build it again.

Saturday night's major attraction is likely to be Beachball, held at Walt Disney World's Typhoon Lagoon water park.

Disney's manmade tropical paradise doesn't come with lights, sound and a dance floor. However, Baker and his crew will remedy that by moving in to assemble the proper environment in short order.

Continued on Page 4



Expect plenty of dazzling spectacle at Mark Baker's parties, like that seen at last year's Colosseum Party (above). Although the music is always driving and the dancing is non-stop, you can sneak away for a few quiet moments. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

Hanns Ebensten  
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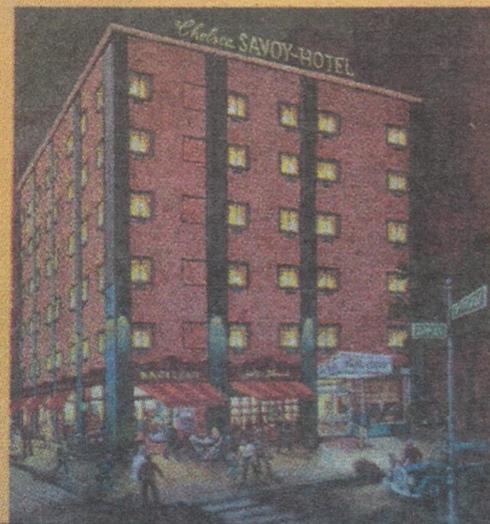
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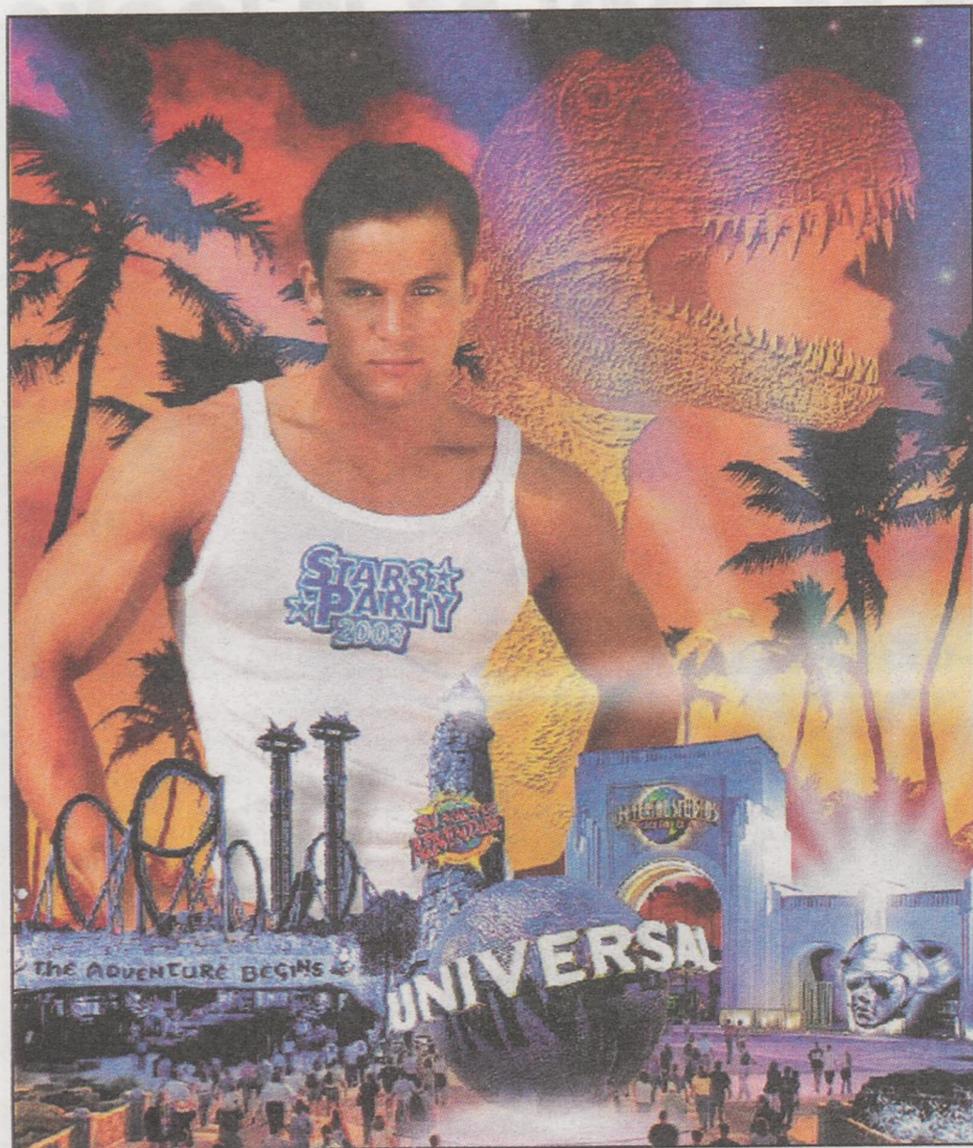
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# Stars Party pulls out all the stops

