

# houston VOICE

## Best of Gay Houston

Readers of the Houston Voice make their picks for the best and the brightest in this city.  
Pages 15-17



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### INSIDE



A number of state political races, including gay-friendly former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk's bid for a Senate seat, are lined up on the Nov. 5 ballot.

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During a night of fund-raising, community leader Janine Brunjes accepted the Houston Black Tie Dinner Humanitarian Award.

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Millicent Martin and Leslie Denniston bring their own skilled takes to the main characters in the stage version of 'What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?'

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## State shifts HIV funds

Health officials alarmed as prevention programs serving gay men receive less state aid

By PENNY WEAVER

Houston health care officials who work with gay men at high risk for HIV warn that newly reallocated state funds severely cut resources for AIDS testing for that population.

Gay leaders are alarmed at the possible effects of the changes by the Texas Department of Health.

"As an HIV positive gay man, I refuse to sit idly by while my own community is forced out of the funding stream and plunged deeper into the throes of this epidemic," said Eric Roland, director of education at Montrose Clinic and a member of the East Texas HIV Prevention Community Planning Group.

The TDH has changed the competitive process for federal funding for HIV preven-

tion programs this year to help ensure that the most effective programs get the money, according to state officials.

Casey Blass, HIV/STD health resources division director for the state health department, said changes were made to reflect the shift in at-risk populations and where they are more likely to be found.

Blass said the changing landscape of people at risk for HIV infection has shifted in recent years as studies show that African-American men and women are at a disproportionately greater risk for the disease. Also, he said, at-risk populations are more concentrated in urban areas and are younger.

"In almost every area of the state, African-Americans have much higher rates of infection regardless of their risk factor, whether it's by sex, injection, drug use, whether it's heterosexual sex or male-to-male sex, their rates are higher across the board," Blass told the Associated Press.

He said the state is attempting to get the most for its federal dollars by funding intervention programs that service the

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Funding for HIV/AIDS prevention programs that target gay men, particular those who are not African American, has been severely cut by changes in the state's allocation of resources, health officials said this week. (Graphic by Bonnie Naugle)

## Congressional GOP record gets worse, gay Dems charge

Log Cabin disputes Stonewall Democrat report comparing gay voting records of past decade

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

Republican members of Congress are less likely to vote in support of gay issues than they were nine years ago, while Democrats in Congress have dramatically increased their support on gay rights issues during the same period, according to a report released Oct. 6 by the National Stonewall Democrats.

NSD, a gay group that works within the Democratic Party, called the report

"groundbreaking," arguing that the analysis of Congressional voting records on gay issues proves "one party changed for the better while the other, in many cases, changed for the worse."

A spokesperson for Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay GOP group, called the report an election-year ploy.

"I don't know how they crunched the numbers or cooked the books, but this just isn't so," said Mark Mead, LCR spokesperson. "Reasonable people — gay and straight — know the Republican Party is not worse than it was 10 years ago on our issues."

NSD officials insist that the findings and data in their report speak for themselves. They have urged both gay Democrats and skeptical Republicans to read the 40-page document, which is available through NSD's Web site.

The report bases its findings on a Congressional voting record "score card" on gay issues compiled every two years by the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group. NSD notes that HRC is a non-partisan group that endorses both Democrats and Republicans while informing its members how all members of Congress vote on gay and AIDS-related issues.

HRC issues scores to senators and representatives on a scale of zero to 100, with zero denoting a failure to vote in support of a gay issue in all of the issues deemed important by HRC. A 100-percent rating, under the HRC system, represents support for all of the gay or AIDS-related issues.

In some instances, HRC bases its ratings

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## local news

## Kirk, Cornyn agree on some gay issues

Widely viewed as gay-friendly, former Dallas mayor does see eye-to-eye with conservative opponent on some topics

By PENNY WEAVER

Among key statewide races for gay Texans on the Nov. 5 ballot is the battle for U.S. Senate between Democrat Ron Kirk and Republican John Cornyn.

Staunch Republican conservative Sen. Phil Gramm did not seek re-election this year to his Texas seat, and the initial field of candidates to replace him was crowded. More than a dozen people threw their hats in the ring in hopes of a chance to replace the anti-gay Gramm.

When the primary dust settled, former Dallas mayor Kirk emerged among Democrats to make the election ballot for Gramm's post. He had announced his candidacy last fall and resigned from his mayoral post to begin his campaign.



Former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk (right), a Democrat known for his gay-friendly politics, opposes Republican John Cornyn (left), Texas Attorney General, in the race to replace Texas' retiring U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm. Voters will pick the next senator at the Nov. 5 polls.

Texas Attorney General Cornyn, a former State Supreme Court justice, won the GOP nomination to vie for the U.S. Senate seat.

Kirk is considered more sympathetic to gay voters. He has made several campaign stops in Houston to speak to a number of gay and gay-friendly supporters, including Annise Parker, the only openly gay Houston City Council member; Janine Brunjes, Mayor Lee Brown's liaison to gay Houstonians; and gay political consultant Grant Martin.

In Dallas, Kirk is known for his gay-friendly attitude. He was first elected mayor of that city in 1995, the first African American to win that post. Kirk, 47, who was born and raised in Austin, is an attorney and former legislative aide to Sen. Lloyd Bentsen.

Kirk supports domestic partner benefits but has hedged on his support for civil unions. He told the Houston Voice this spring that he would want to study that issue more carefully.

He supports federal hate crimes legislation to include sexual orientation and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would outlaw bias in the workplace against individuals for factors including sexual orientation.

"I want to be a senator for everyone; I want the support of everyone, and that includes the gay community," Kirk said. "I would really be honored to have as much support from the gay and lesbian community in Houston as I have had from that community in Dallas.

"I have friends from the gay and lesbian community and what they most respect about me is that I'm someone who first of all tries to respect the [views] of everybody," Kirk added. "I understand from a firsthand life's experience perspective what discrimination is all about. What drives me more than anything is a perspective that I have an absolutely unyielding commitment for fairness and

nondiscrimination."

Kirk has been endorsed by groups including the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus and the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization.

Cornyn, who took office as attorney general for the state in January 1999, previously served six years as a District Court judge in San Antonio. He was elected to the Texas Supreme Court in 1990, re-elected to that post in 1996, but resigned the next year to run for attorney general.

A Houston native, Cornyn has a political record that includes little that might reflect his potential to represent gay Texans. One anti-gay move by the candidate came in late 1999 when, as state attorney general, he ruled that county clerks are not required to accept registrations of same-sex domestic partnerships.

Cornyn said state law does not require or permit county clerks to accept DP registries. The case on which he ruled came before Cornyn after a gay San Antonio resident sought to legally register his relationship through the Bexar County clerk.

Endorsements for Cornyn include a nod from the Young Conservatives of Texas, a non-partisan conservative youth organization.

But Cornyn's views on several gay-specific issues land opposite Kirk's generally gay-friendly stances.

The candidates have discussed their differences including federal hate crime legislation and ENDA.

While Kirk supports both, Cornyn opposes both, the Dallas Morning News reported.

Cornyn has said he supports the state's sodomy law, the so-called "homosexual conduct" law, while Kirk has given no opinion, the newspaper reported. As a Texas Supreme Court justice, Cornyn voted to throw out lower-court decisions that declared the law unconstitutional, according to the Morning News.

The candidates do agree that more funding is needed for HIV prevention and treatment programs.

Asked by the newspaper about his approach to gay rights issues, Cornyn said in a written statement: "Every human being should be treated with dignity and respect. I oppose discrimination and believe the way to make progress in this area is by changing the hearts and minds of individuals."

But Kirk and Cornyn both agree with the current "don't ask, don't tell" policy relating to gays serving in the military, the Morning News reported.

The candidates have not made clear all their views on other subjects, including whether or not gay men and lesbians should be allowed to adopt children.

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TABLETS AND ORAL POWDER

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit [www.viracept.com](http://www.viracept.com).

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## VIRACEPT®

(nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

### Information for Patients about VIRACEPT® (ni-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nei-FIN-ne-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

**Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT.** Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT."

#### WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (amivudine, 3TC), or Zent® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

#### DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma. There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

#### WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

**Allergies:** If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

**If you are pregnant:** The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**If you are breast-feeding:** You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

**Children:** VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

**If you have liver disease:** VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**Other medical problems:** Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

#### CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

#### Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)  
Cardarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)  
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglate®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others  
Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)  
Halcion® (nifedipine)  
Versed® (midazolam)  
Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)  
Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Ritampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®  
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

**Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:** Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

**A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:**

Phenobarbital  
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)  
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

#### Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

**Nucleoside analogues:** No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)  
EpiVir (amivudine, 3TC)  
Zent (stavudine, d4T)  
Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

**If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:**

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

#### Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)  
The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.  
Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

#### Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

#### Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)  
The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

#### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

#### HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

**Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor.** Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

#### Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

#### Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily					
Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets	
Kg	Lb				
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

\* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

#### How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

#### Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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## around houston

### AIDS Foundation given funds to assist former inmates

AIDS Foundation Houston has received a \$1.3 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration for an educational program targeting the problem of AIDS among people who have been recently released from Texas prisons. Only three other such grants were awarded this year. The program, called Project Wall Talk, will allow AIDS Foundation to expand an existing program which trains prison inmates to work as peer educators in prisons. Michael B. Mizwa, executive director of AFH, said, "We began in 1997 to train peer educators in a few prisons about AIDS prevention, and the project has expanded. This grant will allow us to add 20 more hours of training in advocacy and treatment issues to our existing training and also to expand the program to each of the 114 units in the Texas prison system. Our hope is that once released, the trained educator will work in his or her local area in an effort to stem the tide of new HIV infections and secondary illness," he added. Texas has the largest prison system in the country with more than 143,000 inmates, of which 2,380 are HIV-infected. Three in four, or 75 percent, incarcerated offenders with HIV are from minority communities. Upon release, 40 percent of the offenders are likely to return to Houston, according to Mizwa.

