



## Savage advice

The latest from sex columnist Dan Savage goes paperback.

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# Calif. adopts landmark 'marriage-lite'

## State Sen. Pete Knight vows legal challenge to DP law

By LAUREL FAUST

SACRAMENTO — California Gov. Gray Davis has signed legislation that will extend to gay couples nearly the same rights and benefits as married couples. The legislation is scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, 2005.

"We're at our best when we respect every member of the California family, no matter where you're from or who you love. From this day forward, domestic partners in California will have the rights they deserve," Davis stated in a news release.

"I was raised in a traditional family structure, but I believe a family is a family

not because of gender, but because of values like commitment, trust and love. These are true family values," Davis said.

Assembly Bill 205, the California Domestic Partner Rights & Responsibilities Act, makes California the second state after Vermont to provide extensive protections for same-sex couples. Only couples that register their partnership with the state will be eligible for the rights and responsibilities accorded by the law.

California became the first state to extend to gay couples the ability to register their partnerships in 1999. More than 22,000 couples have so far registered.

Davis spokesperson Russ Lopez said the governor was eager to sign the bill.

"This was the right thing to do. This was a bill that leveled out the playing field on matters of civil rights and equality. He

has to be the most gay-friendly governor this nation has," Lopez said.

Under the new law, partners will be eligible for each other's health plans. There will be expanded benefits for property ownership, child custody and visitation, employee benefits, bereavement and family care leave and exemption from gift and estate taxes. Partners will also have the right to make funeral arrangements for each other.

Along with the benefits come responsibilities. Partners will be required to cover each other's debts and to pay alimony and child support if they split up.

Partners will not be able file joint state taxes, because the system wouldn't cross reference with the federal system, said Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality

Please see CALIFORNIA on Page 9



California Gov. Gray Davis, who signed the landmark legislation in the midst of an effort to unseat him, said domestic partners will now have 'the rights they deserve.' (Photo by AP)

# Thousands flock to gay business expo



Empower featured almost 150 businesses and non-profit groups showcasing their services for gay consumers. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

## Empower showcases 'gay market' for businesses, non-profits

By JOSEF MOLNAR

Heavy clouds and rain didn't stop thousands from visiting the eighth annual Empower event, held Sept. 20-21 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

The event's large, welcoming space gave visitors a reason to get out of the rain and mingle with vendors offering a variety of products and services. The Empower 2003 theme, "Go Straight to the Gay Market," gave nearly 150 businesses and organizations a chance to reach out to gay constituents.

Candidates and political advocacy

groups, including the Harris County Democratic Party, Log Cabin Republicans and the Human Rights Campaign, also turned out to visit with gay voters.

Empower is sponsored each year by the Greater Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Chamber of Commerce. This year's event brought in about 3,500 visitors, 10 percent more than last year, according to Coy Tow, the chamber's executive director.

Billed more as a festival than simply a business expo, Empower continues to draw more and more attendees, which supports gay companies, Tow said.

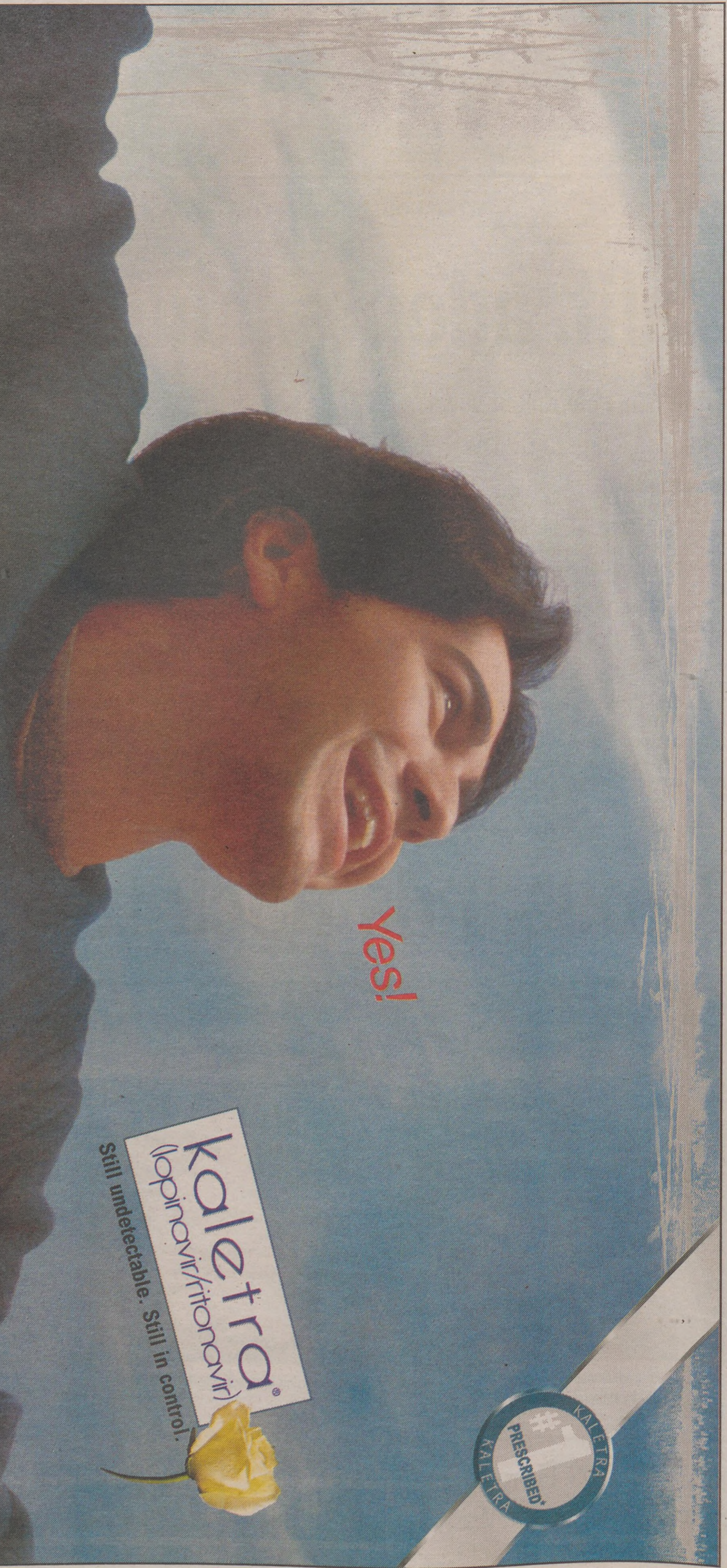
"If we don't support and keep investing in gay businesses, we all lose," he said, "and if local gay businesses close, it affects our buying power and our strength."

Please see EMPOWER on Page 4

REMEMBER US: Plans for gay veterans memorial underway in Washington, D.C. Page 7

KAREN CARES: Bisexual 'Will & Grace' co-star Megan Mullally sings praises of current gay programming crop. Page 17





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# Still undetectable

The virus is under control. My HIV therapy is still working.  
And KALETRA is helping to make a difference.

**KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents.**

**Safety Information**  
Taking KALETRA with certain drugs could create potential for serious and/or life-threatening effects. KALETRA should not be taken with Halcion®, Hismanal®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Rytimol®, Seidane®, Tambocor™, Versed®, Rimaciane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, ergot derivatives or products containing St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). Discuss all medicines, including those without a

prescription, and herbal preparations you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist. KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which can be fatal, have been reported. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral

therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

In clinical trials, the most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity were: abdominal pain, abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache and nausea. This is not a complete list of reported side effects. KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

**KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.**  
Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.



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Abbott Park, IL 60064

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June 2003



Printed in USA

**KALETRA®**(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules  
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA.** Please also read the section

"MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

**Patient Information****KALETRA®**

(kuh-LEE-tra)

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

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

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

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

HIV infection destroys CD<sub>4</sub> (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

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

**Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?**

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

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

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

**How should I take KALETRA?**

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

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

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

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

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately. As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

**Who should not take KALETRA?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Medicines that require dosage adjustments:**

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

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

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

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

**Other Special Considerations:**

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

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

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

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

The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abdominal pain, abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.

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

Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

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

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

**How do I store KALETRA?**

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

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

**General advice about prescription medicines:**

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

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local news

# Eighth gay expo enjoyed continued increase in attendance, fund-raising

EMPOWER, continued from Page 1

Vendors paid \$500 each to exhibit at Empower. A local catering company — dubbed “Clayton Catering, Of Course!” — won first place for its booth, which featured a heaven and hell theme to show prospective clients the benefits of a well-planned event.

Jorge Usatorres, sales manager for Of Course!, estimated about 150 people showed interest in the company. His experience in Houston is very different than in Miami, where he recently lived, Usatorres said.

“It was great to see that this city has such an involvement with the gay business community, whereas other cities that seem to have a more open gay community don’t have a gay chamber of commerce,” he said.

The chamber is still calculating funds brought in from Empower, Tow said. But he estimates the event brought in \$5,000 from ticket sales alone. The revenue will help fund the organization, which supports local gay or gay-friendly businesses and organizations, he said.

In addition to businesses, a number of gay non-profit organizations such as the Gay Men’s Chorus of Houston are members of the chamber of commerce. Non-profit members also benefited from a portion of the more than 800 advanced ticket sales: Each organization was allowed to keep \$3 of each \$5 ticket sold. The income also helps to boost revenue in an area that is seeing less government support.

“It was an easy fund-raiser for them, because our product is already done, and



Coy Tow, executive director of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, described Empower as a ‘community event.’ (Photos by Dalton DeHart)

this allows them to keep the proceeds,” Tow said. “It’s free money for them.”

The event required the assistance of about 700 volunteers, who worked on Empower’s various committees and at the event itself, Tow said.

“Many people look at this as chamber event, but it’s not,” he said. “It’s a community event. It just happens to be supported by the chamber, and we’re looking to get more people involved.”

Next year’s event is already in the

planning stages, and anyone who wants to be involved or join can contact the chamber, Tow said.

**i MORE INFO**

Greater Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Chamber of Commerce  
713-523-7576  
www.ghglcc.org.



Annise Parker, a gay City Council member running for City Controller, was among the politicians who turned out to stump for gay votes.



Clayton Catering, Of Course! won first place for its booth, which featured a heaven and hell theme.

## inside

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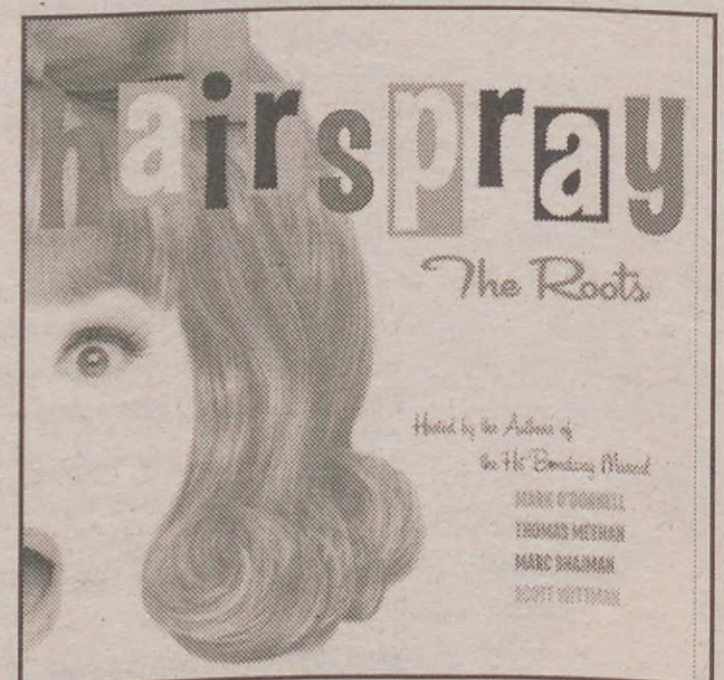
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**FAMILY VALUES:** Noelle Howey grew up like any other girl — until her father came out with the gender identity of a woman, sparking her book on transgenderism. Page 7



**NOT ON OUR DIME:** Bravo declines ad from MyGaydar.com that shows two attractive men poolside rebuffing the advances of a busty woman. Page 12



**BOOK 'EM:** As the wildly popular Broadway show ‘Hairspray’ hits the road for a national tour, its gay creators dish in a fun behind-the-scenes look at the original cast production. Page 18

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## national news

### Ohio considering 'super DOMA' law killing DP benefits

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio House is considering a Defense of Marriage Act that could void all local domestic partner benefits, the Gay People's Chronicle reported. House Bill 272, sponsored by Rep. Bill Seitz of Cincinnati, is identical to Senate Bill 65, introduced by Sen. Lynn R. Wachtmann of Napoleon earlier this year. Both are virtually identical to a House measure passed in 2001 that died in the Senate. The bills declare that marriages between one man and one woman are the only relationships recognized by the state, and deny recognition of any other couples, the Chronicle reported. Known as "super DOMAs," this type of bill goes beyond declaring that same-sex marriage is against the public policy of the state; they also block cities from enacting local laws recognizing or giving "specific statutory benefits" to any couple, same-sex and opposite-sex, not legally married. The Senate bill has not moved since it was introduced, but the new House bill already is assigned to the House Juvenile & Family Law Committee and may get sponsor testimony within the week if the House leadership wants it to move, the Chronicle reported.



Ohio Sen. Lynn Wachtmann is sponsoring a state Senate bill that declares marriage between one man and one woman the only relationship recognized by Ohio.