Continued on Page 4

Beachball highlights include swimsuit-clad party boys dancing on the beach to the music of DJ Tracy Young and Typhoon Lagoon's many water slides and gigantic wave pool.

The party weekend comes to a close on Sunday night with Stars Party 2003.

Guests will be treated to life-size dinosaurs, a 30-foot smoldering volcano, and a 100,000 square foot 'Star Drape.'

Last year's Stars Party, at Universal's Island's of Adventure, played host to over 7,000 guests. "The challenge of that party was that it was the first time Universal had let anyone create a private ticketed event on their property. They were a little nervous", says Baker about dealing with the theme park.

Now that he has earned the trust of Universal's management team, Baker

plans to pull out all the stops. Stars Party 2003 will transform the entire Universal Studios backlot into a prehistoric world.

Guests will be treated to life-size dinosaurs, a 30 foot smoldering volcano, and a 100,000 square foot "Star Drape," which will create a sparkling celestial environment within Soundstage 21. Other attractions are a two-story video screen, an oversized stage with performances by a cast of 50, special effects equipment capable of sending mushroom clouds of fire 30 feet into the air, two dance floors, and music by DJ Manny Lehman.

It's these kinds of increasingly elaborate productions that motivate people to return to Gay Days year after year. That puts pressure on promoters like Baker to continually raise the bar.

When asked how he deals with ever-higher expectations, Baker replies, "I'm always looking ahead to the next thing."

It's also helpful, he notes, to have a background in both television art direction and live show production. Clearly, this sense of showmanship serves him well.

More information about Gay Days, or to purchase party tickets, visit [www.gaydays.com](http://www.gaydays.com).

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## Relaxing in a cabin just the cure for cabin fever

There's no question that the winter of 2003 was among the most difficult in recent years. It wasn't merely the intensity, it was the duration. More than one heavy snowstorm found urbanites digging out their cars or slogging through slushy streets. The wet, seemingly endless winter has left city dwellers with an acute case of cabin fever.

Luckily, vacation time is nearing. While many gay men may be planning escapes to tropical climes, perhaps it bears consideration that the best cure for cabin fever might be someplace with actual cabins.

Northeastern Tennessee's Timberfell Lodge is such a place.

Situated in a secluded pocket of the Appalachian mountains, Timberfell is a clothing-optional, men-only bed and breakfast. It's a quiet place with a rustic atmosphere, but with no shortage of modern amenities. Their fair number of repeat visitors is evidence of the good service and friendly vibe here.

### THINGS TO DO

Guests will find a variety of outdoor activities, from trail hiking to enjoying the pool complex. That complex features a heated pool, glass-enclosed hot tub, 20-man sauna, and 64 square foot tiled shower room. Guests may also fish the stocked pond or wander a Memorial Garden.

Indoor activities are centered around the vaulted great room of the lodge's main building. Attractions here include a video library and an enormous stone fireplace.

Timberfell hosts a variety of special events and theme weekends year-round. A few examples from their upcoming roster include:

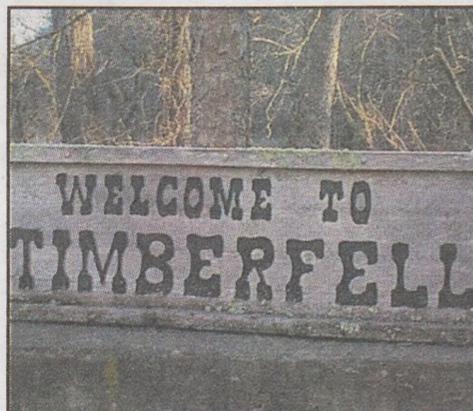
- Nude Weekend/Full Moon Party, June 20 - 22;
- July Fourth weekend with live entertainment;
- Labor Day Celebration, August 29 - September 1.