ELLA TYLER

### Upcoming conference to address bias in schools

AUSTIN — Students and educators throughout Texas are preparing for the next Students, Teachers & Allies Making Progress (STAMP) Conference to be held Nov. 16-17 at the University of Texas in Austin, according to the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. The event is a skills-building and networking conference designed to organize statewide action to end discrimination in Texas schools. It provides a forum for people throughout the state to share resources, work together and empower Texans to address discrimination within their own community, according to an LGRL press release. Much of the conference will focus on the Non-Discrimination in Education Bill, which would protect students from discrimina-

tion "on account of ethnicity, color, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or national origin." Currently, Texas has no state law protecting students from such discrimination, the LGRL stated. "I'm looking forward to the conference because it's just such a unique event," said Will Cowan, a student at the University of Texas. "It's really the only conference that I know of where students and teachers from every corner of Texas get together to actually organize strategies for lobbying and carry them out." Scheduled workshops include "Working With the Media," "How to Lobby" and more. Registration for the conference is free and open to everyone. To register, download the registration form from the LGRL Web site at [www.lgrrl.org](http://www.lgrrl.org) or contact the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas at 512-474-5475.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

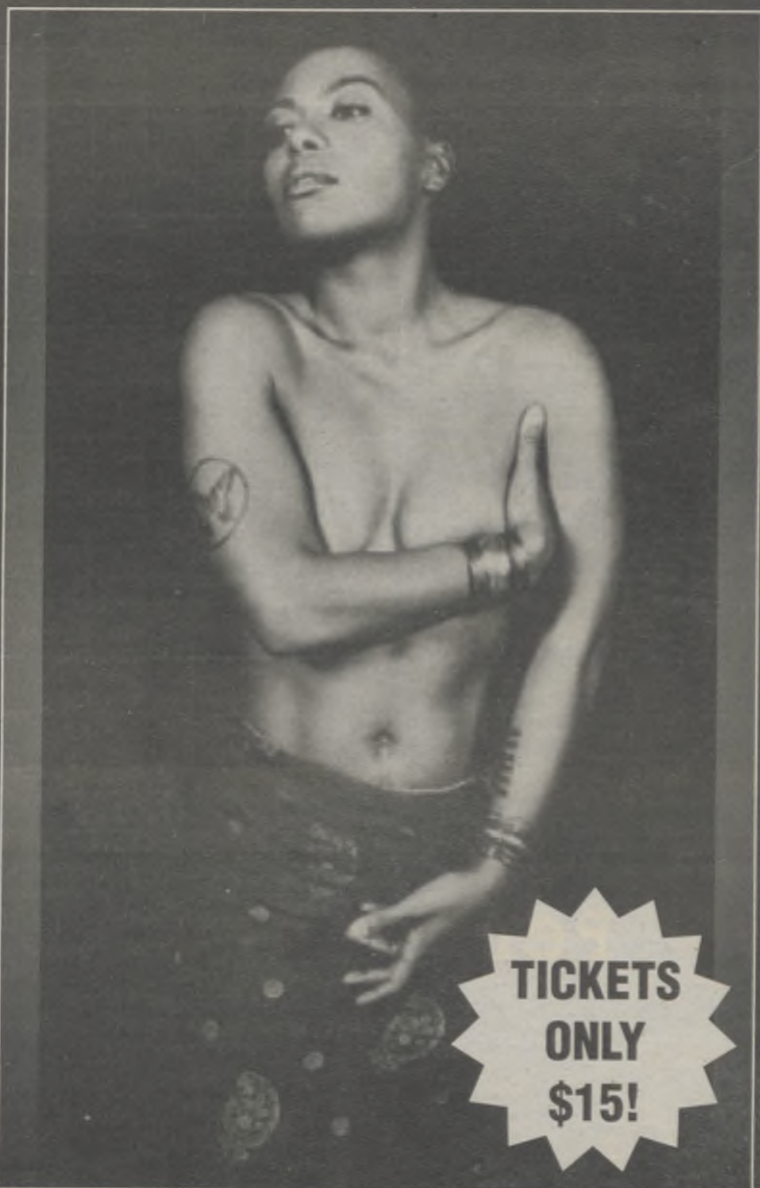


### Hundreds attend Houston Black Tie Dinner

The Intercontinental Hotel was the site for the annual fund-raising Houston Black Tie Dinner, held Oct. 12 this year and benefiting several non-profit local organizations. An audience of hundreds turned out to socialize and enjoy an evening of comedy. Top left: This year's dinner co-chairs, Carlos A. Reyes, Jr. and Chree Boydston, presented Janine Brunjes (right) with the Houston Black Tie Dinner Humanitarian Award. Far left: State Rep. Debra Danburg, who is battling for re-election on the Nov. 5 ballot, was among several politicians who attended the black-tie event. Left: State Rep. Garnet Coleman accepted the Hollyfield Political Service Award during the dinner. (Photos by Dalton DeHart)



## ME'SHELL NDEGEOCELLO



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## local news

## Changes target African-American population

HIV FUNDS, continued from Page 1

target population and are theoretically most effective. He said agencies, in submitting their applications for funding this year, were asked to service the highest risk populations.

Of the 57 HIV prevention programs currently receiving federal funding in Texas, 19 will go unfunded next year.

"It's a very frightening future as we look at sexually transmitted diseases and the role of public health. It's becoming no role at all," said Claudia Stravato, chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle, which lost more than \$98,446.

Health officials who work with gay men are particularly concerned.

The state department of health's HIV/STD Surveillance Report for year-end 2001 indicates that 50 percent of newly diagnosed HIV positive Texans reported male-to-male sex as their mode of exposure to the virus, according to leaders at the Montrose Clinic. But the department's recent allocation of state funds for HIV testing among gay men was severely cut, they point out.

In fact, Roland said, in Harris County, 60 percent of the agencies previously funded to provide HIV testing and counseling services were denied funding. This will seriously impair Houston-area agen-

cies' ability to test high-risk populations, particularly gay men, for years to come, he added.

"TDH's own statistics show that gay men have the highest rates of HIV infection in the state," Roland said. "I find it inconceivable that the state has chosen to disregard its own data and cut the funding to provide HIV prevention and testing to gay men."

## Smaller piece of the pie

Each year, the state's bureau of HIV and STD prevention receives \$9.5 million from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to be distributed among local agencies for HIV prevention programs. The CDC is allocated \$320 million for HIV prevention programs administered by health departments in all states and six major cities, including Houston. Local agencies within the states then compete for funding.

"We're required to conduct competitive processes, and our job is to select the best contractor we can based on the application we received, and that's often difficult," Blass said.

"The problem we run into is when the interventions that we're funding tend to be more costly," he added.

Some agencies in Texas saw dramatic increases as a result of the TDH changes.



Gay health activists including Judy Bradford, a panelist on the groundbreaking Institute of Medicine Report on lesbian health, are concerned that federal support for gay and lesbian health issues is waning under the leadership of President George W. Bush and Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson.

For instance, Austin Health & Human Services of the Travis County Health Department secured a \$594,194 contract for next year — a \$275,096 increase.

One of the most unusual shifts in funding occurred between neighboring agencies. The Bell County Public Health District's \$110,349 contract was not renewed, while United Way of Greater Fort Hood Area had its contract doubled to \$133,223 from \$66,435.

The TDH issued its funding decisions on Sept. 6, projecting where aid will go for HIV/AIDS prevention for the next four years. According to Montrose Clinic officials, "minimal" funds were provided for HIV testing services for men who have sex with men (MSM) in Harris County.

Officials note that the term "MSM" includes gay, bisexual and transgender men, as well as heterosexual men who occasionally have sexual encounters with men.

Some funding in the Harris County area was designated to test African American gay men, but Hispanic and white gay men were virtually left out of the funding process, clinic leaders noted.

"Gay men remain one of the communities hardest hit by the AIDS pandemic," said Katy Caldwell, executive director of Montrose Clinic. "For now, prevention is the only cure. TDH's failure to allocate adequate funding to provide intense, targeted testing and prevention education to gay men of all ethnicities in Harris County could lead to a resurgence of the virus in this already deeply affected community."

Other health officials in Houston also expressed concern.

"HIV testing and counseling has been shown to be a very effective intervention for at-risk populations," said Naomi

Madrid, executive director of People With AIDS Coalition-Houston. "TDH's decision to deny funding for most HIV counseling and testing of gay men in Harris County — especially Hispanic and Anglo gay men — will make it far more difficult to reach the people who most need this intervention."

The City of Houston HIV Prevention Community Planning Group is currently meeting to determine the fiscal year 2004 priority populations for funding. The first draft of the group's priority populations should be completed in December, according to officials.

While city of Houston testing efforts are funded under a different funding stream than TDH, it is expected that the limitations imposed on local AIDS service agencies by the lack of TDH funding will factor into the planning process at some level. The city planning group is also reviewing emerging trends that may affect the fiscal year 2003 priority populations.

Texas ranks fourth in the nation of reported cases of HIV, with 4,241 new cases in 2001. Of these, 1,215 were in Harris County, which encompasses Houston. Harris County currently has 10,814 people living with HIV/AIDS, the largest population in the state.

## Bush administration trend?

Reallocated Texas resources for this important gay health issue accompanies recent news that the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services withdrew \$75,000 in funding for a national lesbian health conference.

Members of the National Coalition for LGBT Health met two weeks ago with officials from the HHS in response to that funding change. Coalition leaders said exactly what happened to funding for the conference remains in dispute.

At least one conservative believes the change was due to the Bush administration's targeting "radical" programs.

"Slowly but surely, the Bush administration is weeding out so-called health care programs that ... promote radical agendas," Ken Connor, president of the Family Research Council, wrote in an Oct. 4 e-mail.

"Though they originally agreed to subsidize a conference on homosexual issues, federal officials took back their offer, saying, 'The conference on lesbian health did not fit with the secretary's vision,'" Connor wrote. "We welcome the administration's change of heart."

Gay health activists are concerned that this incident is an indication of more federal cuts to come.

"Gay and lesbian health issues were clearly on the agenda during the Clinton administration," said Judy Bradford, a panelist on a groundbreaking Institute of Medicine report on lesbian health. "Now, it's as if they've vanished. They're off the radar screen."

Kathi Wolfe contributed to this story. The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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## national news

## Log Cabin GOP: Findings biased, used as 'scare tactic'

GOP RECORD, continued from Page 1

on whether members of Congress co-sponsor bills considered important to gays. One such bill is known as ENDA, or the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The HRC report cards aren't free from controversy, however: Log Cabin officials have often taken issue in recent years with the HRC ratings, either based on the issues selected for inclusion or the HRC's interpretation of a "yes" or "no" vote.

NSD examined the HRC voting records for the 103rd through 107th Congress, which spans a period from Jan. 1993 through Dec. 2001, and measures the collective voting records of the two parties in three specific areas.

The first compares the percentage of Democrats and Republicans who received a 100-percent HRC score. The second compares the percentage of Republicans and Democrats receiving a zero. The third category compares the percentage of members of the two parties receiving a score at or above 50 percent versus those receiving a percentage below 50 percent.

The report's findings show that the percentage of Democrats receiving a "perfect" 100 percent score from HRC increased from 27 percent in the 103rd Congress to 72 percent in the current 107th Congress. The findings show the number of Democrats

receiving a zero score changed from 5 percent in the 103rd Congress to 2 percent in the 107th Congress.

According to the report's findings, just 1 percent of Republican senators and representatives had a 100-percent HRC score in the 103rd Congress and only 2 percent had a 100-percent score nine years later, in the 107th Congress.

Conversely, the findings show that 46 percent of GOP senators and representatives had an HRC score of zero in the 103rd Congress and 61 percent of Republican lawmakers had a zero score in the first half of the 107th Congress, which continues until the end of this year.

The NSD report's findings show that in the "above or below" 50 percent category, 69.9 percent of Democrats had scores 50 percent or higher in the 103rd Congress while 88.5 percent of Democrats had scores above 50 percent in the 107th Congress. The findings show that 30.9 percent of Democrats had a score below 50 percent in the 103rd Congress compared to 11.49 percent who had less than a 50 percent score in the 107th Congress.

The findings show that 11.16 percent of Republicans had a score above 50 percent in the 103rd Congress while 10.86 percent of Republicans had scores above 50 percent in the 107th Congress. The findings

show that 88.83 percent of Republican lawmakers had scores below 50 percent in the 103rd Congress and 89.13 percent of Republicans had scores below 50 percent in the 107th Congress.

