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JANUARY 21, 2005

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## Bush hints at retreat on amendment fight

Gay marriage opponents buoyed by ruling upholding DOMA

By JOE CREA

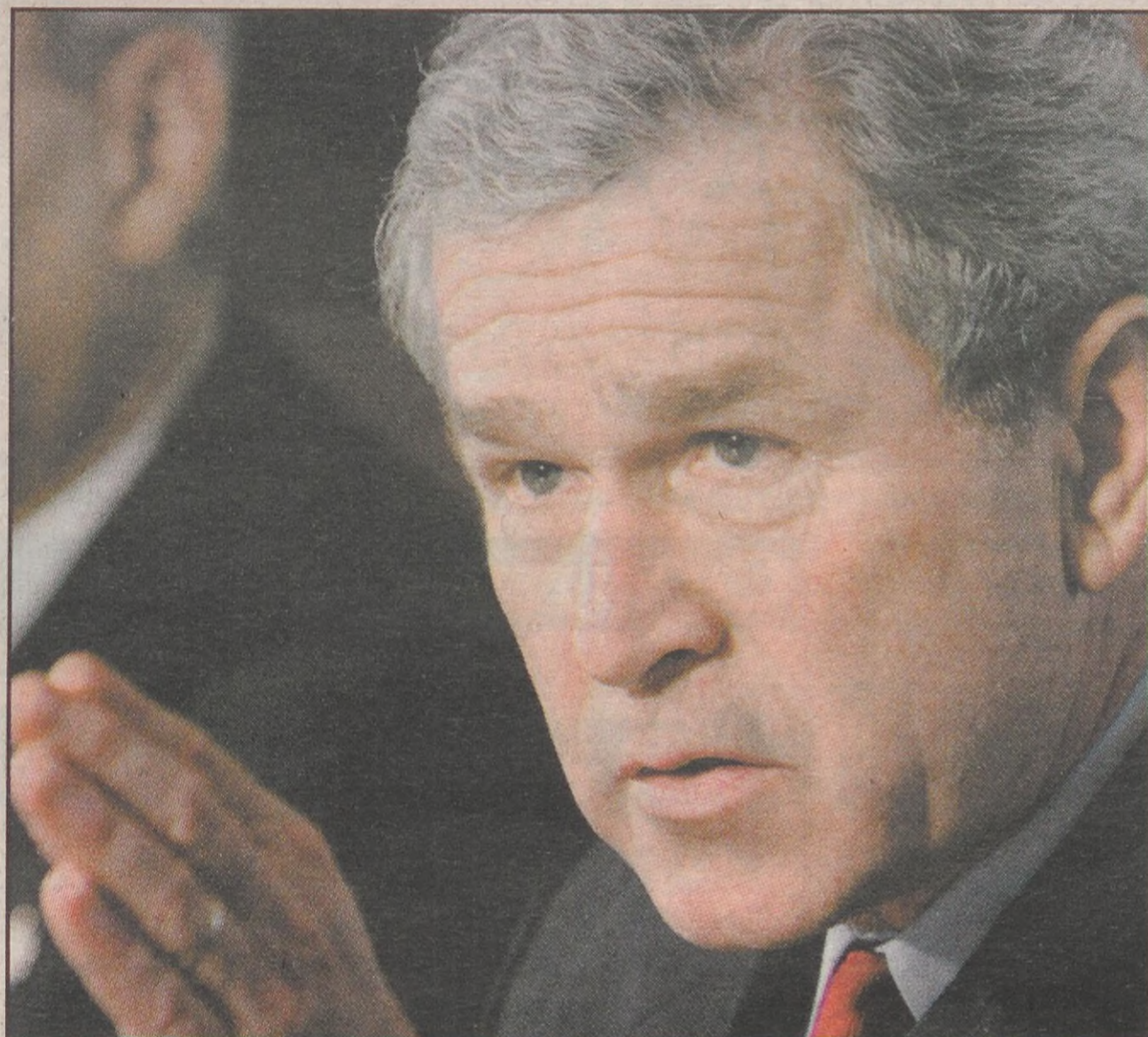
President Bush angered some conservative supporters this week by hinting that he would not push for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage because of Senate opposition to the measure. In a related development, a judge in Florida issued what is believed to be the first ruling upholding the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

In an interview with the Washington Post, Bush said that while an amendment is "necessary," it is unlikely to move forward as long as the federal DOMA is deemed constitutional.

Bush avoided the question of whether he would be willing to spend any political capital to advocate for a marriage amendment, adding that "nothing will happen" because "senators have made it clear" that DOMA is "constitutional."

"I'd take their admonition seriously," Bush said of senators opposed to an amendment.

Within hours of the Washington



President Bush indicated in a Washington Post interview that he may not push for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage because the Senate is unlikely to pass it until there is a successful legal challenge to DOMA, which a federal judge upheld in a ruling Wednesday. (Photo by AP)

Post story hitting the newsstands on Jan. 16, the White House dispatched key Bush adviser Dan Bartlett to the Sunday morning talk shows to clarify the president's remarks.

"He was just pointing to the legislative realities. That doesn't mean he is not willing to spend political capital," said Bartlett on

Fox News Sunday. "He is, he will, and he will continue to talk about why he thinks it is important that we have an amendment. He was saying that the DOMA situation, the Defense of Marriage Act, might be the changing force in the United States Senate but that's

Please see BUSH on Page 6



The election of gay-friendly Democrat Hubert Vo (center) to the Texas House of Representatives has been challenged, and observers say the outcome of that challenge could be an indication of how partisan the new legislative session is likely to be. (Photo by Jon Axford)

## Gay activists are mobilizing to fight

The battle lines are drawn in Austin, where gay marriage amendments would limit even civil unions

By ELLA TYLER

Texas State Legislators took a two-week recess after being called to order on Jan. 11, but Randall Ellis, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL), couldn't afford any days off.

"Even though many members are gone, their staffs are not, so it's a great time to get to know them," he said. "We are always waiting on and looking out for sneak attacks, so the more friends we have among the staff, the better. At least some-

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**local life**  
Raul Guzman opens the state's first spa that caters to men only.  
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**dish**  
Could Madonna have fallen in with a religious cult or something, Dish wonders.  
PAGE 21





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## houston news

# Local church votes to be welcoming and affirming

Church members wanted to make a statement to those who have been shunned by other churches

By BINNIE FISHER

A quote by Gracie Allen on a banner outside Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, UCC sums up the philosophy of church members who recently voted to designate the church a "welcoming and affirming congregation."

The quote is, "Never place a period where God has placed a comma." Bethel pastor Rev. Walter McFadden said the quote mirrors the thinking of the United Church of Christ, a denomination with which the church is affiliated.

"God is still speaking," he said.

McFadden, who was appointed pastor of the church at 1107 Shepherd Dr. in 2003, said his predecessor had already begun talking with members about making an affirming statement.

"They weren't ready at that point," he said. "They'd had very little known exposure to GLBT people."

During interviews prior to his appointment, McFadden said, he stressed that he supported the church issuing an affirming statement if the congregation voted to do so.

Early last year, at the annual meeting of



The Rev. Walter McFadden stands outside Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, UCC, a church that overwhelmingly voted to become an open and affirming congregation. (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

the congregation, McFadden said, it was decided that after a year of study on the subject, members would bring the matter to a vote this January.

Over the last year, he said, speakers were invited to the church, and panelists discussed the various aspects of homosexuality. "We had experts who covered a variety of topics," McFadden said.

Some were from the United Church of Christ as well as the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church and Metropolitan Community Church.

"We also had licensed professional counselors," he said. "We had a panel discussion that included the child of a lesbian, a transgendered person, the parents of a gay man and a bisexual person. All these people gave their perspective."

McFadden said most everyone agreed

that the experience had been a valuable one.

"It was a wonderful process," he said. "We learned so much along the way."

When the year of study was completed and the time came to vote on the issue, McFadden said he was overwhelmed by the results. The congregation had approved the measure by a little more than 80 percent.

"I was so happy, it was all I could do to control my own emotions," he said. "That's a clear mandate."

He admits, making such a statement in a time with anti-gay rhetoric seems to float about the airwaves freely is something like a small voice in a wilderness dominated by politicians eager to pass constitutional amendments banning gay marriage and by religious conservatives eager to help them.

He said something said by a church member in one of the study sessions put it

this way, "He said that all too often the church is following what is going on in the rest of the world. He said we're like the tail lights on a car."

He said with the recent vote, Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church is "a headlight congregation."

Even though the church only recently made the affirming statement, McFadden said, gays and lesbians have been finding their way to its doors. Recently, he said, four gay members joined the congregation.

He hopes word will get out that gays and lesbians are welcome, and others will visit.

"I hope they find what others have found," he said.

McFadden said the statement made by the congregation goes beyond the fact that gays are now welcome.

"The whole point is to explore how we can best live out the Gospel's values in our day-to-day lives," he said. "Our congregation was searching for how to respond in the 21st Century to those who are disenfranchised."

The vote of a congregation that two years ago was not ready is, McFadden said, "evidence that God is still speaking. We're here for all people."

## MORE INFO

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, UCC  
1107 Shepherd Dr.  
713-861-66770  
www.bethelhouston.org

United Church of Christ  
www.stillspeaking.com

# Funding cut impacts HIV testing at Montrose

Only those clients who fall into high-risk categories will be eligible for free tests

By BINNIE FISHER

The news that funding cuts at the city would impact free HIV testing at the Montrose Clinic came as a painful blow to staff members at the facility who have already weathered previous cuts.

The clinic issued a statement indicating that as of Jan. 1, 2005, free testing would no longer be offered to all clients.

Eric Roland, director of education for the clinic, said the cut translates to \$138,000 out of \$345,000 that was expected from the City of Houston's Health and Human Services Department.

He said word from the city is that funds are being reallocated.

"What it means to us is that we will have to become selective about who gets free tests," Roland said.

In addition to monetary cuts, Roland said the city has "restricted us to certain populations that are at highest risk."

At a facility that has a client base of high-risk patients, Roland said, staff at the clinic will have to pick and choose.

"We'll now have to screen people to find out what category they fit into," he said.

That means asking new clients to fill out a questionnaire that contains new screening questions.

"They'll fill out the questionnaire as they normally do, and we'll see if they qualify for free testing," he said.

If they don't qualify, Roland said, clients will be offered two options. They can get a basic HIV test for \$30 with results back in five working days. For \$60, they can get the OraQuick test with results in 20 minutes.

Roland said although \$30 doesn't sound like a fortune, it may be to someone who has traveled across the city on a bus and who may not fall into a high-risk category.

"Most people have not minded paying the increased amount, but this is very dif-



Because of cuts at the city, Montrose Clinic Director of Education Eric Roland said the clinic will not be able to offer free HIV testing to everyone who walks in the door.

ficult for us," he said.

Roland said the clinic's client base tends to be about 50 percent gay men and 50 percent non-gay even though, "We have the reputation of being the big gay clinic. We serve a great array of people."

He said there is a reason non-gay clients come to the Montrose Clinic.

"A lot of people have come to depend on the Montrose Clinic for non-judgmental

and confidential testing," he said. "Now some of those people are walking in the door, and we're telling them they have to pay for testing."

## Off-site testing still free

A testing site since 1985, the Montrose Clinic takes its tests on the road and offers HIV testing in bars, gay bookstores and bath-houses. Roland said those outside testing locations will continue to offer free HIV tests.

He said gay men are among the at-risk populations covered by the new guidelines.

"The Centers for Disease Control recommends gay and bisexual men get tested at least once a year," Roland said. "They should get tested more frequently if they are having multiple partners or having unprotected sex."

In addition, he said, anyone with a sexually transmitted disease such as syphilis should be tested for HIV.

"If someone thinks they may be at high risk, then they need to be tested," he said. "We don't want anyone to put off testing. Don't delay testing. It's just not worth it."

With early detection and treatment, he said, HIV is a manageable disease.

For those who don't fall into the free testing categories, Roland said, "Montrose Clinic is working toward finding a solution."

## MORE INFO

Montrose Clinic  
713-830-3000  
www.montroseclinic.org

## local news

# Gays and lesbians are prone to depression for a reason

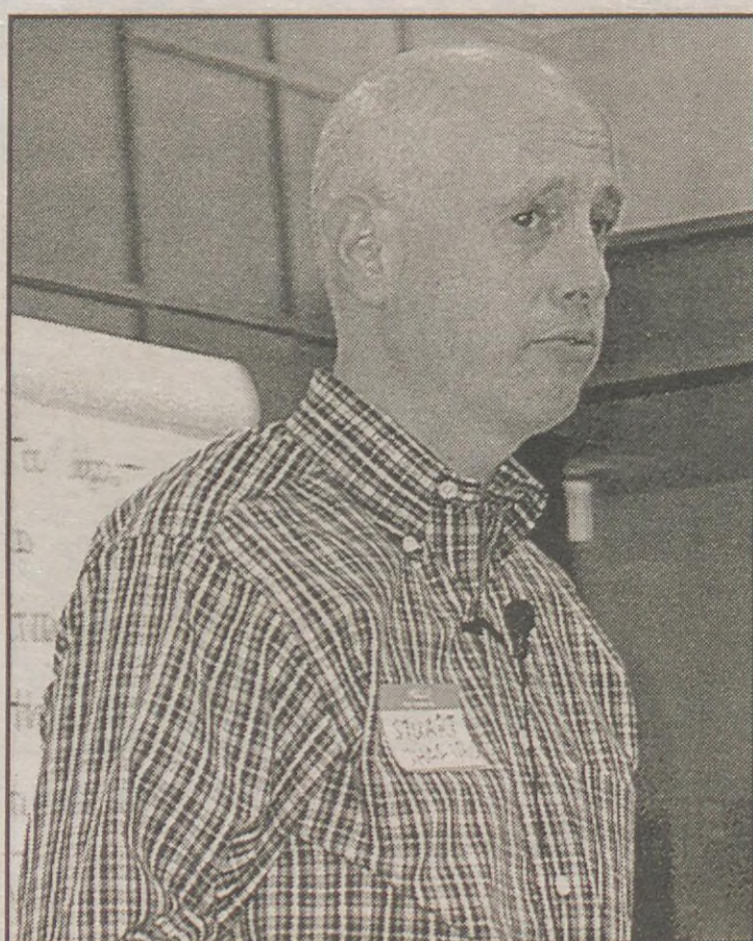
Physician said gays become depressed from a feeling of rejection by family and church

By JIM NULL

Few would argue that depression exists among gays, lesbians and transgendered persons at a far higher incidence than in the public at large.