### Law schools sue Defense Department over on-campus military recruiters

BOSTON (AP) — A nationwide group of law schools, law professors and law students has sued the Department of Defense, alleging its requirement that law schools allow military recruiters on campus violates the First Amendment. Many universities barred recruiters because they said the military's ban on gays serving openly violated nondiscrimination rules. But last year, the Defense Department threatened to pull federal funding from law schools that deny military recruiters open access to students. Kent Greenfield, a Boston College law professor leading the suit, said the government is forcing schools to agree with its policies to get benefits, and that's "not the American way." Laurence H. Tribe, constitutional law specialist at Harvard Law School, said the Supreme Court has ruled the government can withhold funds from an activity it disapproves, but can't deny those funds to an entire organization. "This law is an attempt to take the principle that he who pays the piper calls the tune much further than the courts have generally allowed," Tribe said.

### Scout anti-gay policy puts free land use in jeopardy for Philly council

PHILADELPHIA — City officials said the local Boy Scout council may lose its traditional free use of city property for its offices because of the group's policy of banning gays from scouting, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported. "We hope that this will not be the outcome," Pat Coviello, executive vice president of the Cradle of Liberty Council, told the newspaper. The mayor's chief of staff, Joyce Wilkerson, contacted local council executives last week to advise them of an opinion handed down by City Solicitor Nelson A. Diaz. According to the Inquirer, Diaz informed the mayor's office that the city's fair practices ordinance was in direct conflict with the policy of allowing the Boy Scouts to use property rent-free for offices. The Boy Scouts' policy of excluding gays and atheists, dictated by the national organization, causes the conflict, said Barbara Grant, the mayor's spokesperson. City leaders and Boy Scout representatives are set to meet this week to discuss the issue.

### Wisc. poll finds some support for same-sex civil unions

MADISON — A majority of Wisconsin residents opposes allowing same-sex marriages, although nearly half the population supports permitting civil unions of those of the same sex, a new poll indicates, the Associated Press reported. The Badger Poll, conducted by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center, found that 60 percent of those surveyed disapproved of any law that would allow members of the same sex to marry, while 32 percent approved. The others had no opinion or refused to answer. But the statewide survey of 511 people, conducted Aug. 18-27, also found that 48 percent approved of civil unions of those of the same sex, while 47 percent disapproved.

### Republican leader says party may support marriage amendment

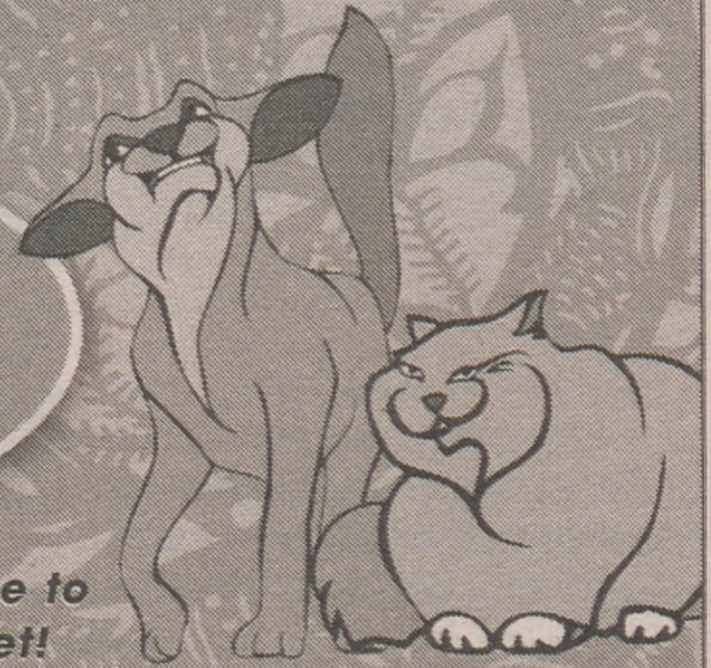
WASHINGTON — Republican National Party Chair Ed Gillespie said it is likely his party will condemn same-sex marriage and support a constitutional amendment barring gay couples from marriage in that party's next platform, according to media reports. "There is a lot of energy out there, a lot of concern about gay marriage," Gillespie told the Washington Times. "So it wouldn't surprise me if it were addressed in some form or fashion in the platform." Gillespie went on to accuse gay men and lesbians of "intolerance and bigotry by attempting to force the rest of the population to accept alien moral standards." He went on to say, "I think when people say, 'Well, no, that's not enough that you accept me for who I am, you have to agree with — and condone — my choice,' that to me is religious bigotry, and I believe that's intolerant. I think they are the ones who are crossing a line here." Gillespie said the plank likely would define marriage as "a monogamous, heterosexual union, and would forbid states from legalizing homosexual marriages." But, he suggested it also might include civil unions laws passed in Vermont and California. "Frankly I don't see the difference between the two," he said.

From staff and wire reports

## Resurrection's Annual Blessing of the Animals

October 4th  
12 PM

A Photographer will be available to take pictures of you and your pet!



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## Houston Gay Couple Welcomes Twins to the Family!

ON MAY 15TH, 2003, FRANK AND BOB'S life changed forever as they welcomed their children, Lucas and Leah, to their family.

The Houston couple achieved their dreams of becoming parents through the assistance of Growing Generations, the nation's oldest and largest surrogacy and egg donation agency serving the gay community.

"We had been trying for years to start a family," said Frank. "With the help of Growing Generations, our dream has finally come true!"

Growing Generations was founded in 1996 and has helped more than 500 members of the gay community create families through surrogacy and egg donation. A full-service agency with comprehensive case management services, Growing Generations is a gay and lesbian owned company and helps clients from across the United States and the world.



For a free information package, call 1.800.877.4438  
or visit: [www.growinggenerations.com](http://www.growinggenerations.com)

Building Families of Choice through Surrogacy  
for the Gay Community Worldwide



Growing Generations

## international news

### Gay rights issue stalls Australian inheritance proposal

CANBERRA, Australia — The debate over whether to include a gay rights component is affecting the Australian government's \$920 million shakeup of the country's national retirement plan, the Age of Melbourne reported. Government officials earlier this month claimed victory in a two-year bid to deliver on a core election promise, saying leaders brokered a deal with the Australian Democrats to pass a retirement package through the Senate. But when Labor, Democrat and Greens senators forced a modification giving gay couples the same retirement rights as heterosexual couples, the deal stalled. The amendment allows gays survivors to automatically inherit a deceased partner's retirement, or "superannuation." It was firmly rejected by the government, placing the entire superannuation package at risk, the Age reported. Revenue Minister Helen Coonan said the government would need to "reconsider the compromise package." A spokesperson for Coonan later denied the government had a moral objection to the change, but said the modification lumped two entirely different issues together. "There is nothing in the law currently to prevent a trustee paying death benefits to a same-sex partner who was financially dependent on the deceased," the spokesperson told the Age.



Helen Coonan, Australia's revenue minister, said government officials will 'reconsider the compromise package' on a proposal to include gay rights in an inheritance measure initially backed by Australian leaders.

### Gay activists allege police brutality by Tel Aviv force at city park

TEL AVIV — Gay civil rights activists in Israel accused members of the Tel Aviv police force of brutality after a violent attack on gays in a city park last week, according to news reports. The Association of Gay Men, Lesbians, Bisexuals & Transgenders in Israel is collecting affidavits from witnesses and victims in the attacks, according to media reports. Group leaders said they intend to present the documents to the Mahash, or police investigations unit. "I was sitting in Independence Park with a few friends and suddenly about 10 people arrived," a 25-year-old witness told the Haaretz newspaper. "We didn't know yet that they were policemen, because they wore [special patrol unit] uniforms and we didn't notice this in the dark." The witness said the police then attacked gays in the crowd, according to news reports. "They knocked one of my friends off his bike and then kicked him all over his body. I immediately called the police," the witness said. "The policeman on the telephone told me it wasn't such an urgent case and that we would have to wait." More calls were made. Haaretz reports that a single squad car arrived about an hour and a half later.

### Gay 'insult' led to U.K. soldier's killing in Kabul, inquest hears

KABUL, Afghanistan — A British army corporal performing peace keeping duties took offense to gay taunts and shot his colleague 10 times with an assault rifle, an inquest heard last week, Gay.com UK reported. The corporal, part of the Wiltshire force sent to Afghanistan's Kabul airport, then shot himself in the head, according to media reports. According to witnesses, Cpl. John Gregory had been drinking. He had originally been fighting with Sgt. Robert Busuttil after they argued over gay insults at a barbecue for Gregory, who was due to leave the force the next day, Gay.com UK reported. The shooting occurred in August 2002. The inquest is ongoing.

### Canadian legislators vote to approve hate crimes law

OTTAWA — Lawmakers voted 143-110 last week to extend hate-crimes protections to include "sexual orientation" as a political category, the Canadian Press reported. Bill C-250, introduced by New Democrat MP Svend Robinson, amends the hate propaganda section of the Criminal Code to add gays to a list of groups legally protected from incitement of hatred and genocide, the press reported. The hate propaganda law, passed in 1970, banned incitement of hatred on the basis of color, race, religion and ethnic origin, but not sexual orientation, according to media reports. Also last week, MPs narrowly defeated a motion to maintain the traditional definition of marriage — an attempt by the Canadian Alliance to pre-empt the government's plan to allow same-sex unions.

### New laws would give same rights to all EU couples

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Same-sex couples and unmarried couples will get the same rights as married couples everywhere in the European Union under new laws being discussed by the E.U. council, EUPolitix.com reported. The proposal on the rights of E.U. citizens working abroad expands the definition of the family to include gay and unmarried couples, according to media reports. Germany, Ireland, Austria and Spain are set to challenge the change, while U.K. and the Netherlands leaders are supportive. Expatriates would have six months to register with the authorities in any E.U. host country, instead of three as is now the case, EUPolitix.com reported. The proposal has caused security concerns in many countries, although not in the U.K., where no registration requirements exist. E.U. citizens would also automatically become permanent residents of other E.U. states simply by living there for four consecutive years, according to media reports.

From staff and wire reports

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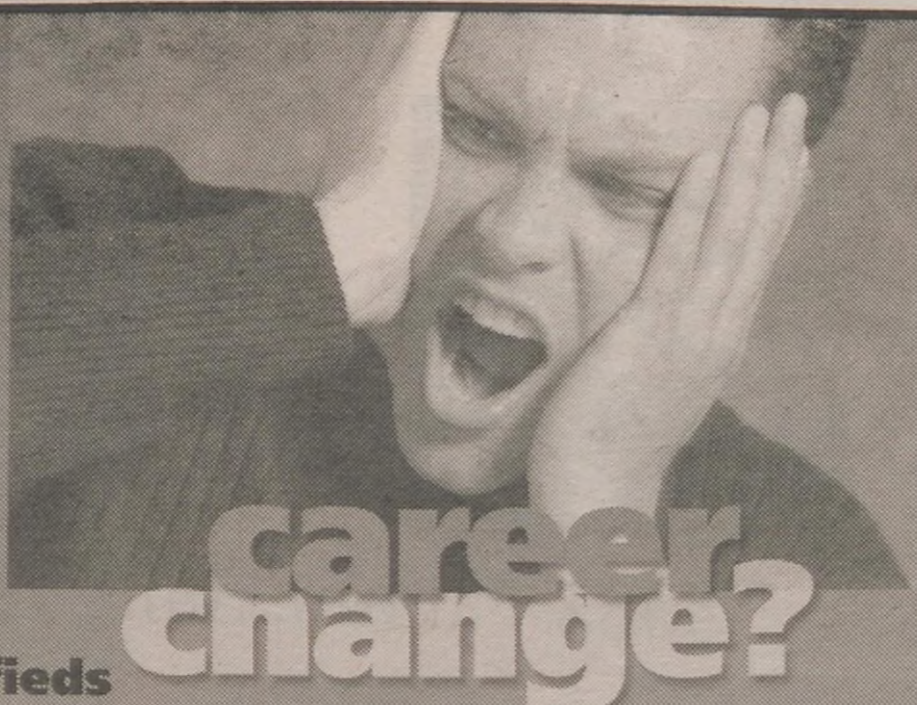
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## CALENDAR

<b>Friday • September 26</b> Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "Chicago"	<b>Friday • October 3</b> Morning Prayer 10am St. Francis Feast Mass 7pm
<b>Monday • September 29</b> Eucharist 7:30pm	<b>Monday • October 6</b> Eucharist 7:30pm
<b>Thursday • October 2</b> Potluck 7pm Emmaus Houston, speaker	<b>Friday • October 10</b> Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "Bringing Down the House"

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## national news

# Movement underway for gay vet memorial in D.C.

'Discrimination will follow you to the grave'

By BRYAN ANDERTON

WASHINGTON — For more than a decade, Leonard P. Matlovich's tombstone served as an unofficial memorial of sorts for gay veterans. Matlovich, who died of AIDS in 1988, was the first soldier to contest the U.S. military's ban on gays in court.

"When I was in the military, they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one," Matlovich's headstone reads.

Now a national group hopes to get an official memorial honoring gay veterans built in Congressional Cemetery, where Matlovich is buried alongside other soldiers, congressmen and former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

"We're very proud of our service," said retired Lt. Col. Nancy Russell, president of the gay veterans group American Veterans for Equal Rights and the project officer for the memorial. "Over the years, we have watched the military disparage gay and lesbian veterans, so we want some sort of visible memorial to that service."

The cemetery was established in 1807 and is home to about 60,000 graves. It earned its name after a number of members of Congress were buried there in the 19th century.

But in the last decade, it became the final resting place for about a dozen or so gay vet-

erans — many of whom, like Matlovich, use their tombstones to relay political messages about the military's ban on gays.

Currently, under the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, gay soldiers are discharged if they reveal their sexual orientation. That policy extends even to their funerals. According to Jo Schuda, a spokesperson for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, no reference about sexual orientation can be made on the tombstones of veterans buried in national cemeteries.