## Gay groups differ on report

"This report challenges the common assumption that Republicans, in recent years, have increased their support of lesbian and gay Americans," said Chad Johnson, NSD's executive director. "In fact, these results separate the reality from the rhetoric.

"When it comes to gay and lesbian issues, party matters," Johnson said.

Mead, of Log Cabin Republicans, and other gay GOP leaders have said the HRC rating system often fails to reflect behind-the-scenes actions by key Republicans, including actions to block anti-gay amendments and coalitions with Democrats to defeat such amendments.

"This is a scare tactic," said Mead of the NSD report. "This is what they do in an election year. Two years ago, they said the heavens would collapse if George W. Bush won election to the White House."

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), the openly gay congressman who helped found NSD, said information for the report was

gathered in an accurate and impartial manner, based strictly on publicly recorded voting records collected by HRC.

Frank noted that Republicans such as former U.S. Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-Wisc.) are members of the HRC board of directors.

"He's acting like Chico Marks," said Frank, referring to Mead's dismissal of the report's findings. "What he's saying is, 'Do you believe me or your own eyes?'"

Lou Chibbaro Jr. can be reached at [lchibbaro@washblade.com](mailto:lchibbaro@washblade.com).



Barney Frank

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Charles Mauch	Railroad Commission	Green	Richard Moore	309th District Court	Dem
Brad Rockwell	State Supreme Court Place 2	Green	Donna Kohlhouse	310th Family District Court	Dem
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## around the nation

### La. pastor campaigns against New Orleans gay festival

NEW ORLEANS— A Jefferson Parish pastor is gathering the support of conservative churches and political candidates in his campaign to banish an annual gay festival from New Orleans, according to the Associated Press. Rev. Grant E. Storms has circulated a videotape of men having public sex at the Southern Decadence Festival, arguing that police and city officials ignore lewdness at the gathering. Storms bought an advertisement in the New Orleans Times-Picayune on Oct. 9 urging Mayor Ray Nagin, Police Superintendent Eddie Compass and others to banish the festival "due to the inability of the police and festival organizers to stop such acts of lewdness, nudity and sex from occurring on the streets of the French Quarter." Southern Decadence began about 30 years ago, and now attracts 100,000 visitors from across the country, with a handful of French Quarter bars acting as informal sponsors, festival organizers said. The New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corp. began a campaign to promote the festival two years ago. Organizers estimate the party brings \$30 million to the city each year.



Rev. Grant E. Storms, an anti-gay pastor in New Orleans, is lobbying city officials to banish Southern Decadence from the city. The popular gay event draws an estimated 100,000 visitors each Labor Day Weekend.

### Gay psychiatrist appeals order to repay Air Force

SAN FRANCISCO— A gay psychiatrist ordered to repay the U.S. Air Force \$71,000 for his education argued to an appeals court Oct. 8 that he doesn't owe the government anything, according to the Associated Press. John Hensala, 38, attended medical school at Northwestern University, served his three-year residency at Yale University and received a two-year fellowship at the University of California at San Francisco—all with the understanding that, in exchange, he owed the Air Force four years of active duty service. Shortly before he began his service, he announced he's gay. The Air Force promptly discharged him and demanded its money back, saying Hensala voluntarily failed to complete his service commitment. In June 2001, a federal judge ruled in the Air Force's favor, dismissing the case. Ray Hawkens, a Department of Justice lawyer arguing for the Air Force, told a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that an internal investigation revealed Hensala intentionally revealed his homosexuality solely to avoid military service. But Hensala's lawyer, Clyde Wadsworth, argued that when Hensala came out in 1994, the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was untested. Hensala has contended all along he was willing to serve.

### Lesbian couple sues prosecutor in Calif. county

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — San Mateo County District Attorney Jim Fox faces a lawsuit from a lesbian couple who claims the DA's office illegally revealed one woman's sexual orientation to the father of her child, Bay City News reported. In 1999, two female police officers who had both dated Ramona Gatto got involved in a fight at her home. According to Gatto, Fox then disclosed information about her sexual orientation from a police report on the incident to Timothy Gatto, who had not seen her or her daughter for several years. He then unsuccessfully sued for custody of the child, leaving Gatto and her partner, Arzu

Akkus-Gatto, with legal bills. The Gatto family has now offered to settle the lawsuit for \$85,000, which they say is not even as much as their legal bills. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has rejected the deal.

### Okla. City settles lawsuit over gay banners

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma City leaders and a gay rights group have approved a settlement over the display of banners on utility and city poles, according to the Associated Press. The Oklahoma City Council on Oct. 8 voted 8-1 to abide by a federal judge's ruling last month that declared part of the city's banner ordinance unconstitutional. Under the agreement, the city will pay "nominal damages" of \$3, plus attorneys fees. The city also must give the Cimarron Alliance permission to display banners for its summer parade and delay consideration of changing or repealing the ordinance until January. Cimarron Alliance sued the city after the group's banners promoting gay history month were removed from utility poles.

### Gay Hispanics gather for national conference in Fla.

MIAMI — Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Hispanics gathered in Miami Oct. 10-14 for El Encuentro, a conference dedicated to facilitating "the development of cultural, political and community resources through institutes, workshops, caucuses, plenaries and social events." The conference, hosted by LLEGO, a national gay Hispanic group, drew about 1,000 participants from the U.S., Latin America and Puerto Rico, according to the Miami Herald. "This is the largest gathering of its kind," said Martín Ornelas-Quintero, LLEGO executive director. This is the first time El Encuentro has been held in South Florida, and earlier this year, LLEGO threatened to move the event if voters in Miami-Dade approved a ballot measure overturning gay rights protections. The measure failed Sept. 10.

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Issue 1147

# Forum

## guest editorial

# War with Iraq is a gay issue

Ever since Stonewall, the founders of our movement argued against unjust foreign war, but in the debate over Iraq, national gay groups have failed to speak out against war.

By FAISAL ALAM

**O**N SATURDAY, OCT. 26, thousands of people from across the United States will descend on Washington and voice their opposition to a U.S.-led war with Iraq.

In the last few weeks, similar rallies have drawn millions of people in cities around the world.

Protesters will call for an end to Iraqi sanctions, implemented more than a decade ago, that have cost the lives of more than 500,000 men, women and children across Iraq and have brought extreme poverty and malnutrition to thousands of others.

They will join hands to express outrage at the United States government and its unilateral and imperialistic foreign policies. Groups that have endorsed the protests represent a cross-section of liberationist movements, all united under one anti-war umbrella.

But one group is notably missing from this coalition for peace: the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movement.

To date, no major national LGBT organization in the United States — except for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches — has spoken out against an impending war with Iraq. And no national LGBT organization has endorsed the Oct. 26 anti-war rallies.

Meanwhile, our progressive allies who often work hand-in-hand with the LGBT movement in our common cause to achieve social justice, have taken a firm stance against any military action and have called for a peaceful solution in Iraq.

WHILE OUR ALLIES MAKE NO ISSUE out of their position, many in the LGBT community will ask the question, "What does a war with Iraq have to do with

queers? And why does opposing a war with Iraq, or any other country for that matter, have anything to do with the 'gay agenda?'"

The answer is *everything*.

Since Sept. 11, the United States has more than tripled its national defense budget in the name of "security" and the "war on terror." Our national focus on war has led many to sacrifice attention to the critical issues facing some of the most vulnerable in our society, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, people living with HIV and AIDS, homeless youth and low-income families, among others.

Federal resources are already being limited every day under the Bush administration. Government funding for HIV prevention and education remains stagnant at a time when more and more of our young people are being infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

While rates continue to rise in an alarming fashion, our government insists on cracking down on organizations that provide safe sex messages, and the Department of Health & Human Services has officially taken an abstinence-only policy, making the sex lives of most queer people almost invisible.

Low-income LGBT families remain a low priority, as though all of us can afford to attend \$250 tuxedo dinners to watch a straight celebrity receive an "Equality Award." Universal health care that would guarantee every LGBT person the right to live a healthy life is also denied.

Our inner cities remain destitute, where thousands of young queer people of color live, grow and thrive. Social and economic justice, basic human rights — life, liberty and dignity — remain a distant dream for these people, whose lives are a million miles away from our black-tie dinners.

HOUSTON VOICE  
OCTOBER 18, 2002  
PAGE 10

ONLY A FEW DECADES AGO, AT THE birth of our movement for freedom and liberation, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people understood that single-issue politics would not win us anything.

Decades ago, when we took to the streets to fight police brutality, we understood that fighting multiple oppressions through a multi-lateral, multi-issue platform was the only way to gain our liberation. But today, few of us remember this history, as we live comfortably in our "freedom."

Queer people have been at the forefront of social and economic justice struggles since the beginning of our fight for equality. The feminist movement, the labor movement, the struggle for African-American civil rights, the struggle for immigrant rights and economic justice for poor people — all have actively involved lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Only a few decades ago, LGBT people were likened to Communists, and the Department of State was on a witch hunt to weed out queers from its ranks, likening them to Cold War spies.

MEANWHILE, THE BUSH administration continues to beat the drums of war, rallying allies in our fight against "terrorism" that perpetuate horrendous abuses of human rights against sexual and gender minorities living in their countries. And while we sit happy and free in our bars and tennis clubs, in our LGBT centers around the country, the real fight for freedom and struggle still continues around the world.

Gay Americans have abandoned their roots. When national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organizations fail to voice their opposition to government policies that clearly impact the lives of so many queer people, our movement has failed. When we as a community cannot join together and ally with the wider progressive movement, a movement that so many of our elders have come from, we have collectively failed.

The war on Iraq is a queer issue, not only because it will affect LGBT people in the military, an item high on our "gay agenda," but also because it will take away from social welfare programs that we as a community rely on the most, and because it will impact each and every one of our lives.

@ Faisal Alam is the founder and director of the Washington, D.C.-based Al-Fatiha, an organization dedicated to gay and gay-friendly Muslims. He can be reached at [mfaisalalam@yahoo.com](mailto:mfaisalalam@yahoo.com).



viewpoint ELLA TYLER



Early voting starts this weekend, and every single ballot cast is an important one

# Let the politics flood in

THE RAIN LATELY — ESPECIALLY ON Tuesdays — makes me think about reasons to vote. Not who to vote for, which is what political activists like me spend many hours focused on this time of year, and not the mechanics of voting, which I am trained on, but reasons to vote. Why bother?

When I worked for the county attorney years ago, I redrafted the flood plain management regulations for Harris County. Because of a delay in their adoption, I spent one rainy October afternoon flying to Dallas, then driving to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Denton to have the regulations approved just before FEMA withheld authority to write flood insurance in unincorporated areas of Harris County. I've been interested in the politics of flooding ever since.

And there are a lot of politics, particularly at the city, county and federal level. Politicians can't stop the rain, but they can make it go away. They decide how much money will be spent on flood control and where it will be spent. Votes on land use issues — even something simple like how much of a lot may be paved — can have a substantial impact on flooding.

Perhaps I'm getting carried away with the metaphor, but if each raindrop stayed home, we'd never have floods.

So think about what issue matters to you. Is it discrimination against gay, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders? Politicians can't stop it, but they can make it unacceptable and potentially expensive. Discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations because of someone's gender, age, race,

handicap or national origin violates a variety of laws: federal, state, and local.