The year also holds parties for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

### GETTING THERE

Timberfell Lodge is a considerable distance from most east coast urban centers; however, some people appreciate a mind-clearing road trip as a prelude to vacation. Those who choose that option will find the drive straightforward and scenic.

A quicker alternative is airline ser-



Set in the beautiful Tennessee Mountains, Timberfell Lodge is the ideal place to shake off the gray days of winter.

Timberfell is a quiet place with a rustic atmosphere, but with no shortage of modern amenities.

vice to the nearby TriCities Regional Airport or Knoxville's Tyson-McGhee International Airport. The lodge offers round-trip airport transportation at an additional fee (\$50 for TriCities, \$95 for Knoxville); rental cars are available at either airport for those who prefer to have their own wheels.

### ROOMS AND RATES

Timberfell offers accommodations of three basic types: rooms, cabins, and campsites. Rooms and cabins are available with private, semi-private or community bathrooms. Campsites are available with a four-person camper, an RV hookup, or a primitive, sleep-under-the-stars arrangement.

Prices are generally reasonable for accommodations of this quality, ranging from \$134 per night for the most deluxe of rooms to \$25 for primitive style. Room rates include a full breakfast, appetizers and dinner with complementary wine.

For more information about the property, room rates, and events, visit [www.timberfell.com](http://www.timberfell.com). The Web site is very informative and even includes a bulletin board where guests can post messages and make plans to meet.

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## One Mighty Party is no exaggeration

People who create and promote circuit parties aren't known for exercising restraint in naming their events. That's why it might seem tempting to dismiss the upcoming One Mighty Party VII at Gay Days in Orlando as just another exercise in gratuitous superlatives.

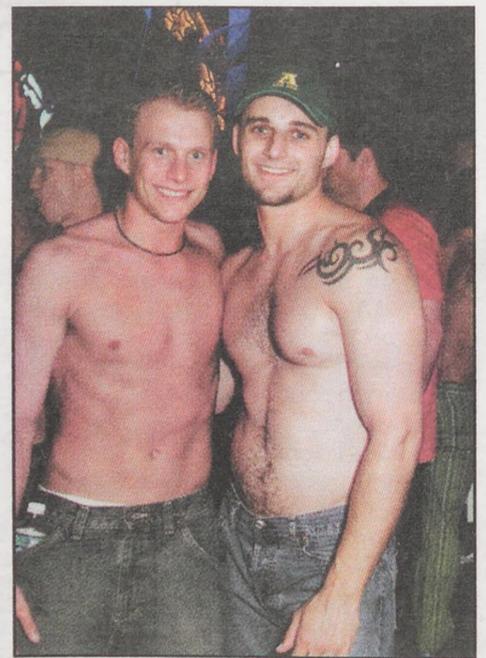
However, considering what is planned for this enormous event, that name appears to be a perfect fit. After all, the seventh annual One Mighty Party, which will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2003, is the largest outdoor circuit dance party on this year's Gay Days schedule.

The party takes place at the Disney/MGM Studios, with the festivities kicking off at 10:30 p.m. This is an open-air event, so guests will have the opportunity to stargaze as they dance. Partygoers also are invited to enjoy two of Disney's most popular thrill rides, Tower of Terror and Rock 'N Roller Coaster, throughout the evening.

Music for the party will be provided by DJs Joe Gauthreaux and Kimberly S. Mr. Gauthreaux, a native of New Orleans, began his career by DJing at that city's Oz Nightclub, where he remains a popular attraction. Oz is one of the sponsors of One Mighty Party VII. Kimberly S is currently the resident DJ at both the Factory nightclub and Girl Bar in Los Angeles. Lavender Magazine referred to her "the nation's number one lesbian DJ."

Party plans also include live entertainment, to be announced at a later date.

One Mighty Party VII is just one of the events that producers Johnny Chisholm, Jeffery Sanker and Oz Nightclub have planned for what they are calling "One Mighty Weekend." The weekend begins with guests arriving on Friday, June 6, and continues until they



Be prepared to work up a sweat during One Mighty Weekend. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

depart on Monday, June 9.

One Mighty Weekend is hosted by the Hilton Walt Disney World Resort. With the exception of One Mighty Party, all of the weekend's activities take place on the host hotel property.