"That's the problem," said Jim Darby, a 71-year-old Chicago resident and Korean War Veteran. "Discrimination will follow you to the grave."

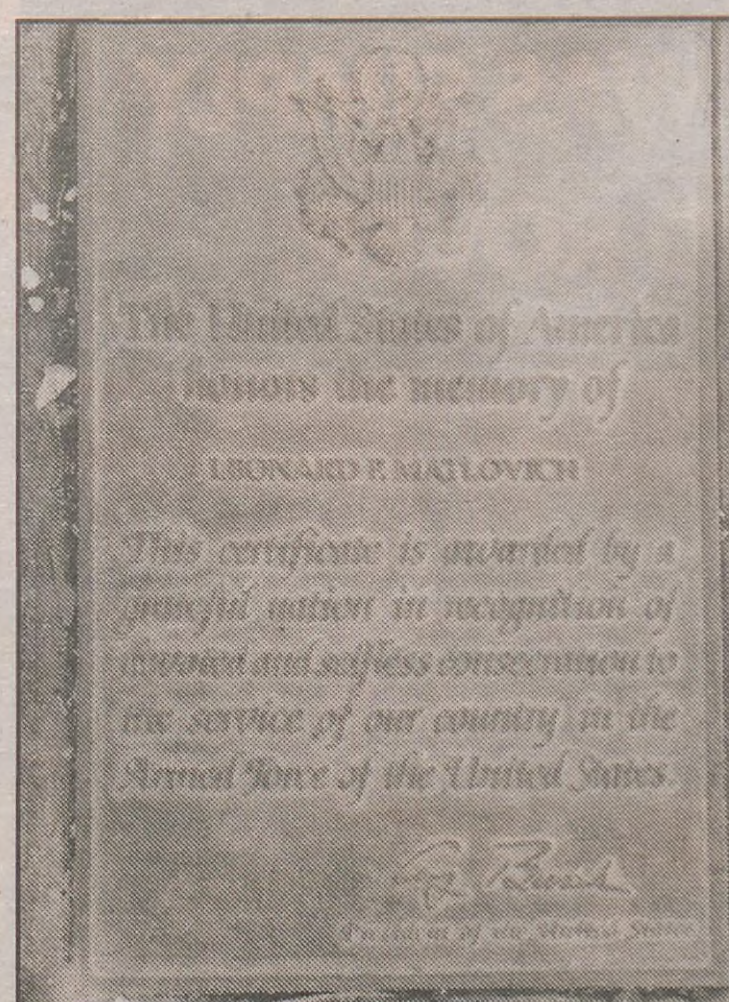
But tombstones could use the word "partner," as long as they don't specify the partner's name, "because ['partner'] could be used generically by anyone," Schuda said. Heterosexual veterans buried in national cemeteries are also not allowed to reference their spouses by name on their tombstones, she said.

Discussions about a memorial to gay veterans at Congressional Cemetery are two years old, and officials sent Russell a letter "expressing interest" in the project, she said.

"They didn't say they were definitely going to build a memorial there, but they did say they were amenable to pursuing it," Russell said.

AVER is looking for submissions of possible designs for the memorial from artists, she added.

Other cemeteries around the country



The tombstone of Leonard P. Matlovich, located in Congressional Cemetery, reads, 'When I was in the military, they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one.' (Photo by Michael Wise)

contain memorials for gay veterans. In August, a small marker honoring gay veterans was unveiled in Capitol Park in Sacramento, Calif., and another was erected in the National Cemetery in Phoenix.

According to a recent study completed by the Urban Institute, an estimated 1 million U.S. veterans are gay — about 4 percent of the more than 25 million American veterans.

The tide of opinion is changing in favor

of gays in the military, but it will remain contentious and always be divisive for some people, said Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, a research unit of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

"That said, I do think the polls show that the majority of the country is accepting of gays serving in the military," he added.

Russell and Belkin argued against criticism that sexual orientation does not belong in cemeteries.

"It's similar to their question of why do we have to come out of the closet — can't we just stay in the closet so they can be comfortable?" Russell said. "Having a memorial ... is like coming out of the closet. It's saying, 'We served too, and we want it to be known that we served with honor just like other veterans did.'"

Belkin echoed that sentiment.

"This memorial isn't so much about the politics of the gay ban so much as the heroics involved with serving in the military," Belkin said.

## MORE INFO

American Veterans for Equal Rights  
www.glbva.org

Congressional Cemetery  
1801 E St., SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
202-543-0539

www.congressionalcemetery.org

# 'Traditional' transgender family values

Author's memoir shows trend of accepting trans parents

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

ATLANTA — In the prologue to her girlhood memoir, Noelle Howey describes herself and her divorced parents, a biological woman and a transgendered lesbian, as "traditional."

"I have a family that survived a life in the closet by employing humor, tinted car windows, and thousands of dollars' worth of therapy," Howey wrote. "A traditional family — loving father, supportive mother, doting child — that would probably be the right wing's worst nightmare."

Howey's family isn't "traditional" in the nuclear sense, she said. But it does function with what she considers traditional values.

"We're traditional in a simple sense," Howey said in an interview Wednesday. "We love each other and support each other, but it is sad because people express surprise when I tell them I support



In her book, 'Dress Codes: Of Three Girlhoods — My Mother's, My Father's, and Mine,' Noelle Howey recounts her family's coming of age from their suburban beginnings (left) to their life after her father's transition to womanhood (right). (Photos courtesy of Picador USA)

my father. Families aren't just to annoy you on the holidays."

Howey discusses her book, "Dress Codes: Of Three Girlhoods — My Mother's, My Father's, and Mine" at the annual Southern Comfort Conference for transgendered people this weekend in Atlanta.

Organizers of the annual conference expect to draw more than 500 participants this year. Howey delivers the keynote address.

A significant message of Howey's book is the notion that

transgendered parents hurt their children more by torturing themselves in the closet than by being honest about who they are, she said.

"Partly why I wanted to write the book was so that maybe transgendered people would realize that the best thing they can do is embrace their children and themselves and that hurting themselves is what hurts their kids," she said. "It's losing the parent they can't handle."

Rebecca Christine Howey, Noelle Howey's father, began her public transition to become a

woman when Noelle was 18. The transition prompted her parents to divorce, and it paved the way for Noelle and her father to nurture a better relationship, she said.

Now Howey's father lives as a post-op transgendered lesbian, who is her "best friend," but it took several years of re-building trust for the camaraderie to foster completely, she said.

Coming out doesn't end with family members, and often results in job loss and alienation — risks that must be taken into consideration before making a public gender change, said Virginia Erhardt, a psychologist who specializes in transgender issues.

"I ask what kind of changes my clients can tolerate making in their lives. There is a lot to gain but also the risk of losing a lot, like families and jobs," said Erhardt, who will present two seminars at this year's Southern Comfort.

Transgendered people need to be mindful that family members need time to cope with the sudden shock that their gender is not what was previously thought, said Erin Swenson, a licensed general marriage and family therapist in Atlanta.

"Most of us have spent decades and only recently accepted ourselves, and it is unrealistic for us to expect them to be okay with it right away," said Swenson, who is also a transgendered woman.

As more transgender people come out about their gender identity, images of transgendered families are changing.

"Families can look any way," said Hawk Stone, a transgender family and individual therapist who serves as co-chair of the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy and board chair of the International Foundation for Gender Education.

Stone, a transgendered man, works with families to debunk the "old myth" that a transgendered person must be removed for a family to continue functioning.

Traditionally, transgendered parents had children prior to realizing their gender identity, said Debbie Weill, a male-to-female senior field and policy coordinator for the Midwest region of PFLAG.

Weill heads a panel of PFLAG members who will hold a workshop at Southern Comfort this weekend.

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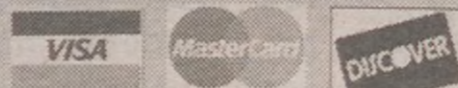
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## police beat

### Alleged male prostitute found guilty of shooting Ill. man

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — A McDonough County jury last week found a man accused of killing a Colchester physician guilty of first-degree murder. Thomas Degrado, 24, was accused in the April 9, 2002, death of Dr. Arthur Thrasher, 51, who was found dead in his home after failing to report for work. He had been shot twice in the head. Degrado faces 20 to 40 years in prison on the first-degree murder charge and 25 years to life on a gun-enhancement charge, said State's Attorney William Poncin. Judge William Henderson did not set a sentencing date. Prosecutors portrayed Degrado as a prostitute who used his earnings to buy crack cocaine. Prosecutors said the man had a relationship with Thrasher, who brought Degrado and another man to his house. Poncin contended Thrasher was not armed with a gun prior to his death and made no threats to either man. In his testimony, Degrado said Dewardo Shiner of Springfield and Thrasher got into an argument over the doctor's Nazi memorabilia. Thrasher confronted Shiner with a gun in an attempt to get him to leave the home, according to the defendant. Degrado said he took the gun away from Thrasher and shot the doctor because he believed he and Shiner would be harmed.



Thomas Degrado was found guilty of shooting Arthur Thrasher in early 2002 at Thrasher's home. Prosecutors said Degrado was a prostitute who brought men to Thrasher's home. (Photo by Taysha Marie Kovar/AP)

### Former city official first in Calif. to be prosecuted for HIV infection

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A former city health commissioner who allegedly lied to an ex-boyfriend about his HIV status is the first person charged under a state law against intentionally exposing another person to the virus, prosecutors said. Ronald Gene Hill, 46, was arrested in Grass Valley, 50 miles northeast of Sacramento, following his indictment by a grand jury last week, said Mark MacNamara, spokesperson for the San Francisco district attorney's office. Hill was scheduled to be arraigned in San Francisco late last week, MacNamara said. It's the first arrest under a 1998 state law making it a crime to knowingly and intentionally expose another person to the virus that causes AIDS. In March 2002, a San Francisco judge imposed a \$5 million default judgment against Hill — \$2.5 million in damages and \$2.5 million in punitive damages — to be awarded to Hill's former lover, Thomas Lister.

### Miss. judge refuses to set bond or release HIV-positive inmate

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A Hinds County Circuit judge has refused to set bond or release from jail an HIV-positive man who says he needs surgery. Terry Curtis, 29, was seeking release from the Hinds County Detention Center on his own recognizance or on bail on a 2002 charge of receiving stolen goods. He has been in the detention center since his March 9 arrest. Curtis' attorney, Kimalon Campbell, said Curtis needs surgery to cure a problem causing major swelling in his leg. "It will be costly to the county if the county has to have the surgery done," Campbell told Circuit Judge Swan Yerger. Assistant District Attorney Myrick Jackson opposed Curtis' release on his own recognizance because Curtis was indicted as a habitual offender. Yerger said it will be up to a doctor — and not lawyers in a courtroom — to determine Curtis' medical needs. "He can get appropriate medical care through MDOC if convicted," Yerger said.

### Pa. man allegedly performed botched castration surgery

MCKEESPORT, Pa. (AP) — A man posed as a surgeon and performed a botched sex change on a transgendered woman, police said. Doug Lenhart, 48, of Lower Burrell, was allegedly hired by the 43-year-old transgendered woman to perform a castration Sept. 12 at her home. The alleged victim, who found Lenhart over the Internet, paid him \$800 for the surgery, which was carried out with his own set of instruments, McKeesport police Chief Rob Willard said. Lenhart, who was charged with assault and related counts, admitted to police to performing similar surgery in the past even though he does not have a license to practice medicine, Willard said. "[The victim] called 911 after she realized she was bleeding excessively due to complications that occurred when Lenhart attempted to remove one of her testicles," Detective Bryan Washowich said. Lenhart was being held on charges of aggravated assault, reckless endangerment and unauthorized practice of medicine and surgery.

### Lesbian judge cleared of felony, placed on three years' probation

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — A judge convicted of driving under the influence after an argument with her domestic partner may be cleared to return to work after prosecutors dropped a felony charge that had threatened to end her career. Superior Court Judge Diana R. Hall, 53, who was convicted of two misdemeanor drunk-driving charges, was sentenced last week to three years probation, ordered to undergo alcohol counseling and fined \$1,475. Hall, who was accused of attacking her former partner, 39-year-old Deidra Dykeman, during a drunken argument in December, was acquitted in August of one felony count of dissuading a witness by force or threat and misdemeanor counts of domestic battery and exhibiting a firearm. The remaining felony charge stemmed from Hall's destruction of a phone during the confrontation with Dykeman.

From staff and wire reports

## news

# Calif. law holds some differences from Vermont civil unions

CALIFORNIA, continued from Page 1

California. Equality California helped sponsor the domestic partners legislation.

Kors said there was a concern by some that couples might be audited because of the differences in the state and federal tax systems. Kors said he hopes this can be remedied in the next year.

The delay in implementing the law until Jan. 1, 2005, gives already registered partners a chance to bow out before the responsibilities inherent in the partnerships take hold.

Assembly member Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), who introduced the legislation, said the law offers security for gay families. Goldberg raised a son with her partner of 24 years, Sharon Stricker.

"All of the things that we worried about — what happens to him if I die and the courts don't recognize my partner as a parent — we have step-parent adoption now. Before she wouldn't have had any standing," Goldberg said.

"No one will ever worry again what will happen to their kids if one of them were to pass away. I'm just overjoyed that future families in our state are not going to face that at least on the state level," she said.

Kors noted that while California and Vermont differ in what they call the unions — California refers to it as "domestic partnership" while Vermont uses the "civil union" moniker — the rights conferred are basically the same, with only a few differences.

Vermont permits couples to file joint taxes. Also, California couples will submit a notarized application and pay \$10 to file as domestic partners with the state, while Vermont requires a civil ceremony similar to that required in a marriage and the partners are legally called spouses. Former Gov. Howard Dean, now a presidential candidate, signed the Vermont law establishing civil unions for same-sex couples in 2000.

