

## Diverse dads

Two Houstonians who took very different routes to fatherhood are among the dads celebrating this weekend.  
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## INSIDE



The annual Pride Fun Run/Walk kicked off early Pride Month events in Houston, and the fun continues.

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Katy teens accuse school officials of censorship in taking a gay-themed essay out of the 2002 yearbook.

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Houston hosts 'Some Like It Hot' through next week with Tony Curtis in a role different than his part opposite Marilyn Monroe in the MGM classic.

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## Montrose: Gay mecca no more?

Factors such as the rumored closing of Crossroads contribute to a 'less gay' feel that some see in the neighborhood

By PENNY WEAVER

The widely rumored impending closure of gay-frequented Crossroads Market & Bookstore may be the newest sign of what some in Montrose see as the diluting of the neighborhood's heavily gay population.

The business, located at 1111 Westheimer St. in the heart of Montrose, has served coffee, treats, books, magazines and similar items to customers for seven years, according to co-owner Joe Rumanni.

Asked about persistent rumors this

Please see MONTROSE, on Page 7



Straight couples like Audrey and Jason (foreground) may be seen more often in Montrose these days, even at gay-centric businesses like Crossroads Market & Bookstore on Westheimer. It is widely rumored that Crossroads will close this summer, and the loss of such businesses also contributes to the changing landscape of the heavily gay neighborhood. (Photo by Kimberly Thompson)

## Hate crimes bill loses in Senate procedural vote

Kennedy: Defeat of debate-limiting resolution 'a vote for inaction'

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

Supporters of a bill authorizing the federal government to prosecute anti-gay hate crimes fell four votes short on a procedural motion in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, June 11, that would have cleared the way for the bill's passage.

The development is viewed as a setback by many gay activists, who became the most visible constituency group supporting the hate crimes legislation, known as S. 625, the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2002. The bill would add the categories of sexual orientation, gender and disabilities to an existing federal law that limits federal prosecution of hate crimes to cases based on a victim's race, religion or ethnicity.

Gay rights leaders, led by the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group, joined Senate Democrats



Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) (left), vowed to maintain pressure on the Senate to expand federal hate crimes legislation, but Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) said federal intervention should be limited to cases where states ask for help.

Tuesday in backing a procedural motion known as cloture, which was intended to limit debate and allow a vote on the bill itself.

The cloture motion lost by a vote of 54 to 43, following nearly two days of debate. Under Senate rules, cloture requires a "super-majority" of 60 votes.

"I'm hopeful we'll get cloture," said Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), the lead sponsor of the hate crimes measure, minutes before the vote. "But if we don't get it ... we're going to come back and back and back" until the

Please see HATE CRIMES BILL, on Page 8

## local news

## Pride gets off on the right foot

Fun Run raises money for charity, other events near as Pride Month continues

By PENNY WEAVER

Pride Month is in full swing, and events like Saturday's annual Fun Run/Walk help gay Houstonians gain momentum for the big June 29 Pride Parade.

"This is a really exciting time," said Troy Christensen, communications director for the Pride Committee of Houston. "[We're seeing] a lot of new faces; that's always really invigorating.

"We're getting a lot of good feedback from the press that we've had," he added. "We've got a lot of people who want to help out in different ways."

Last Saturday's 2002 Houston Gay and

Lesbian Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk was an early event in a busy month for gays.

The 176 participants in the run/walk helped raise \$1,200 for the race beneficiary, AssistHers, according to B.J. Almond of the Houston Montrose Athletic Association. AssistHers, a volunteer organization that provides in-home support and care to lesbians with chronic or disabling illnesses, has been the beneficiary of three of the five Pride fun runs organized by HMAA, according to the group.

Carlo Deason and Carline Burum were the overall male and female winners of this year's 3.1-mile race along Memorial Drive, with times of 16:38.1 and 19:08.1, respectively. Richard Peoples (17:55.4) and Vicki Danielson (20:44.3) won the masters male and female division. Each received a trophy.

Medals were awarded to the top five males and females in age groups 30-34, 35-39, and 40-44, and to the top three males and females in all other age groups.

Sponsors of this year's race included Chipotle, City of Houston Convention and Entertainment Facilities Department, copy.com, RunSport, Jack F. Abercia, Constable, Precinct 1, Augustin Painting, Dignity/Houston, Fleet Feet Sports, Graphics Marketing & Communications, Green Mountain Energy Company, Hot Bagel Shop, Houston Gym, Kirby Health and Wellness, Kolache Factory, Lobo, Mortgage Associates of Texas, Bob Niel/David Pace Glassworks, Pet Vet Animal Hospitals, Runner's World,

RunningTimes, and Silver Eagle Distributing.

Volunteers still are being recruited to help the 2002 Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Parade go smoothly, according to Christensen.

"We're going to need between 80-100 volunteers for parade day," he noted. "People can e-mail us and call us. We'll have one more sign up meeting."

That session will be Tuesday, June 25, in lieu of the general Pride Committee meeting at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, Christensen said.

It's still not too late for businesses, organizations and others interested to sign up for a parade entry.

The latest the committee will accept entries, with a late fee, is Tuesday, June 18, Christensen said.

"The parade itself will be as big or bigger than last year," he said. "Right now we're up to what we had in last year's parade.

"We fully expect that it will be bigger this year — not longer, necessarily, but bigger," Christensen added. "We're doing our best to eliminate any gaps [between parade entries] that we've had in the past."

Houston's 24th annual Pride Parade will step off at 8:45 p.m. on Saturday, June 29, on Westheimer between Woodhead and Whitney. Parade marshals this year are: Herlinda "Mela" Contreras; Rusty Mueller, a.k.a. Crystal Rae Lee Love; Jane and Irv Smith (honorary marshals); and the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard



Gay Houstonians are ready to kick up their heels this Pride Month, which culminates in less than two weeks with Pride Week and the annual Houston nighttime Pride Parade. (Photo by Kimberly Thompson)

Houston (honorary marshal-organization).

For spectators at the parade, the Pride Committee offers bleacher seating for a fee.

This year's festivities include a week of community-sponsored events, according to the Pride Committee. Each day will have a specific focus to emphasize diversity.

These are: Health & Recreation Day on Saturday, June 22; Family & Youth Day on Sunday, June 23; Community Awareness Day on Monday, June 24; Commemoration Day on Tuesday, June 25; Spirituality Day on Wednesday, June 26; Pride Worldwide Day on Thursday, June 27; and Arts Appreciation Day on Friday, June 28.

New this year is the Pride Cabaret, "Before the Parade Passes By," which will be held at Alley Theatre on June 28, the night before the annual Pride Parade. Directed by Ken Williamson, the show is an official event of Houston Pride 2002 and benefits the Pride Committee.

### FOR MORE INFO

Pride Committee of Houston  
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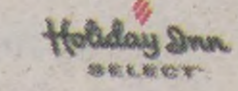
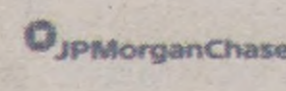
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## local news

# Group changes its mind on new leader

Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas mum on why it announced, then retracted, the hiring of a new executive director

By ELLA TYLER and PENNY WEAVER

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas has resumed its search for a new executive director just two weeks after announcing that a candidate had been chosen for the job.

But leaders of the political group shed little light on reasons for the change.

"I can't give you any further comment on the situation with Francisco other than what you already know, which is he's not going to be hired by the LGRL," Steve Atkinson, co-chair of the group's board, said this week. "We are moving ahead with [the search for a new executive director] and are optimistic that it will work out well in the end."

On May 27, the LGRL sent a lengthy press release announcing the appointment of Houston political activist Francisco Sanchez as the group's executive director. The position had been open since the January resignation of longtime LGRL leader Diane Hardy-Garcia, who held the post for eight years.