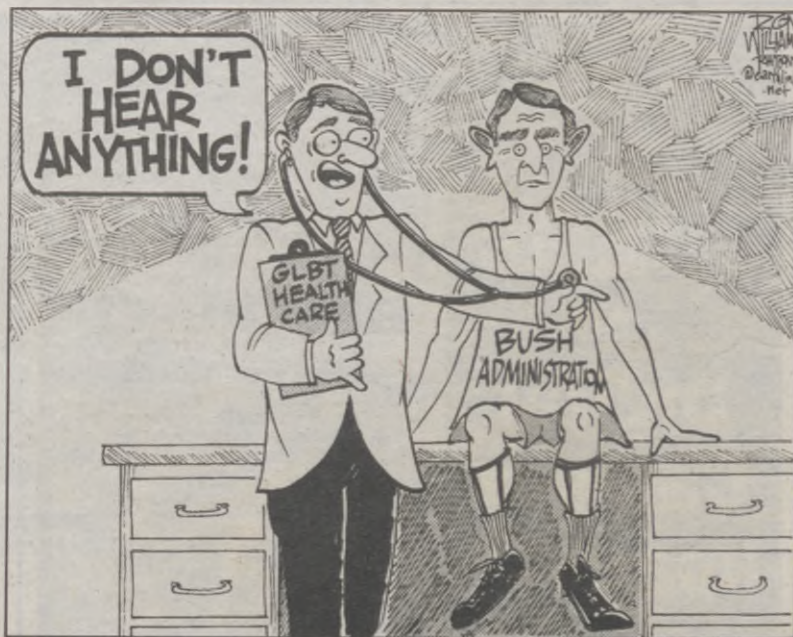
Why aren't you protected? What about your child or your niece and nephew? There's a Houston Independent School District bond election on this ballot. It might fix up their school. Have you been named their guardian? A court, with an elected judge, could decide that you are unfit anyway.

I recently heard Judge Bill Moody, who is a District Court judge in El Paso Court and a candidate for the Texas Supreme Court, say that courts all across Texas could be changed entirely, and overnight, by this election. He said, "I have to do what they tell me to, even if I don't like it," and said there are five contested seats on the Texas Supreme Court.

If all five Democrats beat their Republican opponents, they would be a majority. This is the first time in at least 20 years that there have been so many contested seats, Moody said. Usually, only three members are up for election at any one time, but there were some vacancies.

IF YOU DON'T THINK IT MAKES A difference, look at the Republican platform and what it says about gays. It is on their Web site. The Harris County Republican site is [www.harriscountygop.com](http://www.harriscountygop.com), and just go from there. This was drafted by the party activists, the people who run the office and put out the endorsement sheets. These are the people from whom a candidate needs help to survive the primary.

If you don't think it matters, why do you think we are waiting to see if the Texas sodomy statute will be considered by the



U.S. Supreme Court? It was found unconstitutional, under the Texas Constitution, by two of three appeals judges. Then the Republican activists talked about sending a letter protesting the decision. It was never sent, but word went out, and, then, all the rest of the judges decided the first two were wrong. Coincidence? I think not.

Assuming that you've decided to vote, here's how to do it. If you are not already registered, you may not vote in this election. To check your registration, the easiest thing to do is to go to the Tax Assessor Collector (you used to have to pay to register, a poll tax, which is why this office handles voter registration) at [www.tax.co.harris.tx.us.gov](http://www.tax.co.harris.tx.us.gov).

Find your certificate or print out the one on that Web site. You may vote at any early polling location at various hours beginning on Saturday, Oct. 19 and continuing until Friday, Nov. 1.

Locations include the multi-service center on West Gray and the Fiesta on Kirby near the new stadium — which we (some of us) voted for. If you vote on Tuesday, Nov. 5, it must be at your neighborhood polling place. The county clerk runs the election.

See [www.cclerkhctx.net](http://www.cclerkhctx.net) for details.

The new machines will take some getting used to, but don't leave until you see the flag waving at the end. If you think have done everything you needed to do to be registered to vote, and are denied the right to vote, don't just go away. There are procedures for you to vote on a contested ballot. They take some paperwork, but it can be done. Your favorite candidate's office will be able to help or point you in the correct direction. The earlier you vote, the easier it is to handle any problems or issues.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender voters can make a difference in a close race, if they vote, and if they vote for candidates who support equal treatment for gays.

I love the song from "My Fair Lady" which goes, "Don't speak of stars shining above, if you're in love, show me." I feel that way about claims that a candidate is "gay-friendly" — show me, and I'll vote for you.

@ Ella Tyler is a freelance writer for Houston Voice and a longtime political activist in Houston. She may be reached via [editor@houstonvoice.com](mailto:editor@houstonvoice.com).

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



www.DykesToWatchOutFor.net

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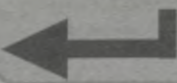


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## on the record

"I think if anything I had underestimated people's homophobia. The tabloids have been like piranhas round a rotting corpse. ... You get all these male journalists asking you what it's like to kiss a girl. I just think, 'You're a bloody man, you tell me!'"

*Rachael Stirling, who plays a young woman whose self-discovery includes a lesbian love scene with Keeley Hayes in the new BBC drama 'Tipping the Velvet' (The Guardian, Oct. 8)*



"Your suggestion that I am sending the 'wrong message' in not filing a hate crime is irresponsible and panders to a vigilante mentality inconsistent with due process. I took an oath to uphold the law as chief prosecutor of Los Angeles County. I am responsible to the people, not the politicians."

*Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley, in a letter to L.A. Mayor James Hahn, responding to criticism of Cooley for not prosecuting as hate crimes two recent beatings of gay men in West Hollywood (Los Angeles Times, Oct. 12)*

"In high school I was big enough to get past the gay thing. Freshman football, I went out to hurt people. I found the biggest redneck and went for his knees sideways, stomped his face when he was down. I was a monster, a legend. And then I could go jump rope with the girls."

*Rodger McFarlane, 47, competing next month on a team with three middle-aged lesbians in a 10-day adventure race in Fiji that will be filmed by producer Mark Burnett, creator of the "Survivor" series (New York Times, Sept. 22)*

"I met a gay man and became very good friends with him. Then I met his friends. He kept saying, 'What is the Catholic Church doing for my gay friends and sisters?' I said I didn't know, and he said, 'Why don't you do something?'"

*Sister Jeannine Gramick, rebuked by the Vatican for her ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics, on her original motivation (Toledo Blade, Oct. 5)*

"I'm excited about the fact that I could make history, but I recognize if I'm elected it's because I'm best-suited to represent the values of this district."

*John Laird, former mayor of Santa Cruz, Calif., on his bid to become the first openly gay man to serve in the California General Assembly, which has had several out lesbian members (Santa Cruz Sentinel, Oct. 13)*

"I would never do anything to turn against my raising. Marriage is intended to be between a man and a woman. Period."

*Congressman Mike Ross (D-Ark.) in a recent televised debate (Associated Press, Oct. 13)*

"Mr. Ross is on loan from the liberals to our conservative cause. He will turn over the agenda to the gay and lesbian lobby. He's accepted money from them. He's accepted business from them."

*Former Congressman Jay Dickey (R-Ark.), in a televised debate with Mike Ross, the man who successfully challenged Dickey in the 2000 election (Associated Press, Oct. 13)*

"I'd have nothing against anybody if they were gay, but really, I don't want to know. ... I don't want to know what so-and-so did with his wife last night, so why would I want to know if he's smoking the pole?"

*Veteran NFL running back Marshall Faulk, of the St. Louis Rams (Playboy, November issue)*





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WHAT KALETRA HAS TO OFFER  
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ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT

**kaletra**<sup>®</sup>  
(lopinavir/ritonavir)

FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIV

KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents in patients 6 months of age or older. KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.

**Safety Information**

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

KALETRA must not be taken with certain drugs due to the potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects. Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription and herbal preparations, you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which may cause death, have been

reported in patients receiving KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. Your doctor may want to monitor your liver function. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

The most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity are: abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. Children most often reported diarrhea, rash, taste aversion, and vomiting.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

www.kaletra.com  
Abbott Laboratories  
Abbott Park, IL 60064

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Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

**KALETRA™**  
(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules  
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA.** Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

**Patient Information**

**KALETRA™**  
(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir  
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

**What is KALETRA and how does it work?**

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

**Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?**

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

**Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?**

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

**How should I take KALETRA?**

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

**What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?**

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

**What happens if I take too much KALETRA?**

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large

amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

**Who should not take KALETRA?**

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

**Can I take KALETRA with other medications?\***

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

**MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:**

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
  - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
  - Halcion® (triazolam)
  - Hismanal® (astemizole)
  - Orap® (pimozide)
  - Propulsid® (cisapride)
  - Rythmol® (propafenone)
  - Seldane® (terfenadine)
  - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
  - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (*hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

**Medicines that require dosage adjustments:**

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

**Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.**

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**
  - Phenobarbital
  - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
  - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
 These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

**Other Special Considerations:** KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

**If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:** Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

**What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?**

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that

are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-retroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

**What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?**

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

**How do I store KALETRA?**

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

**General advice about prescription medicines:**

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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# best of gay Houston

HOUSTON VOICE  
OCTOBER 18, 2002  
PAGE 15

## dining

### BEST BRUNCH READERS' CHOICE:

**Baba Yega Restaurant**  
2607 Grant St.  
713-522-0042

With an extensive brunch bar, beautiful patio and tranquil atmosphere, Baba Yega is the ideal location for a memorable brunch.

### EDITOR'S CHOICE:

**1415 Grill (formerly Sonoma)**  
**1415 California and Mesa Grill**  
1971 W. Gray  
713-520-8900

Both 1415 (formerly Sonoma) and Mesa Grill offer upscale, urban atmospheres in addition to traditional good brunch foods.

### BEST OVERALL READERS' CHOICE:

**Barnaby's Café**  
604 Fairview  
713-522-0106

Houston Voice readers dub Barnaby's a nice chic restaurant with prompt service and a great menu.

**Farrago Restaurant**  
302 Gray  
713-523-6404  
www.farrago.tv

Make a short drive to Midtown for this funky, fun eatery with a hip, modern style that helped Farrago tie as Houston Voice readers' Best Overall choice.

### EDITOR'S CHOICE:

**Barnaby's**

### BEST DESSERT READER'S CHOICE:

**House of Pies Restaurant & Bakery**  
6142 Westheimer  
713-782-1290

The name says it all. House of Pies is the place to go to satisfy your sweet tooth, and it's a great after-hours rest.

### EDITOR'S CHOICE:

**Empire Café**  
1732 Westheimer  
713-528-5282

Drop by Empire for a cup o' Joe and a to-die-for piece of cake.

### BEST VALUE READER'S CHOICE:

**Barnaby's**

## your vote & our picks



### EDITOR'S CHOICE:

**Kam's Fine Chinese Cuisine**  
4500-C Montrose Blvd.  
713-529-5057  
and  
**Riva's Italian Restaurant**  
1117 Missouri  
713-529-3450

Both Kam's and Riva's serve up ethnicity along with delicious foods in generous portions.