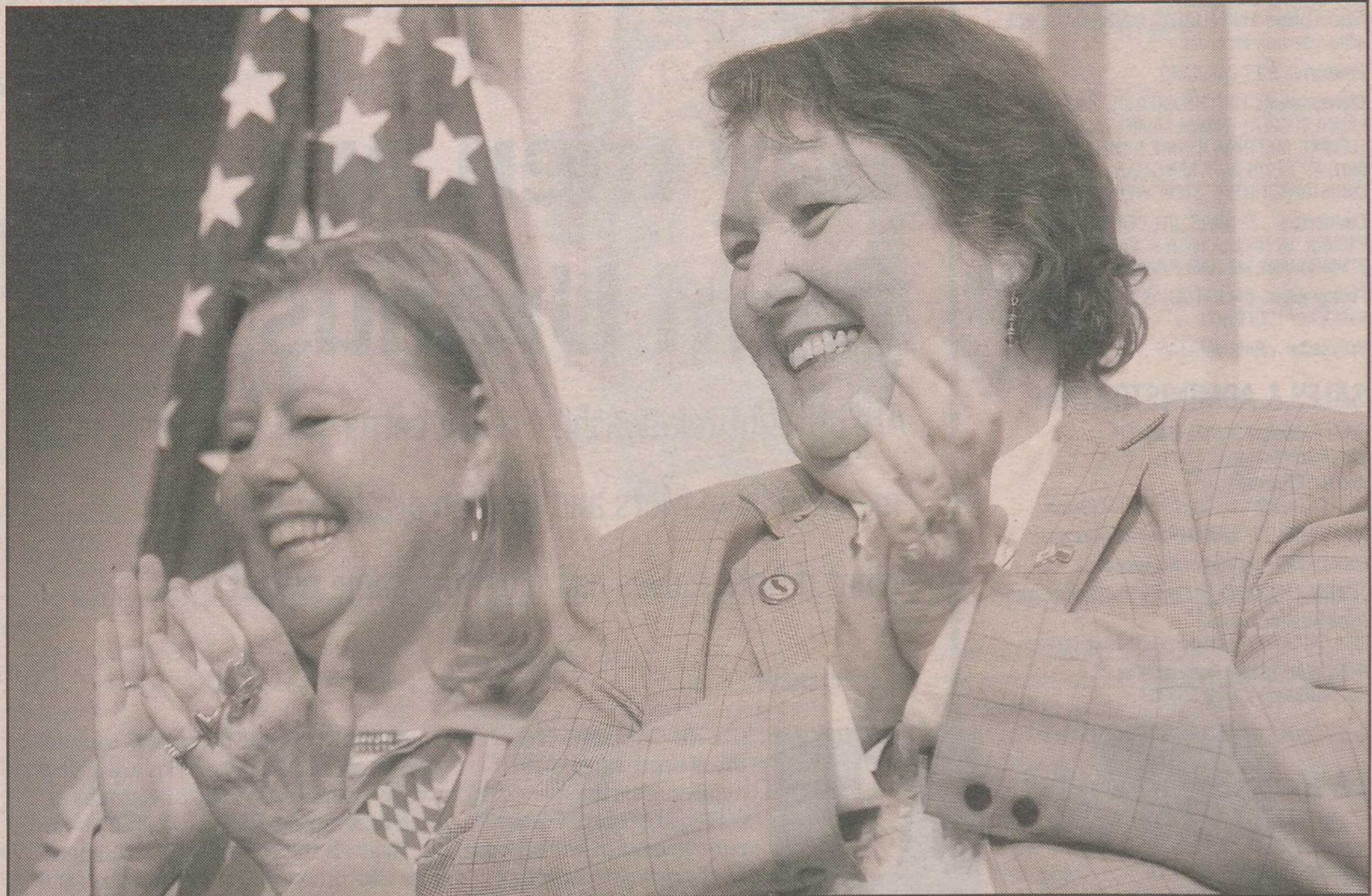
Goldberg said the vote was split in both houses across party lines. State Sen. Dean Florez of Central Valley was the lone Democrat to vote against the bill. It passed in the Assembly by a vote of 41-29 on June 4. The Senate voted 23-14 to approve the legislation on Sept. 3.

"There were Republicans who didn't really oppose it. They were frightened by their party, completely captured by the Republican right," Goldberg said.

## Knight files lawsuit

State Sen. William "Pete" Knight filed a lawsuit on Monday in Sacramento Superior Court to challenge the domestic partner legislation.

Knight authored Proposition 22, a 2000 ballot initiative, also known as the Knight Initiative, which was approved by 61 percent of the voters. It stipulated, "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid and recognized by the state of California." The initiative closely resembled the federal Defense of Marriage Act and the so-called "mini-DOMAs" adopted in a num-



California Assembly member Jackie Goldberg (right) said a lawsuit aimed at undoing California's new DP law is doomed to fail. (Photo by AP)

ber of other states.

Goldberg argued that while the majority of Californians oppose gay marriage, more than 70 percent are supportive of domestic partnership. She said Knight's lawsuit is meritless.

"It doesn't have any chance, and he knows it. This isn't the same as marriage. There are no federal rights and responsibilities. It's not portable to other states. It's simply not the same thing. It only gives the opposition an opportunity to fund-raise," she said.

Lopez, Davis' spokesperson, agreed. "The governor can't afford to be threatened by the ramblings of Pete Knight, who has made it a career goal to spout off his bigotry," Lopez said.

Being in a domestic partnership or a civil union does not confer many of the rights and responsibilities granted to married heterosexual couples. Some that are not conferred include: social security and immigration benefits, joint filing of federal taxes, retirement and pension benefits, and the ability to inherit a spouse's retirement account.

The domestic partner legislation applies only to California residents. It is unclear the extent to which courts in other states will apply the California law to divide property and set alimony if the couple has moved away from California.

David Smith, field director of the Human Rights Campaign, called the domestic partner legislation an historic step forward for gay and lesbian equality.

"It's not full equality, but nonetheless it's a giant step forward and should be applauded," he said.

Martin Ornelas-Quintero, executive

director of the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization, applauded the governor's signing of the bill. California has the largest Latino population in the country.

"Thanks go to the California legislature and Gov. Davis for granting basic rights to potentially tens of thousands of same-sex couples, and shame on those who are trying to take those basic rights away," he said.

There were six co-authors for the legislation, including four from the legislative Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Task Force, a caucus of the state's elected gay officials, including Sen. Sheila Kuehl of Los Angeles, and Assembly members Christine Kehoe of San Diego, John Laird of Santa Cruz and Mark Leno of San Francisco; and Assembly member Herb Wesson of Los Angeles; and Sen. Paul Koretz of West Hollywood, who had earlier tried to push through a civil unions bill.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund assisted in drafting the legislation.

California already had strong domestic partner laws. In 2001, the state granted many rights to domestic partners, including the right to adopt a partner's child, the right sue for wrongful death of a partner, and the right to make medical decisions for incapacitated partners.

Earlier this month, the California assembly approved legislation by Kehoe, which would require that companies that want to do business with the state offer equal benefits to domestic partners and married couples. These benefits include but

are not limited to: pension; health, retirement and travel benefits; bereavement and family medical leave; membership or membership discounts; and moving expenses.

Contractors would be required to treat as confidential any request by employees or applicants any documentation of eligibility for domestic partner or spousal benefits.

Kehoe said her legislation, A.B. 17, is about equal rights and equal pay in the form of benefits.

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Issue 1196

# Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

PAGE 10

## editorial

# Gay men are from Uranus

Are straight relationships really better just because

'men are from Mars and women are from Venus'?

What if both halves hail from the same planet?

By CHRIS CRAIN

t

HEY'RE CALLING IT "the absence of sexual complementarity."

Who are "they"? "They" are opponents of extending civil marriage to include gay couples, and with their

old standby arguments withering under scrutiny, they've been forced to get creative.

You remember the old standbys. First there was: "Marriage is an institution for men and women, so gay couples by definition don't fit." That logic is so circular ("it is because it is, Blanche!") even conservatives got dizzy trying to defend it.

Then there was: "Marriage is an institution designed for procreation and families." But all those happily childless heterosexual couples — not to mention single parents and gay couples raising children — made a mockery of that old saw as well, as even the Supreme conservative one, Antonin Scalia, has recently acknowledged.

Some right-wingers have tried trotting out this one: "My faith does not recognize gay marriage and forcing me to do so is a form of religious bigotry." Of course, for Reform Jews and many Christians, their faith *does* recognize gay marriages, so is excluding them from legal recognition a form of religious bigotry against those groups?

Do we just vote, and let the majority religious faith decide this thing? Well, in this country — with the brief temporal exception of Alabama Justice Roy Moore's courtroom — we don't vote which religion to enshrine into law. We adopt laws extending civil legal rights without regard to any particular group's religious beliefs — especially the majority's — and let each faith make its own determination about what relationship will win *religious* recognition.

SO WHAT'S LEFT? WELL, "THE ABSENCE of sexual complementarity," that's what.

Now, this latest twisted theory isn't as straightforward as the others, and despite

how "sexual complementarity" sounds, it doesn't mean that our critics are saying we gay couples don't say nice things to each other in the sack.

To put it in lay terms, the argument goes like this: "Men are from Mars, and women are from Venus, and that's what makes heterosexual relationships special and deserving of marriage recognition."

On its face, the "Venus and Mars" argument is really unvarnished heterosexual supremacy. Their relationships are special and better than ours because they are more complex and involve the union of two different types.

It's a little too easy to call this "Venus and Mars" argument out for what it is: superficial bigotry. "The union of two different types"? Have they never heard of butch/femme lesbian couples? Melissa Etheridge and Julie Cypher? Hello? (OK, they split up after Julie went back to men, so perhaps a poor example. But you do get the point.)

But there may well be something to this "Venus and Mars" theory, but not what its advocates would make of it.

Unlike our opponents, who have only been in heterosexual, opposite-sex relationships, many of us homos are "lucky" enough to be have played for both teams and know a thing or three about how opposite-sex and same-sex relationships are alike, and how they are different.

Most importantly for the discussion of marriage, straight relationships and gay relationships are not really different in terms of the love that binds them, the depth with which it is felt by the participants, the endurance of their commitment or the degree to which their lives become entangled and codependent.

Some of the main reasons we have marriage laws is to afford special legal status to the person in whom we are willing to entrust and share major life decisions, and to protect a less affluent or educated partner from abuse should the relationship come to an end. In all those ways,

"Venus and Mars" doesn't work because our relationships are truly the same.

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE TYPES of challenges that couples face, there's something to be said for this "Venus and Mars" theory. Some problems — communication, money, sexual dysfunction, open toothpaste caps — are no doubt universal.

On the other hand, gender can be a very powerful thing, genetically and socially, and there are some unique challenges facing relationships between two people of the same gender. In that respect, "Venus and Mars" heterosexual relationships truly are different from ours, though certainly no better.

Or, put another way, as I've said ever since the whole "Venus and Mars" craze first hit the self-help shelves, "Gay men are from Uranus."

Unfortunately, we often begin the love game with at least two strikes against us.

Having wasted years fighting our own sexual and romantic feelings, and having frittered away time in platonic pseudo-relationships with the opposite sex, we sometimes enter into full-fledged love relationships with the emotional maturity of a typical 16-year-old.

Those teenage lessons about the difference between a crush and love, and the difference between sex and love, and so on, are painful enough for teenagers, but they can be downright humiliating and debilitating for late-blooming 20-somethings and 30-somethings. (And as we all know, there are those among us who even refuse to learn them.)

And if we've spent the better part of a decade — our entire post-puberty, pre-coming-out lives — separating out sexual feelings (homosexual lust, bad!) from romantic feelings, it can be no picnic in the park trying to reunite them.

Add to that the precious few long-term gay couple role models out there — partly because fewer older gays came out and entered into same-sex relationships and partly because AIDS robbed us of almost an entire generation of gay men. Plus, oftentimes we miss out on crucial familial support and the "relationship glue" that children can provide.

And while we're at it, how about how tough it is getting two men to commit to sexual exclusivity and then to live up to it, with the ever-present temptation of coiffed "Queer-Eyed" gym bunnies cruising around every other corner?

When you think about it, we Uranians have one hell of a tough fight just staying together. And if we succeed long enough to commit for life before a Justice of the Peace, we certainly deserve legal recognition every bit as much as those "Venus and Mars" softies who have it all laid out for them!

@ Chris Crain is executive editor of Houston Voice and can be reached at [ccrain@window-media.com](mailto:ccrain@window-media.com).



viewpoint MICHAEL ALVEAR



No matter where you travel, the only certain fact is no one you meet is actually from wherever it is you're going.

# Shopping for London Broil

"HERE IN LONDON?"

Our waiter with the thousand-watt smile threw his head back and laughed when we asked him the best places to find London guys. "No, if you want London chaps, you'll have to go way outside the city."

We were in Balans, the famous, high-energy bistro in the heart of Soho, London's gay district. "High-energy" in a restaurant like Balans means you cruise the door and chew to the beat.

"But wait," I asked, noticing his British accent. "What about you?"

The wattage on his smile flickered. "I'm Australian, mate." Oh.

London suffers from the same phenomenon that American cities do: Nobody's from there. Have you ever noticed how few people were born and raised in the city where you live? Like sports teams, the only thing that makes a lot of us residents is that we get paid to work here.

Still, I went to the expense of shopping for beef overseas. I wanted London Broil, and I wasn't settling for anything else.

MY FRIEND TOM AND I STARTED with a Soho pub-crawl. First up the Admiral Duncan, a traditional Old

Compton Street pub that was bombed by some homophobe in 1999.

Tom says, "You know the best way to start a conversation in a London bar, right?"