Six days later, the Voice received an e-mail that stated: "Francisco Sanchez will not be assuming the position of Executive

Director of LGRL. Thank you, Steve Atkinson, LGRL Board Co-Chair."

On Wednesday, the LGRL released the following statement to the media at large: "Mr. Francisco Sanchez will not be assuming the position of executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. The Board of Directors of LGRL continues its search for an executive director."

Sanchez sent an e-mail to the Voice, saying, "I am sorry, but I cannot comment on the matter at this time. Until my legal counsel determines the best way to proceed, it is best for me not to make any statements regarding this unexpected change."

Terrence O'Neill, acting director of AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service), the social service agency where Sanchez had been executive director, said he did not know about Sanchez's current plans.

"All I know is that he resigned from the agency last month to take the job with LGRL, and we wish him the best," O'Neill said.

During Sanchez's tenure at AVES, funding for the group's clinic for Hispanic and Latino AIDS patients, who are mainly women, was withdrawn allegedly because of the group's failure to comply with financial controls imposed by the funding agency, according to published reports.

In connection with that incident, Sanchez was the subject of unflattering articles and letters in the Houston Press. Sanchez reportedly received an annual salary of \$75,000 at AVES.

In the May 27 press release naming Sanchez as the group's new executive director, LGRL board members and Hardy-Garcia touted the potential employee's qualifications.

"He has the education, experience, skills and personality to take LGRL on to a new era of activism for equal rights in Texas," said Jill Ireland, co-chair of the board.

"I've known Francisco through our work together in the Texas Legislature and in Texas politics and I think the board has made an excellent choice. He will do great work for us during a very critical time for gay rights in Texas," said Hardy-Garcia.

According to the press release, "Mr. Sanchez has previously worked as the Legislative Director for a member of the Texas Legislature and later specialized in meeting the governmental affairs needs of clients for a Houston-based national public relations agency. He has served on several local, state and national boards dedicated to working on behalf of the LGBT community, including the national Stonewall Democrats Board, where he was recently elected Secretary.

"He also serves on the board of the Texas Human Rights Foundation. He has taken leadership positions within the Democratic Party, serving as a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee," the press release states. "He has lent lobbying and political consulting expertise to organizations working on issues such as HIV/AIDS funding, gay/lesbian immigration rights,

improved access to healthcare, consumer rights and environmental concerns."

The board had planned to formally introduce Sanchez to the community at the Texas Pride Brunch on Sunday, June 2, in Austin, the press release stated.

Sanchez recently was reelected to a third term as secretary of the Harris County Democratic Party. But some press reports allege that he has ruffled feathers among gay political activists.

In 1998, Tim Fleck, political columnist for the Houston Press, wrote that Sanchez had called him to say that State Rep. Debra Danburg had complained to Democratic Party Chair Sue Schechter that Sanchez had refused to sponsor an event for her. Danburg is one of the most supportive legislators for gay Texans.

According to one Houston political activist, any controversial portions of Sanchez's background may have escaped notice at the LGRL because Harris County has no representatives on the group's board.

That is the result of disagreement among the Harris County Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus over the caucus's lack of financial contributions to the LGRL, according to Sean Carter, former secretary of the GLPC board.



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## local news

# School officials deny censorship

New edition of a Katy-area high school yearbook omits student's gay-themed essay, among others

By PENNY WEAVER

Some students at a Houston-area high school have cried censorship over the reprinting of the current yearbook, since the new version deletes items including a gay-themed essay.

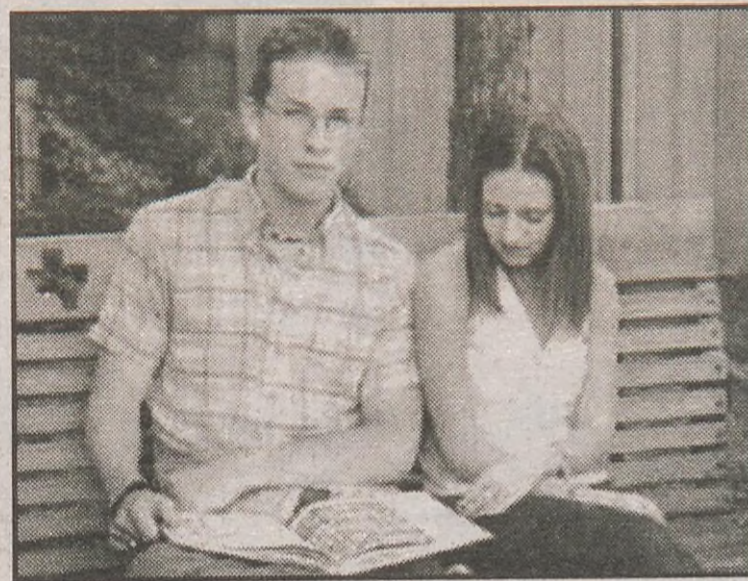
But school officials said there are many reasons the volume is being reprinted, and that the gay-themed work is not the only student piece being deleted from the new version.

The 2001-02 Cinco Ranch High School yearbook is being reprinted at a price tag of \$22,000, but the company that printed the book is bearing the cost of that reprint, according to Chris Taylor, director of communications for Katy Independent School District, of which CRHS is a part.

"The cost of the reprint essentially is zero [for the school district]," Taylor said. "There were some color quality problems," so the printer, Taylor Publishing Co., will take on the cost of reprinting about 1,800 yearbooks, she added.

According to a report in the Katy Sun, a Houston Community Newspapers member, a 900-word essay dealing with homosexuality has become the core of what some Cinco Ranch students call undue censorship.

Deleted in the new book is an essay by Robbie McMillin, editor of the yearbook, who chose to print an essay he had written for an



Robbie McMillin, editor, and Carly Frennea, business manager, yearbook staff members at Katy, Texas', Cinco Ranch High School, hold the first edition of the school's 2001-02 yearbook. A new edition omits essays including a gay-themed piece by McMillin. (Photo by Houston Community Newspapers)

English class the year before and said he thought it would fit in with the book's theme — "first experiences," according to the Sun.

"We went around school in English classes and told people we needed stories about their first experiences with things. So it's not like mine was the only story in there," McMillin told the Sun. "We got about 12 or so other stories from other people, and we didn't turn a single one down. We had one story about an anorexic girl. We had one about a guy's first crush on a girl, and that was a lot more sexual than the one I wrote, and that didn't get any complaints."

Taylor said there were many complaints about the portions of the yearbook from among the school's almost 2,400 students.

"There was a whole series of essays on

"first experiences," she said. "One of the things that all the kids objected to was all that text. Students expected to have pep rally photos and bonfire photos and things like that."

"When the yearbook was passed out the week before school was out, the principal and others in the building heard...kind of a big sigh of disappointment," she added. "It didn't all focus on the one single article that seems to be getting all the press."

The Sun reported that Cinco Principal Lowell Strike ordered McMillin's essay removed, but Taylor said the gay-themed text was not singled out.

"They took out all of the first essays," she said. "They took out a tremendous amount of the text... Of the 296-page book, 20 pages remained intact [for the second printing]. It was a fairly major revision. What they did was to pull out almost all of the heavy text."

A call to Strike's office was referred to Taylor. In addition to color quality problems, the book is being reprinted because of other technical problems such as poor sizing of photographs that were the fault of the publisher, Taylor said.

She noted that stories about how to lie, how to hold a séance and how to use a ouija board came under fire and will not appear in the new book.

McMillin and the rest of the staff said they made all the requested changes to prepare for the "bigger battle" — the one over McMillin's essay, the Sun reported.

"We really changed everything so they wouldn't be able to use that as an excuse, as a smoke screen," yearbook Business

Manager Carly Frennea told the Katy newspaper. "We didn't put up a fight on anything so they couldn't use it as a reason for the story to not go in. This was the one thing, the only thing, we wanted to stay in unchanged."