The reasons are obvious: a feeling of disappointment to family and often rejection by family and church (and sometimes even self), ridicule, harassment, self-hate, discrimination, etc. Related to the higher incidence of depression is a higher rate of suicide, particularly among teens.

At a recent monthly meeting of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Houston, Dr. Stuart Shapiro, a local family practitioner, discussed the basics of depression to about 60 attendees.



Dr. Stuart Shapiro talked about depression at a recent meeting of PFLAG. (Photo by Jim Null)

He said it is first important to note that depression is not a temporary bad mood, feeling sad, insanity, psychosis, schizophrenia, being "crazy," or what is called "dysthymia" among medical professionals. Lay people would be more likely to call it a chronic bad mood.

Shapiro said depression is a specific syndrome, or collection of related symptoms; it is common, appearing in about 20 percent of the adult population; it is more frequent in females (15-25 percent) than in males (5-12

percent); it occurs more often in older and single people; it is often the result of a chemical imbalance in the brain, which is why it often responds well to medical treatment.

Depression, Shapiro said, may result in "anger turned inward," explaining why those who are depressed often have a feeling of worthlessness and self-loathing.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) definition is more precise. It asserts that depression is indicated when it lasts more than two weeks and results in a daily depressed mood or in a loss of pleasure.

Additionally, Shapiro said, depressed persons would meet four of seven criteria, including, weight change, sleep disturbance, fatigue, physical agitation or retardation, a feeling of worthlessness or guilt, an inability to concentrate, and the harboring of suicidal thoughts.

### Brought on by 'life events'

Shapiro said that depression is often brought on by "life events," such as divorce, the breaking up of a relationship, financial upheaval, loss of a loved one, stress, etc. Other major precipitating factors are medical conditions and hormonal changes.

The symptoms of depression are summed up for medical students in the phrase, "SIG E CAPS," meaning, sleep problems, loss interest, guilt, loss of energy, inability to concentrate, appetite change, psychomotor change and suicidal thinking.

He said friends and relatives should

take quick action.

"They must convince the individual to get professional help, either medical treatment or psychotherapy or both," he said.

In some cases, Shapiro said, hospitalization may be needed.

He said he tells families and friends that, "They should encourage the person to exercise regularly or engage in some physical activity. They should help to get the individual personally involved in some program of interest."

If a physician prescribes drugs, Shapiro said families, "must assure that medications are taken regularly."

Too often, he said, people with depression will throw out medications.

Families and friends have to be diligent he said, because "The number (of pills) left in the bottle is not a good indicator of how many have been taken."

More often than not, he said, it is up to those who are closest to make certain that medical and counseling appointments are being kept. It could mean driving the depressed person to appointments, he said.

Shapiro cautioned that a person who is depressed should not overindulge in alcohol, use drugs that are not prescribed by their physician or make important decisions without getting input from family and friends.

"A depressed person simply does not think logically, and poor decisions are common," he said.

### **i** MORE INFO

Resources for coping with depression  
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## local cover story

# LGRL is gearing up for legislative battles

LGRL continued from Page 1

one might warn us."

LGRL just completed a "Power Summit" in Austin with representatives of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force last weekend to train activists in the fundraising and field work that will be needed to defeat upcoming attempts to ban gay marriage in the state constitution.

"About 100 people attended the three-day workshop, including nearly 50 from Texas," Ellis said. "Several people from Houston, including Equality Knocks organizer Tammi Wallace, were here."

Ellis said it is too early to predict the fate of the bills that would amend the Texas Constitution to prohibit gay marriage. "The bills have not been assigned to a committee, and, even if they had been, committee assignments have not been made yet," he explained.

Two bills are on the landscape. House Joint Resolution 6, introduced by Republican Rep. Warren Chisum, states, "Marriage in this state shall consist only of the union of one man and one woman."

Ellis added, "HJR 19, by Robert Talton of Pasadena, defines marriage the same way, but adds, 'Legal status for unmarried persons which is identical or substantially similar to marital status shall not be valid or recognized.' My initial feeling is that the Chisum bill will go forward, but with amendments."

Once a bill to amend the Texas Constitution passes the legislature by a two-thirds vote, it goes to the voters for approval.

When asked if House Speaker Tom Craddick has given any indication about what he will do about the bills, Ellis replied, "We do know that the speaker has said that there are enough votes to pass a bill. However, we do not think that these bills have the same priority as the Defense of Marriage Act did."

Ellis said observers are closely watching the controversy that surrounds the election of Hubert Vo to the State House of Representatives over 11-term incumbent, Republican Talmadge Heflin.

Vo won by 33 votes, and Heflin has launched a challenge. Vo was seated, but the Heflin challenge is scheduled to be heard Jan. 27 by the nine-member Select Committee on Election Contest, which includes five Republicans and four Democrats.

Although he said he is optimistic about the new session, Ellis added, "A lot of how the session goes depends on how partisan



Randall Ellis, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, said he is optimistic even though two bills to ban gay marriage have been introduced in the Texas Legislature. (Photo by Jim Null)

it is going to be. Right now everyone is calling for bi-partisanship, but the election trial makes it difficult. The first real test of bi-partisanship is the vote on the challenge to Hubert Vo's election. He's been a friend to the community."

A large crowd attended a recent Houston rally in support of Vo, and among those in attendance were several Texas legislators and outgoing U.S. Rep. Chris Bell.

If Vo does not survive the challenge, Ellis said, gays and lesbians will have lost a friend in the Texas House.

In spite of the proposed constitutional amendments, Ellis said, there are efforts to make progress for gay issues this session.

"We had a press conference last week to announce the filing of House Bill 376, the Dignity for All Students Act. The bill says public schools and their employees may not discriminate against a student on account of the ethnicity, color, gender, gender identity, sexual preference, disability, religion, or national origin of the student or the student's parent."

The Houston Independent School district has a similar policy, Ellis said, and noted that the sponsors are Representatives Garnet Coleman and Jessica Farrar, both from Houston, and Rafael Anchia, from the Valley.

The companion bill, Senate Bill 201, is sponsored by Senator Mario Gallegos, Jr., also from Houston. Ellis reported that two other Houston area senators are gay-friendly, as well. "Senator Gallegos and Rodney Ellis (not a relative) and John Whitmire are all good friends to the community," he said.

A bill to protect gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender workers will be filed soon, Ellis said.

If events conducted around the opening of a legislative session are an indicator, Ellis said, "We had a nice reception the opening night of the session. Some members came by and we had a good crowd of supporters."

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Texas House of Representatives  
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## national cover story

# Plaintiffs in marriage case vow appeal to Supreme Court

BUSH, continued from Page 1

not going to change his views or change his desire to help persuade people to make that decision today.”

Last July, the Senate voted 50-48 against bringing the Federal Marriage Amendment up for a direct vote. And the FMA was defeated last September in the U.S. House of Representatives after proponents failed to garner a two-thirds majority in favor of the amendment.

Some have suggested that Bush's refusal to say whether or not he will strongly push for an amendment contradicts a campaign promise to social conservatives that he would be a leader in the effort to ban same-sex marriage.

Tony Perkins, president of the conservative Family Research Council, said in a statement that the “moral values” voters who backed Bush on Nov. 2 are demanding presidential leadership on the issue.

“Freshly equipped with the demands of the American people, the president should lead the United States Senate in moving ahead to check the pending judicial assault on marriage,” Perkins said.

“While Social Security and tort reform are important initiatives, there was far less outcry for reform of these laws from the American public. No doubt there are many in the Senate, even within the president's own party who oppose such policy initiatives; however, there is no evidence such indifference or opposition is deterring the president from including them in his second term agenda. He should have at least the same resolve if not more to protect the institution of marriage.”

## Conflicting messages?

Gay Republican activist Carl Schmid said the president's words, not Bartlett's, matter the most and that it is important for those opposed to a constitutional amendment to “seize on this opportunity.”

“I know the right wing will be going very public with this and it's really important that people who are opposed to the amendment seize on this moment,” Schmid said. “I know there's some confusion on the messages coming out of the White House, but the only thing that really counts is what the president says. If it comes up again for a vote, we can now use the president's words to help defeat it again.”

But Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, said the statements from Bush and Bartlett, “sadly, might be another example of Bush saying one thing and doing another.”

“What strikes me as most troubling is that the president doesn't backtrack on anything in his agenda but this,” Stachelberg said. “He continues to play politics with the lives of gay and lesbian families. We have to continue to remind our community and others that when it comes to GLBT issues, this is a president who says one thing and does another and backtracks when it comes to our lives.”

Chris Barron, political director for the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay partisan



Conservative activist **Tony Perkins** reacted quickly to President Bush's declaration that it is unlikely Congress will approve a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage anytime soon. (AP photo)

group, said Bush's recognition of the legislative realities surrounding an amendment banning gay marriage offers hope that Bush's second term will focus on more pressing issues, such as reform of Social Security, immigration and the tax system.

## Fla. judge upholds DOMA

In a related development, a federal judge in Florida on Wednesday upheld DOMA, dismissing a lawsuit by two women seeking to have their Massachusetts marriage recognized there, according to the Associated Press.

Attorneys for conservative groups hailed the ruling by U.S. District Judge James S. Moody as an important victory, but the plaintiffs promised to appeal.

“This is a legal shot heard 'round the world,” said attorney Ellis Rubin, who filed the lawsuit on the women's behalf. “But we are not giving up. ... This case is going to be resolved in the U.S. Supreme Court and I have said that since the day I filed it.”

Although several federal cases are challenging the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, attorneys said Wednesday's ruling was the first by a federal judge on a direct challenge to the law.

## MORE INFO

Excerpts from the Washington Post's Jan. 16 interview with President Bush:

**Post:** Do you plan to expend any political capital to aggressively lobby senators for a gay marriage amendment?

**President Bush:** You know, I think that the situation in the last session — well, first of all, I do believe it's necessary; many in the Senate didn't, because they believe DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act] will — is in place, but — they know DOMA is in place, and they're waiting to see whether or not DOMA will withstand a constitutional challenge.

**Post:** Do you plan on trying to — using the White House, using the bully pulpit, and trying to —

**Bush:** The point is, is that senators have made it clear that so long as DOMA is deemed constitutional, nothing will happen. I'd take their admonition seriously.

**Post:** But until that changes, you want it?

**Bush:** Well, until that changes, nothing will happen in the Senate. Do you see what I'm saying?

**Post:** Right.

**Bush:** The logic.

The plaintiffs, Nancy Wilson and Paula Schoenwether, a couple for 27 years who live in Tampa, were married in Massachusetts in July. They wanted their union recognized in Florida, where state law specifically bans same-sex marriages.

The women argued that the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional because it was discriminatory on the basis of sex and violated their fundamental rights.

Moody disagreed, saying the law was not discriminatory because it treats men and women equally and that the government met its burden of stating a legitimate interest for allowing marriages to exist only between men and women.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

## Study: Most pro-gay lawmakers won races

Ninety-four percent of lawmakers who voted against state constitutional amendments or laws to ban same-sex marriage won re-election to state legislatures in the November election, according to a report released this week by the Human Rights Campaign and the Equality Federation, which represents statewide gay rights groups.

The 15-page report shows that out of 620 state legislators who voted against anti-gay marriage related bills in 28 states, 604 won reelection. The report says that a vote against an anti-gay marriage bill became a factor in only 11 of the 36 races where one of these legislators lost. Unrelated issues were attributed to the loss of 25 of the legislators who voted against an anti-gay marriage measure, according to the report.

“This study is a reminder that people who support equality for all families and

couples are also moral values voters,” said Toni Broaddus, executive director of the Equality Federation. “As the debate about how to protect all families continues in the states, legislators would be wise to keep this lesson in mind.”

The report shows that a total of 881 legislators in the 22 states examined cast votes against proposed bills, constitutional amendments or resolutions that called for banning same-sex couples from marrying or receiving some form of legal rights as couples. Out of those 881 lawmakers, 640 were up for re-election in 2004, the report says.

The report shows that more than 90 percent of legislators who voted against the anti-gay measures won in all regions of the country, including the South and in rural as well as urban areas.

The report did not provide the number of lawmakers in those same 22 states who

voted for anti-gay marriage measures and it did not disclose how many in that group won re-election. Seth Kilbourn, HRC's field director, said the HRC and Equality Federation staff members who prepared the report identified the number of lawmakers who voted for the anti-gay measures but did not attempt to determine how many of them won re-election. He said he did not have the figure for the lawmakers who voted for the anti-gay measures in the 22 states at press time but believed the figure to be between 1,200 to 1,500 lawmakers.

Kilbourn said the goal of the two groups was to “debunk” claims by opponents of gay rights that a vote for same-sex marriage would lead to an almost certain loss at the polls at the next scheduled election.

A copy of the report was expected to be placed on the HRC Web site, www.hrc.org.

LOU CHIBBARO JR.

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By Matthew Forke

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Sound bizarre? It's actually very

logical. Today's spa industry is simply responding to the stressful and high-pressure times we live in. As life's daily demands escalate, the measures required to escape it all have also become more extreme.

In her recent article, "The Spafication of America," The New York Times writer Kate Zernike examines this growing trend. "It's not enough to go on a simple vacation anymore," observes Zernike. "Now, people seem to need to elevate their vacation experience into something more meaningful,

where they will come back a changed, detoxed, perhaps even a more spiritual person."

Personally, I would pay handsomely for a treatment that will teleport me back to 1976, when there were no such things as blackberries, email, laptops or cell phones.

But, until that day arrives, we'll just have to make do with the treatments found at destination spas such as Canyon Ranch and Miraval or at many major metropolitan hotel spas including The Four Seasons, The Mandarin Oriental or The Ritz Carlton. Whether you're looking for an extended vacation or a relaxing afternoon, here's a brief guide to some popular and unusual treatments available.

**Newly Popular Treatments**

Many spas offer trendier, more cutting-edge treatments. "Right now, the Oxygen Facial Therapy treatment is one of our most popular," said Rick Raines, Spa Salon Director of George at The Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown. "Everyone in Hollywood is getting them."

**Oxygen Facial Therapy:** This treatment can reduce the effects of aging by nourishing the skin with essential vitamins, minerals, amino acids, enzymes, and of course, the oxygen molecule, all of which are propelled deep into the skin, pore by pore. The oxygen facial firms, moisturizes, protects and heals.

**Air Brush Tanning:** This method of applying a tanning solution to the skin uses an air compressor and a brush to distribute the spray. Air brush tanning is safer than tanning beds and provides a more even tone than booth mist tanning.