I rub my chin and say, "Are you guys still mad at us for kicking your ass 250 years ago?"

"No," he said ignoring me as he usually does when I say something funny. "You say, 'Is this your local?'"

Apparently it's the English version of "Do you come here often?" Tom figures they'll know we're Americans but we'll endear ourselves by using the phrase.

And Lord knows we came here to endear ourselves. So we looked around and used the "local" line more often than a Long Island commuter. We must have talked to eight or nine guys. Not a Londoner in the bunch.

We move to the second place, a multi-floored, Warhol-inspired, "it" bar called Mezzo. Tom agrees with my new London Broil strategy: Talk only to pasty-looking guys.

I strike up a conversation with a guy so pasty he would have burst into flames if it'd been sunny.

"So is this your local?" I ask.



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He didn't speak English.

We move to the third place, Shadow Lounge, where I spotted more paste. "Is this your local?"

"Yes." Bingo. Until I realize it's not a British accent he's wielding. He's from Warsaw. I tell him we tell Polish jokes in America. He tells me to go to hell.

Next day Tom went to Chariots, the legendary baths. I didn't go. I don't like sex unless furniture's involved. He hooked up.

"With an Englishman?" I asked hopefully.

"No, Pakistani."

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S ONE thing about London that'll make you reach for the Maalox: the music.

You basically have two choices there: American music that'll give you stomachaches or British music that'll give you headaches. It's bad enough that Britney Spears tops our charts, why does she have to top London's?

And if London isn't listening to

America's worst, it's listening to it's own homegrown, ear-splitting, floor-buckling thumpa-thumpa house music.

Go to Crash, the "Muscle-Mary" (their version of "gym bunny") rave-fave hangout in London's south side, and that's all you'll hear. Well, except for the sound of your chest collapsing from the bass.

As I waited in line for a taxi to take me home, a great looking — and more importantly, pasty-looking — guy cruises me. He says hi. I say, "Damn." When they've been away from the sun long enough, even New Yorkers look British.

On the way back home, Tom and I could not believe we hadn't met, let alone dined, on London Broil. Which just goes to prove that old Zen saying: No matter where you go, nobody's from there.

@ Michael Alvear is the author of "Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon" and can be reached at [michael@menpigs.cc](mailto:michael@menpigs.cc).

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## GayTV not so real

Ad for Web site too risqué  
for Bravo's gay shows,  
company says

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

THE SERVICES THAT A GAY WEB site provides could be too real for reality television.

Officials at Bravo Network and Bravo's parent company NBC recently rejected an ad for MyGaydar.com to appear on the summer hit "Boy Meets Boy," television's first gay dating reality show. The site contains "borderline pornography," according to a Bravo spokesperson who agreed to be interviewed only if his name was not reported.

"Had the site been a regular dating site, without pornographic content, it would be fine," the spokesperson said.

Bravo decided against airing the commercial after reviewing an informational packet about MyGaydar.com. The 30-second commercial contained some "borderline inappropriate content" as well, the spokesperson said.

But the opportunity to advertise a service for gay men on a national level has never been better, said David Muniz, founder of MyGaydar.com.

"There is a plethora of gay programming coming out on cable, and it looked like the perfect marriage — a venue where we could promote our products as we had all along with television," Muniz said. "If the program itself is controversial, why not take controversial advertising?"

THE MYGAYDAR.COM SPOT OPENS with a brunette man sipping a bright orange beverage next to a pool. A bikini-clad woman attempts to grab his attention by shaking her breasts, but the man doesn't notice, causing the woman to exchange a baffled look with her female friend. Then an attractive blonde man appears and sits down next to the other man to share his drink, while house music starts thumping.

"MyGaydar.com — what you want, when you want it," an announcer says as the commercial ends.

The Web site launched in 2000 and now serves 450,000 U.S. residents and 1.2 million members worldwide, according to the company.

Bravo's decision not to air the spot is a "double standard," according to Muniz.

"If you look at the other advertising out there, they will take advertising geared toward gay men, but they won't take something that is truly a gay product for gay men," he said.

But the Web site runs afoul of the agreement that contestants on "Boy Meets Boy" signed with Bravo banning



A Bravo spokesperson said ads for MyGaydar.com were 'borderline pornographic,' so the network decided against running them during their gay hit 'Boy Meets Boy.' (Photo courtesy of MyGaydar.com)

sexual content on the show, the Bravo spokesperson said.

"That show was not about sex," the spokesperson said.

But the ads for MyGaydar.com do meet content standards for Time Warner, a leading cable television provider in the New York region, which air MyGaydar.com ads late at night," Muniz said.

MyGaydar.com was going to pay \$10,000 for each 30-second spot that Bravo ran nationally, an increase from the \$1,200 per spot the Internet company paid Time Warner for regional advertising, according to Muniz.

CHISHOLM PROPERTIES, WHICH owns and operates two gay nightclubs in Atlanta and other gay clubs in Pensacola and New Orleans, also saw the marketing potential during Bravo's gay summer hits, said Terri Bottom, a spokesperson for the company.

"We all love that show, 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,'" Bottom said. "It's a good value too."

Chisholm Properties runs ads in all three markets — Atlanta, Pensacola and New Orleans.

In Atlanta, Chisholm Properties buys ads during Bravo's gay programming for Blu and Blake's On the Park without any hassle for using the word "gay," Bottom said.

The ads appear with other gay or gay-friendly businesses in metro Atlanta. In Houston, the regional cable advertising includes a gay phone chat line.



**ACTION! INFO**

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## on the record



*"No, no, no. I don't play that."*

Legendary comedian **Bill Cosby**, backstage after receiving the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award during the annual Emmy broadcast, in response to a question about the recent crop of gay-themed TV shows (Sept. 21)

*"I haven't had the chance to yet, but I'm looking forward to it. My grandchildren are all watching them, though, and that's a good thing."*

Legendary former CBS News anchor **Walter Cronkite**, backstage at the Emmy Awards, in response to the same question Cosby was asked (Sept. 21)

*"Right or wrong in what he's done, his race is over, now only in his mind are the sweet fields of clover. Rudolph has run, and where has he trod, now he faces Caesar, but his final judge is God."*

Gospel singer Gene Collett, singing the chorus of "The Ballad of Eric Robert Rudolph," a song dedicated to the man accused of the Atlanta Olympics bombing, as well as the bombing of an Atlanta gay bar and abortion clinics in Birmingham and Atlanta (Associated Press, Aug. 26)

*"I don't really mind gay guys because most gay guys are really good-looking. Why would I want that for competition?"*

"Real World: Paris" cast member **Ace**, reacting to a visit his gay Irish roommate Simon received from his Spanish boyfriend, Tkisco (Aug. 24)

*"I take Dramamine in the morning because so many days are rocky. But our mission has been made clear. ... Log Cabin is not a subsidiary of the Republican Party or the president. We exist because the Republican Party is not where it needs to be."*

Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director **Patrick Guerriero** (Detroit News, Aug. 25)



*"I accept people for who they are — and love them. That doesn't mean I have to agree or turn my back on the tenets of my faith. ... I think when people say, 'Well no, that's not enough that you accept me for who I am, you have to agree with — and condone — my choice,' that to me is religious bigotry and I believe that's intolerant."*

**Ed Gillespie**, Republican National Committee chair, on his party's plans to include a plank against gay marriage in the GOP's 2004 platform (Washington Times, Sept. 23)

*"Gillespie is the one displaying his bigotry, not gay Americans. Suggesting that someone is a bigot because they want the legal right to visit a dying partner in the hospital is wrong, and frankly, disgusting."*

**Dave Noble**, executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats, a partisan gay group in response to the Washington Times article about Gillespie (Press release, Sept. 23)



*"I was particularly amused by the far-left counter-cultural National Gay & Lesbian Task Force getting solidly behind a general who almost started World War III with the Russians. None of them cared much about [Wesley] Clark's actual positions, however. All they cared about is his perceived ability to win."*

Conservative gay writer **Andrew Sullivan**, on a press release issued by NGLTF calling Clark a "pro-gay moderate" following his announcement of a run for the Democratic presidential nomination (www.andrewsullivan.com, Sept. 22)

**BUS RIDE:** Even if the car is out of commission, it's possible to do Metro and still stay hip. **Page 20**

**KAREN SPEAKS:** Actress **Megan Mullally** talks about being a queer icon and round six on NBC's 'Will & Grace.' **Page 17**



HOUSTON VOICE  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2003  
PAGE 15

# Out on the Bayou

## Finding

## 'ways to sins'

Gay sex advice columnist Dan Savage dishes as his latest book on bad habits hits paperback

By **JIM FARMER**

GROWING TIRED OF HEARING "SCOLDS" LIKE pundits Robert Bork and William Bennett tell the country what they should and shouldn't do, sex columnist Dan Savage decided it was high time to do his own investigation into "sins" — specifically, the "Seven Deadly Sins" of antiquity.

"A while back, I was actually reading Bork's book 'Slouching Towards Gomorrah.' Yes, I'm a masochist," the gay writer said in a recent telephone interview from his Seattle home.

The title for Savage's "Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America" came to him after reading Bork's effort, he says.

"It seems like everything the right wingers hate is what people enjoy," Savage says. "The right-wing says you are either sober or a lush, monogamous or sleeping with everyone. There is no in-between, and I wanted to look into that. I think that there *are* ways to sins."

With the idea for "Skipping" in mind, Savage hit the road, visiting the "moral sewers" of the country to examine the seven deadly sins up close.

"(The publishing company) gave me money to sin, so I thought to myself, what should I do?"

AMONG THE PEOPLE SAVAGE MET DURING his research were a swinging heterosexual couple in Las Vegas, gamblers in Dubuque, Iowa, overeaters in San Francisco and gun shooters in Plano, Texas.

Savage was a little surprised at what he discovered about himself on the journey, he says.

"Things I assumed I'd hate, I enjoyed — like gambling," he says. "As for the male escort, well, he had a better time than I did."

As part of his research, Savage met with a female prostitute and a male escort, a heterosexual with gay clients. According to Savage, the escort provides a venue for gay men to drool over his body, often getting rough with them and calling them "fag."

"I unnerved him," Savage jokes. "I didn't know what muscle worship was. I was not turned on at

Please see **DAN SAVAGE** on **Page 21**

Sex advice columnist and author **Dan Savage** releases the paperback version of his successful 'Skipping Towards Gomorrah' and brings his promotional tour to Atlanta next week.





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## television BRIAN MOYLAN



Latest in string of awards show kisses features boring male-male pairing at 55th annual Primetime Emmy Awards.

## Emmys kiss off gay shows

THE MOST RECOGNIZED AND DISCUSSED kiss during the Sept. 21 Primetime Emmy telecast was the one between co-hosts Garry Shandling and Brad Garrett.

The two weren't celebrating a victory or expressing real affection, just another couple roasting the same sex kisses shared by Madonna, Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera at the MTV Video Awards.

Yawn.

There were plenty of other yawns during the broadcast as well, especially for fans of gay television shows. All summer, the buzz was about how gays were taking over the airwaves. But they have yet to infiltrate the tube's top honors and garnered very few awards compared to the number of nominations.

"Six Feet Under," the most nominated show with 16 nods, didn't take home any major awards. Same with "Sex and the City," which also went home alone.

Instead, the drama field was dominated by "The Sopranos," with the exception of "Best Drama" going to "The West Wing." The humdrum "Everybody Loves Raymond" laughed all the way to the bank in most of the comedy categories.

To the credit of "The West Wing" producers, the show does frequently deal with gay issues and costars out actress Lily Tomlin, who was not nominated. But last year was its worst season yet, and it still won the trophy for the fourth year running.

THE BIG WINNER FOR GAY FANS was Debra Messing, the last of the four actors on "Will & Grace" to win an Emmy for her role as neurotic Grace. After missing out on the trophy for three years, she finally triumphed — and looked great in her copper-colored dress.

Gay writer/director Steven Schachter won the directing award and the writing award, which he shared with William H. Macy, for TNT's movie "Door to Door," which also won for best made-for-television movie. The movie contained no gay content.

Cher was performing her never-ending 'Farewell Tour' and didn't attend the awards. But the television version of her concert took home the Best Music, Comedy or Variety Special.

In a new category for competitive reality shows — a genre that always carves out space for gay contestants — "The Amazing Race" crossed the finish line for a win. The show possibly has the highest per capita number of gay people in its history, and last season's victors were a gay couple.



One of the few Emmys that went to gay television shows was handed to Debra Messing, who won her first trophy for 'Will & Grace.' (Photo courtesy of NBC)

At last year's Emmys, "Six Feet Under's" Alan Ball thanked his partner onstage, "Sex and the City's" Michael Patrick King made gay sex jokes in his acceptance speech, Stockard Channing won for playing Judy Shepard, and Ellen DeGeneres revived her career in a spectacular turn hosting the show.

All of that gay magic was gone this year.

DeGeneres was back to co-host — with what seemed like every other comedian in Hollywood — but her duties were reduced to a funny bit about Japanese food and presenting an award.

So, for gay TV fans, it's a pat on the ass (like the one Simon Cowell gave to Paula Abdul when they walked out to present their award — like we didn't notice, Mr. Cowell) and a "Better luck next year."

In the Emmy world, it's not about who's gay and who's not, or even who's really the best. It's a political Russian roulette, where there are no certain winners, and most people are disappointed with the results — except, of course, the winners.

As best actress winner Edie Falco said backstage, "I don't know how this thing works. I put on a dress, I come here, and I smile."

And we'll be smiling again next year, rooting for our favorite shows to pull through.

## out on the bayou

# Bisexual 'Will & Grace' actress loves all queer television

Sixth round as 'Karen' still 'fun' for Mullally

By ARJAN TIMMERMANS

MEGAN MULLALLY IS GEARING UP for the sixth season of NBC's "Will & Grace," which premiered Sept. 25 on NBC.