"We took everything out they hated," McMillin told the Sun. "If we got a complaint, we took it out, and the reason for that is because we knew it would come back to my story."

But the essay was ordered removed, he said, according to the Sun.

"You know, I always thanked my lucky stars that I went to Cinco before this happened," McMillin told the newspaper. "The administration was really friendly, and I didn't deal with harassment very often, and if I did, I knew they'd support me."

"He [Strike] initially told me that the yearbook is 'not a platform for that,'" he added.

McMillin could not be reached by the Voice for further comment by press time.

But Taylor said the focus on McMillin's essay is undue attention.

"[The reprinting] had absolutely nothing to do with the validity of personal expression on the part of students," Taylor said. "I think [McMillin's] was one of [the essays that received criticism], but I don't think it drew any more fire than the séance one."

"This is a relatively conservative community," she added. "We did get one e-mail that described us as a bunch of Nazis, but I do not think that is anywhere near a [fair] description of the community."

The new yearbooks will be distributed at the start of the next school year, Taylor said, and those who wish can keep both books.

## New trial planned for gay inmate

Burdine case returns to Houston and into early stages of re-trial nearly 20 years after crime

By PENNY WEAVER

A gay former death row inmate was in a Houston courtroom on two separate days this week as Texas officials prepare to re-try his case.

A Harris County prosecutor confirmed Monday that the state will retry Calvin Burdine, 49, whose conviction was reversed because his lawyer slept through parts of his trial nearly two decades ago.

At a Monday court appearance by Burdine before State District Judge Joan Huffman, Paula Storts, an assistant district attorney, said Burdine would be taken to court again.

Court proceedings were in progress at press time Thursday to determine if Burdine requires a new court-appointed attorney for the upcoming re-trial.

Robert McGlasson, a Decatur, Ga.-based attorney, has represented Burdine thus far and appeared with him in Harris County court Thursday.

"My position is going to be is he has a right

to a reasonable opportunity to secure counsel of his choosing," McGlasson said Wednesday. "We need some time to find out what counsel might be available and go from there."

Last week, Burdine won the right to a new trial when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review a lower court's reversal of his conviction. Harris County prosecutors indicated then they probably would retry the case.

The Supreme Court move let stand the earlier decision that told the state to either retry Burdine or set him free.

The state had appealed the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision in August that Burdine's 1984 capital murder trial was unfair because his court-appointed attorney, Joe Cannon, slept at times during the trial.

Harris County prosecutors could not be reached by press time Thursday for further comment.

Burdine had been on death row since February 1984, 10 months after his gay lover, W.T. Wise, was found fatally stabbed at the Houston trailer they shared. Burdine, then 30, confessed to police, but now denies killing Wise. He contends an accomplice killed Wise, 50, stabbing him in the back twice with a hunting knife while Burdine tried to talk him out of it.

That accomplice has already served a

prison sentence for his role in the slaying.

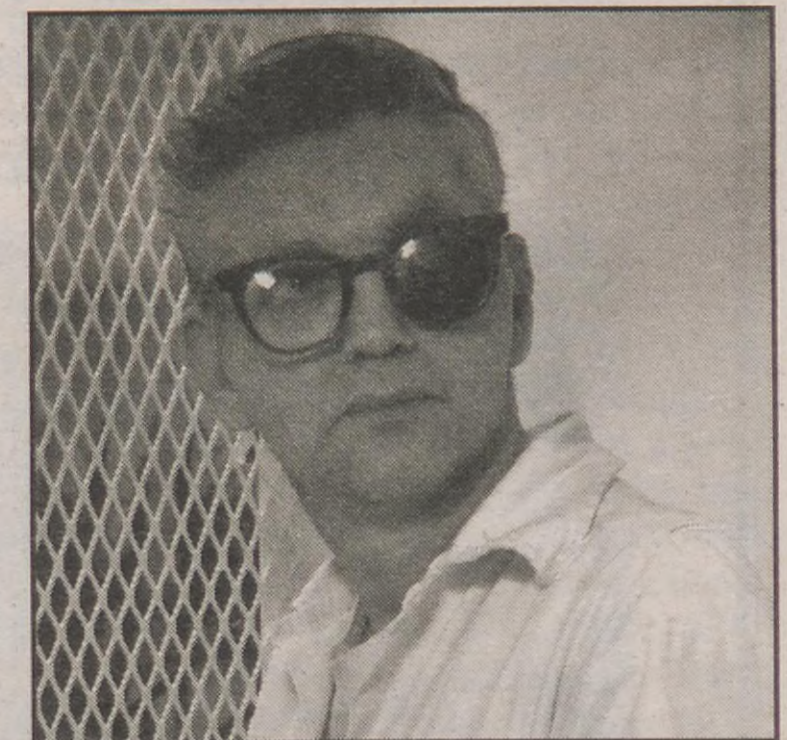
Jurors and a court clerk described how Cannon slept for up to 10 minutes at a time during the trial and sentencing phase that followed. Cannon, who has since died, denied falling asleep.

Cannon also was found to have used anti-gay slurs during the trial. The higher courts have not addressed what McGlasson, gay rights activists and death penalty opponents have said was homophobia on the part of both the prosecutor and defense attorneys during the original trial.

In arguing for the death penalty and against life in prison for Burdine following his conviction, the prosecutor told the jury, "Sending a homosexual to the penitentiary [for life] certainly isn't a very bad punishment for a homosexual, and that's what he's asking you to do."

As the Voice has reported previously, gay and civil liberties groups, in a 1995 brief asking that Burdine's conviction be overturned, said, "The prosecution clearly implied that...life behind bars would be pleasant for a gay person — in effect portraying the gay inmate as a 'kid in a candy store.'"

The prosecutor also said that Burdine's 1971 Texas conviction for sodomy, a consensual offense, was evidence of his "likeliness to commit criminal violent acts in the future."



Gay Texan Calvin Burdine, formerly on death row, will be retried in a capital murder case, Harris County prosecutors confirmed this week. (Photo by AP)

According to McGlasson, Cannon was homophobic and did not challenge the prosecutor's biased statements to the jury, as well as prospective jurors who exhibited anti-gay bias.

But McGlasson said he doubts the fact that Burdine is gay would be a factor in the new trial. "This whole homophobic [issue] in this case is crap. I would think in 2002 that it wouldn't rear its ugly head," he said.

The original trial took less than a week. Jurors took 17 minutes before deciding on conviction and 34 minutes on punishment.

The Associated Press and Mike Fleming contributed to this story.

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## local news

## Parker: Montrose not gay-centric by population

MONTROSE, continued from Page 1

month that Crossroads will close before the summer ends, Rumanni would only say, "No comment." He did acknowledge that he has heard the rumors.

As gays celebrate Pride Month, it is within a changing Montrose, the neighborhood widely known as the heart of gay Houston. The area includes most of the city's gay bars and a number of other businesses that are both gay-owned and cater to gay clientele.

Officials at Pride Committee of Houston expect a bigger and better Pride parade than ever this month, and, as usual, the parade will wind through the heart of the neighborhood.

But longtime gay Houstonians, activists and business owners disagree on whether or not Montrose could be called "less gay" for "Pride Worldwide" this year.

"I think it's just as gay as it ever was," said Ramanni, a resident of Houston for about 10 years. "We don't really see any difference. The housing demographics have changed dramatically, but a lot of gay people have bought into those new buildings."

More gay couples may be opting for suburban living, but that is hard to gauge, some say.

"I think a lot of the gay people are still in Montrose," said Annise Parker, the first and — so far — only openly gay member of the Houston City Council. "I don't know that Montrose was every hugely gay in terms of population. I don't think we were ever maybe more than 20 percent. I still think there are lots...of gay folks in Montrose. It's the other folks who have changed."