### MOST ROMANTIC READER'S CHOICE:

**The Brownstone Restaurant**  
2736 Virginia  
713-520-5666

www.brownstone-houston.com

The elegant atmosphere and excellent food are two of the reasons Brownstone is a sure-fire romantic pick.

### EDITOR'S CHOICE:

**Sambuca Jazz Café**  
909 Texas  
713-224-5299  
www.sambucajazzcafe.com

Located in the heart of downtown, Sambuca Jazz Café offers a great dining experience with jazz music adding to its ambiance and charm.

### MOST TRENDY READER'S CHOICE:

**Mo Mong Restaurant**

1201 Westheimer  
713-524-5664

Let's face it — Mo Mong is the place to see and be seen. It's hip, fun and offers great food and good value.

### EDITOR'S CHOICE:

**Aries Restaurant Ltd.**  
4315 Montrose  
713-526-4404  
www.ariesrestaurant.com

On your way to the museum district, stop at Aries and enjoy the ever-changing menu full of complex dishes, the trendy décor and prices to match.

### BEST LATE NIGHT READER'S CHOICE:

**Katz Deli & Bar**  
616 Westheimer Rd.  
713) 521-3838  
www.katznevercloses.com

Houstonians never have to worry about what time Katz's closes, and the restaurant always serves up huge amounts of food.

### EDITOR'S CHOICE:

**House of Pies Restaurant & Bakery**

Late night may be the best time to discover why this eatery also is informally known as the "House of Guys."

### TRIED AND TRUE READER'S CHOICE:

**Baba Yega.**  
Need we say more? Houstonians have come to expect the good service and great food that Baba Yega offers.

### EDITOR'S CHOICE:

**The Ruggles Grill**  
903 Westheimer  
713-524-3839

This popular landmark has been around for decades, and continues to serve up style and delicious dishes.

## nightlife

### BEST DANCE CLUB READER'S CHOICE:



**South Beach** won the Houston Voice Readers' Choice as Best Dance Club. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

**South Beach**  
808 Pacific  
713-529-7623  
www.southbeachthenightclub.com

With kickin' DJs, a bar that never runs dry and dry ice that's blown across the dance floor as speakers blast, South Beach is the spot to dance the night away. And the guys appreciate those hot dancers, too!

### EDITOR'S CHOICE:

**Rich's Houston**  
2401 San Jacinto  
713-759-9606  
www.richs-houston.com

For a tried and true good time and a mixed crowd, put on your dance shoes — or boots, as the case may be — and step into Rich's.

### BEST COUNTRY BAR

### READER'S CHOICE:



**Brazos River Bottom Club**  
2400 Brazos  
713-528-9192

For both Houstonians who hit the dance floor and those who chat on the sidelines, BRB offers plenty of space in a country-themed atmosphere, right down to the neon moon over the dance floor.

### EDITOR'S CHOICE:

**Brick's II**  
617 Fairview  
713-528-8102

This neighborhood country bar puts on no airs. Houstonians stop by for a friendly game of pool in a homey atmosphere.

### BEST LESBIAN BAR READER'S CHOICE:

**Chances Bar**  
1100 Westheimer  
713-523-7217  
www.chanceshouston.com  
Readers call Chances, The New Barn and The Other Side fun and diverse with the advantage of three bars in one. Reasonably priced drinks are a big draw as well.



The friendliness of **Herlinda "Mela" Contreras** is just one of the reasons Houston lesbians stop by Mela's Club. This year, Contreras was recognized for her longtime community service when she was named female grand marshal of the Houston Pride Parade. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

### EDITOR'S CHOICE:

**Mela's Club**  
6104 Wilcrest Drive  
281-564-0466

This lesbian tejano bar surrounds patrons in a country atmosphere.

### BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PUB READER'S CHOICE:

**J.R.'s**  
3435 S. Richey  
713-910-7733

Comfort and fun are easily found in this Montrose bar that has become a local institution.

Please see **BEST OF** on Page 16

# best of gay houston

BEST OF, continued from Page 15

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

### Mary's...Naturally

1022 Westheimer  
713-527-9669 and  
Club 611  
611 Hyde Park  
713-526-7070

Mary's is infamous for its exterior décor and changing window scene, not to mention its neighborhood, friendly feel. But don't miss out on the 611 atmosphere, reminiscent of a hunting lodge with good friends all around.

## BEST HAPPY HOUR

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Meteor

2306 Genesse  
713-521-0123

Great bartenders are just one of the features of this trendy club with a cool video bar.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

### Mary's

## BEST LEATHER BAR

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### The Ripcord

715 Fairview  
713-521-2792  
www.theripcord.com

Infamous for its back patio scene, many gay Houstonians consider the Ripcord the leather bar of their dreams.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

### The Ripcord

## BEST DRAG SHOW

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Cousins

Drag fans can find a showcase of the best in this art form every week at Cousins.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:



The yearly Miss Camp America fund-raiser offers some of the best drag moments in Houston. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

### Miss Camp America

This yearly event is fun, exciting and professional.

## MOST INTERESTING CROWD

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Brasil

2606 Dunlavy  
713-528-1993

There is something — and someone — for everyone at this coffee shop. Brasil is definitely a people-watching paradise.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:



Houston's annual Gay Pride Parade offers the biggest sample of the Bayou City's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender crowd.

### Gay Pride Parade

713-529-6979  
www.pridehouston.org

Dykes on bikes, leather men and drag queens galore are just a few participants in this annual event. Don't forget the religious groups, non-profit organizations and more. It doesn't get any more interesting than this.

## BEST PLACE TO MEET MEN

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Montrose Mining Co.

805 Pacific  
713-529-7488

Get a view of most of Pacific Street — and its flocks of men — from the patio of the Mining Company. Need we say more?

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

### Ripcord

## BEST PLACE TO MEET WOMEN

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Bocados Restaurant & Bar

1312 W. Alabama  
713-523-5230

At least once a week, this unassuming restaurant becomes a favorite hunting ground for Houston's power dykes. Yummy.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

### Comet's game

Houston Comets  
2 Greenway Plaza  
713-627-9622  
www.wnba.com/comets

The Comets have something for everyone: athletic women in uniform, passionate fans and that cute little Haley.

## BEST PLACE FOR LIVE MUSIC

### READER'S CHOICE:

Keys West  
817 W. Dallas  
713-571-7870

www.keyswest.com

Sing along with friends and other patrons at Houston's newest piano bar, with favorite talents tickling the ivories each night.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

### The Briar Patch

2294 West Holcombe Blvd.  
713-665-9678

Houston's original gay piano bar surrounds patrons in eclectic décor at an unlikely location that works.

## BEST GIMMICK/SPECIAL NIGHT

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Café Adobe Monday nights

2111 Westheimer  
713-529-9830

Loyal revelers pick Café Adobe's Margarita Monday as the Montrose favorite.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

### Meteor's Monday nights

Combine martinis, manicures and movies for a unique Monday at this Montrose video bar.

## BEST BAR OUTSIDE MONTROSE

### READER'S CHOICE:

Guava Lamp  
2159 Portsmouth  
713-524-3359

Richmond's only gay video bar, populated with a young, friendly crowd, is home to bartenders as infamous as the establishment itself.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:



Diamond Jimm's, located near the Intercontinental Airport, is a must-visit bar outside of Montrose for gay men and lesbians.

### Diamond Jimm's

13331 Kuykendahl  
281-875-3330

Lesbians and gay men outside of Montrose enjoy this new choice on the north side of Houston.

## People

### BEST DJ

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Rick Taconi

Spinning at JR's for years, Taconi keeps the crowd alive with tunes all night.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

### Michael Kessler at Pacific Street

John Simms at Montrose Mining Co.

Chris Sills at Rich's

## BEST BARTENDER

### READER'S CHOICE:

George Konar at J.R.'s

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

Reid Mitchell

## BEST DRAG QUEEN

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Kofi

www.misskofi.com

Chances are, if you've seen a drag show in Houston, you've seen Miss Kofi. She is the drag queen in Houston.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

### Crystal Rae Lee Love

Drag is never so fabulous as when Love performs as the blonde bombshell for the RSIC-SS, a.k.a. the Royal, Sovereign & Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston.

## LOCAL HERO-MALE

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Gary Teixeira

So many fund-raisers that involve gay Houstonians find Gary Teixeira behind the scenes.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:



Gay Houston attorney Mitchell Katine is helping fight a case that would throw out the Texas sodomy law.

### Mitchell Katine, John

### Lawrence, Tyrone Garner

Attorney Mitchell Katine and clients John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner made our pick for their persistence in fighting the Texas sodomy law or so-called "homosexual conduct" law. The case of Lawrence and Garner v. Texas may be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court this fall, and Katine has worked on the issue from the start.

## LOCAL HERO-FEMALE

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Marilyn Meeker-Williams

This committed gay Houstonian is a stalwart at Bering United Methodist Memorial Church.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

Janine Brunjes



Lesbian activist Janine Brunjes, Mayor Lee Brown's liaison to gay Houstonians, recently received the Houston Black Tie Dinner Humanitarian Award.

Serving as Mayor Lee Brown's liaison to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Houstonians, Brunjes is a consistent leader on the gay civil rights and community service fronts.

## UP & COMING BUSINESS PERSONALITY

### READER'S CHOICE:

Danny at Hollywood Food Store

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:



Coy Tow, executive director of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, is a familiar face on the business scene in Montrose.

### Coy Tow

The energetic and practically unstoppable executive director of The Chamber, Tow helps bring GLBT business owners and operators together.

## COMMITTED ACTIVIST-FEMALE

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Annie Parker

www.ci.houston.tx.us/city-govt/council/1

The first and, so far, only openly gay person on the Houston City Council, Annie Parker continually battles on behalf of gay civil rights in this city.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

#### Ada Edwards

A consistent ally to gay Houstonians, Edwards has just begun to show her activism in the capacity of a Houston City Council member.

## COMMITTED ACTIVIST-MALE

### READER'S CHOICE:

#### Don Gill

A tireless volunteer and fundraiser for dozens of good causes in Montrose, Gill continues work

Please see BEST OF on Page 17

## best of gay houston

**BEST OF**, continued from Page 16

as an activist who never expects recognition but always gets the job done.



Think 'fund-raiser' in Houston, and the community is just as likely to then think of **Don Gill** as the man for the job. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Don Gill**

Honorable Mention: **Tim Brookover**

In his capacity as leader of the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, Brookover is a quiet but persistent force in helping keep the center operating and available to all gay Houstonians.

### COMMITTED ACTIVIST-TRANS

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Phyllis Randolph Frye**

Longtime transgender activist Phyllis Randolph Frye is a Houston institution and megaphone for the voices of trans rights.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Vanessa Edwards**

Chair of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, Edwards is a constant in the nationwide battle for trans equality.

### Community Life

#### BEST COFFEE SHOP

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Lobo**

3939 Montrose

713-522-5156

www.lobobookshop.com

Located in the heart of Montrose, Lobo is the best local coffee shop to see, be seen and catch up on the latest gossip.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Café Artiste**

1601 W. Main

713-528-3704

Board games and a comfortable atmosphere distinguish this coffee shop from the rest.