With her Emmy award-winning role as alcoholic socialite Karen Walker, the popular sitcom launched Mullally as a queer icon with a fanatic gay following all over the world.

More than 100 episodes after "Will & Grace" first aired, the comedy series continues to pave the way for more openly gay characters on the small screen. The show's enjoys a huge mainstream audience and was never the target of political fury or NBC's censors.

"The fact that the show did not create controversy is partly because Ellen DeGeneres' 'The Ellen Show' had broken some ground already," Mullally says. "Another reason is that gay-bashing is built into the show. So if you're some truck driver in North Dakota, you get to laugh at the expense of these guys right along with the guys themselves."

Mullally says that the backward way "Ellen" had to come out caused the end of the show.

"After the episode in which she came out, it was such a big deal that the show could not have a follow-up episode that was like 'that crazy thing that happened when everybody went bowling,'" Mullally says. "The show had to keep dealing with it, and that's when the issue became politicized and everybody jumped on it."

"In 'Will & Grace,' Jack and Will happen to be gay, and viewers have known this from the start," she adds. "There was nothing to argue about."

"WILL & GRACE" WAS MULLALLY'S big breakthrough in Tinseltown. Before appearing on network television, she was an accomplished stage actress. Before she took on the role of Karen Walker, she never expected to be a comedic actress, she says.

"What I think I do is that I play a comedy as if it's a drama," she says. "I play it high-stakes, and that makes it funnier. If you really invest in the character's little details, then it makes that character much funnier."

Mullally credits many of Karen's distinct qualities to the show's writers, but she did add some of her own ideas to the character, she says.

"I came up with Karen's high-pitched voice, the body language and the 'honeys,'" she says. "But beyond that, the writers write all of our dialogue. ... The writing is so good that we don't have to step in."

Mullally's Karen is so popular that some gay fans joke that the show should



Actress **Megan Mullally** says that shows like hers and Bravo's gay summer crop break important ground for gays through entertainment rather than by political means.

be called "Jack & Karen" to reflect the hilarity between the two satellite characters — a comment Mullally has heard a lot, she says.

"I agree that Jack and Karen are the characters that people initially responded to," she says. "Now, Will and Grace's characters are so much funnier and multi-faceted that in a way the gap has been narrowed."

MULLALLY, WHO MARRIED A MAN Sept. 20, never made a secret of her bisexuality.

"It is no big deal to me," she says. "I have always been attracted to women, and I went on dates with women if they asked me. ... It did not seem that different to me."

"But then I met my [husband], and now he is the apple of my eye," she adds. "The lesson is not whether somebody is straight, gay or bisexual, the lesson is how you think about it."

The actress admits that she is an avid fan of queer television and that she tapes all the episodes of the Bravo Network's "Queer Eye For the Straight Guy" and "Boy Meets Boy."

"Queer Eye" is very touching and poignant, because the straight guys are really open to it and in the end so happy, grateful and confident," she says. "It is a very interesting cultural study."

"Boy Meets Boy" is similarly groundbreaking, Mullally says.

"It is another step in the right direction without being political, but in the form of entertainment," she says.

### MORE INFO

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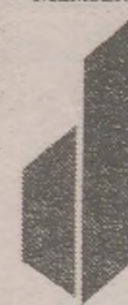
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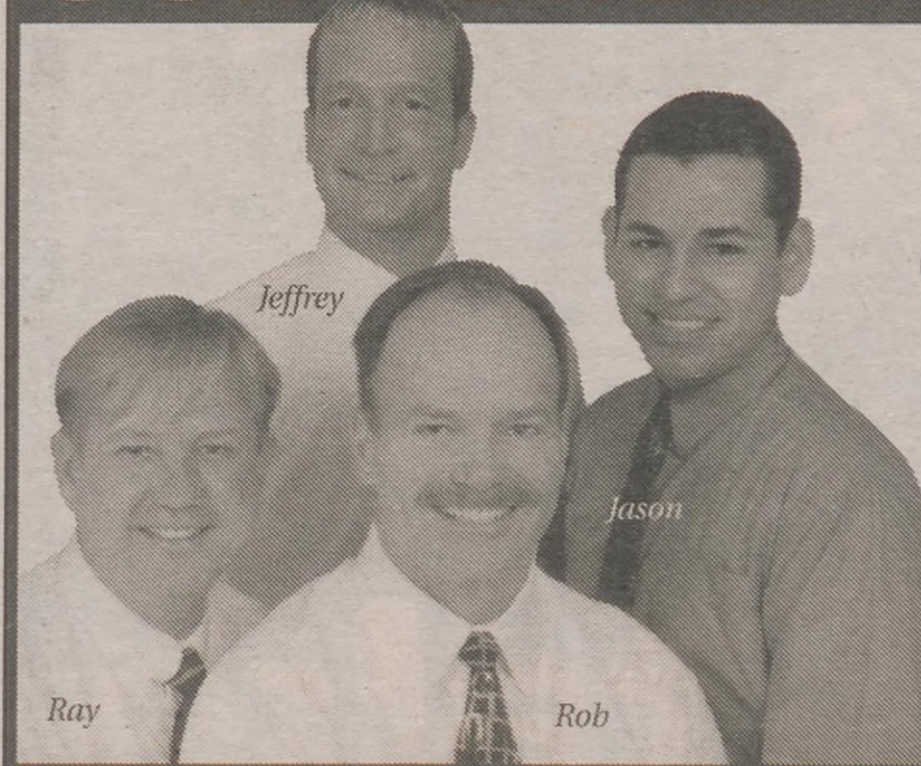
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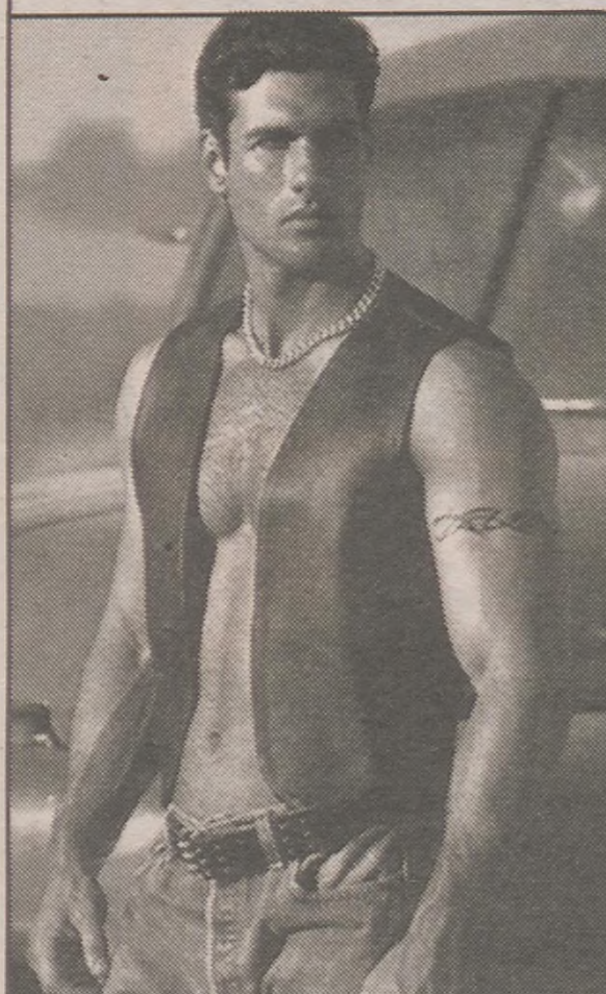
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**books** J.S. HALL



Backstage look at Broadway's 'Hairspray'  
offers little-known tidbits as well as  
insights from gay creator John Waters.

## Different kind of 'Roots'

EVER SINCE "HAIRSPRAY" FIRST CAPTURED moviegoers' hearts in 1988, the most accessible of gay filmmaker John Waters' works became the one most likely to find success in another medium.

The story follows the adventures of Tracy Turnblad, a plump Baltimore teenager who, in 1962, lands a spot on "The Corny Collins Show," clashes with snooty fellow dancer Amber and her domineering mother Velma, and successfully leads a movement to racially integrate the show.

A proposed "Hairspray" TV series never happened, but after a long gestation, the musical version of "Hairspray" opened on Broadway in August 2002 to critical acclaim and sold-out performances. It won eight Tony awards — including Best Musical — this year.

The show starts its nationwide tour in September with shaved and plucked gay humorist Bruce Vilanch taking over for Harvey Fierstein as zaftig Edna Turnblad. And the show's creators celebrate their success with a kitschy, full-color coffee-table book lavishly illustrated with photos featuring the original cast.

LIKE THE MUSICAL'S HEROINE, "Hairspray: The Roots" is big, bold and bedazzling, brimming with full-color photos and splashy graphics.

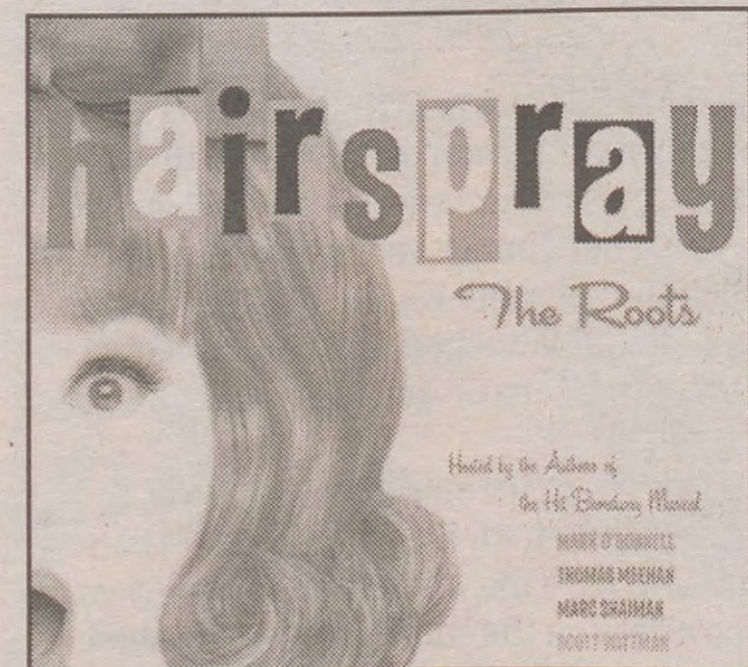
In addition to the script and lyrics to the award-winning songs, the libretto contains oodles of marginal notes by Mark O'Donnell, Thomas Meehan, Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman that explain the more obscure and/or arcane references, and point out lines — even songs — that were cut or replaced.

Wilbur Turnblad's exclamation, "Well, well! My own little June Taylor dancer!" was trimmed because "nobody knew who the June Taylor Dancers were," the creators jot in the margins.

Amber Von Tussle's overbearing mother Velma "combines three characters from the movie: Debbie Harry's pushy stage mom; Mink Stole's harried stage manager; and Divine's cameo as the bigoted station owner," according to the book.

Another gem is an interview with John Waters and Margo Lion (the play's originating producer), in which they discuss the musical's genesis. Waters expresses his disbelief that he "thought up a part that made *two* young actresses famous."

Waters also recalls how Divine's sudden death in 1988 "wiped out all the great feelings I would have had [about the movie's success]. So the Broadway show being a success meant I could continue the happiness that was stopped back then, because I never got to celebrate except for the first six days after the film was released."



Capitalizing on the success of the Broadway musical 'Hairspray' and its upcoming national tour, 'Hairspray: The Roots' features colorful photos as well as comments from the creators, cast and crew.

"Hairspray: The Roots" also contains a tongue-in-cheek timeline for the characters, and remembrances from director Jack O'Brien, stars Harvey Fierstein and Marissa Jaret Winokur, wig designer Paul Huntley, costume designer William Ivey Long and set designer David Rockwell.

The remarks of the cast and crew remind readers how much of a collaborative effort the show — and any Broadway production — is. It also reinforces how much the musical's overwhelming acceptance by audiences, from the Seattle preview to the New York premiere, took everyone involved in the production by surprise.

So many people thank Waters for the show that "I feel like a twisted Oprah," he says in the book.

MANY CRITICS MENTION THE PLAY'S utter queerness — even though it features no gay characters. But behind the scenes, "Hairspray" features a huge percentage of gay crew members plus Fierstein playing a woman who sings a warped love song with her devoted husband.

Most of the protagonists in "Hairspray" do exist outside the mainstream (overweight, African-American, lower-class), but they triumph, dancing and singing their way into the audience members' hearts.

Whether or not you were fortunate enough to attend an original-cast performance, "Hairspray: The Roots" is the next best thing to actually being there.

**i MORE INFO**

'Hairspray: The Roots'  
By Mark O'Donnell, Thomas Meehan, Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman  
Faber & Faber  
170 pages, \$35

**sports** LEE DAVIS

Local volleyballers fare well at recent gay tourney, while competitors in other sports are kicking off fall season.

## Houston takes San Antonio

TEAMS FROM THE LONE STAR Volleyball Association recently traveled down south for the inaugural Alamo City Classic Volleyball tournament and took the tournament by storm.

The B Division culminated in an All-Houston final with "Houston Eight is Not Enough" taking the gold and "Houston Hot Shots" finishing a close second. Kari Carlson and Jose Polendo were named to the tournament all-star team.

Back on the home front, LSVA served up the fall season with a roaring start. Overall, 17 teams representing three divisions have registered for league play.

Anger Management managed to take the early lead in the Recreational Division, and The Golden Boys are nothing but gold in the Competitive division. The Mammers team is in first in the Power Division.

League play takes place on Sundays at the Jerabeck Center on the University of St. Thomas campus from 3:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Please be sure to look for upcoming events. For more info, logon to [www.lsva.org](http://www.lsva.org).