Gay activist, businessman and charity fund-raiser Don Gill, a Montrose resident for almost 30 years, agrees that more heterosexual people live in Montrose, and also believes some gays are moving out.

"[The neighborhood is] becoming very diverse," Gill said. "A lot of our gay friends have moved up to Meyerland, Garden Oaks, the Heights."

"[Montrose is] turning more heterosexual," he added. "We as a minority group want everyone to accept us for who and what we are; then in return, we have to accept what's happening in our community and invite those people in as well."

"Change is good," he said.

## Why Montrose?

Whether or not gay Houstonians live in the Montrose area, it still has been the focal point of the city for most gays.

"Montrose was the heart of the gay community because it was where we came to play, as much as where we lived," Parker said.

Bars once were more of a focus for gay socializing than perhaps they are now, the councilwoman added, and almost every gay bar in the city is in Montrose.

"We're less tied to the bar culture than we were," Parker said. "There are so many



Mary's...Naturally caters to a largely gay clientele but the atmosphere around it has changed with an increase in heterosexuals who live in Montrose. (Photo by Kimberly Thompson)

avenues of gay socializing.

"We've always been pretty much spread out in the community, with a concentration in Montrose, but now there are amenities in our spread-out neighborhoods that may keep us there. We come to Montrose less frequently."

Results from Census 2000 displayed a strong showing of same-sex households in Montrose, but also revealed a scattering of such couples across Harris County.

West University had 42 reported gay households, Southside had two, and Bellaire had 55. In these relatively affluent areas, there are more gay male households, as the Houston Chronicle has reported.

But not all gay and lesbian couples are economically advantaged or all white-collar workers. The Census showed 140 same-sex couples reported in Baytown, 37 in Deer Park and 223 in Pasadena. Those areas are less affluent and more blue collar, and the Census also revealed more lesbian couples than gay male couples there.

Parker is an At-Large council member, so she is elected by and represents the entire city. But several council districts show concentrations of gay couples, particularly in Montrose.

Council Districts D and H each are home to approximately 1,100 such couples who reported in the Census. Both are located largely inside the 610 Loop, with District H on the north side and District D on the south side and encompassing most of Montrose.

Other council districts show about 750 same-sex couples in District F; an estimated 700 in C and G; about 500 in I; nearly 350 in E; and an estimated 300 such couples in District B.

Montrose also includes District C.

University of Houston sociology professor Karl Eschbach told the Chronicle that the Census figures show increases in the

proportion of married couples, homeowners and people ages 45-64 in the years since Census 1990.

"All of that is consistent with the displacements of younger, single individuals — possibly gay, although we don't know that from the Census — with new housing stock that requires a higher income and is more appealing, maybe, to mature, married couples," Eschbach told the Chronicle.

Parker recalls the different make-up of Montrose from just a few years ago, a recollection in line with what the Census showed.

"There were a lot of elderly; there were a lot of kind of low-income folks who could find a place to live [in Montrose]," she recalls. "There are a lot of new empty nesters and a lot of younger families moving in that can afford the new townhomes."

Gill, who moved to the Montrose area in January of 1973 and operates Studio 911 in the neighborhood, said real estate values have risen sharply, and that is another factor that may drive many gays out and others in.

"If you didn't purchase your real estate years ago, it's very hard...some people, because of their budgets, had to move out of Montrose," Gill said.

At the same time, many young straight couples or other residents of the suburbs find Montrose attractive for other reasons, he noted.

"So many of them work downtown, and they just tire of the long drive," Gill said. "It's convenient. A lot of these young couples who are coming in here, they grew up in the suburbs, and they just don't want to live out in the suburbs anymore."

## Gay attitudes

Some Houstonians believe that changes in the make-up of Montrose have accompanied changes in attitudes

of gays. Struggles largely have shifted from in-the-streets demands for the right to even have a Pride parade to more quiet but persistent woes such as a lack of funding for groups including the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center and the CATS (Community Awareness for Transgender Support) homeless shelter.

"I have been coming out in the Montrose area since I was 13 years old. The first time I walked into a gay bar was 1981," said John Benavides, a longtime employee at Mary's... Naturally, located across the street from Crossroads and in the heart of Montrose. "I've seen the entire neighborhood go through a lot of changes. I remember when the streets used to be packed, in stop-and-go traffic."

"Back in Mary's heyday, and a lot of the earlier gay bars, those bars did a lot to start the gay movement in Houston," Benavides said. "The gay community is a lot younger [now], and most of them don't remember those days and what so many people went through."

"They're more interested in their party and what is going on in their decade and their time. Back then...we had to fight to even have a parade at that point. Now people take it for granted."

Benavides wonders if young gay men and lesbians are as concerned as previous generations were about issues such as gay civil rights and political causes.

"We've lost a little bit of momentum that we had at one time," he said. "I'm not sure how interested the younger gay people are in changing that. That for the most part has been the biggest change I've seen. There's a little more complacency about people's [individual] situations and not the community as a whole."

He does believe more heterosexual couples have set up residence in Montrose.

"Houston has grown so much in the inner city that that was bound to happen, but in a sense because we're not as politically active as we used to be, we're not doing anything about it either," Benavides said. "People know what the neighborhood is when they move into it. To change it would be changing the reason why they moved into it. I don't have a problem with it but I don't necessarily think that there needs to be a change either."

Observers may disagree on the cause, effect and extent of the changes Montrose has seen over the years, but most do see more of a mix of gay and straight residents than in the neighborhood's gay heyday.

For better or worse, Montrose doesn't seem to have the same type of gay feel that it once exuded.

"I don't know that the gay community is leaving," Parker said. "I think that there's just a different mixture around us."

At least some gay Montrose residents are comfortable with the neighborhood either way.

"They're our neighbors," Gill said. "I like the change."

## national news

## Daschle says bill to be resurrected as amendment

HATE CRIMES BILL, continued from Page 1

Senate passes the legislation, Kennedy said.

"Hate crimes are modern day lynchings that harm individuals and entire communities," Kennedy said in a statement after the vote. "A vote against cloture was a vote against the hate crimes bill — and a vote for inaction in the face of the serious problem of hate motivated violence."

Republicans and Democrats blamed each other for the failed vote on the cloture motion, with each side saying they put political motives ahead of an earnest effort to reach a compromise that would enable final passage of the bill.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), one of the Senate co-sponsors of the hate crimes measure, said he would likely bring the bill before the Senate again within the next few months in the form of an amendment to another bill. He said he would not rule out another cloture vote if the bill's supporters feel such a vote would be appropriate.

The anti-gay Family Research Council hailed the defeat of the cloture motion, saying the bill was a "pro-homosexual rights" measure that should never have come before the Senate in the first place.

Sens. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) and Arlen Specter (R-Penn.) had signed on with Kennedy to become the lead sponsors of the legislation. Smith voted for the cloture motion and urged his fellow Republicans to join him, saying the bill merits prompt passage.

But Specter and Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.), another co-sponsor of the bill, voted against the cloture motion, saying the motion was premature and prevented consideration of potentially helpful amendments.

Kennedy, noting that the Senate passed the bill once in 1999 and a second time in 2000, told his Senate colleagues that the issues surrounding the bill were well known. He said Senate Democratic leaders initiated a cloture vote after Republicans filed at least 20 amendments to the bill, with some of them addressing unrelated issues such as abortion. Kennedy called the amendments a thinly disguised filibuster aimed at killing the bill.

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), a leading opponent of the Kennedy-backed bill, disputed Kennedy's claim that he and his GOP colleagues were planning a filibuster. Hatch said he planned to allow the bill to come up for a vote following consideration of "several" of his own amendments, which he said were aimed at improving the bill and increasing its chance of passing in the House of Representatives. Leaders of the Republican-controlled House have refused to allow the bill to come up for a vote.