Such an event is the daily pool party, held Friday through Sunday. The Hilton's pool is one of the largest pools in the Disney complex. Pool parties are complimentary for Hilton Hotel guests.

Late-night fun seekers will appreciate the Climax II after-hours dance parties. These are held Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights in the Hilton's 30,000 square foot Exhibit Hall, one of the largest indoor venues used during Gay Days. This party is most convenient for

Continued on Page 7

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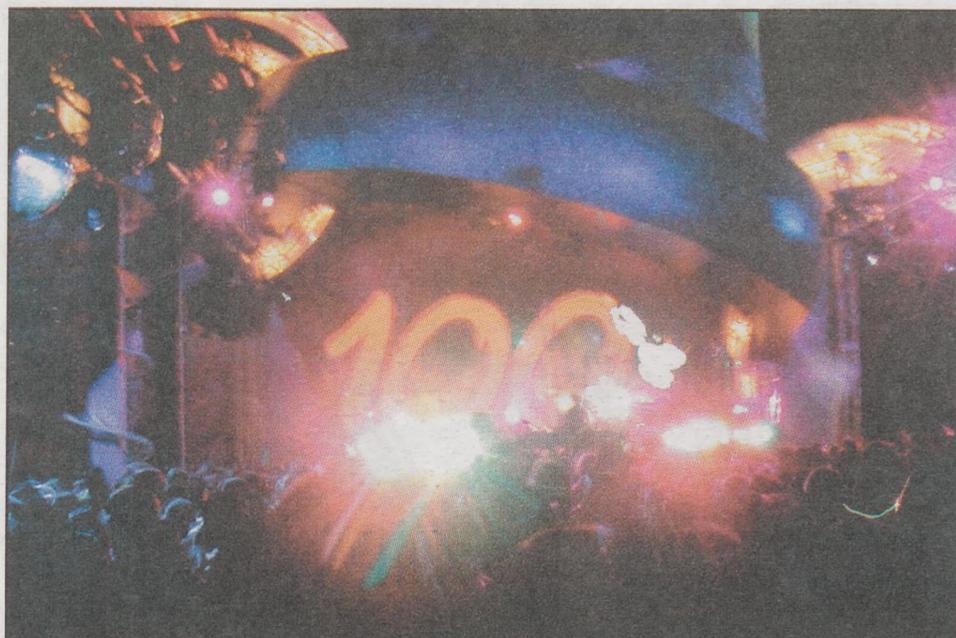
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One Mighty Party is the largest outdoor circuit dance party on this year's Gay Days schedule. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

## Popular DJs provide music for your dancing pleasure

Continued from Page 6

guests staying at the Hilton, as there is no need to drive or arrange for transportation back to another hotel.

Climax II dance parties start at midnight and continue until 8 a.m., with a different DJ each night.

Friday night features DJ Barry Harris. Mr. Harris, a resident of both Los Angeles and Brooklyn, New York, is popular nationwide, with large followings in both metropolitan areas. Saturday night brings DJ Susan Morabito to the Hilton ballroom. Ms. Morabito has been a fixture on the music scene since 1982 and is the resident DJ for both the monthly Jive Parties in New York and summers at Pavilion in the Pines on Fire Island. Sunday night sees DJ Victor Calderone at the musical helm. As a DJ and producer, Mr. Calderone has worked with major artists such as Madonna, Sting, and Bette Midler. He currently spins monthly at Crobar in Miami.

Room Reservations and Party Tickets

While there is no shortage of accommodation options for Gay Days, the Hilton Walt Disney World Resort is a particularly good choice for those wanting to attend One Mighty Weekend events.

Rates at the Hilton start at \$139 per night. To make reservations, contact the Hilton directly at 800-782-4414; you must mention One Mighty Party to get the preferred room rates.

Tickets and passes for One Mighty Weekend are available online at [www.ozneworleans.com](http://www.ozneworleans.com). Online ticket ordering is available only until Tuesday, June 3, 2003.

Tickets may be purchased individually or as packages. Tickets for One Mighty Party VII are \$85. Climax II tickets are \$30 for Friday night and \$40 for Saturday and Sunday nights. A more economical option is the Total Weekend Pass for \$180, which includes One Mighty Party, three Climax after-parties and all three pool parties. Also available is the \$99 Triple Climax Pass, for admittance to the three Climax parties and the pool parties.



Men from every part of the country will converge on Orlando for One Mighty Weekend. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

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