#### BEST GYM

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Fitness Exchange Health Club**

4040 Milam

713-524-9932

www.fitnessexchange.com

This establishment strives for a comfortable, community atmosphere, making it a clear favorite for gay Houstonians.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Houston Gym**

1501 Durham

713-880-9191

Well known for its trainers, Houston Gym gets serious about fitness.

#### BEST BOOKSTORE

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Lobo**

With the largest local selection of gay and lesbian-themed literature, Lobo is the clear favorite bookstore of Houston Voice readers.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Half-Price Books,**

**Records, Magazines**

11920 Westheimer

281-558-4968

www.halfpricebooks.com

A wide variety of books available at reasonable prices make this business a popular stop in Montrose.

#### BEST VIDEO STORE

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Hollywood Video**

1201 Westheimer

713-520-1883

www.hollywoodvideos.com

It's convenient, it's near and it has a large and diverse selection of popular and artsy movies.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Q Video**

1415 California

713-522-4485

Recently relocated, Q Video stocks a selection of hot flicks with gay and lesbian themes.

#### BEST MUSIC STORE

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Soundwaves**

3509 Montrose

713) 520-9283

www.soundwaves.com

Stop by this shop for a huge selection of both new and used CDs.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Record Rack**

3109 S. Shepherd

713-524-3602

www.recordrack.com

Step outside of mainstream music and locate hard-to-find tunes at this unique establishment.

#### BEST CLOTHING STORE

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Basic Brothers**

1232 Westheimer

713-522-1626

www.basicbrothers.com

This business consistently offers the most trendy and sexy clothes.

The **Basic Brothers Fashion Show**

is one of the most popular events at the annual Empower business expo. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**M2M Fashion**

3400 Montrose

713-521-0804

www.m2mfashion.com

For very gay friendly clothing with a unique flair, M2M is the place to shop.

#### MOST EFFECTIVE LOCAL NON-PROFIT

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Montrose Clinic**

215 Westheimer

713-830-3000

www.montroseclinic.org

With services like free HIV testing, literature distribution and public seminars, the Montrose Clinic provides urgently needed health services at little or no cost.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Q Patrol, Inc.**

239 Westheimer

713-528-7233

Walking the streets to help prevent hate crimes, members of Q Patrol are a valuable asset to the Montrose community.

#### BEST SPOT TO CRUISE

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Memorial Park.**

Cute guys in little running shorts with their dogs. Athletic lesbians contributing to Nature's beauty. It's the best place to find a potential mate.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Disco Kroger**

3300 Montrose

713-526-7865

www.kroger.com

You can sum a guy or girl up in two minutes based on what they're buying at the grocery store. It's the ideal place.

### Arts

#### BEST ART GALLERY

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Betz Gallery**

1208 W. Gray

713-523-3765

www.betzgallery.com

River Oaks homes wouldn't look the same without the selection of fine art found at this popular gallery.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Galerie Mado Chalvet**

**Impressionist French Gallery**

1706 Westheimer

713-522-0475

It's small, quaint and has a wonderful collection of Impressionist French Art for the expert and novice alike.

#### BEST THEATER

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Alley Theatre**

615 Texas Ave.

713-228-8421

www.alleytheatre.org

Houston's biggest and oldest professional theater company continues to win over audiences.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Stages Repertory Theatre**

3201 Allen Pkwy.

713-527-8243

www.stagetheatre.com

Theater-goers know Stages for its edgy productions in an intimate atmosphere.

#### LOCAL ARTIST

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**John Palmer**

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Kermit Eisenhut**

#### LOCAL MUSICIAN

**READER'S CHOICE:**

**Marsha Carlton and Jerry Atwood**

This pair is almost unstoppable with great tunes and talent at numerous fund-raisers and community events.

**EDITOR'S CHOICE:**

**Scott Gertner**

With R&B and an enthusiastic crowd, Scott Gertner entertains routinely at his own Sky Bar in Montrose.

Compiled by Steven Ewing Alford

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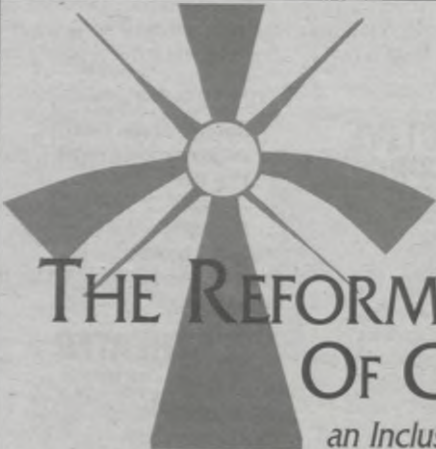
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<b>Friday • Oct. 25</b> Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "The Salton Sea"	<b>Friday • Oct. 18</b> Morning Prayer 10am

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## theater STEVEN EWING ALFORD



Theatre Under the Stars successfully brings famed story to the stage

### 'Jane' a theatrical delight

WHEN I HEARD THAT THERE WAS going to be a stage production of the book "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" by Henry Farrell and the film starring the legendary Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, I was highly skeptical to say the least. Who could deliver the deranged wit and spiteful spirit of Baby Jane like Bette Davis? And who could play the helpless damsel in distress like Joan Crawford?

They had pretty big shoes to fill. Such an ambitious project could not escape the scrutiny of the throngs of fans who loved the film.

As the Theatre Under the Stars play begins, the audience is serenaded by an adorable 11-year-old Baby Jane as she sings and dances with her father in the bright lights of Broadway. As young Baby Jane exits stage, she is replaced by middle-aged Baby Jane, played by the distinguished Millicent Martin. Still wearing the same costume that she had worn 40 years before, Baby Jane has regressed to the childhood stardom of her past.

Weaving from her age-appropriate character to her alter ego, Baby Jane has become two people in one. Jane amusingly croons of returning to the spotlight with a revue in Las Vegas. She places an advertisement in Variety Magazine for an assistant and she proudly performs her sappy child-like act for his approval. Unimpressed, but eager for work, he indulges Jane. But the assistant doesn't stick around long. He expresses too much interest in Jane's sister Blanche and Jane runs him off. Jane is consumed with envy for her once-charismatic sister who received critical acclaim in Hollywood. Perpetually in a drunken haze, Jane has lost the ability to reason and her sister Blanche suffers as a result.

Leslie Denniston co-stars as Blanche Hudson, the once beautiful and talented younger sister of Baby Jane. Once an MGM superstar, Blanche also feels that her time in the spotlight was cut short. Blanche longingly searches for her youth through her films on television and she remembers the days that she was considered Hollywood royalty.

As a result of a tragic accident that happened years before, Blanche is confined to a wheelchair and must rely upon the demented Baby Jane for her every need. Jane withholds food from Blanche for days on end and cruelly presents her with a rat on a silver platter as her dinner. Baby proceeds to fire the maid who was the only confidante that Blanche had.

Blanche is haunted by a promise that she made to their father before his death to care for her lunatic sister. After much consideration, Blanche reluctantly decides to have her sister institutionalized. As Blanche drags her flaccid legs down the grand flight of stairs and telephones the doctor, the unimaginable happens: Jane returns while Blanche



Millicent Martin plays Jane Hudson (right) and Leslie Denniston plays Blanche Hudson in the delightful Theatre Under the Stars production of "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?"

is telling the doctor that Jane has flipped her lid. The light dims as Baby Jane is consumed with rage and hate for Blanche and a chilling scream is echoed through the theater.

Baby Jane's world quickly begins to crumble as she makes one blunder after another. Though the sisters eventually call a truce, it's too little too late. The demise of both sisters is imminent.

ASIDE FROM THE OCCASIONAL LAPSE of her English accent, Martin's portrayal of insane Baby Jane is exquisite, and Denniston gives a stellar performance as Blanche. While the acting is nearly first class, the true triumph of this piece is its state of the art production. The play successfully paints a multi-dimensional portrait of the Hudson sisters through a combination of dazzling lighting techniques created by Richard Winkler, lavish costumes designed by Eduardo Sicango, and perhaps most importantly through an ensemble of three actresses representing each sister at different stages of their lives.

The relationships between all sisters are complex but the relationship between the Hudson sisters is further complicated by the fame that they both long for. The tragedy is that both sisters are obsessed with the very thing that brought them fame in their youth and the very thing that now eludes them.

"What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" is a beautifully creepy melodrama of how ugly delusion and obsession can be. It's the epitome of fame gone terribly wrong. With Baby Jane's boozing, bitchy lyrics written by Hal Hackaday and over-the-top musical numbers, this play is a delight.

#### **i** MORE INFO

"What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?"  
8 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays • 2 & 8 p.m. Sundays  
2 & 7:30 p.m. Sundays • Through Oct. 27  
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## dining J.A. CHAPMAN

Tel-Wink serves up generous portions  
with mostly successful tastes

# Good hot diner food

I WAS ON A QUEST FOR THE PERFECT waffle.

As we walked into the Tel-Wink Restaurant & Grill one Sunday morning, I took a quick look around. Nice long counter with swivel stools. Turquoise colored booths. Quirky memorabilia on the walls. It definitely had a promising waffle vibe.

Taking our place in the 12-deep line, we were exchanging guesses on how long the wait would be when the hostess hollered back to us, "Smoking or non-smoking?"

When we replied non-smoking, she motioned us toward an empty booth and we bypassed everyone in line.

"Well," said one of my friends, "that's different. The non-smoking section is the only thing available."

It was different, but typical of this down-to-earth restaurant in the middle of a blue collar southeast Houston neighborhood. No Sunday brunch or nouveau diner food here. The Tel-Wink serves breakfast, and boy does it serve it right.

Our waitress arrived promptly to take drink orders. And you know what? She actually said "hon," as in "What'll you have, hon?" We momentarily entertained the thought that the wait staff might be trained to say "hon" to add an air of authenticity, but quickly discarded that idea. No manufactured kitsch here — the Tel-Wink is the real deal.

It was a good thing we arrived hungry. We decided to order some pancakes (two for \$2.10) for the table, sort of as a starter. They arrived quickly and disappeared just as fast. Although not quite as piping hot as we might have wanted, they were light and tasty and as large as the plate.

Next up was my waffle (\$2.50). There had been some discussion about how I wanted my waffle cooked. Our waitress recommended crispy, and after canvassing opinions from the table, I went with her suggestion. It arrived straight from the waffle maker, an inch and a half thick, hanging off the edges of the plate, and slathered in butter.

AND THEN THE FUN BEGAN. MY friends' breakfasts hadn't yet arrived, and they looked longingly at my waffle. I made a tactical error of reaching for the syrup. They pounced. Corners then sides of my waffle disappeared. I fought them off with my fork, poured some maple syrup and dug in.

Oh, man, was it good! Crispy and golden on the outside, lusciously light and creamy on the inside, it was crunchy and smooth at the same time. Now this was a waffle! I kept trying to deter my friends ("Hey, this is my breakfast! Order your own waffle!") but to no avail. My waffle was gone, and I'd only had a few bites.

Our waitress returned to inform us that everyone else's breakfast was on the way out. And then she had some good news for me. It turned out that the waffle we'd all just devoured was a medium waffle, not a crispy



one. And they wanted to give me a crispy waffle to make up for it. Oh happy day!