Hatch said one of his amendments would have removed language in the Kennedy-backed bill that bars federal prosecutors from seeking the death penalty in hate crimes cases. Hatch said the restriction on the death penalty has prompted a number of Republicans to oppose the bill.

Kennedy called the death penalty issue a

"red herring," saying his bill only restricts the use of the death penalty if state and local prosecutors decline to prosecute a hate crime.

The FBI's 2000 Uniform Crime Report, the most recent year in which hate crimes data are available, shows that there were 1,299 anti-gay hate crimes reported by local police departments in 2000. The 1,299 figure represents 16.1 percent of the total number of hate crimes reported that year and comprises the third largest category of hate crimes, with race and religion representing the two highest two categories respectively.

In addition to adding sexual orientation, gender and disabilities to the hate crimes law that Congress passed in 1968, S. 625 would also allow the federal government, through the Department of Justice, to provide technical and financial assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies involved in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes.

In addition, it calls for removing language from the 1968 law that restricts federal intervention to cases where a hate crime occurs while a victim is involved in a "federally protected activity" such as voting.

Another part of the bill limits federal prosecution of hate crimes to cases where local and state authorities are unable or unwilling to undertake such prosecutions.

Hatch said the language addressing the issue of when the federal government should get involved is too broad, allowing the Justice Department, according to Hatch, to impose itself on local and state

authorities at will. Kennedy and other supporters of the bill have said it contains sufficient limitations that would prevent federal usurpation of local and state authorities.

Gay civil rights groups, including the Human Rights Campaign, have said the question of federal intervention gets to the crux of their concerns over the need for federal hate crimes legislation. Activists have said S. 625 is needed to ensure that the federal government is available to prosecute anti-gay hate crimes in the event that local or state authorities refuse to do so or are unable to do so due to a lack of resources.

During the Senate debate on the cloture motion on June 11, Hatch responded to criticism that his proposed substitute language did not specifically mention sexual orientation by saying he would add a sexual orientation clause to a compromise version worked out between him and Kennedy.

"I would be willing to put sexual orientation in my bill," he told his Senate colleagues.

However, Hatch said that because he believes local and state prosecutors are already aggressively prosecuting anti-gay hate crimes, he favors an "alternative approach" that would limit federal intervention to cases where states ask for help.

"No one, least of all me, is suggesting that hate crimes are not a problem, or that we, as an institution, should stand by and do nothing about hate crimes," Hatch said. "No one is arguing that existing federal law is adequate."

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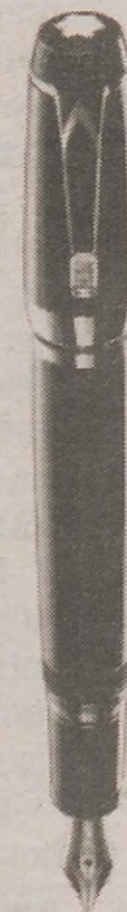
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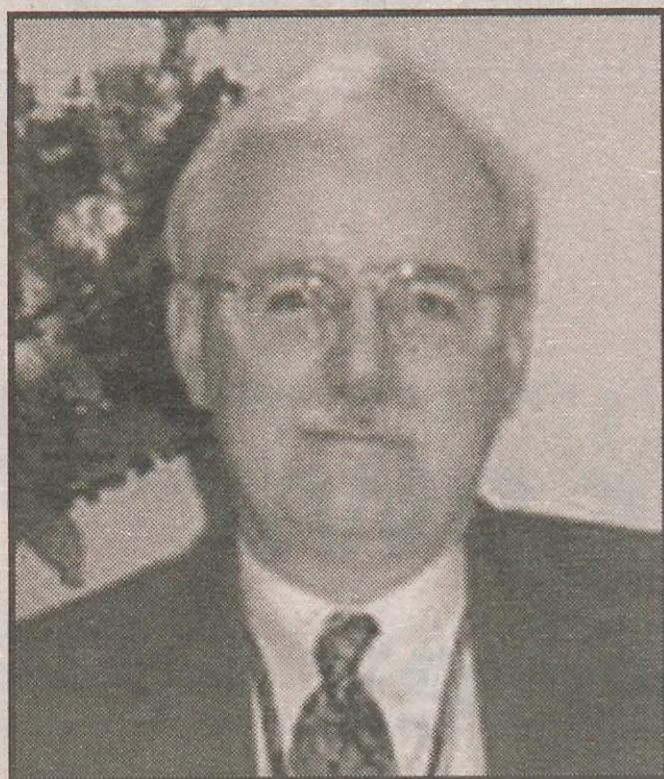
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## around the nation

### Mich. judge closes door on second-parent adoptions

DETROIT — Judge Archie Brown, chief judge in Washtenaw County, acted June 4 to ban second-parent adoptions in his courts, ending a route by which gay parents could adopt the biological children of their partners, the Detroit Free Press reported. The county court in Ann Arbor was thought to be the only court in the state that had allowed the adoptions by unmarried partners. While Brown said the ban was not motivated by a desire to stop adoptions by gays, the decision set off a firestorm of debate among both gay rights activists and their detractors. "There are many citizens of Michigan who believe homosexual adoption is wrong because they believe homosexual behavior is wrong," said Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association of Michigan. Brown's decision does not overturn adoptions already granted, but it does halt future ones, including those already pending.



Michigan Judge Archie Brown last week banned second-parent adoptions, ending what is thought to be the only court in the state that allowed the adoptions by unmarried partners.

### Minn. elementary principal comes out with letter to parents

MAPLE GROVE, Minn. (AP) — An invitation to appear on a controversial segment of Nickelodeon's "Nick News for Kids" program hosted by Linda Ellerbee has prompted the principal of Oak View Elementary School to come out to his students and their families. Mark French, an educator for 20 years and principal at Oak View for four, sent a letter to the families of his 700 students to let them know he would appear on an upcoming segment of the show dealing with gay families, scheduled to air June 18. French, who came out to his staff last year, said he decided to send the letter because he didn't want students to see the episode and be surprised. A few parents denounced the move. The letter was "a smoke screen for gay activism, and there's no room in elementary school for gay activism," said parent Lynn Sorbel. French's coming out is a unique occurrence among principals, according to June Million, a spokeswoman for the National Association of Elementary School Teachers. "We know there are gay principals, but I'm not aware of one addressing the community like this," she said.

### Gay candidate loses mayoral bid in Calif.

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — A term-limited mayor forced to run as a write-in candidate declared victory June 5 in her bid for a third term as head of California's fifth-largest city. Mayor Beverly O'Neill was one of three candidates in the race, but only gay Vice Mayor Dan Baker's name appeared on the ballot June 4. Although O'Neill won the April primary, her name was banned from the ballot by term-limits. She was allowed to seek a third term through a charter provision allowing "any qualified candidate" to run a write-in campaign. With all precincts reporting but 3,000 absentee ballots uncounted, O'Neill led with 16,469 votes to Baker's 12,702. Businessman Norm Ryan, another write-in candidate, trailed with 6,010 votes. If Baker were elected mayor of the city of 461,000, Long Beach would have become the nation's largest municipality with an openly gay mayor.

### Trans dad in Fla. gets custody; Calif. court rules for non-bio dad

CLEARWATER — Senior Pasco-Pinellas Circuit Judge Gerard O'Brien has ordered that Michael Kantaras, a transsexual father, will be granted temporary custody of his two children, the Tampa Tribune reported. Born a woman, Kantaras had sex reassignment surgery in 1986. He married Linda Kanteras in 1989, adopting her infant son. The couple then had a daughter through donor insemination. O'Brien ruled Michael Kanteras will have temporary physical custody because Linda Kanteras violated an order not to talk negatively about their father's transsexualism to the children. Meanwhile, the California Supreme Court ruled June 6 that a man could receive custody of a child he has been taking care of, despite not being the child's biological father, the Los Angeles Times reported. An attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights said the case could impact gays by reinforcing the idea that parenthood isn't only biological. Because it is based on the Uniform Parentage Act, a model law also used in 19 states, the ruling could be influential around the country, attorneys said.