**Mud Therapy and Wraps Fango Treatment (Mud Therapy):**

Used in treatments, a highly mineralized mud may be mixed with oil or water and applied over the body as a heat pack to detoxify, stimulate the circulation and relieve muscular and arthritic pain.

Sometimes only an area such as a shoulder is covered. Otherwise the whole body is dipped or covered. "Parafango" is similar, using mud mixed with paraffin. This treatment relaxes the body, alleviates sore muscles, and softens the skin. Fango creates an all-encompassing, gooey warmth and works like a poultice, softening the skin.

Natural ingredients, such as peat moss and sea kelp, often are mixed into the mud to help contain the warmth and increase mineral content.

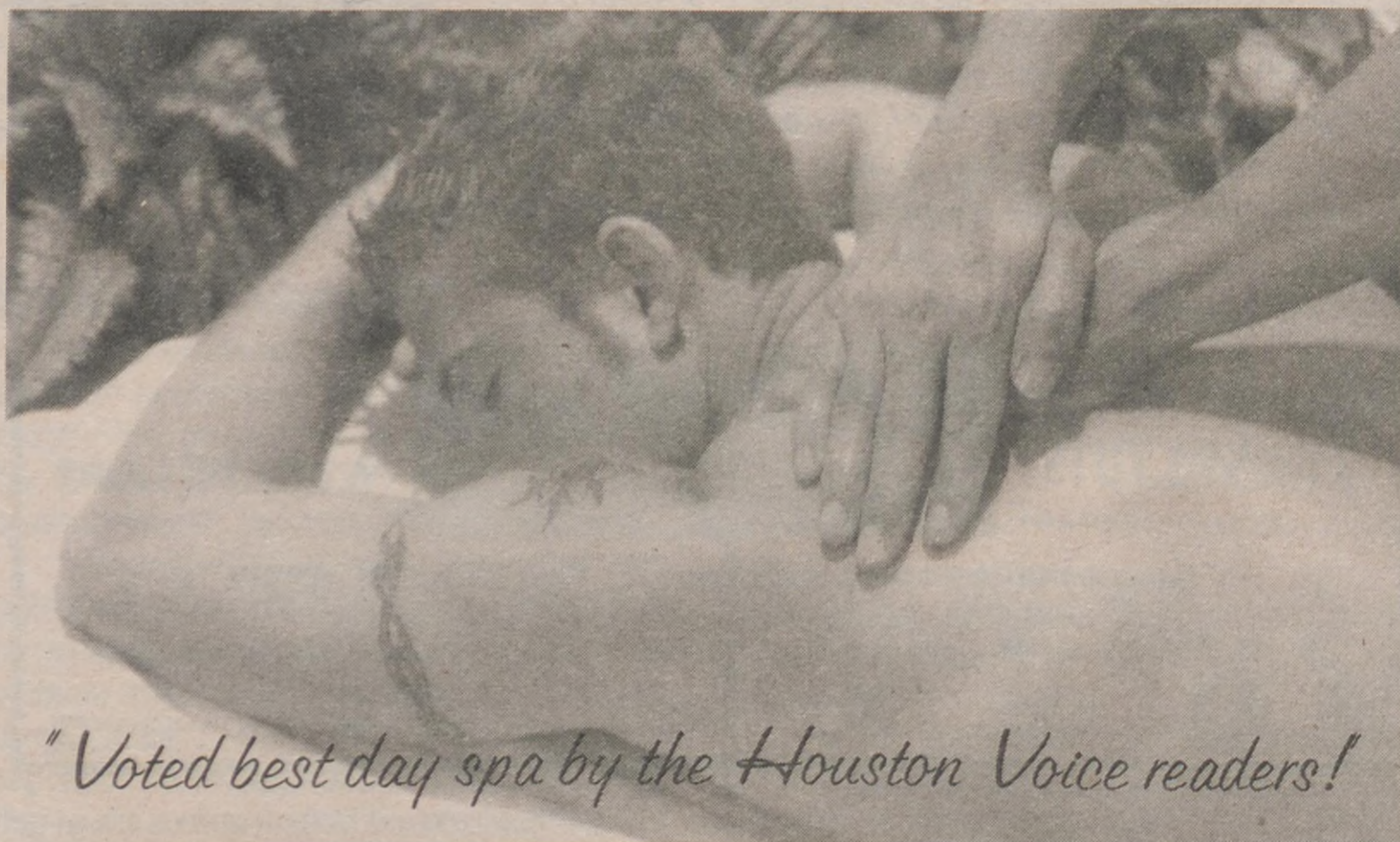
**Aromatherapy:** An ancient healing art dating back to 4500 B. C., Aromatherapy usually refers to treatments such as massage, facials, body wraps or hydro baths with the application of essential oils from plants, leaves, bark, roots, seeds, resins and flowers. These oils are used to treat emotional disorders, organ dysfunction, and skin problems through a variety of internal and external application techniques.

Plants and flowers from which these oils are extracted include rosemary, lavender, roses, chamomile, eucalyptus and pine.

**Seaweed Body Wrap:** Similar to herbal wraps combined with heat packs, using sea water and seaweed with a balance of the ocean's nutrients; minerals, rare trace elements, vitamins and proteins, which are soaked into the blood stream, to revitalize skin and body.

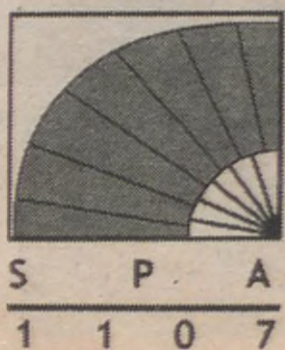
**Herbal Wrap (hot and cold):** The body is wrapped in warm linen or cotton sheets which have been steeped like tea bags in a variety of aromatic herbs, then covered with blankets or towels, preventing the moist heat from escaping. Additionally, a cool compress is applied to the forehead. Herbal wraps help relax the muscles, soothe soreness and soften skin.

For more information on spa treatments, or to find a spa locally or abroad, visit the International Spa Association's website at [www.experienceispa.com](http://www.experienceispa.com).



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# Local Life

HOUSTON VOICE

JANUARY 21, 2005

PAGE 9

## From Monterrey to Metro Spa

Always a trailblazer, Raul Guzman has opened the state's first spa exclusively for men.

By JOHNNY HOOKS

Sitting at 2606 Grant Street across from Baba Yega's restaurant is the recently opened Metro His Spa, the first full-service spa for men only in the state of Texas.

It's the creation of owner Raul Guzman, known to Houstonians for his successful massage business "Massage by Raul."

"You know I have some friends at City Hall, and they are just thrilled that Houston beat out Dallas in opening the state's first full-service spa exclusively for men," says Guzman. "It seems when the world thinks of Dallas, they think of fashion and trend setting, where Houston is a hick town. Well not this time. Metro beat them to the punch. I love it."

Guzman set about creating a place for men to pamper themselves, as he describes it, "A place for all men, not just straight men and not a 'gay spa.' a place where men could come and get their eyebrows done, painlessly I might add, a place where they could get a pedicure and not be sitting in a strip mall window, surrounded by women."

Guzman says the spa has an all male staff.

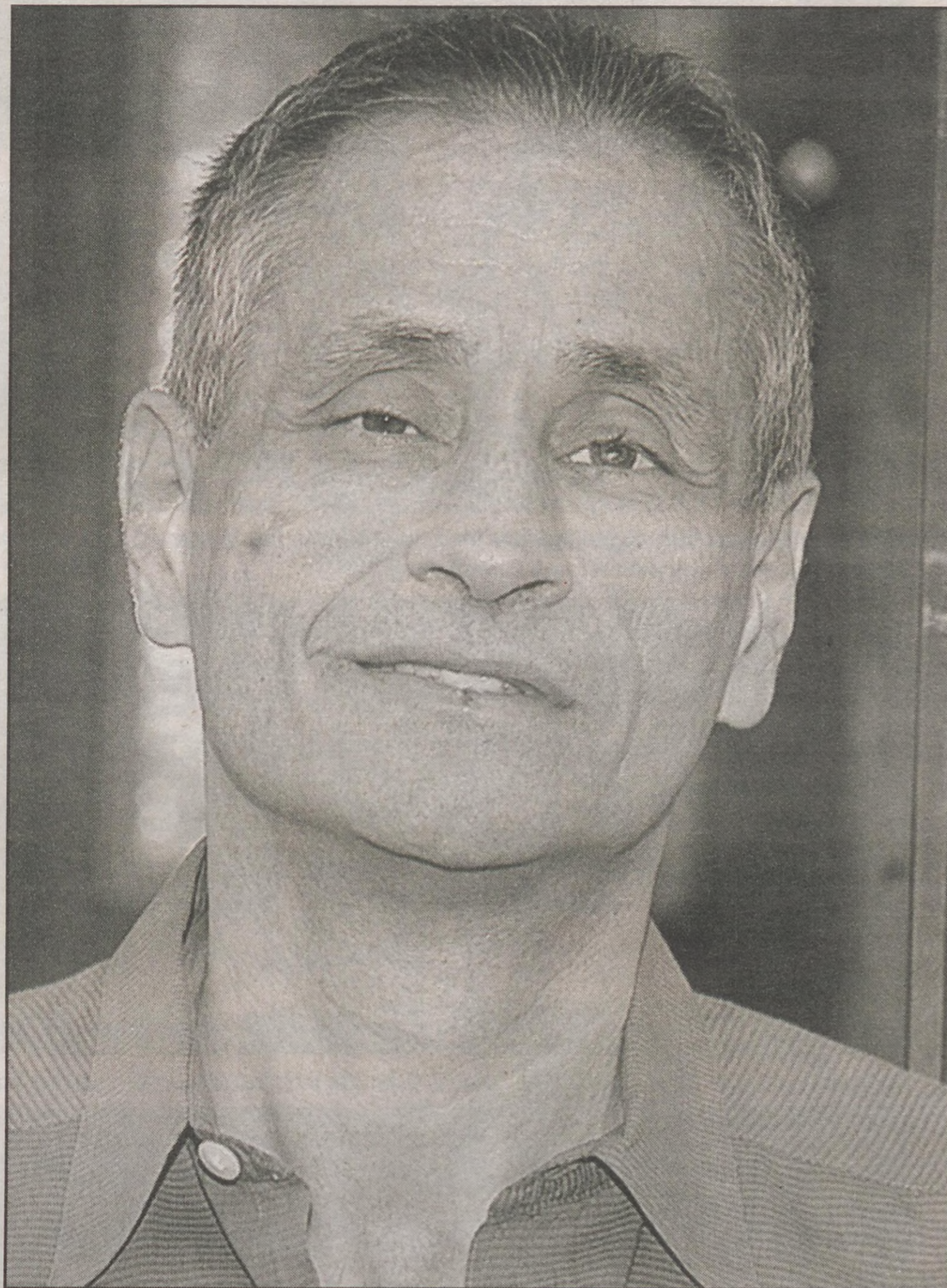
"The clients' care and comfort is my main concern," he says. "I like to tell the women in their lives, or partners, at least you know he's not out drinking and carousing, he's pampering himself here at Metro. And many of them say back to me, 'I'm so glad, I've been trying to get him to wax his back, or his brows forever.'"

Raul Guzman was born in Monterrey, Mexico on June 24, 1951 and moved to Houston two years later. His parents still live in the home they moved into then, off of Ella Boulevard right around the corner from Resurrection MCC Church.

Guzman attended Saint Claire Elementary and Hamilton Junior High in the Heights. After a semester at Reagan High School, he transferred to Waltrip High School. He excelled in school, winning honors and was head cheerleader.

### A dance with Swayze

"One of my claims to fame is I was in the school production of 'West Side Story' with a young Patrick Swayze" he says with a smile and a twinkle in his bright eyes. He also was a featured dancer on 'The Larry Kane Show' the local equivalent to "American



Born in Monterrey, Mexico, Raul Guzman seems to always be on the cutting edge. (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

Bandstand." He shared his parents with siblings Glenda, Ruth and Ricky. Sadly his sister Ruth was murdered in 1988.

In the 1970's Guzman hit the Montrose while attending St. Thomas University. He knew at an early age that he was gay but didn't know what to call it.

"I was conflicted between my spiritual upbringing and my sexuality," he says. "I was engaged to two different women and nearly had children with them both."

He was in his early 20s when he decided something had to give. At that time, in the mid seventies, Guzman was working in the airline industry and traveling all over the world, experimenting with men along the way.

"I knew I was a good person and believed God created me as I am," he says.

It was in 1976 that he met his first partner, Glenn, and had what he calls a "very 1970's relationship." He also became

interested in reincarnation and matters of the spirit that still resonate strongly with him today.

In 1985, Glenn was murdered while attending his grandfather's funeral. Guzman recalls, "I wasn't able to go with him because I was working; it was needless to say very difficult."

He credits his faith with helping him through, believing God wouldn't give him more than he could handle and that when one door closes, another one opens.

In 1986, he met his current partner, Artie Hibbert, who lives in Dallas and works in the fashion industry. In 1980 they ended up buying the circa 1914 house at 2606 Grant where Metro is located, remodeling it over the next decade.

Innovation comes naturally for Guzman. He pioneered a type of travel agency called 'implant travel' after he left the airline industry, where he was the

### **i** RAUL GUZMAN

Age: 54

Birthplace: Monterrey, Mexico

Home: Houston

Relationship status: Partnered

Education: Multiple therapy certifications.