And suddenly the table became a blur of food. A cheese omelet (\$2.55) was nicely done and accompanied by buttery grits and toast. The two eggs scrambled (\$2.25) came with toast and thickly shredded, nicely crisped hash browns, which were clearly made from scratch. The side of meaty bacon (\$1.55) won rave reviews, but the biscuits and gravy (\$1.45) were a disappointment — the biscuits were lost in a sea of bland gravy that was little more than a white sauce. And then there was my crispy waffle.

We dug in, and this time I had the waffle to myself. It was good, but the medium waffle was better. I longed for that tender soufflé-like middle that made the other waffle perfection.

The Tel-Wink also does lunch. I stopped by one weekday to check out their fare, and found the restaurant hopping and the food just as good. I ordered the chicken fried steak special. For \$4.95 I got a platter of salad, two generous sized pieces of chicken fried steak with a huge scoop of mashed potatoes both smothered in tasty peppery gravy (where had this been hiding when we ordered biscuits and gravy?), a side vegetable and toast.

I polished all this off with a slice of lemon meringue pie (\$1.75) — not too sweet or too tart and melt-in-your-mouth smooth — and waddled out the door.

The Tel-Wink Restaurant & Grill is a straightforward kind of place. You get large servings of good, homey food at cheap prices. But the waffles, oooh, my mind wanders. My quest is over — I've found the perfect waffle.



**Tel-Wink Restaurant  
& Grill**

4318 Telephone Road  
713-644-4933

Food: ●●●●●  
Service: ●●●●●  
Value: ●●●●●  
Scene: ●●●●●

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

## homefront ELLA TYLER



The wise consumer is wary of some so-called good deals, and takes advantage of the right ones

# Shop around

A FRIEND BROUGHT ME A CLIPPING about a Sept. 11 commemoration in Jersey City, N.J., which went seriously awry during the release of white "doves." The birds got tangled up in onlookers' hair, fell into the Hudson River and crashed into office windows. Others were found dead.

It was revealed that, instead of renting homing pigeons, which are commonly used for "dove" releases, the organizers bought 80 white pigeons at a poultry shop in Newark. Using "off-brand" birds saved the city several hundred dollars and saved the birds from the soup pot, a member of the organizing committee said defensively. I do not consider this a good deal.

My definition of a "good deal" is that is one that saves you time, money or aggravation. Here are some of the best deals around.

**A library card.** City of Houston cards are free to all residents of Harris County and the five surrounding counties — even people who do not live in Houston city limits. Harris County cards are free to county residents. You can borrow books — including audio, large print, and some foreign language — videos, CDs and, from the downtown library, art. The various branches offer different lectures and classes, too.

**Houston Buyers Club.** The club was started to provide discounted vitamins and supplements for people with AIDS, but the stock has expanded to include nutritional products that help with a variety of chronic conditions and discounts on prescription drugs. You do not need to be low income to use the service, nor do you need a membership. Call 713-529-5288 for more information.

**Montrose Clinic.** In addition to a wide variety of services for both men and women, the facility offers a women's health clinic on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Services include well-women exams, treatment and referrals. Services are reasonably priced and the providers are competent and sensitive. You do not need to be indigent. For appointments, call 713-830-3000.

Also, keep an eye out for events sponsored by Lesbian Health Initiative. They host health fairs from time to time where women can get a variety of services for reasonable fees and lots of information. I stopped smoking almost two years ago with the help of a research study called Project CASSI at M.D. Anderson. The project is still running — call 713-792-2265.

**Early voting.** Early voting in Harris County begins Oct. 19, earlier than some other counties, and continues every day until Nov. 1. There are more than 25 early polling locations around Harris County, and all you need to do is walk in — preferably but not necessarily with your voter registration card — and vote. For details about

times and specific locations, see the county clerk's Web site at [www.cclerkhctx.net](http://www.cclerkhctx.net).

**Fixer-uppers.** Clothes with cigarette burns or tears and shoes with holes can be fixed. Check your yellow pages for a re-weaver or a shoe repair shop, or ask your dry cleaners. These services can mean amazing transformations and are often less expensive than one would expect. Besides, shoes that have finally become comfortable are priceless.

**Travel deals.** I have become very fond of Hotwire.com for hotel reservations. I've stayed with them for five trips and have been pleased with the quality of the hotels and prices. They advertise a four-star hotel at a two-star price, but what my budget allows is two stars at Motel Six prices, and sometimes I've found even cheaper rates. The room is prepaid, so late arrivals are not a problem and the staff has been as nice as if I were paying full price.

**Stay close to home.** The traffic and construction problems that seem to be everywhere have made shopping and eating out in my neighborhood a much better deal than they were before. Driving less makes up for spending a few more cents at the grocery store and more restricted selections of restaurants. I've also put a city map back in the car. Not a key map — a street map so I can figure out alternate routes. I had an outside sales job years ago, and know the city well, but the map is still helpful.

**Don't skip the fine print.** Reading the directions and reading the fine print can be a real money saver. As the insurance crisis gets worse in Texas, more and more unregulated policies will be sold. Read them carefully, and if you do not understand, ask for written clarification. You can't negotiate the terms, but you can find out what is and is not covered, and what you must do to make a claim. Insurance regulation is a state issue, for the most part, so policies can be different from state to state.

**Shop around.** Next weekend's Texas Home & Garden Show gives you the chance to see a huge variety of products and services for your home, all in one place, so it's a good deal. The Reliant Center will have more than 500 booths offering products and services for the house and yard, and plenty of seminars. Sambuca Jazz Café, Flordita Seafood Grill and Berryhill Tamales are among the restaurants doing cooking demonstrations.

General admission is \$8. The show is runs from Friday to Sunday, Oct. 25-27. The Web site is [www.TexasHomeandGarden.com](http://www.TexasHomeandGarden.com), so check it out for more details. I use events like this as an easy opportunity to comparison shop — and that's the best way to get a good deal.

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

Men & women who are currently using cocaine needed to take part in a treatment research study at: The University of Texas - Houston Mental Sciences Institute. Qualified subjects should be in good health with no preexisting medical or psychiatric conditions, and at least 18 years old. You will be compensated for your time & free substance abuse counseling will be provided. Call 713-500-2840.

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## appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

### SPECIAL SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCT. 19 AND 20

"The Women? A Ya-Ya Montrose Sisterhood" will be presented this weekend by the Halloween Magic Players. The annual musical event benefits eight Houston non-profit HIV/AIDS service organizations. Doors open an hour and a half before each performance for a live pre-show art auction. Tickets: \$75 for Saturday, \$25 for Sunday, 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20. Edwin Homberger Conference Center, 2151 West Holcombe. 713-226-2342.

### UPCOMING

"Tell Me A Story" is a cabaret evening with Deborah Bolly and Annalee Jefferies, who present stories in song and verse. Also, the new Gay Men's Chorus of Houston Small Ensemble will debut. 713-521-7464. E-mail: tickets@gmch.org. www.gmch.org.

### UPCOMING

"Bewitched Ball" is a night of music, food and fun to benefit the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. The evening will include live music, a DJ and dancing, a costume contest, silent auction and light fare with a cash bar. Tickets: \$20. 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Galleria. 713-569-2023. E-mail: bewitchedball@hotmail.com.

### FILM

#### THIS WEEKEND

"I'm Going Home" is the latest film from the prolific Manoel de Oliveira, still going strong at age 93. The story centers on a successful theater actor, his family tragedy and how he deals with the grief and attempts to go on with his career. 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, and Saturday, Oct. 19. Tickets: \$6. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Caroline Wiess Law Building, corner of Main Street and Bissonnet/Binz. 713-639-7515. www.mfah.org.

#### THIS WEEKEND

"Look Back In Anger" is based on the famous play by John Osborne and features Richard Burton in one of his finest performances. The actor plays a poverty-stricken young man who takes his aggression out on the world by seducing his best friend's wife. 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, and Sunday, Oct. 20. Tickets: \$6. Rice Cinema, Rice University Campus, Entrance No. 8, University Boulevard and Stockton Drive. 713-348-4853. www.ruf.rice.edu/cinema.

### GALLERIES

#### OCT. 16-31

"PhoneWorks" on these dates features Gloria Vando at DiverseWorks. The celebrated Puerto Rican poet is the author of "Shadows and Supposes and Promises: Geography of the Impossible," and this live recording is brought courtesy of Arte Publico Press. Free. 713-335-3443. DiverseWorks Inc., 1117 East Freeway. www.diverseworks.org.

### ONGOING

Gulf Coast Archives & Museum of GLBT History Satellite Exhibition. The first exhibition from the GCAM collection presented at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center honors the NAMES Project Houston Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. Positive Art Workshop Photography Exhibition. Artists living with HIV/AIDS created these pictures with accompanying text. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

### MUSIC

#### UPCOMING

"An Evening of Ellington" will be presented next weekend by the Texas Tap Ensemble. The performances reveal the evolution of two of America's greatest art forms: tap dancing and jazz music, all showcasing the talents of Duke Ellington. Tunes featured will include "Satin Doll" and "Mood Indigo." 8 p.m. Oct. 25-27. Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. 713-686-9184.

## community calendar

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Houston Outdoor Group. Monthly social at the home of Jon and John in Oak Forest. 7 p.m. 713-290-0220.

#### EVERY SATURDAY

All-Spanish Worship Service/Noche Espiritual. 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church. 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-3409 or 713-861-9149.  
After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 1-4 a.m.  
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.  
Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. at Viviana's. 713-830-3000.  
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.  
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.  
Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.  
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in, noon-5 p.m. • Filmmaker Kyle Fu hosts "Meet the Go-Go Boys" as a fund-raiser for the center, 7 p.m. The event features screenings of his 15-minute documentary, "Confessions of a Go Go Boy" starring Eduardo Costa. \$5 donation at the door. Light refreshments will be served. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Houston Big Men's Club. Group for big men and their admirers plans a social at 4 p.m. Bufftexpress, 8622 Stella Link at South Braeswood. www.houstonbigmensclub.com. 281-534-8747.  
Montrose Area Democrats PAC. Fund-raiser featuring cabaret singer Deborah Bolly, award-winning poet Mark Doty and candidate Diane Feiler, plus other elected officials. 1415 Grill, 1415 California. Reservations recommended: www.mad-times.org/pac. E-mail: impresario@wt.net. 713-942-0494.