### FBI probe of Calif. campus included homosexuality

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The FBI, working covertly with the CIA and then-Gov. Ronald Reagan, spent years unlawfully trying to quash the careers of students and faculty deemed subversive at the University of California, the San Francisco Chronicle reported June 8. A 17-year legal challenge brought by a Chronicle reporter under the Freedom of Information Act forced the agency to release more than 200,000 pages of confidential records covering the 1940s to the 1970s. Reagan intended to mount a "psychological warfare campaign" against subversives, Herbert Ellingwood, Reagan's legal affairs secretary, told the FBI in a request for confidential information about people on campus. The resulting report in 1960 listed professors' political activities, and said many had engaged in "illicit love affairs, homosexuality, sexual perversion, excessive drinking or other instances of conduct reflecting mental instability."

From staff and wire reports

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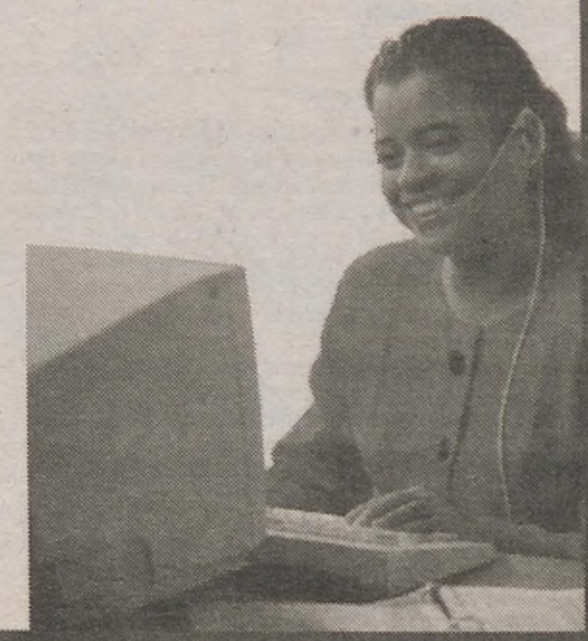
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212-242-6863

A WindowMedia Publication

Publisher- WINDOW MEDIA LLC  
 President- WILLIAM WAYBOURN  
 Editorial Director- CHRIS CRAIN  
 Financial Director- CHRIS REID  
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Issue 1129

# Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

JUNE 14, 2002

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## editorial

# Writing our own rules about sex

MCC ordained a child molester and defrocked a lesbian pastor for consensual sex. But drawing up guidelines for sex can be especially tough when you've seen it done poorly firsthand.

By CHRIS CRAIN

**T**HE UNIVERSAL fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is clearly trying to get it right. Like those in other church organizations, the leadership of MCC has surely watched in disbelief as the moral authority of the Roman Catholic Church implodes in wave after wave of sexual misconduct and official cover-up.

As a denomination founded as "the church of the second chance" for gays disaffected from mainline Christian traditions, the MCC faces extra pressure to get it right when it comes to internal policies on clergy misconduct, especially sexual misconduct, and very especially sexual abuse of minors.

In many ways, gays can be proud that the MCC has been willing to do what the Catholic Church has refused to do, at least until now: adopt a "zero tolerance" policy on clergy sexual abuse, promise to alert law enforcement authority of credible abuse allegations, and commit to an open process, with none of those confidential legal settlements designed to hush up any whiff of scandal.

But it's not so easy to draw up ethical rules around something as messy and unpredictable as sex, especially with all of the extra sensitivities that come into play when those drawing the rules have themselves been labeled sexual deviants — and worse — by the religious institutions they left. Events of the last few weeks, and the intense media scrutiny that has illuminated all sorts of finer details about the problem and the psychology around clergy sexual misconduct, suggest that it's time for MCC to take a look again at some of its rules.

In a front-page story in this week's *Houston Voice*, correspondent Laura Douglas-Brown highlights how a loophole in the MCC "zero tolerance" rules, which apply only to misconduct committed while a minister is working within the denomination, resulted in the ordination of a former Catholic priest who had admitted and

been convicted of some 20 sexual encounters with a 15-year-old male student at the Catholic school he previously served. The MCC rules, as written, allowed for the ordination and retention of the former priest, so long as he confessed his sins at the time of his application.

But why would misconduct that would result in the ouster of an MCC minister not also bar the ordination of a new minister from another denomination who had been convicted of the same thing? There is no good reason for the loophole, and whatever sympathy may exist for Rev. James Forsythe, the former Catholic priest serving an MCC church in South Dakota, and others who have confessed and "done their time," there is no place in the clergy for someone who has so grossly abused the trust of the most vulnerable in his charge.

Even though Forsythe has since surrendered his MCC credentials, the denomination should still act to revise its rules and close this loophole, prohibiting the ordination of any minister against whom there exist credible allegations of child sexual abuse. Being the "church of the second chance" is an honorable thing. For parishioners, even being "the church of one more chance" is imminently justifiable. But only a select few should be placed in positions of special authority and trust, and those who have exhibited such poor judgment in the past should not ever be given the opportunity to repeat their dreadful mistake.

**OUTSIDE THE REALM OF CHILD** sexual abuse, the MCC rules get even murkier. As any regular reader of this newspaper knows, the rules of sexual conduct that a religious group draws up for its own clergy can get to the heart of that church's position on sexual ethics in general, and homosexuality in particular.

Many mainline Protestant denominations are struggling, for example, with whether to ordain gay ministers, especially those that admit to being sexual active —

"practicing homosexuals," as they often call them. Some denominations have compromised by ordaining only celibate homosexuals, even if heterosexual ministers within that faith are permitted to marry. Others have gone so far as to ordain sexually active gays, so long as they confine their sexual activity to committed relationships.

Outside the realm of child sexual abuse, the MCC has not been as consistent and upfront in the application of sexual conduct rules for its clergy, resulting in confusion and even mistreatment of its own clergy. When MCC defrocked Rev. Glenna Shepherd, for example, the denomination would say next to nothing about why, except to list "unbecoming conduct, disloyalty or dereliction of duty."

As it turned out, the "unbecoming conduct" referred to allegations that she engaged in a consensual sexual relationship with a 43-year-old woman, now her partner, during a five-week ministerial training course led by Shepherd. In April, that decision was reversed, and Shepherd's credentials restored, when the denomination decided that without a "victim" willing to testify against Shepherd, the draconian decision was unwarranted.

When the removal of Shepherd is placed up against the ordination of Forsythe, the comparison does suggest a grossly disproportionate penalty for Shepherd, whether or not the alleged victim came forward. If the rules allowing Forsythe to be ordained were reversed, as they should be, and the decision to defrock Shepherd was reversed, as it was and should have been, where does that leave MCC in determining the proper bounds of sexual conduct for its clergy, let alone its members?

In a complicated, confusing, troubling mess, that's where. And MCC has plenty of company there, including most of the rest of us, who continue to struggle with where to draw the lines around appropriate sexual conduct, having seen firsthand the dramatic effect of rules poorly drawn.

Mark Jordan, a religion professor and expert on gays in the Catholic priesthood, summed up the problem in exceptionally helpful terms. He calls it the "famine/feast logic" of gay sexual ethics:

Gays facing disapproval from society for their sexual activity approach their sex lives by saying to themselves, "Either I follow these homophobic rules to the letter, strangling my deepest desires, or else I acknowledge no rules at all, drowning my deepest desires by acting out every momentary impulse." Jordan said.