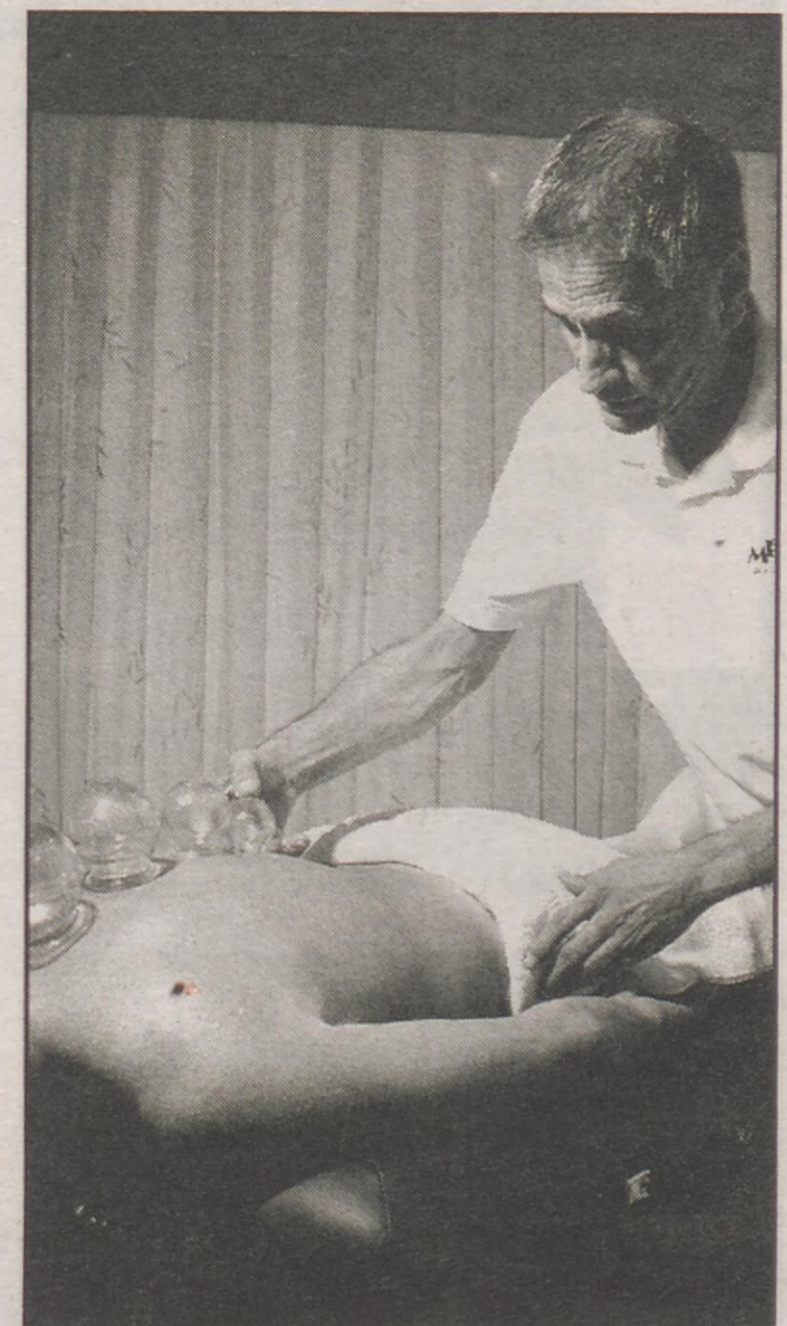
Marketing degree from St. Thomas

University.

Occupation: Owner of Metro His Spa

Kids: None

Pets: 2 dogs, Noel and Chandler.



Raul Guzman is one of only a few therapist licensed to perform massage cupping.

first trilingual gate agent at Braniff.

Now with Metro His Spa, he is at the forefront again. The spa uses Phytomer products exclusively, an ocean-based product line.

"The composition of seawater is so close to our own blood that countries that ran out of blood during the second world war used it for transfusions," he says. "We are one of only five spas in Houston that have it."

Always the trailblazer, Guzman is one of only two therapists in Houston certified to perform massage cupping. The art of cupping dates back to the Orient, 300 B.C., and involves quickly heating glass cups and applying them to the back.

The cups create a suction that draws the skin up into the cups, thereby pulling the skin away from the muscle, drawing out the impurities and allowing for maximum blood flow.

"I had shoulder pain for several years that no amount of kneading could alleviate. My instructor performed the cupping on me and the next day the pain was gone, and has never returned," he says.

# out in houston

(Photos by Dalton DeHart)

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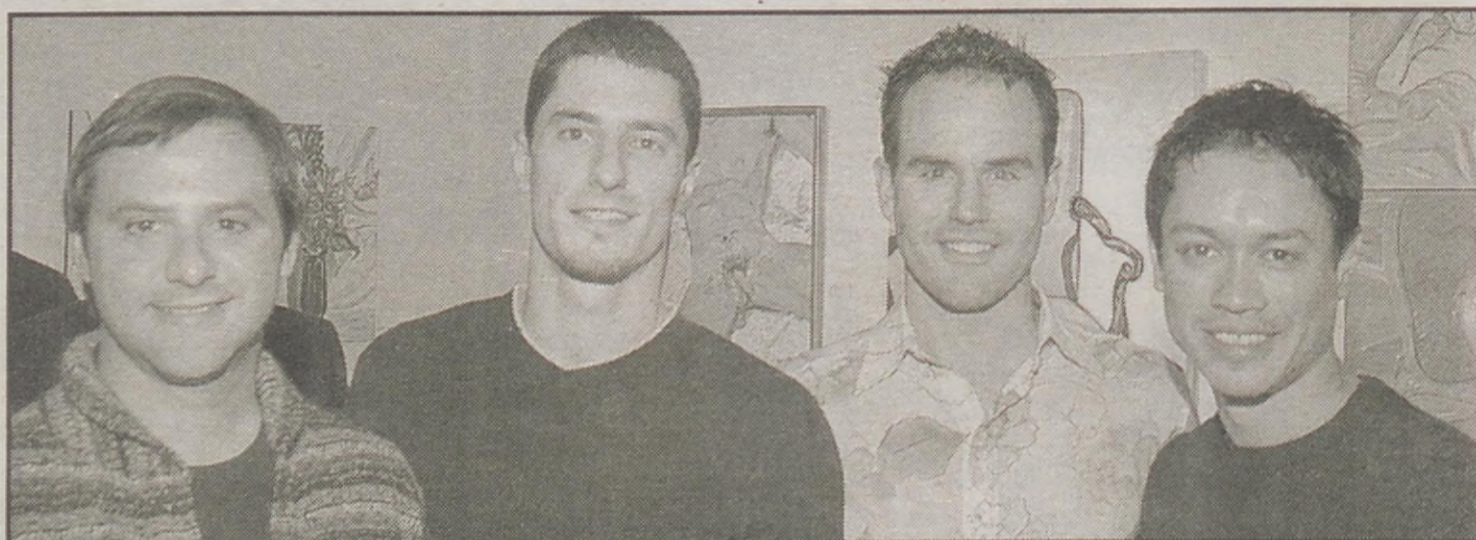
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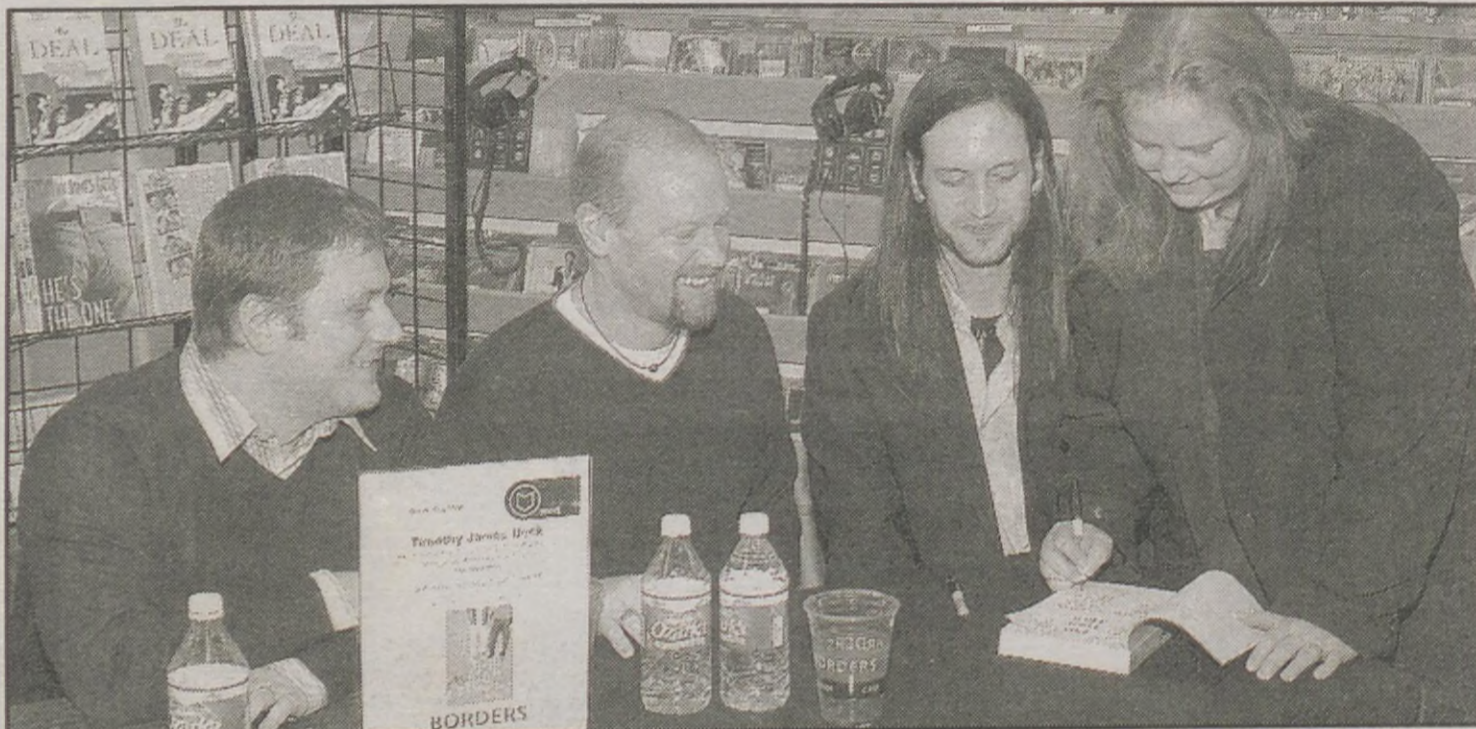
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Director Judy Reeves (right) joined the cast of Theatre Suburbia's 'The Eighth Order' for a photo.



Artists Troy Broussard (left) Michael Anderson (right) were joined by Skip Mercier and Roy Maddox at the recent opening of their show at Lowell Collins Gallery.



Four authors who together write under the pseudonym of Timothy Beck were in town for a book signing.



Shawn Thomas and Don Gill spoke during 'A Helping Hand, a fundraiser for Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church.



Houston City Controller Annise Parker (center) spoke recently at a meeting of the Executive and Professional Association of Houston.



The cast of 'Anything Goes' at Theatre Under the Stars showed up recently to sing a few songs at Meteor.

## i APPOINTMENTS

### FRIDAY JAN. 21

"Il Trovatore" opens at Houston Grand Opera and runs through Feb. 5. The opera about the vengeance of a gypsy woman stars American soprano Sondra Radvanovsky and Italian tenor Marcello Giordan. 713-228-6737 or www.houstongrandopera.org.

### SATURDAY JAN. 22

Reservations are due for the Feb. 5 celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Houston Outdoor Group (HOGS) at Baba Yega Restaurant. The group asks that all former members and those interested in joining the group participate in the celebration. The group first met in 1984 to form a social group of gays, lesbians and gay-friendly persons who enjoy being outdoors. The first event was a camping trip to Lost Maples State Park. Activities in 2005 include trips to Perdenales Falls State Park in March, Enchanted Rock in April, Lost Maples State Park in November and a rafting trip on the Guadalupe River in June. 713-KAMP-OUT.

### THURSDAY JAN. 27

Conversations at the CFA this month features "HIV & Your Heart," presented by Dr. Steven Pounders, medical director at the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic and attending professor at Baylor University Medical Center Hospital. The discussion is from 6-8 p.m. at the Center for AIDS, 1407 Hawthorne. RSVP to Bernie Vazquez, 713-527-8219 or bernie@centerforaids.org



Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" opens tonight at Theatre Under the Stars and runs through Feb. 13. Out at TUTS night is Feb. 6. 713-558-8887 or www.tuts.com.

# TAKE THEM ON!



“If the Supreme Court says that you have the right to consensual sex within your home, then you have the right to bigamy, you have the right to polygamy, you have the right to incest, you have the right to adultery. You have the right to anything.”  
- Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA),  
Associated Press, April 22, 2003



“If a person wants to be publicly gay, they should not be teaching in the public schools.”  
- Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC),  
The Post and Courier,  
October 4, 2004

“Marriage has traditionally been between a man and a woman. ... We don't need a few judges trying to redefine marriage.”  
- Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC), The Robesonian,  
March 3, 2004

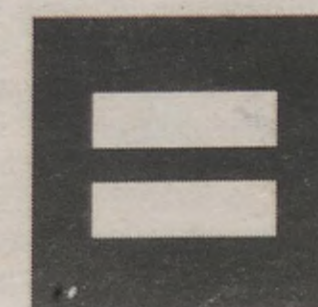


“Lesbianism is so rampant in some of the schools in southeast Oklahoma that they'll only let one girl go to the bathroom. Now think about it. Think about that issue. How is it that that's happened to us?”  
- Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK),  
Associated Press,  
October 11, 2004

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# Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

JANUARY 21, 2005

PAGE 12

## editorial

# Another day in court

Sooner or later, Florida's anti-gay adoption law will get another day in court. Unfortunately, the children will only get one chance.

By MUBARAK DAHIR

# S

TEVEN LOFTON AND Roger Croteau took in two HIV-positive infants in 1988. As foster parents, they raised the children as if they were their own.

In fact, the two men, who have now been together 20 years, were given an award by the state of Florida for their model efforts as foster parents.

Neither of the men has ever had a history of drug abuse or child molestation or criminal violence. The state of Florida allows people with such backgrounds to become adoptive parents.

But it won't allow Lofton and Croteau to adopt the children, who have never known any other home, simply because the two men are a gay couple.

The same goes for Wayne LaRue Smith and Daniel Skahen, a happily partnered gay couple who have been together 11 years, and who wanted to adopt a child put in their custody by the state of Florida.

Ditto for Douglas Houghton Jr., a critical care nurse who has been the defacto parent, if not the legal one, for 9 of the 13 years of the boy's life in his care.

These men were part of a group of would-be gay parents who filed a court case challenging the constitutionality of Florida's anti-gay adoption law.

On Jan. 10, their hopes of becoming the legal parents of the children they love and care for were dashed when the United States Supreme Court issued a one-line statement refusing to hear an appeal of their case.

As is usual in such circumstances, the court did not say why it chose not to take on the case.

In declining to hear the appeal, the Supreme Court let stand an earlier 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, out of Atlanta, that let the prejudicial Florida law stand. That ruling survived re-hearing on that appeals court by a 6 to 6 vote.

FLORIDA IS THE ONLY STATE WITH a law that expressly prohibits individual

gay men and lesbians from becoming adoptive parents, although two other states do have restrictions: Mississippi prohibits gay couples from adopting.

And Utah does not allow unmarried, cohabitating partners, gay or straight, to adopt, which effectively, if not overtly, eliminates the chances of any gay couple there from adopting children.