### Biking for Dummies?

Not in this case. The Bike For a Better City holds its first meeting on October 4 at 11 a.m. at the new Hollywood Book & Café, 2409 Grant St.

The first club ride will be the Oct. 12 Moonlite Ramble. This two hour casual bicycle ride starts at 2 a.m. from downtown Houston. This citywide bike ride attracts thousands of riders every year. Call John at 713-523-6831 for more information on the new club.

### Out of bait

The Rainbow Fishing Club has only eight spots left on the back of the New Buccaneer of Galveston. The Red Snapper season ends Oct. 31, and the club says the fish are biting. Call 713-523-6831 to reserve spots.

The Saturday, October 25 tour on the Captain Casey also still has vacancies. Call 713-225-3497 for reservations (psst ... they do take plastic). This boat holds 70 people, and each pole has two hooks for double the chance to hook something. There are no refreshments available on the boat, so bring your own food and drink.

### Fall Fun

The Montrose Softball League officially kicks off its Fall Fun League. The number of teams signed up determines the length of the season, and the league is



Local teams in the Lone Star Volleyball Association took the first Alamo City Classic tournament by storm, taking first and second places in the B Division finals. (Photo courtesy LSVA)

looking for coaching volunteers. Go to [www.montrosesoftballleague.com](http://www.montrosesoftballleague.com). The League is open to all players of all skill levels, male and female.

### Goooooooooooooal!

The Montrose Soccer Club of Houston is open to men and women who have experience playing soccer. Join them each Sunday afternoon at Woodrow Wilson School in Montrose at 1:00 p.m., located at Yupon and Fairview.

The only requirements for membership are to be a team player, know the rules of soccer and have basic skills. You don't even have to be gay, just willing to be mistaken for gay. For more information, send an e-mail to [MontroseSC@soccer.com](mailto:MontroseSC@soccer.com) or go to <http://www.geocities.com/MontroseSoccer>.

### Western Swing

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

### Whamo

The Houston Tennis Club meets on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Also check them out on Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact the Houston Tennis Club at 713-692-2701 or log on to [houston-tennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houston-tennisclub@aol.com).

### Gay Basketball

E-mails from interested gay basketball players are still coming. Doesn't look long before this league gets its kickoff. E-mail [editor@houstonvoice.com](mailto:editor@houstonvoice.com).

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**out on the town JOHNNY HOOKS**



Finding ways to hit the town when the car is even broker than you are takes inventiveness, but it can be done.

**September can be cruel**

T.S. ELIOT SAID "APRIL IS THE cruelest month." But for me, it's always been September.

On the one hand, all my wonderful Virgo friends were born (including Mom), and the first cool days herald autumns imminent arrival. On the other, it seems many a year that my luck runs dry about Aug. 31, not to return until close to Halloween. This year is no exception, as my car has finally gone to Heaven, and I go back on the bus.

So here I am, laptop in hand on the 34 Crosstown, traveling from my house in the Heights to just about anywhere. But the ride offers me lots of fabu views and reasons to be happy I'm here, queer and out on the town.

CABO ORIGINAL MIX-MEX GRILL finally opened the doors of its Montrose location. Located in the space that housed Crossroads Bookstore & Café, this hot spot offers potent margaritas, delicious grilled fish tacos and enough tables full of A-list men to fill the new Toyota Center.

You'll also find a healthy mix of dykes on bikes, drag queens and families with bambinos. I asked about brunch plans since the new "old" La Strada is still months away from serving up anything.

At brunch, fill up on huevos rancheros on the wraparound outdoor patio, or maybe just kill a few pitchers of margaritas with 12 of your very best friends at one of the five extra-long tables inside.

I LOVE DUCKING INTO HALF PRICE Books whenever I find myself nearby, and you can't get much closer than Cabo, which lies just across the street.

I prefer the old Half Price location on Waugh, but the new store is clean, bright and always full of interesting folks. I usually purchase my books at Half.com, but there is something about browsing the shelves of an actual store.

I found a great used Bruce Weber book for \$25 that I've seen on EBay for \$100, and have my eye on a hot pink YSL coffee table book that's thicker than the Houston White Pages.

I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THE LATEST Album cover painting at Sound Waves on Montrose Boulevard.

Houston's own Beyonce and her smoking "Dangerously in Love" cover

now greet you as you stroll through the front door. You may have seen me at Soundwaves on the morning of Sept. 23, because this cruel month saw my two favorite artists release new albums on that same day.



Gay singer Rufus Wainwright's 'Want One' is just one of the new releases available at Sound Waves on Montrose Boulevard, a must-stop on a bus tour of Houston.

"Want One" by gay singer Rufus Wainwright is the follow up to his acclaimed sophomore disc "Poses." "Want One" is the first of a 2 CD set (the second will be called Want Two).

If you have never heard Rufus, his style has been described as Pop-Opera and Baroque a Go-Go, and I think he is the most original (and sexy) artist — gay or straight — making music today.

The first queer troubadour of the 21st Century,

Rufus is a man singing about men with no need to change pronouns.

Shelby Lynne's "Identity Crisis" also came out Sept. 23. You may remember she won a Best New Artist Grammy several years ago, even though she is hardly new.

Lynne tried her hand at traditional country and found herself alienated by the Nashville elite. After fleeing to Los Angeles, she seemingly found her niche with super producer Glen Ballard and Grammy gold.

Hard as nails with a voice that can wring your heart out, Lynne is still making music that stirs the soul and challenges the notions of traditional pop.

I'll see you all, from the 34 Crosstown, Out on the Town.

**i FOR MORE INFO**

**Cabo Original Mix-Mex Grill**  
1111 Westheimer Road  
713-942-CABO  
www.cabomixmex.com

**Half Price Books**  
1011 Westheimer Road  
713-520-1084  
www.halfpricebooks.com

**Sound Waves**  
3509 Montrose Blvd.  
713-520-9283  
www.soundwaves.com

**Rufus Wainwright**  
www.rufuswainwright.com

**Shelby Lynne**  
www.shelbylynn.com

**appts**

**SATURDAY SEPT. 27**

No-HATE, a youth-driven educational program of the Houston GLBT Community Center and Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals, sponsors a workshop on **how to build a Gay-Straight Alliance** in K-12 schools. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond Ave. Free but registration required: 712-529-3590.

Bering-Omega Community Services sponsors 'An Evening of Art Songs and Arias' featuring top Opera singers from around the globe to raise money for the HIV/AIDS service organization at 7:30 p.m. at the Zilkha Hall in the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St. 713-524-9304, ext. 104.



Red hot Dallas band **Astrogen** led by vocalist **Debra Vial** appears live after 9 p.m. at lesbian venue Chances, 1100 Westheimer Road, 713-523-7217, www.chanceshouston.com. www.astrogen.com.

Rich's Houston unveils its **Red Bar**, the first new room in the longtime dance club's yearlong total renovation, with a grand opening party starting at 9 p.m. 2401 San Jacinto St. 713-759-9606, www.richshouston.com.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY OCT. 3-4**



In honor of the independent film 'Mambo Italiano,' starring **Luke Kirby**, the Houston Voice and Landmark Theatres offer the opportunity to show off the **Most Adorable Couples in Houston**. The contest is prior to the last showing of the film each night in which couples are interviewed to determine the winners. 5E Greenway Plaza, 713-850-0217

## out on the bayou

# Advice columnist wishes luck to others in his genre

DAN SAVAGE, continued from Page 15

all. It was like he bashed me — it was a hate crime in my hotel room.”

As part of Savage’s “sin research,” the writer discovered that so-called sinners never looked at themselves that way.

“No one ever sees their own pursuits as sins,” Savage says. “It’s been revealed that author William Bennett gambles. He doesn’t look at himself as a sinner, but he sees everyone else as one.”

In the “Sloth” section of the book, Savage divulges that he enjoys marijuana in moderation.

“I think, like anything, if you do it all the time, it doesn’t work,” Savage says.

“In between our very rare pot nights, my boyfriend and I don’t smoke pot, buy pot, grow pot, and we don’t keep pot in our house,” he writes in the book.

Savage’s most barbed remarks come in the “Pride” section, where he joins two California men — couple Jake and Kevin — as they prepare for Gay Pride.

“The message at gay pride parades in the United States hasn’t evolved,” Savage writes in the book. “It’s still, ‘Gay is good!’ There are two problems with this. First, it’s misleading. Gay isn’t good or bad, it’s just gay.

“Second, what relevance does a ‘gay is good’ message have to the vast majority of American gay men and lesbians who, like Kevin and Jake, don’t believe that there’s anything in the least bit shameful about their homosexuality?”

Savage admits he received some flack about those comments.

“I’ve heard from smart gay people who agree with me and some howling from dumb-ass gay people who don’t,” he says. “I think younger guys really appreciate that chapter, unlike those Stonewall-obsessed people who feel like they are always on the perilous edge of a cliff.”

In the same vein, Savage also disagrees with lumping all gays together.

“We shouldn’t tell 15-year-olds that gay men are their brothers,” Savage asserts. “That is crazy. Fifteen-year-olds let their guards

down, and things can happen.”

“SKIPPING TOWARDS GOMORRAH” is Savage’s third book, coming after “Savage Love” and “The Kid,” which dealt with his adoption of a child with his partner. He admits that “Skipping” was the hardest of the trio to write, due to the sheer amount of research required.

Savage’s column “Savage Love” runs in more than 100 newspapers and on gay Web sites. “Yep, there it’s all cock sucking, all the time,” he laughs.

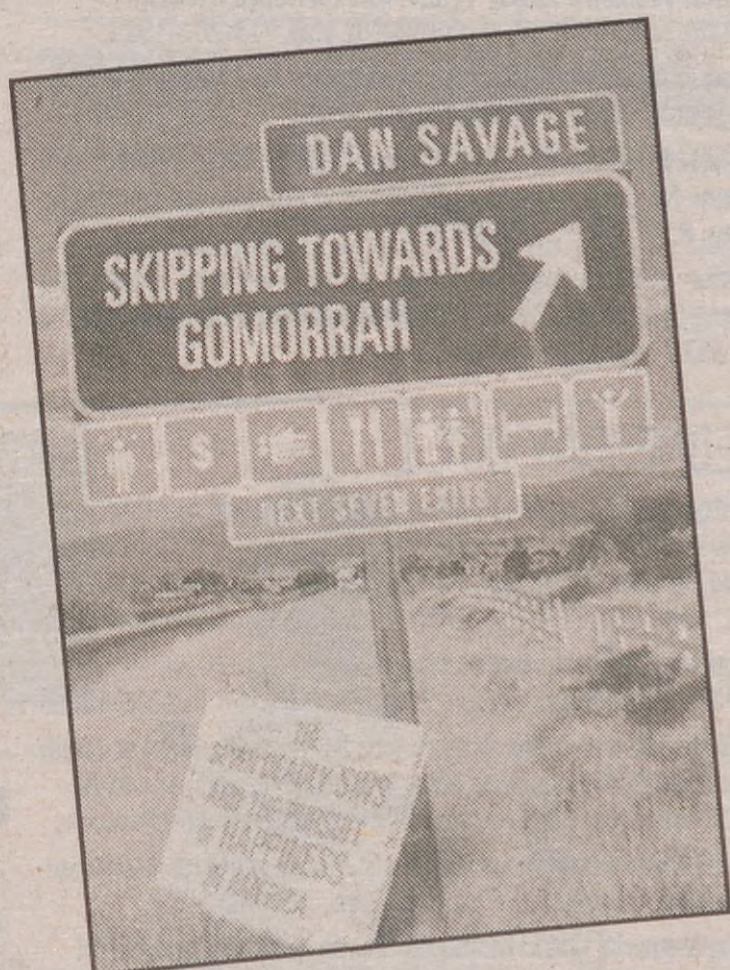
The columnist has inspired other sex advice columnists, including that of Atlanta’s own Michael Alvear, a.k.a. Woody Miller, author of the book “Men are Pigs, And We Love Bacon” as well as the weekly “Need Wood?” column in Eclipse magazine.

Alvear has long contended that Savage inspired “Need Wood?”

“He’s the master of the rip and chew advice genre,” Alvear says. “If my column has fangs, then Savage was my dentist. I took his formula of medically accurate information and mixed it with humor, insult and insight.”

Savage feels a kinship with other sex columnists like Alvear, but they’re on their own, he says.

“I think sex writing attracts so many because the topic attracts us,” Savage says. “I don’t feel threatened by others. I wish them luck ... but I’m not gonna help them!”



Dan Savage says his third book, ‘Skipping Towards Gomorrah: the Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America,’ was the hardest to write because of the research hours he clocked.

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

Gay celebrities tied the knot last weekend — one much publicized, the other an Emmy night surprise.

# Wedding belles

THE BRIDES BOTH WORE WHITE Sept. 20 when lesbian rocker **MELISSA ETHERIDGE** and actress **TAMMY LYNN MICHAELS** had a commitment ceremony in California.

Of course, since gay marriages are illegal in the state, they didn’t exactly get married. But the union was just as real to the couple, according to a statement released the following day.

“We’re so grateful for the blessings from our friends and family as we commence our vows and begin the rest of our lives together,” the statement says.

The ceremony was in Malibu, Calif., near the couple’s house adjacent to the home of **JULIE CYPHER**, Etheridge’s ex. Cypher and Etheridge share custody of two children and a backyard, so that the children can go easily between the two houses.

There’s no word if **DAVID CROSBY**, daddy to Etheridge’s baby, attended the wedding.

To confuse the gay marriage issue for Etheridge, 41 and Michaels, 28, California Gov. **GRAY DAVIS** signed a bill Sept. 19 making the state the second in the nation to allow civil unions. Under the law, the couple can enter into the legally-binding union, but their ceremony didn’t satisfy the legal requirements.