The path to a responsible, examined sex life, which values sex partners and the act itself, lies somewhere between those poles. And as the MCC and other faith groups muddle their way through, the rest of us will be watching, and hoping they help us get it right.

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

viewpoint RICH ARENSCHIEDT



For AIDS patients struggling to find a medication combo that works, it's 1990 again

# Why ADAP won't adapt

THE MEMO FROM THE TEXAS Department of Health (TDH) reads: "Based on the growth of the Program since 1996 it is estimated that by the fiscal year 2003, \$64 million will be required to meet the medication needs for new and current clients with HIV disease. The projected budget for the Program is \$58 million which equates to a \$7 million budget need in 2003." One paragraph later the news gets even bleaker for future periods: "Projections indicate that there will be a \$12 million budget need in 2004 and a \$16 million budget need in 2005." "Budget need?" Who is TDH kidding? Sounds like what they "need" to do is to hire a new grammarian to differentiate between a need and a multi million-dollar deficit. This shortfall will have a direct impact upon 10,311 Texans currently receiving their HIV meds with help from the state via the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).

Amidst the morass of HIV funding, ADAP is a federal program funded through something called Title II of the Ryan White CARE Act. While the act is reauthorized and appropriated at the federal level, it is administered and supplemented with funds provided by individual states and territories. While this may seem odd, the reason is actually quite savvy.

When the CARE Act was created in 1990, the need for a national approach to funding the medical and welfare needs of those with HIV/AIDS was acute. As a result of white gay boy grass-roots activism, the largest single investment in a specific health care issue by the United States government, The Ryan White CARE act, was born. Initially, the feds feared that state legislatures would

use federal monies to absolve themselves of funding HIV/AIDS services. Given the low level of public support for such things at the time, it would have been easy for states to abolish HIV-related budgetary line items.

In effect, the feds prevented this by saying, "Okay, states can have this pot of money but only if your state legislature appropriates funding equal to a fixed percentage of the total you receive from Washington."

Thus, a miracle occurred: A bunch of screaming radical "ACT-UP" faggots had finally grabbed Texas State Sen. Redd Ruffansore and his good ole boy band of yee-haws by the short and curlies. Our dear friends in the Texas legislature were forced to appropriate monies to individuals affected by HIV, people they would rather just ignore.

Given the current demographic profile of ADAP clients, sweeping this group under the legislative rug might be easy. Minorities, disproportionately affected by HIV disease, naturally comprise the majority of ADAP recipients. According to the Washington-based ADAP Working Group, 58 percent of current users are minorities and 80 percent are at or below the federal poverty level. Politicians may think that these voiceless folks will just disappear. They will — they'll eventually die.

IN RECENT NEWS, WE'VE SEEN AN aging rock star and an even more aged secretary of the United States treasury confronted by persons with this disease in Africa with pleas for more awareness and funding. I wish Bono and Bonzo could spend a day with me here in the much-touted "Medical Center of the known world."

Concerns about ADAP restrictions on

medicines available to those who need them, especially highly treatment-experienced patients with few options, have made some people scared to death. There's an ugly astrologic-like convergence of events that is happening in the Lone Star State that gives ADAP funding a "Mars in retrograde" feeling.

There are 16 approved medications for the management of HIV infection. While this is much improved over the old days of AZT monotherapy, there is a darker side to treatment. Data from the Journal of AIDS (February 2002) states that half of all patients will fail their first regimen of approximately 10.6 months, their second treatment regimen of 8.1 months and fail subsequent regimens of 6.4 months. For these folks, a two-year, "three strikes you're out" possibility could land them in medical solitary confinement. These people are like the crew in the movie "Perfect Storm." They are at the mercy of several things are happening all at once and none of the outcomes are promising.

Nowhere is this more clearly elucidated than in a slick graphic on the Centers for Disease Control Web site. One line shows AIDS deaths from the beginning of the epidemic. This line looks like a camel's hump with a peak in deaths around 1993 and a fairly steep decline through the 90s. Clearly, the new therapies have helped thousands.

The other line illuminates the number of people currently living with AIDS (prevalence, as epidemiologists call it.) This snazzy orange line is on an upward trajectory off the chart. It represents thousands of people who aren't going anywhere. They are living, breathing, and, to some extent, on HIV drug therapy. There are in excess of 10,000 such people in Harris County and with improved longevity, this population will continue to increase.

That tells us something about the people in this equation, but let's look at the drugs they have to take to control HIV infection. A cursory overview of pharmaceutical industry price increases during the last few years for HIV medicines ranges from a low of 3.9 percent to a high of 39 percent. While there are new drugs currently in development, many of them are what treatment specialists refer to as "me too!" formulations, many offering only slight clinical benefit with no proof of long-term clinical efficacy.

The really promising and novel HIV therapies such as fusion inhibitors will likely cost a fortune and be virtually unavailable to those not privately insured. When and if these innovative therapies receive FDA approval, public funding sources will be unwilling to pay for them as the result of their high cost. As second and third line therapies are needed, yearly costs of individualized HIV therapy could easily top \$20,000 or \$30,000.

Last but not least, let's examine America's political pocketbook in June 2002. We are marshalling resources to protect Americans from an ambiguous "axis of evil." Billions of dollars are being funneled into combating bioterrorism, even though some scientists say they have no idea how such a large sum of money would be judiciously spent. In a recent article, Gordon Nary calls the government to task, stating that withholding funds for ADAP programs was tantamount to domestic terrorism.

No one dies of HIV anymore. They're all too busy trying to keep their livers from conking out, their veins from clotting due to elevated lipids, and their hearts from having a Loop 610/Debakay bypass, all in the name of "new and improved" HIV meds.

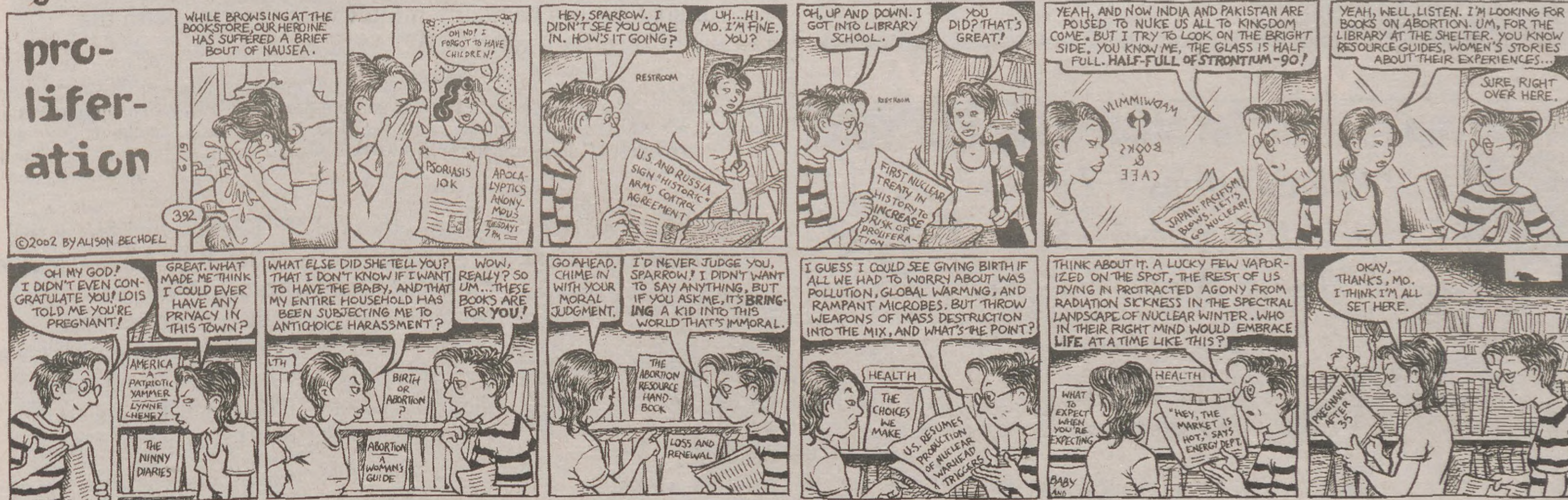
What is the ADAP solution to all of this? Decrease utilization and restrict access. Nationally, 10 states have closed or limited enrollments in their ADAP programs. Texas currently has restrictions on what antiretroviral treatments clients can choose. This trend will continue as the supply, price and demand curves all careen into each other.