Six states specifically allow gays to adopt: California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont. So does the District of Columbia.

Florida's antiquated anti-gay adoption law is a relic from 1977, when former orange juice queen Anita Bryant was at the height of her anti-gay rampage.

"Common sense and human history underscore the fact that children need a mother and a father," said Mathew Staver in a statement issued to the press following the Supreme Court's announcement.

Staver is president of the Orlando-based Liberty Counsel, a conservative, religious organization that is active in anti-gay court challenges around the country.

Ironically, the anti-gay adoption law guarantees that hundreds, possibly thousands, of Florida children will get neither.

According to the Child Welfare League of America, more than 8,000 children in Florida are awaiting adoption. Nationwide, that number is 126,000, the group says.

Virtually every mainstream, independent psychological, psychiatric and child welfare group has come out in favor of allowing gays and lesbians to adopt.

Scientific studies have shown that children with gay or lesbian parents are no more likely to turn out to be gay themselves than are children of heterosexual parents. Research has also shown that the children of gay and lesbian parents are as well-adjusted as the children of heterosexual parents.

Indeed, some research suggests there is even a slight advantage to having two lesbian parents: children in such a family do slightly better in learning and developmental tests. Some researchers have hypothesized that this is due to the attention that

comes only from having two mothers.

Certainly, most gay and lesbian parents have a particular appreciation for raising kids, because so many gay people who have children have had to, at one time or another, fight for their rights to be parents in ways that most heterosexuals take for granted.

FOR FLORIDA GAYS WANTING TO BE parents, that fight must continue. Gay rights activists in the state say they will now turn their attention to the state legislature, in an effort to educate lawmakers to repeal the statute.

But the impact of the Supreme Court's decision not to hear the case doesn't stop at the Florida borders. If right-wing groups get their way, it could have an impact across the country.

Emboldened by this current legal victory, as well as by the successes of anti-gay marriage amendments in 11 states in the November elections, some conservative leaders, such as the Liberty Counsel's Staver, are calling on other states to enact their own anti-gay adoption laws.

But neither right wingers nor gay rights activists should read too much into the Supreme Court's decision not to hear the Florida adoption case.

In truth, it isn't a commentary one way or the other on whether or not the Supreme Court agrees with the constitutionality of the law.

The reality is that the Supreme Court is petitioned to hear thousands of appeals each year. It can only wade through a tiny fraction of those cases.

The court also has an unwritten but long-standing practice of spacing out over many years the kinds of cases that deal with huge social issues. In 2003, the court handed down what is easily the most influential gay-rights decision of its history: its ruling in the *Lawrence vs. Texas* case that struck down anti-gay sodomy laws.

Few observers of the court really expected that the Supreme Court would again agree to hear a major gay rights case so soon after the *Lawrence* decision.

The good news for gay rights activists is that, in time, they can try again to challenge this blatantly prejudiced and outdated law.

Sooner or later, the Florida anti-gay adoption ban will get another day in court.

Unfortunately, children in Florida only get the chance to be kids, and have caring parents, once in a lifetime.

@ Mubarak Dahir is editor of the Express Gay News in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a paper affiliated with this publication. He can be reached at mdahir@expressgaynews.com.



**viewpoint** JOHN SIEGFRIED

I was once an activist in the church where a lesbian minister was just stripped of her credentials.

# Methodists don't welcome gays

ON DEC. 2, 2004, A JURY OF Methodist clergymen, in an official church trial, voted that Elizabeth Stroud, the associate pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia, had violated the church's Book of Discipline when she acknowledged to her congregation that she is a lesbian and living in a committed relationship with another woman.

Later the same day, the same jury withdrew Ms. Stroud's ministerial credentials.

I followed this story with particular interest because for the 20 years that I lived in the Philadelphia area, I was a member of the congregation where Ms. Stroud serves.

In fact, during my Philadelphia years, I served on, or chaired, many of the committees that developed and defined the congregation's activist role.

Within the Methodist Church, and most other Christian denominations, what Stroud did is a no-no. A gay man or a lesbian cannot be an ordained minister if they acknowledge being in a same-sex relationship.

Like the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the military, the Methodists were happy to have Ms. Stroud's services as long as she was willing to keep her mouth shut and live a lie.

But, ironically, the price of honesty and integrity is the loss of her membership in the clergy club. The message is

clear to all gay and lesbian clergy, of which there are thousands, and to all who aspire to joining their ranks.

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST Church of Germantown, or FUMCOG as it's known locally, has a long history of social activism.

Members of the church marched at Selma with Martin Luther King, as did their clergy. They formed a separate corporation to underwrite housing renovation and restoration in the decaying community that surrounds the church.

They supported the establishment of Covenant House, a medical and community outreach program in Germantown. Frequently, FUMCOG has clashed with the established authorities.

It was at this church where the peace activist and Catholic priest, Daniel Berrigan, made his last public appearance, at an August Sunday morning service, before going into seclusion on Long Island, one step ahead of the FBI.

Later that same day the FBI was on my doorstep because I chaired the committee responsible for clergy affairs and should have known, but didn't, of the Berrigan visit in advance.

I'VE ALWAYS HAD A SENSE OF satisfaction in the knowledge that I initiated the discussions within that congregation that, after a long educational process, eventually led FUM-



Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud is hugged by Rev. J. Dennis Williams, following the reading of a guilty verdict at her trial in Pughtown, Pa., on Dec. 2. The jury made up of United Methodist Church clergy convicted the lesbian minister of violating church law by openly living with her partner in a committed relationship. (AP Photo/Bradley C Bower)

COG to declare itself a "reconciling congregation."

Within Methodist parlance, that means the congregation notified the official hierarchy that they opposed the denomination's policy of excluding gays from the ordained clergy and that as a congregation they would work to reconcile all people to Christ's message of love and acceptance.

When Anita Bryant and her forces defeated the Miami-Dade human rights ordinance referendum in June of 1977, I was one of the thousands who came out of the closet.

Quickly, members of the congregation realized that the crucial issue was not the church's attitude and teachings concerning homosexuality. The problem was the church's inadequate understanding of sexuality in its total context.

This led to establishing a committee on

Religion & Sexuality within the congregation, which, over the years, has been a catalyst for examining the interface between religious and sexual concerns.

The irony that all this transpired at the start of the Christmas season, the season touted by official Christendom as one of peace and good will, is hard to ignore.

Also difficult to ignore is the fact that while this is only the third such trial in Methodist church history, all three have been of lesbians. The other 45,000 Methodist clergy must all be straight.

Well, except for the one I met at a gay bar in downtown Philadelphia years ago and the one that made it into my bed.

@ John Siegfried, a retired pediatrician and pharmaceutical executive, lives in Ft. Lauderdale but retains strong ties to Rehoboth Beach.

## THE

# Q

Who was your first same-sex celebrity crush?



Michael J. Fox, back in the days of "Family Ties."

KEITH VYVIAL, 33  
Clear Lake  
Marketing Rep.



Melissa Etheridge.

ROSE SMITH, 44  
Houston  
Office Coordinator



A blond John Schneider.

JASON CRYER  
(SO FONDA ST. JOHN), 31  
Houston  
Assistant Director of  
Development for the  
Assistance Fund



Mark Wahlberg. He was the first Calvin Klein model.

DARYL QUIJANO, 34  
Houston  
Chief Operating Officer  
S & R Resources



The Million Dollar Man, Lee Majors. He was butch, honey!

KEITH NAPIER (SHY ANNE),  
Old Enough to Know Better  
Houston  
Development Associate  
Montrose Clinic

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Interviews and photos by Dalton DeHart

## on the record

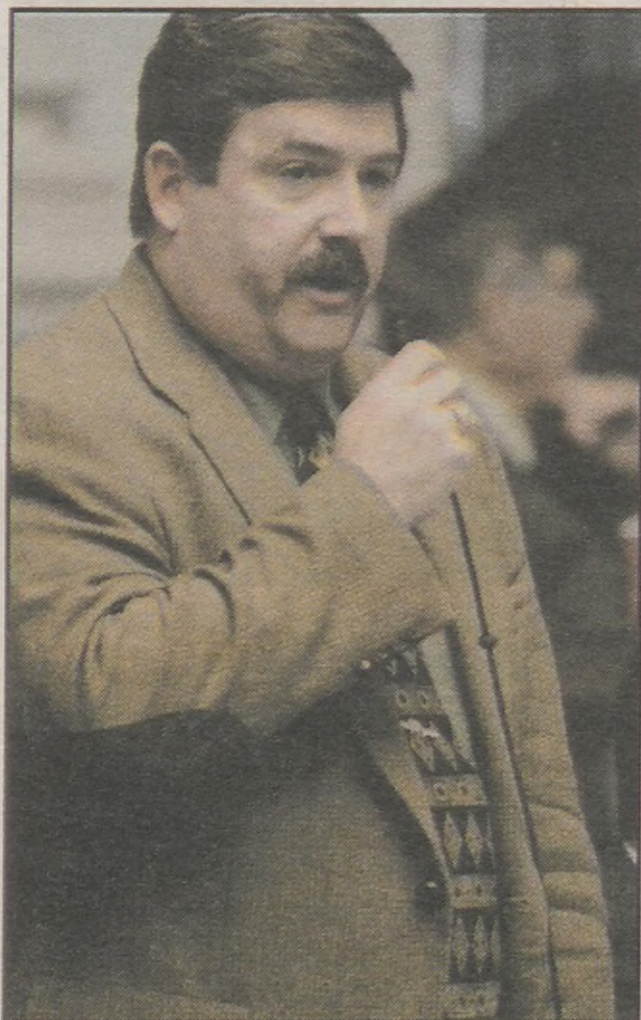
"I'm an opponent of gay marriage, so I don't have any fundamental issues with [banning it]. ... [But] I hate to see the constitution, whether it's the Tennessee or the U.S. Constitution, kind of used for what seem to be short-term political things. ... If it got to the point where that was a threat, ... I'd be much more supportive of it."

Tennessee Gov. **Phil Bredesen**, a Democrat, on gay marriage (Associated Press, Jan. 15)



"First it's same-sex marriage. Then what if someone says next year, 'Hey, I really love my sister, and I want to marry her,' and the year after that, what if somebody says, 'I really love these two ladies and I want to marry both of them?'"

Virginia House Del. **John A. Cosgrove** (R-Chesapeake), on why he authored a bill that would add a ban on gay marriage to that state's constitution (Associated Press, Jan. 14)



"There's still what I would call a lot of social terrorism going on."

Rev. **R. Don Prange**, of St. James United Church of Christ, in Lovettsville, Va., on his belief that Virginia is no more tolerant of gays today than in 1980 when a building in the area that housed gay rights meetings was torched (Associated Press, Jan. 14)

"Since homosexuality, adultery, prostitution and pornography undermine the foundations of the family, the basis of society, then the state must use its coercive power to proscribe or curtail them in the interests of the common good."

Roman Catholic Archbishop **Frederick Henry**, of Calgary, in Alberta, Canada, in a letter read to churches under his jurisdiction (Canadian Press, Jan. 16)

"Why would he exclude people because of their sexual preference?"

Former Southern Christian Leadership Conference activist **Jack O'Dell**, on his belief that Martin Luther King, Jr. would have supported gay marriage (Washington Times, Jan. 14)

"I was never struck by the argument that what he did was so courageous. Being for same-sex marriage in San Francisco is like being for sunshine in Florida."

Gay Congressman **Barney Frank**, on fellow Democrat **Gavin Newsom**, the 37-year-old mayor of San Francisco, who a year ago ordered the city to legally wed gay couples (Associated Press, Jan. 14)

"How is the sanctity of marriage threatened by two people who love each other? Even if you disapprove of their relationships, would you also deny their innocent children of rights and protections other children would have simply because their parents are straight? How is this supporting stronger families?"

An e-mail sent by several students at St. Peter-Marian High School in Massachusetts to anti-gay activist **Laurie Letourneau** (Worcester Telegram, Jan. 18)



"I shall give this to the bishop tomorrow. ... Try reading the catechism and actually learning about homosexuals — learned behavior — I am fed up with twerps who don't have the brains to come in out of the rain. ... I would be so ashamed as a parent if I had not done a better job rearing children to know that anal sex, disease, multiple partners, rimming, fisting, etc., were wrong!"

Anti-gay activist **Laurie Letourneau**, in an e-mail response to the St. Peter-Marian students (Worcester Telegram, Jan. 18)

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## CALL NOW!



**Aiken shuns gay media**

Will gays be there to support crooner Clay Aiken when school girl followers find another idol?

Page 21

## playing it SMOOTH

GAY MUSICIAN DAVE KOZ FINDS SUCCESS AFTER COMING OUT

By YUSEF NAJAFI

g

AY SAXOPHONIST DAVE KOZ GOT IT right 12 years ago when he named his second album "Lucky Man."

The 41-year-old Los Angeles resident, who ditched the idea of finding a "real job" after earning a degree in mass communications at UCLA, has been lucky,

though talent had a lot to do with his rise in the world of smooth jazz.

Koz's latest album, "Saxophonic," is nominated for a Grammy for Best Pop Instrumental Album. Winners are to be announced at the 47th Annual Grammy Awards, which will be aired live on CBS from Los Angeles at 8 p.m., on Feb. 13.

Koz has worked with a variety of artists including Celine Dion, U2 and Stevie Wonder. More recently, he lent a soulful hand to Rod Stewart's "Stardust ... The Great American Songbook: Volume III," the third installment of the rock star's take on classic tunes. He joined Stewart live on stage in November, during the rock star's performance of "What a Wonderful World," at the 32nd annual American Music Awards.

In addition, the Dave Koz Radio Show, a smooth-jazz weekly program, can be heard across the country, including at 7 a.m. Sunday on WJZV-FM (105.9). During the two-hour show, which Koz broadcasts from Los Angeles, he highlights the work of smooth jazz artists and, periodically, includes interviews.

Though he came out to family and friends two decades ago, in 2004 Koz came out to fans in an Advocate magazine article. Currently, he's working on his next album.

**Houston Voice: How would you describe your music?**

**Dave Koz:** It has a tendency to have soaring melodies. I want to take people on a journey with my music. Because a lot of it doesn't have lyrics, it allows the person listening to make up their own stories, and let their minds and spirits take them wherever they need to go. That's the best compliment that people have given me, in my past, that 'your music takes me somewhere.'