GETTING HITCHED LEGALLY WAS bisexual actress **MEGAN MULLALLY**, who plays Karen Walker on “Will & Grace.” Mullally, 44, and her husband, actor Nick Offerman, 33, also did the deed Sept. 20 in secret at the home they share in Los Angeles.

On the spur of the moment, the couple decided to use the Emmys — where Mullally was up for an award — as a ploy to surprise their friends and family.

“[We] told people we were having an Emmy party,” the actress told Entertainment Tonight. “When they arrived we said, ‘Welcome to our wedding!’”

“W&G” costars **DEBRA MESSING** — who won an Emmy the next night), **ERIC McCORMACK**, and **SEAN HAYES** — were there to share the moment.

SPEAKING OF “W&G,” IT LOOKS like audiences won’t get anyone for Will or an openly gay actor on the show anytime soon.

Hunky straight actor **DYLAN McDERMOTT** signed on to play a love interest for Will on the Oct. 30 episode, TV Guide reports.

McDermott was recently released from his starring gig on ABC’s “The



Barefoot brides **Tammy Lynn Michaels** (left) and **Melissa Etheridge** said, ‘I do’ in a Sept. 20 commitment ceremony. (Photo by AP)

Practice.”

Producers of “W&G” said that McDermott may be invited back if he and McCormack have “chemistry.”

LESBIAN FAVORITE **LUCY LAWLESS**, who played the title role on “Xena: Warrior Princess,” signed on to co-star in another sci-fi guilty pleasure, according to TV Guide.

Starting in October, Lawless plays a publishing magnate on WB’s new version of “Tarzan.” Tarzan is played by former Calvin Klein model **TRAVIS FIMMELL**.

Finally, British gay rights group Outrage! is calling for the arrest of three reggae singers, 365gay.com reports.

The singers, Elephan Man, Bounty Killer, and Beenie Man are popular for songs that advocate beating, shooting and burning gays.

Britain’s attorney general reportedly says that it is legally possible to prosecute singers who incite violence, but no legal action is on the table yet.

To add to that, Outrage! is also pushing for legal action against the singers’ record companies, and retailers that sell the recordings.

Are you taking notes, **EMINEM**?



Send comments, suggestions to [Dish@sovo.com](mailto:Dish@sovo.com).

# community calendar

## SATURDAY SEPT. 27

**Texas Association for Transsexual Support.** This support group for transgendered people meets the last Saturday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

**All-Spanish Worship Service/Noche Espiritual** 7 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-861-9149.

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

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

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

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

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

**Montrose Soccer Club.** 10 a.m. practice. Woodrow Wilson School, Fairview and Yupon. New players welcome, but beginners not currently being admitted. 713-862-9491. <http://geocities.com/montrosesoccer>. E-mail: [montrosesoccer@yahoo.com](mailto:montrosesoccer@yahoo.com).

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, noon-5 p.m. • CATS (Community Awareness for Transgender Support) board meeting, 2 p.m. 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

## SUNDAY SEPT. 28

**No-HATE.** Planning meeting of educational program at the Houston GLBT Community Center facilitated by local educator Michael DeVoll. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818.

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

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

**Community Gospel.** Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).

**Community of Kindred Spirits in Beaumont.** Worship at 6 p.m. 1575 Spindletop Ave., Beaumont, Texas. 409-813-2055. E-mail: [ckrev3@netzero.net](mailto:ckrev3@netzero.net)

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

**Emerson Unitarian Church.** Adult education, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. Lunch at noon. [www.emersonhou.org](http://www.emersonhou.org).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m.-noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Adult discussion, 9 a.m. Service, 11:15 a.m. 281-277-8882. [www.tuuc.org](http://www.tuuc.org).

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • GLBT Community Church with Rev. Melissa Wood: Bible study, 10-10:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m. [www.geocities.com/glbtc](http://www.geocities.com/glbtc) • GLOB-AL meeting, 6 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

## MONDAY SEPT. 29

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

**Free HIV Testing.** 4-8 p.m. at All Star News, 3415 Katy Freeway. Health clinic with free testing for HIV and syphilis. 713-869-7878.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Lambda Center.** Alcoholics Anonymous. 8 p.m. Beginners' Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. [www.lambdahouston.org](http://www.lambdahouston.org).

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

## TUESDAY SEPT. 30

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Roughneck Rugby.** Practice from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, log on to [www.roughnecksrugby.org](http://www.roughnecksrugby.org).

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

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

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

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

## WEDNESDAY OCT. 1

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.** General meetings on the first Wednesday of every month from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

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

**OutSkate.** This roller Rink skate club hosts Gay Skate Night at Zenith Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road every Wednesday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$5 entry plus skate rental. 281-933-5818, [Dobie367@aol.com](mailto:Dobie367@aol.com).

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

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

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

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

**Free HIV Testing.** Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015

Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

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

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

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

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com)

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, 2-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 7-9 p.m. • Houston Pride Band rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

## THURSDAY OCT. 2

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

**Community Gospel.** Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).

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

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

**Free HIV Testing.** 4-8 p.m. at All Star News, 3415 Katy Freeway. Health clinic with free testing for HIV and syphilis. 713-869-7878.

**FrontRunners.** Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021. Web site: <http://home.swbell.net/lorathon/houfr.htm>. E-mail: [lorathon@swbell.net](mailto:lorathon@swbell.net).

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

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

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

**Houston Roughneck Rugby.** Practice from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, log on to [www.roughnecksrugby.org](http://www.roughnecksrugby.org).

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

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

**Lambda Skating Club.** 8 p.m. Tradewinds Skating Rink. [www.neosoft.com/~lrsc](http://www.neosoft.com/~lrsc). 713-523-9620.

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop in 2-9 p.m. • "Mending and Stitching," 2 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

## FRIDAY OCT. 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

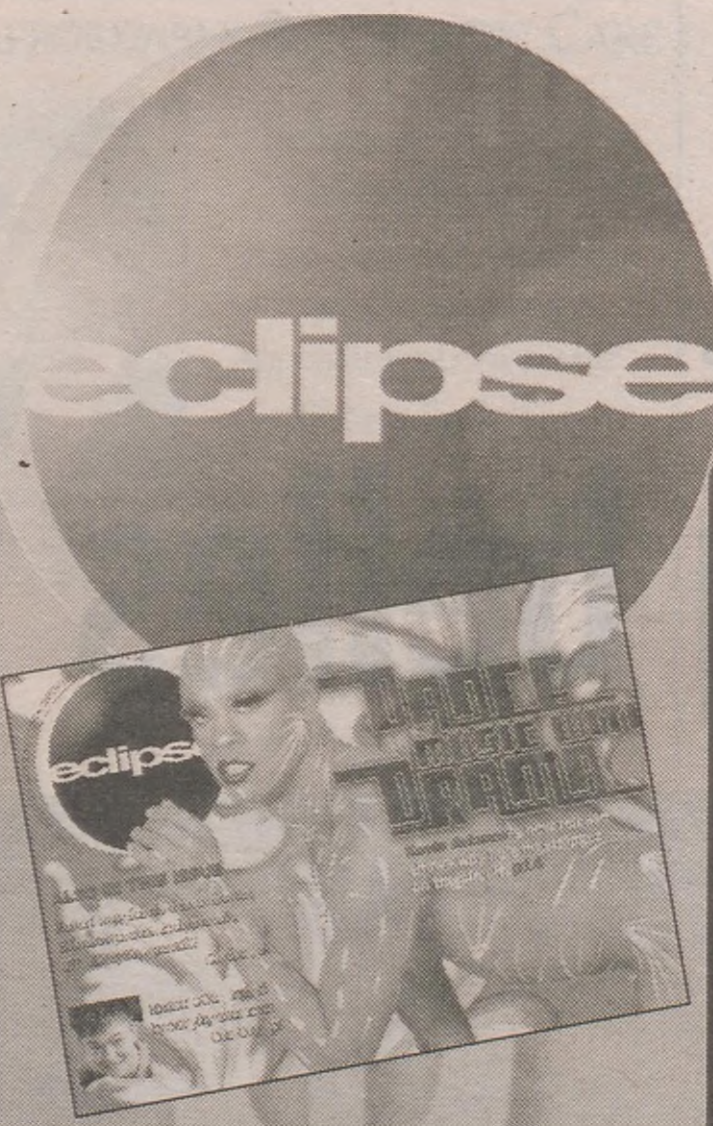
**Houston Tennis Club.** 7-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontennisclub.org](mailto:houstontennisclub.org)

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

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



## THIS WEEK IN ECLIPSE

**DANCE WITH DRAMA**  
Kevin Aviance's new release shows why he's no stranger on the circuit.

**QUICK BITES**  
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**OUR GUY**  
Oki finds inspiration in everyday things.

**PLUS: Nightlife**  
photos, news blips that need to be on your Gaydar, Bitch Session, Need Wood, Troy and Chelsea Boys.

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sion to 9/18) - Hike through history on Mount Athos along spectacular mountain trails!

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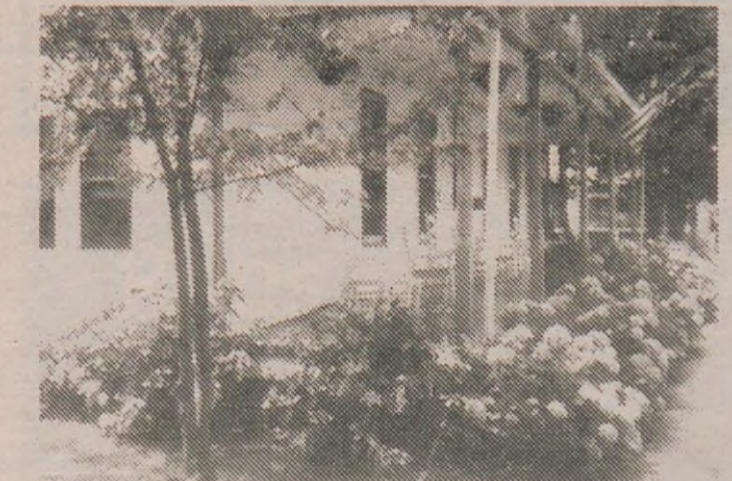
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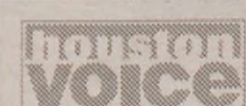
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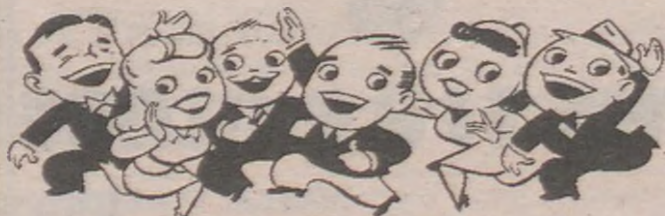


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## astrology JILL DEARMAN



The full moon in Aries this week makes for charismatic Rams; Sagittarians have fun as everyone else is intense.

# Stop preaching, Scorpio

**Aries (March 21 to April 20):**  
There's a dramatic feeling surrounding you during the full moon in your sign on Oct. 10. It's time for you to create something wondrous with your vivid imagination. Be who you are, no matter whom you offend. Chances are that you will wow and woo many, beginning with a Virgo. You can learn a lot observing the way people react to your strong personality.

**Taurus (April 21 to May 20):**  
Venus moves into your house of love on Oct. 9 and brings you too many dating options. It's hard for you to turn down all the attention you'll receive, but please, be selective. You and an Aries may not read each other correctly right away, but this one is worth the investment.

**Gemini (May 21 to June 21):**  
The full moon on Oct. 10 falls in your house of friends, so try to take it easy on yourself if pals put you through the wringer. This, too, shall pass. Focus your emotional energy on a Leo who is tortured by feelings of love and jealousy. Actively seek out some fire in your life.

**Cancer (June 22 to July 22):**  
Saturn's transit through your sign may make you feel as if all your hard work was for naught. But nothing could be further from the truth. The universe is simply reminding you that you need to take a breath, pull back and get some perspective on your crazy life. Escape for a while with an Aquarius.

**Leo (July 23 to Aug. 22):**  
Uranus retrograde makes a strange but sweet aspect to Venus at the beginning of the week of Oct. 6. Vow to do something totally different to bring love into your life. You and a Gemini can reunite in grand style. This is a great time for romantic surprises. The key is to resist routine.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):**  
It's easy for you to get what you need in your career. The Sun and your ruler Mercury are both transiting your house of money and prosperity, so long-term success is yours for the asking —

and some hard work. In love, you need to be just as strategic and confident.

**Libra (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):**  
The full moon on Oct. 10 falls in your house of love. It may push you to really listen to your own desires and emotional needs, rather than be practical about romance. A Sagittarius wants you to fly and be free. This fall, you can discover a part of yourself that you abandoned years ago.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):**  
You've been acting like a crazy person the past few weeks, unable to slow down, but not moving as fast as you'd like. During mid-October, you are at last able to find the perfect balance. Stop preaching so much, and get your act together. A Taurus is waiting on you.


**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):**  
You can have fun this month while everyone else is getting intense and serious about long-range plans. Live in the moment with an Aquarius. You are able to get whatever you want from your colleagues. Ask nicely.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):**  
It's hard for you to come to terms with someone from your past, but you're going to have to. All this obsessing is not doing you any good. You and a Virgo need to relax and spend some quality time together.


**Aquarius (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):**  
Your ruler Uranus is retrograde in your sign, which means that you might be tempted to make some radical turns in your life. That really won't be necessary. Slow and steady will win the romantic race with a Pisces. Avoid self-sabotage.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 to March 20):**  
Save your pennies, and get ready to splurge when the holiday season arrives. This is the time for you to plan your escape from the 9-to-5 world. A Libra knows what a pirate you are underneath.

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




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