#### EVERY SUNDAY

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
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 fc-houston.org.  
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch at 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.  
Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 9 p.m.-midnight at Club Inergy. 713-830-3000.  
Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930.  
GLOBAL. Gay Lesbian Or Bisexual Alliance. University of Houston GLBT student group meeting, 2 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.uh.edu/~global. E-mail: global@bayou.uh.edu.  
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m.-noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com  
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. 10 a.m. service. 3333 Fannin, Suite 106. 713-528-6756.  
Resurrection MCC. Services, 9 and 11 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School, 10 a.m. Children's service, 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 7:45 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 8:55 a.m.; Education hour, 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist, 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.  
Sunday Brunch. For HIV-positive men. 11 a.m. Riva's, 1117 Missouri St. Paul, 713-880-0690. e-mail: PoznBuff@aol.com.  
The Women's Group. Meeting and discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.  
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Adult discussion, 9 a.m. Service, 11:15 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service, 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.  
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • GLBT Community Church with Rev. Melissa Wood: Bible study, 10-10:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.geocities.com/glbtc • LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifty), 2 p.m. • STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys), 7 p.m. • Dinner at the center potluck, with donations requested for the center, 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

#### EVERY MONDAY

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. 8 p.m.-midnight. Keys West. 713-830-3000.  
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom, 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydads/houston/  
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, ext. 208.  
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.  
Queer Voices Radio Show. 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1  
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang, 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
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. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.  
Gay youth. New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.  
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support group. 7 p.m. Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.  
Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. No partner needed. Beginner 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.  
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Center for AIDS. Women's mixer. 7 p.m. 1407 Hawthorne. 713-527-8210.  
EVERY WEDNESDAY  
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Support Network Pot Luck Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Various support groups. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.  
Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.  
Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Mary's; 9 p.m.-midnight at Ripcord; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJ's; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.  
Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.  
Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal, 7-9 p.m. 1307 Yale. 713-528-4379.  
Houston Tennis Club. 7:00-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com  
Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.  
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in, 2-9 p.m. • Houston Black Lesbian, Gay, Transgender Coalition office hours 10 a.m.-noon • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • The center hosts "Bette vs. Joan," a screening of the classic movie "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?," plus a Halloween costume contest and prizes awarded for the best Davis and Crawford impersonators. \$5 donation requested. Snacks will be served. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

#### EVERY THURSDAY

BiNet Houston. Group for bisexuals; everyone welcome. 7:30 p.m. Hobbit Café, 2240 Portsmouth. www.flash.net/~bihouse. 713-467-4380.  
Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.  
Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. Also 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Gallery Medical Clinic, 5900 North Freeway, and Club Toyz from 9 p.m.-midnight. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.  
Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at The Outpost; 8 p.m.-midnight at Brazos River Bottom and Cousins; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop in 2-9 p.m. • Houston Black Lesbian, Gay, Transgender Coalition office hours 10 a.m.-noon • Montrose Writers Project, a group for both novice and experienced writers, meets, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

Houston Outdoor Group. Halloween/Costume Party, 8p. Please RSVP. 713-868-7991.

#### EVERY FRIDAY

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Meatrack; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJ's and at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.  
Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.  
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 7-10 p.m. 713-942-7002.  
Houston Tennis Club. 7:00-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub.org  
Kolbe Project. Morning prayer, 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.  
Mishpach Alizim. GLBT Jewish congregation. Sabbath services at 8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Baby Barnabys, 602 Fairview. Monthly study groups with Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood. Mishpach Alizim, P.O. Box 980136, Houston, TX 77098. 866-841-9139, ext. 1834.  
Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com  
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

### VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

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

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

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-ONV.

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

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



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
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WRITER LOOKING FOR STORIES of local heroes/people who have made a difference to another individual, their city or their community. Contact Paul Dunn; 3030 McKinney Ave.; Dallas, TX, 75204 or contact me via e-mail: PD200@aol.com

PRIME CHOICE BENEFIT IN MEMORY OF MR. PRIME CHOICE 2001-2002 CREATH ROBINSON Nov. 10, 2002, 8pm at the RIPCORD benefiting GULF COAST ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM & COLT 45's For more info, call Robert Harwood M-F 3-9 p.m. / 713-571-7870

## NIGHT IN BLACK LEATHER 2003

Saturday, March 22, 2003, 7 p.m. at Rich's. Benefiting Houston Buyers Club. For more info, contact Don Gill at 713-521-0911. Silent auction item donations welcomed.

### RFA

"Recovery From Food Addiction"

A Twelve Step Program Open to ALL Thursdays, 12-noon to 1:00-pm St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 1805 W. Alabama (Woodhead @ W. Alabama) RFA - 713-673-2848 www.geocities.com/rfa77235/ E-mail: rfaworldservice@aol.com

## FOOD EMERGENCY HOU. HUMANE SOCIETY

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## EMPLOYMENT

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston is seeking applications for the newly created job of Executive Director. Position is initially part time. The ideal candidate has nonprofit management & fundraising experience. Salary negotiable based on experience. An application & full job description may be found at www.gmch.org. Deadline: 10/31/02. Contact 713-667-5969. E.O.E.

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# Q. Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18				19				
			20		21				22				
23	24	25		26				27					
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37						38				39			
40				41	42			43	44				
			45					46					
	47	48					49			50			
51						52	53			54			
55						56				57	58	59	60
61						62				63			
64						65				66			

## "Go Go Figure"

### Across

- Favorite fruit dessert of Quentin?
- It may bite your shorts
- Guy under Hoover
- Greeting for Dolly
- k.d. lang record label
- "Hair" "s" " " to Be Hard"
- Like Everett, as a movie husband
- Glenn Burke, formerly
- Drives from the closet
- 1963 Paul Lynde movie-musical
- Sonny & Cher's " " Blue"
- Org. that makes hardtops
- It can cut leaves of grass
- Private part in a war movie
- Sometime cross-dressing comic Milton
- Broadway play for which Patsy Kelly won a Tony
- Some sports cars
- Put out
- NCAA jock org.
- "Nuts!"
- Always, to Emily Dickinson
- Outrageous gay porn director
- What comes out in spring
- Nureyev, for one
- Hammarskjold was once its secretary
- Ogunquit restaurant neckwear

### Down

- X at a frat
- Color of a Columbus circuit party
- Island in gay Paree
- Michelangelo's David, once
- Pink triangle, for one
- "Hardball" network
- Ready to rub you the night way
- The Indigo Girls' "Cedar " "
- Part of D.H. Lawrence
- Vanity Fair's " " Wayne
- Partner of Colin Higgins' Harold
- No longer lying with one's partner
- Where a co. can bet its bottom dollar
- Sculptor Stebbins
- Laying out
- Lennax of the Eurythmics
- Melba of "Puritie"
- Boyd's "Gay Priest: An " " Journey"
- Provincetown's Cape
- Kellie Martin in "Life Goes On
- Cut glass
- Drag queen's leg need
- Almond, in Acapulco?
- Oliver wanted more of it
- Mortimer, with a wooden head
- Butler on television
- YMCA, for example
- Gave a Lammy to, e.g.
- One's own, for a starter
- Hole digger, e.g.
- Young man's part in Shakespeare's day
- Rent sign
- Near of "Singing for Our Lives"
- Section for Bernstein
- They're in the band on the screen
- Response to "Helms decided to run again"
- "You're putting " "!"
- Crystal meth deliverer
- Toothy fish
- E.M. Forsters' heat measure
- Long, to a Samurai?

Answers on Page 25

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Answers to Q puzzle on page 24

N	R	R	S	D	E	S
U	E	A	N	O	L	Y
B	G	R	A	H	A	O
	M	O	R	O	B	O
D	O	B	U	N	T	H
R	C	D	A	R	F	L
E	U	A	R	C	H	I
N	D	A	C	A	C	I
S	M	G	T	E	N	A
	E	R	L	B	M	C
	R	E	D	G	C	M
E	I	R	D	I	E	B
S	O	T	R	L	N	L
Y	A	S	E	R	S	L
A	M	A	N	T	H	S

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

October 18 - 24

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

Take it easy on loved ones who may be going through their own dark nights of the soul. Not everyone has the same emotional makeup as you do, dearie. A Virgo needs your compassion, not your judgment.

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

The Sun moves into your house of love on Oct. 23 and makes you more receptive to overtures from sexy suitors. Put work aside and concentrate on matters of the heart. You've been spending too much time alone with your bankbook. Let a Libra show you what you've been missing.

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

This is a great time for you to undo years of low self-esteem by developing one of your artistic talents and sharing it with the world. Better to be happy than to be cool, darling. Put yourself out there and risk getting a response from the world. A Sag will applaud you.

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

This is a sexy time of year for you, sweetie. The Sun moves into your vivid and theatrical fifth house on Oct. 23, which means that your light will shine bright. An Aquarius wants to stand next to your fire, baby.

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

This is the right time for you to revamp your home and make it into the sanctuary it should be. Why are you living like a transient? Your roots are important, darling. Honor them — on the outer as well as inner levels. Another Leo wants to hang out and get inside you. Divine!

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

Your ruler Mercury will be conjunct Venus in your social third house in late October. So please, darling, go out and mingle with the best of them. You're spending too much time in front of your laptop, when you should be spending those hours atop the lap of a Capricorn.

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

The Sun-moon opposition on Oct. 21 could bring a romantic situation to a head. Stop torturing your loved one. Why not just explain what you want and see if you get it? A Scorpio is all ears (and hands) where you're concerned.

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

This is an intense time to be you, Scorpio. The Sun goes into your sign on Oct. 23 and brings you the kind of recognition you deserve. At the same time, you'll have to make a difficult break from a negative person who is keeping you down. Another Scorpio can challenge you to transform yourself in the best way possible.

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

It's easy for you to change your mind, then change your mind back again. But during this soulful cycle you really need to ask yourself, "Why can't I commit?" You can if you want to. A Gemini is waiting for your green light.

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

The moon will be in your house of love over the weekend of Oct. 26, which makes you all the more attractive to the two hotties who are already vying for your attention. A Virgo understands you best. Don't get greedy, darling.

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

Your scientific mind helps you to figure out a human mystery this week. A Sag is the perfect control group for your experiment. Put on your lab coat (and nothing else) and begin your explorations.

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

Keep your sense of humor, Pisces. You may feel as if the world is one big joke right now — and it is. You'll have time later to commit grand acts of faith. For now, laugh at your own antics and lighten up around a Libra.

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

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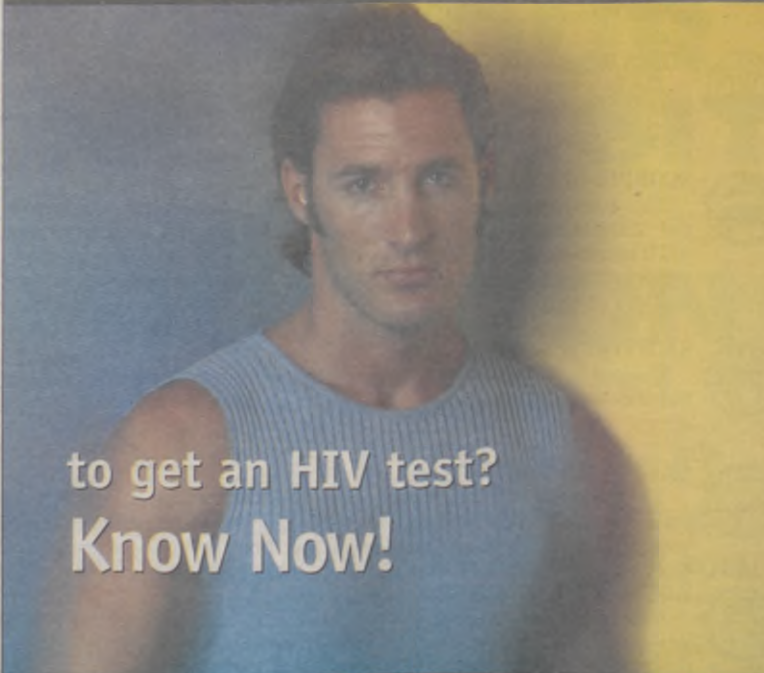
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