**i MORE INFO**

The Dave Koz Radio Show  
8-10 a.m. Saturday  
KHJZ 95.7 FM  
www.davekoz.com

**VOICE: What's it like being gay in the world of jazz?**

**Koz:** I don't think it's been an issue whatsoever. Some people know, and some people don't know, some people have forgotten about it. In the kind of music I make the lifestyle aspect of it is really far down the totem pole of importance. People are not titillated by the private lives of the artist making music in our genre. It's just not an issue. Even if they do, it doesn't really come into their consciences. I think they are only going to the show or buying the music because they like the music, not because they want to find out the little bits, or personal information.

**VOICE: How does it feel to be nominated for a Grammy again?**

**Koz:** This has been the fourth time it's happened and I'd like to say that the novelty wears off but as cliché as it may sound, it's still pretty damn cool. Especially when it's a project that's really near and dear to your heart and soul. The last record that I made ['Saxophonic'], I put a lot into it, and it's a very special project to me personally.

**VOICE: How did you get involved in music?**

**Koz:** I took saxophone [so that] I could be in my brother's band. That was kind of the impetus that started it all. I played in the band all through high school and college, and when I graduated college I was asked to audition for this guy called Bobby Caldwell, who was a singer/songwriter. So I auditioned for him and got the gig. I got a deal with Capitol Records and toured with Richard Marx, because we had the same manager. The funny thing is I graduated with a mass communications degree from UCLA. I was planning on getting a real job, like some sort of business or marketing position because I was fascinated with business growing up. But I never had the chance. I never got a real job, ever. But I'm not complaining. I work my ass off, but it's not a typical job.

**VOICE: How has coming out influenced your music?**

**Koz:** I'm not sure if it has influenced my work yet, I haven't made another record since that happened. But I can tell you, as far

Please see DAVE KOZ on Page 22



Gay saxophonist Dave Koz came out to fans last year and says it hasn't hurt his career. He recently was nominated for his fourth Grammy for his latest album, 'Saxophonic.'

**LOCAL 'SURVIVOR':** Attorney and activist Jolanda Jones lands on the next 'Survivor.' Page 16

**'AFTER THE FALL':** A former Miss America who fights for people with AIDS at the Alley. Page 17

# television SHANA NICHOLSON

A gay-friendly Houston attorney, former City Council candidate and civil rights activist joins the cast of TV's 'Survivor,' because for her, surviving is a way of life.

## Houston's Jolanda Jones has always been a survivor

"SURVIVOR" IS A SOCIOLOGICAL experiment taken to the extreme: throw a handful of strangers together in a remote location with no food or shelter and watch them duke it out for \$1 million.

On Feb. 17, another installment of the long running reality show begins on the South Pacific island of Palau. Among the eclectic lot of castaways this season is a bartender, steel worker, a Las Vegas showgirl and even one of Houston's own: attorney and civil rights activist Jolanda Jones.

"Sweetheart, God doesn't make you bet-

ter than anyone, but, doggone it, he doesn't make you worse than anyone." Those simple words, voiced by her grandmother, are ones that Jolanda Jones takes to heart.

Even before auditioning for the show, Jones epitomized what it means to be a survivor.

Her father committed suicide when she was 13 months old, her brother was murdered, at times during her childhood her family was homeless, and she has even endured severe domestic abuse to the point of almost being killed at the hands of her ex-husband. Always, she used tragedy to propel her forward.

In school, Jones excelled academically, but extracurricular activities were a bright spot, athletics in particular. "Girl Scouts didn't work out," she laughed.

Athletics however provided precious respite from the ugly realities of growing up poor. "I knew that if you were on the track or basketball team that you got to



Houston attorney and civil rights activist Jolanda Jones is a survivor in real life as well as on television.

stay after school for two hours and home was really difficult," she explained.

She received numerous individual awards in both sports and even competed in track during the 1996 U.S. Olympic Trials, a mere two weeks after her brother was killed.

After graduating magna cum laude from University of Houston and earning her law degree at the University of Houston Law Center, Jones has spent her professional career as a prominent Houston defense attorney, but arguably more important is her commitment to providing a voice for the underrepresented.

ALTHOUGH HER CAMPAIGN FOR City Council in 2003 fell short, she said she

has been approached by people asking her to run again and she is weighing the idea.

"I just want to make sure that everyone in the city is considered when decisions are being made," she said.

Jones has long been an advocate for those who are often ignored, using her influence to advance the causes of those less fortunate. She often speaks with at-risk youth, enforcing the idea that her own background was not a dead end.

"I share my life so they can appreciate that I know what they're going through, and I tell them that it'll be ok... a person's success in life is dependent upon whether they love themselves," she said.

Describing herself as a "hippie trapped in the new millennium," she talked of a recent experience dating a man with opposing principles. Jones explained, "I don't believe that God creates something to be damned and he believed that being gay is a sin and you're damned to hell. I taught my son to love everybody; he (her boyfriend) taught his daughter that it was a sin to be gay. Definite problem."

Jones has always been a strong supporter of gay rights, lecturing at PFLAG meetings about the importance of gay people living their lives openly. She said she has seen the unnecessary battles that her gay friends have faced and feels compelled to encourage people to focus on what all people have in common.

"Gay people struggle like us, they work like us, raise kids like us," she said. "If you see them as having something in common with you, you might be more inclined to be supportive."

### MORE INFO

"Survivor Palau"  
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## theater DON MAINES



Though some maintain that Arthur Miller's 'After the Fall' is autobiographical, the Alley's rendering would suggest it isn't necessarily so.

# Not Monroe and Miller

IN ARTHUR MILLER'S "AFTER THE Fall," which opened Wednesday night at the Alley Theatre, a man named Mickey tells his "friend," Lou, "I want to tell the truth."

With incredulous fear, Lou asks, "In what sense?"

His answer: in the sense that Mickey has decided to rat on Lou, in the paranoid Cold War 1950s, by telling the government that Lou is a Communist. Mickey has decided to destroy Lou's life and career.

McCarthyism is just one of the "little murders" that plagues the conscience of the main character, Quentin, an attorney whom playwright Arthur Miller has denied time and again is based on himself, or his refusal to "name names" before the House Un-American Activities Committee, and – especially – his life and loves, including a tumultuous marriage to sex-goddess movie star Marilyn Monroe.

Yet hardly anybody believes that Miller's "After the Fall" is anything but autobiographical. Indeed, the Alley is promoting the seldom-produced play as "based on Miller's fascinating marriage to Marilyn Monroe."

My own fascination with Marilyn is a reason I have always wanted to see "After the Fall" (and yes, I wondered, couldn't the Alley get Jimmy James to play the Marilyn role?). But after seeing the show, I wholly take playwright Miller at his word when he says the play is not autobiographical.

This is not the story of Monroe and Miller, who will turn 90 this year, God willing. First of all, "Quentin" would only have been a young 40 when the show takes place, probably too young for a playwright.

But, he's not too young to be an attorney, to so thoroughly put himself on trial by his own conscience, as Quentin does by recalling 20 or more persons whose lives he has influenced, the play taking place in his mind, thought and memory. (As Oscar-winning actress Estelle Parsons explained recently, she married a man 20 years younger than she, but because her husband, at age 40, had endured three years of law school, actually she married "an old man.")

Secondly, perhaps most importantly, Miss America 1998 Kate Shindle, now a Broadway leading lady, does not "channel" Norma Jean/Marilyn Monroe in her portrayal of the Marilyn character. Her Maggie is no needy sex symbol who lives



Former Miss America Kate Shindle and James Black star in 'After the Fall' at the Alley Theatre. (Photo by Joel Johnson)

her life "like a candle in the wind," to quote Elton John lyricist Bernie Taupin.

Maggie is a lanky, smarter-than-the-average-bear "innocent," if there is such a thing, who works the switchboard at Quentin's law firm but aspires to be a lounge singer.

SHINDLE ARRIVES AS A BREATH OF fresh air in this dense, dark trip into a man's attempt to place responsibility – blame – on the results of choices he has made regarding relationships with his parents, his brother and three women he has loved.

Act Two hands Shindle the opportunity to explore the effects of betrayal and broken promises in her Maggie's marriage to Quentin, but it remains their story. It is not a peak into the boudoir of intellectual Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe during their "egghead weds hourglass" marriage from 1956 to 1961, two years before her mysterious death.

Finally, I want to tell the truth – in what sense? By posing these questions: Could James Black be any better as Quentin? Has he ever had a role that shows off his talents to more powerful effect? Is there a better actor working in Houston today?

My answer: you will have to see it to believe it. Jason Robards originated the role on Broadway, with a cast that included Barbara Loden (in a blond Marilyn wig, winning a Tony Award for her efforts), Faye Dunaway, Ralph Meeker, Hal Holbrook and others. Last year, critics blistered Peter Krause in the role on Quentin in the play's first Broadway revival.

James Black, I think, they would have adored.

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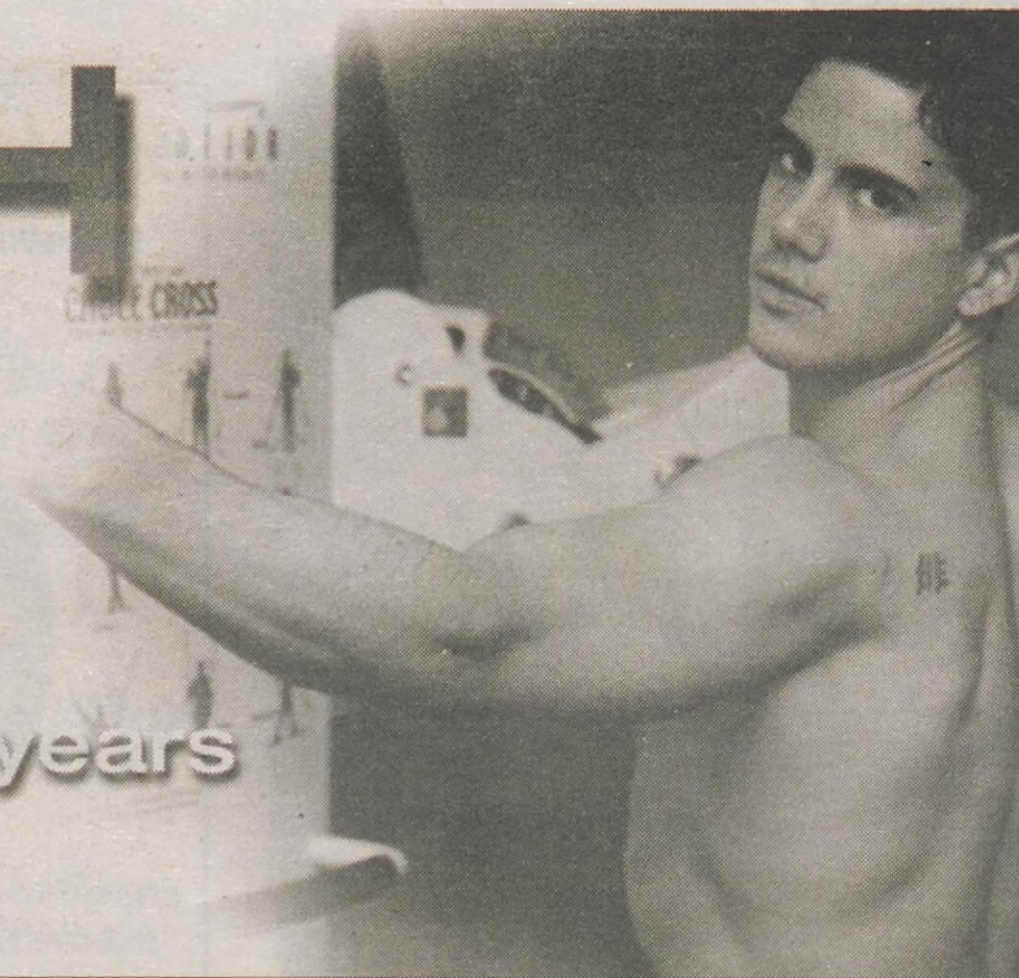
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# HEALTH

## Post-Holiday Shape Up

"Reach your fitness goals and keeping your new years resolution year-round."



By Matthew Forke

Reach your fitness goals with this brief guide to keeping your New Year's resolution year-round.

Another holiday season has come and gone, and the only thing more terrifying than January's credit card statement is the first nekkid glimpse of oneself in a full-length mirror. Between office parties, cookie binges and little time for exercise, the holidays can take a serious toll on a person's waistline.

Whether you're starting a fitness program for the first time or resuming

one after a few months of slacking off, there's still plenty of time to trim up before summer. The hardest part is getting started though, so put down that Krispy Kreme and get moving.

### Finding a Gym

**Location:** When choosing a gym, one of the most important factors to consider is location. If it takes more than a half an hour to get there, will you really be motivated to go? Start looking close to where you live or work. Chains like Gold's Gym or Bally's have literally hundreds of locations in the U.S. and around the world.

**Programs and classes:** Once you've

found several facilities within your community, investigate what programs they offer. Do they offer a variety of exercise classes like spinning, yoga, pilates or aerobics? Are personal trainers available to hire or share expertise? Find a gym with classes that interest you.

**Facilities and staff:** Take a tour of the facilities before joining. Does the gym offer a wide range of free weights, nautilus and cardio machines? Is the equipment well maintained? Are the locker rooms clean and well monitored? These are just a few questions to consider before making your final decision.

Talk with the staff. Do they seem friendly and approachable? Do they take the time to answer questions fully? Be sure to weigh every factor carefully.

### Starting a Fitness Program

You've found a gym and you've signed on the dotted line. It's time to pack the bag and go. When starting a fitness program for the first time, it's important to begin slowly and build up to a regular routine. Doug Jefferies, owner of Results the Gym in Washington, D.C. offers the following advice: "If you are just starting out, consider hiring a personal trainer for ten sessions. Tell the trainer your goals and expectations. He or she can help develop a program you can use once those sessions are over."

Fitness generally includes four components — aerobic capacity, strength, flexibility and weight control. The fourth component — weight control — may be achieved through your exercise program and sensible eating. Talk with your trainer about how to achieve the proper balance among all of these components.

Build activity into your daily routine: For your fitness to improve, you need to be active regularly. Plan to work up to at least 30 minutes of low to moderately intense physical activity on most days of the week. Place a reminder of your next warm vacation or family outing in a very visible place on your desk at work."

Schedule those 30 minutes into your day as you would your bridge club or a round of golf. Over time, you may be able to build from 30 minutes, to 60 minutes or more of moderate to vigorous exercise.

**Staying motivated:** Many people start exercising with frenzied zeal, but then give up after boredom sets in or schedules become crowded.

To help avoid this, find an exercise partner with whom you enjoy spending time and schedule regular workouts.

If you're exercising alone, bring music, especially for longer cardio workouts. For additional motivation, Jefferies advises "placing pictures of bodies you strive to look like in your bathroom

Place a reminder of your next warm vacation or family outing in a very visible place on your desk at work."

**Common Mistakes:** Avoid over-training. Listen to your body. During and after workouts, be alert to signs that you may be encountering a health problem as a result of overexertion. Above all, S-T-R-E-T-C-H before and after working out. "People don't stretch enough," continues Jefferies. "This can result in less flexibility, poorer posture and even injury."

### Healthy Eating

You've started a fitness program that suits your goals and needs. Take the time to learn how to eat a variety of healthy foods. Adopting a new eating style that promotes a healthy weight for you must include lowering your total calorie intake. But decreasing calories need not mean decreasing taste, satisfaction or even ease of meal preparation. One way you can lower your calorie intake is by eating more plant-based foods — fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Strive for variety to help you achieve your goals without compromising taste or nutrition.

Very-low-calorie diets aren't a healthy long-term strategy. Fewer than 1,200 calories a day for women and 1,400 calories for men aren't generally recommended. If your calories are too low, you run the risk of not getting all of the nutrients you need for good health.

With so many diets like Atkins, South Beach and Weight Watchers promising fast and simple solutions for weight loss, it's important to research which program is best for you. It's usually best to talk to your doctor or a registered dietitian about your nutrition goals. Dietitians can help guide you in making the healthiest, most effective and safest foods.

For more information about starting and maintaining a healthy fitness program year-round, visit the Mayo Clinic's at [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com).



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# dining J.A. CHAPMAN

In the midst of strip mall heaven, Bistro Paradiso glimmers with Mediterranean fusion cuisine and recipes that were handed down from Mama

## A gem among sameness

HOUSTON NEVER FAILS TO AMAZE me. When I think I've figured out where the best restaurants can be found, I stumble across a gem like Bistro Paradiso in the unlikeliest of locations.

In the midst of strip mall heaven, just off the feeder road on Highway 290 and down the road from a host of cookie cutter chain eateries, is Bistro Paradiso, an exciting new Mediterranean fusion restaurant.

The former Marco's location has been transformed. Pleasing arches swathed in Greek blue and white curtains edge the room, creating an intimate mood. Warm, wheat colored walls hearken back to the sunny Mediterranean, as does the cool terracotta and brick floor. Even the photos on the wall are classy and understated. The result is a relaxing, upscale ambience.

Bistro Paradiso is owned by two brothers from Cyprus. Bringing plenty of restaurant experience to the place (Chef Andreas spent several years at Pesce) along with some of their mother's favorite recipes, they have created a little oasis of Mediterranean delights.

They start you off with a basket of homemade focaccia and side dish of pesto and olive oil for dipping. The focaccia has a wonderful herb flavor, but was slightly stale on my first visit. On a second visit, it was fresh, but cold. I kept imagining it warm from the oven, which would be a decadent indulgence, indeed.

Drawing from several Mediterranean countries, the menu offers new twists on traditional flavors. If you like calamari, be sure to try the calamari Paradiso (\$7.95). Tossed in lemon zest and Provencal herbs, it's fried to perfection and exceptionally tender. The calamari is served with bagna cauda, a wonderful Italian pesto-inspired dipping sauce, updated with sun dried tomatoes and lemon.

Don't miss the apple and scallop martini (\$6.49). Perfectly grilled scallops are layered atop a mixture of chopped, tart minted apples and a dried fruit salsa tossed with a bit of balsamic vinegar. The presentation is exquisite, arriving in a martini glass with olives on the side. And the innovative mixture of flavors is an outstanding way to start your meal.

The duo of duckling Paradiso (\$17.99) is a brilliant pairing of two duck favorites. The duck leg confit was falling off the bone tender, while the slightly rare breast had a refreshing gamey taste. The tartly robust fig sauce made the flavors zing, while the almond, pinenuts, cherry and apricot chutney added a hint of sweetness. The green beans were tender-crispy and the roast potatoes were perfectly golden and crisp. It's an intensely flavorful dish and sure to wow a duck fan.



THE STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST (\$12.99) is also a winner. A roulade of chicken is packed with loads of spinach, sun-dried tomatoes, and feta cheese. It's tender and bursting with flavor. A tomato sauce on the side adds additional oomph, while the mashed potatoes and impressively tender grilled vegetables round out the dish.

Bistro Paradiso has a slightly different menu at lunch. Sandwiches and skewers are offered, as well as salads and lighter fare. I tried the mixed grill sampler (\$8.95), which came with one kebab each of beef, chicken and shrimp. All three were excellent. The shrimp were still tender and tossed with olive oil and herbs. The chicken had a slight citrus flavor, while the wine-marinated beef was grilled to perfection.

Three sauces come with the mixed grill - the garlicky bagna cauda, a tart, yogurt tzatziki, and a decadent honey citrus sauce. Outstanding and distinct, they add a different dimension to each skewer selection. Pita bread on the side allows you to make your own sandwich. Or just sop up the addictive sauces - they're that good. Be sure to save room for dessert. The signature dessert, boureki (\$5.45) is actually an old family recipe. These beignets, filled with ricotta cheese, cinnamon and topped with clover honey, are light and not too sweet. The Greek coffee (\$2.50), strong like the more familiar Turkish coffee, is a nice way to end your meal.

With innovative cuisine and a relaxing ambience, Bistro Paradiso is an exciting addition to the Houston dining scene. You'd just never expect to find such a gem in a sea of cookie cutter sameness.



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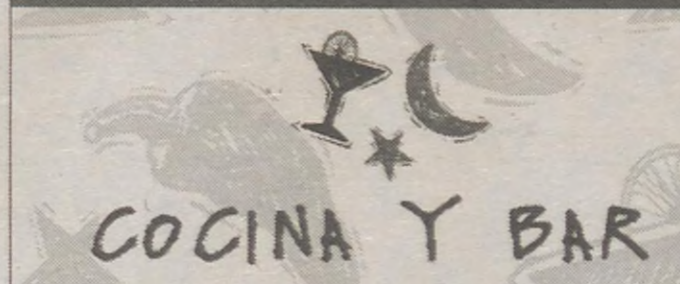
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Kudos to South Beach, get ready to put on  
your walking shoes, and comfort food comes  
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## A world-class nightspot

HOVO ON THE GO GO RETURNS FOR  
another week.

This week we'll check out things for  
Houston's queers to do, from art openings  
to after hours to a battle of male dancers!

FIRST UP THOUGH KUDOS TO SOBE!  
That's right I am proud to announce that  
DJ Cubanito and South Beach Night  
Club have been nominated for the 2005  
Club World Awards in the categories of  
Best Club USA and Best Resident DJ at  
Café Con Leche!

As you know Café Con Leche is the  
long running Wednesday night event that  
has hot men, Latin and otherwise bump-  
ing and grinding all night. This is a huge  
feather in an already crowded cap for  
Charles Armstrong, Jim McDermaid  
and all the staffers at SOBE. The awards  
are also known as the "Disco Globes"  
after their mirror ball trophies. Nominees  
are selected by the "jet-setting Club  
Systems staff," and winners are chosen by  
an independent panel of 10 judges, all  
industry vets. You go Cubanito.

SPEAKING OF SOUTH BEACH.

Starting next Thursday night, SOBE pre-  
sents "East Meets West," featuring the  
men of Muscles in Action taking on the  
Men of Manwatch. According to my  
conversation with Kofi, this event is  
being billed as the "battle of the hunks."  
It will be similar to a boxing match/dance  
off with an Asian theme. All around  
sweetheart and a tall drink of water, DJ  
Mark Goebel, will preside over the decks  
and drink specials abound. Starts at 11  
p.m. Check out the h-o-t flyer  
(Mark...those biceps!) at all your fave  
Pacific Street clubs for more info.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. ARE  
you ready to do your part?

AIDS Foundation Houston Inc., in  
partnership with Chase Bank, presents  
the 16th Annual AIDS Walk Houston  
to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS  
issues in Houston. More than 8,000 people  
participated in last year's walk, raising  
more than \$650,000.

This lively 5K-pledge walk is open to  
the public and no registration fee is  
charged. Incentive prizes are available  
for donations starting at \$150.00.  
Corporate and Social Walk Teams are  
encouraged. Sunday, March 13, 2005,  
registration starts at 8 a.m. with opening  
ceremonies at 9 a.m. The walk starts at 10  
a.m., and there will be a post walk party  
at the finish line right after the walk. For  
more information call AIDS Walk  
Houston at 713-403-WALK (9255) or visit  
the Web site at  
[www.AIDSWalkHouston.org](http://www.AIDSWalkHouston.org).

## HoVo on the go-go

SIPPORA GALLERY IS STRIPPING  
Deans bare! Sippora Gallery takes over  
Dean's Credit Clothing at 316 Main Street  
for one night only to show artwork that  
artist Maia has created to stimulate and  
seduce you. Show up for the opening  
reception on Saturday, and maybe you too  
will get stripped. Reception runs from 9  
p.m. until 2 a.m. Check out  
[www.sippora.com](http://www.sippora.com) or [www.deanscredit-clothing.com](http://www.deanscredit-clothing.com) for all the dish.

DEANS IS SIMPLY THE PLACE TO BE  
this Saturday. Those Spoiled, spoiled boyz  
are back! Always a hot, sweaty party full  
of shirtless men (my favorite kind!) this  
time the Boyz invade Dean's Credit  
Clothing in downtown. "It's not old, it's  
VINTAGE!" Spoiled Boyz continues  
with its monthly themed after hours late  
night Saturday, January 22 at Deans, 316  
Main Street. Doors open at 3 am.  
Remixer/DJ Ric de Barros will be throw-  
ing the beatz in the main room, while one  
of Houston's favorite DJ's, Jessica  
Lozano, will be spinning in the Groove  
Lounge. State of the art sound, fabulous  
lighting and vintage attire is suggested.  
Advance \$15 tickets are available at M2M  
Fashion.

FINALLY, WONDERING WHAT'S UP  
with the old Cabo space? Darlings you  
know we'd know at HotGG. The  
Montrose Diner is coming to life by the  
end of January to fill your taut tummies.  
Think comfort food, like meatloaf and  
chicken fried steak, but with a full bar!  
This may finally fill the void that a  
Hamburger Mary's would fill if only we  
had one in Houston! Montrose Diner aims  
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@ If you have any club announcements or  
events, email them to  
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713-529-8490. See you on the Go-Go!

**dish**

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

# Those feats of Clay

Clay Aiken avoids gay press, Madonna's in a cult, and the YMCA is preserved for history

Dish knows you just love it when **SIMON COWELL** says mean things to those losers who can't sing on "American Idol."

Maybe Cowell should be yelling mean things at past loser **CLAY AIKEN**. Though only a runner-up on the show's second season, Aiken has found more success after the show than any of his cohorts.

And he's had lots of exposure, including television talk show appearances, magazine covers, a book ("Learning to Sing: Hearing the Music in Your Life") and countless other appearances. But don't count on the fey crooner to end up in the gay press anytime soon.

According to the most recent issue of the New York gay magazine *Next*: "We tried to get an interview with the sexually ambiguous pop star ... but his publicist told us he'd 'never talk to a gay magazine!' Well, why, pray tell, is that?"

Yes, why is that? Listen, Mr. Aiken, everyone has been speculating about your orientation since your first appearance on "Idol." Now, Dish isn't saying that you would prefer the company of **JUSTIN GUARINI** to **KELLY CLARKSON**, but she is warning you not to piss off gay fans.

We are the first on any bandwagon (and there are plenty on yours, so to speak) and we're the last ones to hop off. We've single-handedly supported **MARGARET CHO**, kept **GEORGE MICHAEL** on the charts and allowed **CHER** to return more times than **LIZA MINNELLI** to an open bar. Now, are you going to trade that lifetime meal ticket for the support of some fickle 14-year-old girls?

Yeah, Dish didn't think so, and will be expecting your interview offer soon.

## Off the charts

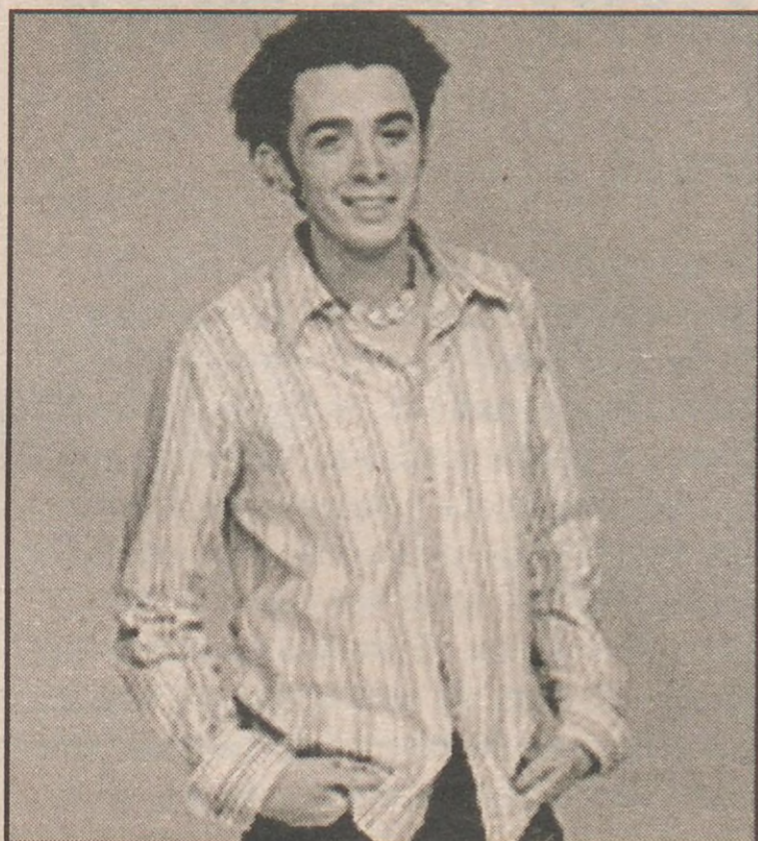
It's not as it seems with Cult-balah, Dish means Kabbalah, the form of Jewish mysticism made famous by gay icon **MADONNA**.

The New York Post's gossip column Page Six got hold of a report from BBC reporter Tony Donnelly, who went

undercover at a Kabbalah dinner attended by Madonna and her director husband, **GUY RITCHIE**.

After a prayer service and chanting, Donnelly says that everyone stood, faced east, waved their hands in the air and

chanted "Cher-er-er-noble" in an



'American Idol' runner up **Clay Aiken** won't talk to the gay press. Well, who is going to support him when he's all washed up if not the gays?

attempt to cleanse the radiation from Chernobyl, Ukraine, the site of a nuclear accident in 1986.

Oh, and Donnelly paid \$1,500 just to get into the dinner.

## It takes a village

There's a new reason to visit the newest Smithsonian Institute addition, the National Museum of the American Indian. **FELIPE ROSE**, one of the openly gay original members of the **VILLAGE PEOPLE**, presented the museum with a gold record for the band's 1978 hit single "YMCA."

Rose is half Lakota Sioux and, not surprisingly, wore the Indian costume in the group. At a ceremony on Jan. 12, Rose presented the record, the crowd said a Lakota Sioux prayer, and then everyone danced the "YMCA." But don't bother running down to the museum right now looking for it. The Washington Post reported that the "artifact" was shipped to the museum's cultural resource center in Suitland, Md.

## Cooper scooper

One of Dish's spies says that Vanity Fair is calling around asking questions about CNN anchor **ANDERSON COOPER**'s sexual orientation for an article in an upcoming issue. The timing of their snooping is noteworthy, given that Time magazine this week reported that Cooper is on the short list of journalists being considered to replace **Dan Rather** at CBS.

Well, Andy, now's your chance. If you want to beat Vanity Fair to the punch, then give Dish a call and we can put the rumors to rest once and for all. And I promise not to feature you in the same column with Clay Aiken.



Anderson Cooper

# "ONE OF THE YEAR'S 10 BEST!"

-Richard Schickel, TIME MAGAZINE

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-Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

★★★★½

-Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST

★★★★½

-John Anderson, NEWSDAY

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-David Rooney, DAILY VARIETY

"Mos Def is outstanding!"  
-Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST

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## eclipse

# Music helped saxophonist find his way

DAVE KOZ, continued from Page 15

as doing shows, I was really nervous and maybe a little bit concerned after coming out in the Advocate. The good news was that nothing happened. I started to see a little bit more gay people coming to our shows, but nobody else fell out. I was worried that people wouldn't buy my records or people wouldn't come to my shows, but I couldn't have been more wrong. There was an outpouring of support from my community, my fans and my colleagues. I scratched my head and wondered why it took me so damn long to do it.

**VOICE: What hesitations did you have about performing as an openly gay artist?**

**Koz:** It was a different time. There weren't a lot of role models that showed it was OK to do this. It was a very scary thing. Timing in life is very key. The timing for me happened to be a little later. I love nothing more than to see kids nowadays, when young people are coming out really early and really young, and saying, 'This is who I am.'

**VOICE: How has it changed your life?**

**Koz:** I feel lighter. I've been out to my friends and to my band for a long time, but it was the last piece of coming fully out — to fans — and putting all the cards on the table. I was so scared to do that for many years, but finally I faced that fear and realized there was nothing to be afraid of at all.

**VOICE: What were some of your musical influences growing up?**

**Koz:** I was listening to a lot saxophone players obviously, people like Tom Scott, and Stan Getz, Charlie Parker, and David Sanborn was a huge influence on me. I grew up in a household where there was everything being listened to. My parents were listening to jazz vocalists, my brother was listening to progressive rock, and my sister was listening to pop. It was kind of a mish-mosh of everything so I kind of have the taste for it all.

**VOICE: Do you have any upcoming projects?**

**Koz:** I'll be making a new album in early 2005. It will come out probably in the latter part of the year, and that's going to be more symphonic in nature, more orchestral, and it's going to take on the whole idea of great movie songs, songs from movies and themes from movies, and do them with the saxophone. I specifically write all my own music, or co-write it, but this record will be a covers record.

**VOICE: Who has been your most interesting collaboration?**

**Koz:** Stevie Wonder. Just because the guy is so filled with music. But I've had some pretty wonderful experiences with other artists, from U2 to B.B. King to Stevie Wonder to Celine Dion. I played on Ray Charles' music. I love making my own

## DAVE KOZ

Age: 41

Residence: Los Angeles

Occupation: Jazz saxophonist; has a syndicated radio show on smooth-jazz stations nationwide.

Relationship status: 'I've been a pretty busy boy for the past six months. I've done a little bit of dating when I'm in town, but haven't been in town all that much. Currently, I am a single man.'

records, but I like going into the studio and working with other people. Recently I did Rod Stewart stuff, all those standards, and it's Rod Stewart, you know, he's a rock star. It's just fun to be able to be exposed to other people's lifestyles.

**VOICE: How do you balance your fame with everyday life?**

**Koz:** I have a very manageable amount of recognition, my face is not plastered in the tabloids, and I'm not on television everyday, so I can go for days without anyone noticing me. Or maybe someone might recognize me, but it's not an intrusive kind of a thing. If that were to be the case, it would be OK too. It's part of the job, but right now, I can still sell records and keep somewhat of a private life, which is very manageable for me, and I quite like it. On the other hand, I love it when somebody would come up and say 'Hey thank you for the music.' I think that's all part of the job. I'm not really a big fan of artists who are celebrities who whine a lot about that part of it. That comes with the territory.

**VOICE: How do you incorporate soul into your music?**

**Koz:** It's a focus on the melody. Also, every artist, no matter what music they play or if they sing, they have the unique experiences of their lives to draw upon and make their art. I draw on my experiences as a kid growing up, part of it was a gay kid growing up, and what that meant. Saxophone was, without question, a vehicle for me. It was an escape, a place to channel all that energy. When I was growing up, I was a confused kid, and the saxophone was a life raft for me. It was a chance to channel all that soul and energy into a place that gave me positive feedback. It kept me from getting involved in drugs, gangs, drinking and whatever it is that people fall into unfortunately.

**VOICE: How would you describe your fan base?**

**Koz:** I'll show up for a show and I'll look into an audience and be completely blown away by what I see. I'll think my music appeals to adults who are 35 and above, and I'll come to a show and see a bunch of 20-year-olds there. Or, I'll say maybe it appeals to more white people and a less urban crowd, and then I'll go to a show and there will be 75 percent African Americans. Hopefully it appeals to people who like good music.

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## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

**siren thong**  
 446  
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Panel 1: Siren Thong says, "THERE'VE BEEN A FEW CHANGES AT THE HOME OF JASMINE AND HER SON JONAS."  
 Panel 2: Siren Thong says, "JANIS! WILL YOU SHUT THAT OFF AND GET UP HERE? YOU NEED TO FINISH PACKING."  
 Panel 3: Siren Thong says, "HE WANTS TO GROW BREASTS LIKE MOMMY."  
 Panel 4: Siren Thong says, "I THINK HE... I MEAN, SHE HAS NOW OFFICIALLY WATCHED THAT OPRAH EPISODE ON TRANS-GENDER KIDS MORE TIMES THAN THE 'LITTLE MERMAID.'"  
 Panel 5: Siren Thong says, "SO HERE'S STUART'S SLEEPING BAG..."  
 Panel 6: Siren Thong says, "AND THIS IS SPARROW'S RAIN JACKET. AND SOME FLEECE STUFF OF MINE."  
 Panel 7: Siren Thong says, "THANKS. GOD, I HOPE THIS CAMP IS AS GREAT AS IT SOUNDS."  
 Panel 8: Siren Thong says, "YEAH. IF SHE COULD JUST BE HERSELF WITH OTHER KIDS FOR A WHILE, WHERE THE GENDER THING ISN'T AN ISSUE."  
 Panel 9: Siren Thong says, "ARCHERY • CANOEING • DIVERSITY TRAINING • LANYARD-WEAVING • CAMP TEN TREES • SESSION for LGBTQ YOUTH."  
 Panel 10: Siren Thong says, "JANIS! NOW!"  
 Panel 11: Siren Thong says, "YOU'RE REALLY DOING GREAT WITH ALL THIS, YOU KNOW."  
 Panel 12: Siren Thong says, "I DUNNO. I MISS MY ANGELIC LITTLE BOY WHO PLAYED WITH DOLLS. NOW I'M LIVING WITH THIS... THIS VALLEY GIRL WHO STEALS MY CLOTHES AND IGNORES ME."  
 Panel 13: Siren Thong says, "BUT ON THE UPSIDE, ALL MY ANXIETY ABOUT BEING A SINGLE MOTHER RAISING A YOUNG BLACK MAN IN THIS CULTURE HAS COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED."  
 Panel 14: Siren Thong says, "MOM, CAN I GET A SPARKLY 'KERRY 2004' PIN? PLUS I THINK I MIGHT LIKE THE NAME TERESA BETTER THAN JANIS."  
 Panel 15: Siren Thong says, "UH... LET'S GET YOUR STUFF TOGETHER. PRINCESS. LOOK, I BROUGHT YOU SOME NICE, WARM FLEECE."  
 Panel 16: Siren Thong says, "IT'S HIDEOUS! CAN'T I TAKE MOM'S CASHMERE SWEATER SET?"  
 Panel 17: Siren Thong says, "JONAS!"  
 Panel 18: Siren Thong says, "WHO'S JONAS?"  
 Panel 19: Siren Thong says, "JANIS, IF YOU PACK QUICKLY AND SENSIBLY AND LISTEN TO YOUR MOM, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU."  
 Panel 20: Siren Thong says, "OMIGOD, I LOVE YOU!"  
 Panel 21: Siren Thong says, "HELLO KITTY THONG."

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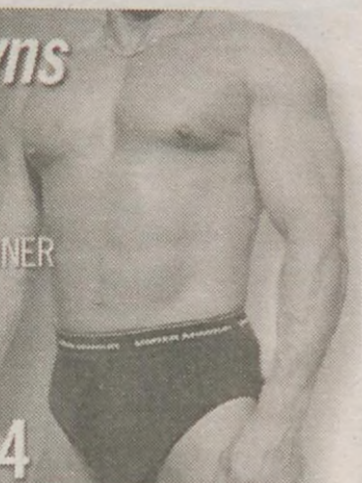


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# bitch session

## Not to be bitchy but...

**WHY DO STRAIGHT MEN WHO HAVE sex with other men call themselves straight? Why does a bi man call himself not gay?**

**YOU WANTED A NASTY GUY, BUT I tried that and you said I was mean.**

**I JUST CAME OUT TO MY PARENTS. It was about as enjoyable as the blowjob I had from last night's trick. Yuck!**

**IF YOU ARE BLACK AND YOUR friends want you to speak in "Ebonic" to show "racial loyalty" then your friends are racists. This so-called language was created out of fear that black children couldn't learn English.**

**TO THE GUY WHO LEFT ME ON MY birthday after I opened my home to him:**

You suck.

**TO ALL THE QUEERS WHO CAN'T resist plastering the backs of their cars with triangles, rainbows, equal signs and other similar bumper stickers: Anybody who looks at you when they pass your activist ass will instantly know you're gay — especially the dykes!**

**TO THE STRAIGHT COUPLES WHO keep trying to get me to join their "little girl" in a threesome: No, I will not have sex with some dogface married guy. I'm a dyke. So leave me alone and go back to your breeder bar.**

**TO THE BITCH AT THE FRONT DESK. I'm not a member of the KKK or a skin-head. I'm bald because my chemo treatments made my beautiful hair fall out.**

**IF I TOLD YOU IN ONE CHAT ROOM**

I miss playing the harp. At least I could put something between my legs anytime I wanted.

that I'm not interested in you, I'm not going to change my mind in another one. Leave me alone.

**ARE YOU KIDDING US WITH THIS?** You tried to date an 11-year-old when you were 30? And now that he is 31, you say he is old for you? Let me dial: 9-1-1

**TO THE BLACK GAY MEN WHO KEEP crying for attention from racist white gays: Stop wasting energy on ignorant, arrogant white people who don't have a clue!**

**WHY DOES THE GUY WHO SAYS IT burns when he pees is still trying to hook-up? You don't need a cure; you need an anti-erection pill.**

**SO YOU HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT spending \$30 on drinks and cover charge at a club, but balk at paying \$25 to have your hairy back waxed?**

**TO THE GIRL WHO REFERS TO herself as Tina: Why you gotta burn so bad? Damn!**

**HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT Hollywood's portrayals of gay black men are always that of an over-the-top, flaming queen?**

**TO THE MCC-GOING, ELECTORALLY bitter lesbian who refused to date this Republican: I hope you meet some left-leaning dyke with a "progressive world view" who treats you like crap.**

**TO THE GUY WHO HAS ONLY BEEN out for three years, is in a "loving relationship," and thinks "Bitch Session" is a bit childish: It's obvious you've only been out for three years.**

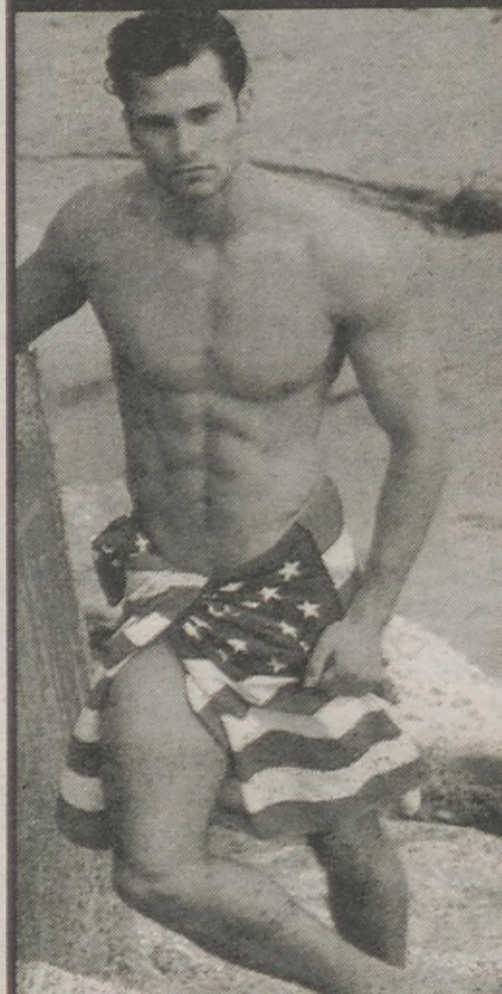
**HEY "BEARS," HERE'S YOUR LITMUS test: If I throw you a football and you try to dribble it, you aren't a bear; you're just another fat nelly princess.**

**WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH STRAIGHT people taking control of our cause for gay marriage? Is it because all of our Martin Luther King, Jr.'s are still in the closet or are we bitching too much without action?**

**THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE CALLS A guy like me a bitch, I'm going to bitch slap him.**

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

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