One of the rules of healthcare (especially in the public sector) is "You prevent or you pay." Policy wonks have known that 30 bucks in preventative prophylaxis often saves you exponentially more than you would spend in 30 seconds of hospital intensive care. Limiting ADAP funding and the drugs it provides is ethically indefensible, bad business and tragically shortsighted public health policy.

People forget that the "E" in the Ryan White CARE acronym stood (and still stands for) "emergency." Welcome to the past; it's 1990 all over again.

**@ Rich Arenschielt** is a freelance writer for Houston Voice and Director of Education and Outreach at The Center for AIDS. He may be reached at [rich@centerforaids.org](mailto:rich@centerforaids.org).

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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## on the record



"The greatest hate crime of all, which we should be dealing with right now, is the hate crime of terrorism against America."

Senate Republican Leader **Trent Lott** of Mississippi, on a federal hate crimes measure that fell victim to a threatened filibuster this week (Associated Press, June 11)

"We ought to be fighting terror here at home. That's what this is all about."

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), on the proposed federal hate crime legislation

"I'm going to bring Hollywood back to the future, to restore it to the glamour and the grandeur it once had. Right now, Hollywood is so far down in the garbage, we can only do better. We can only see daylight."

Gene LaPietra, 54, a millionaire gay bar owner, on his half-million-dollar donations that have fueled the effort for Hollywood to secede from Los Angeles, an issue that will be on the Nov. 5 ballot (Los Angeles Times, June 5)

"Of course I feel sorry for people who are struggling with HIV and AIDS. It's a horrible illness. [But] some people are knowingly infecting other people and I don't have sympathy for people who are doing that. How can you?"

New Haven City Alderwoman Nancy Ahern, who resigned as an aide to Connecticut Gov. John Rowland after comments she made to several AIDS activists (Associated Press, June 7)

"Fag is the most common hate word on the playground. We've all seen the effects of hate taken to its extreme conclusion. We have a very large hole here in New York, and we all know that was an act of hatred. The best time to address hatred is when you're young."



"Nick News for Kids" anchor **Linda Ellerbee**, a longtime television journalist, on the reason for her upcoming special on gay kids and parents, called "My Family Is Different" (Philadelphia Inquirer, June 10)

"You can teach diversity without trampling on people's moral beliefs the way these programs do, when children are told that homosexuality is normal and healthy and anyone who says otherwise is a hate-filled bigot."

Robert Knight, director of the conservative Culture & Family Institute, reacting to news that Nickelodeon's "Nick News for Kids" is scheduling a program on gay youth and parents (Fox News, June 5)

"My mind is really stuck as a female, and so when I walk around, I'm comfortable. So I actually mingle with the kids, with the teenagers. I think it went well."

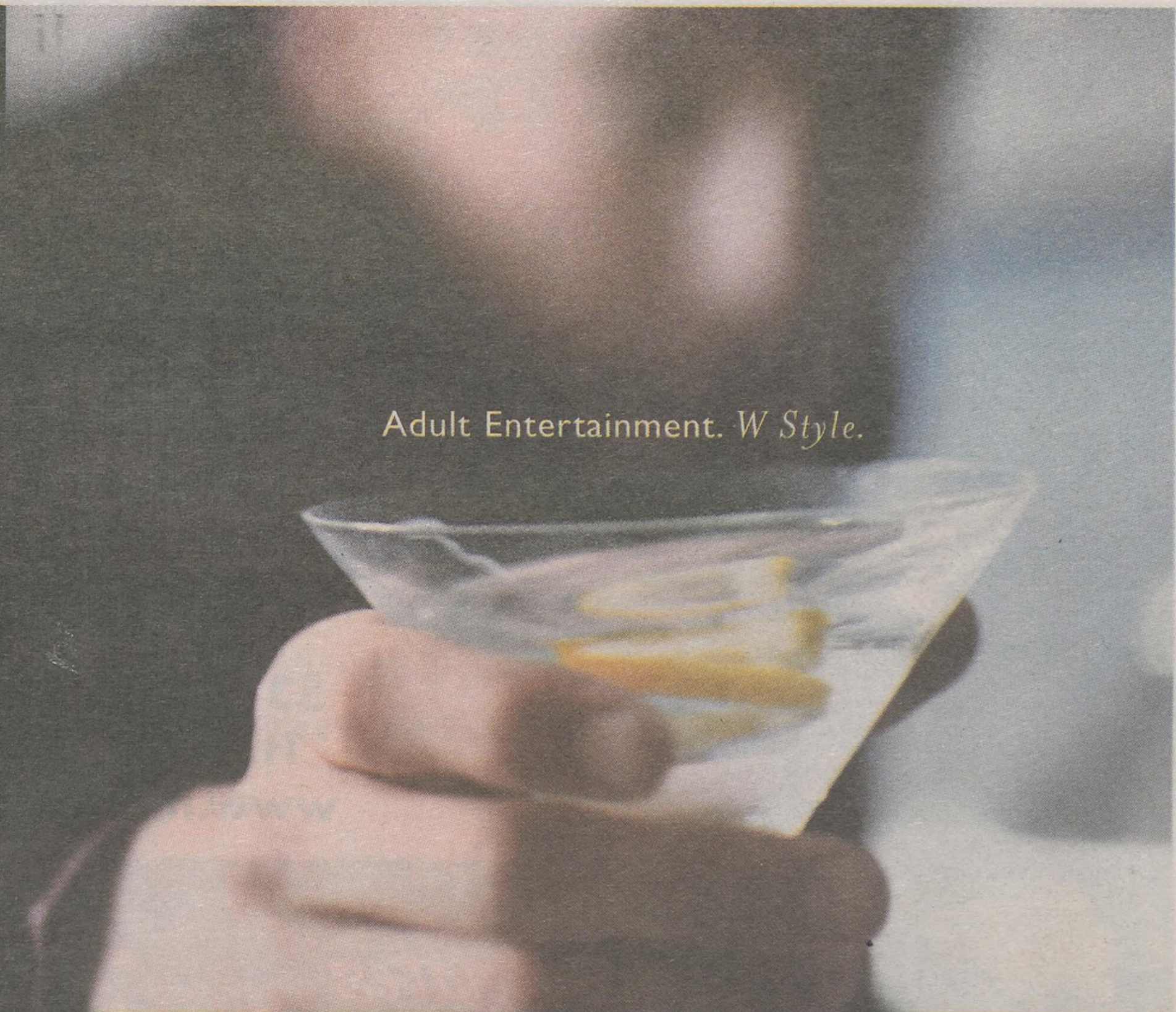
Keala Chow, 18, born male but taking female hormones, on how, with the help of the ACLU and the attorney general of Hawaii, she convinced her school principal to let her walk across the graduation stage with the girls; Chow said she was wearing a "very seductive" dress under her graduation gown (Honolulu Star-Bulletin, June 8)

"Everything I've read about her — the book the FBI guy who was in the White House, Gary Aldrich — I mean, you read that book and you realize the two of them [Hillary and Bill Clinton] are perverse, disturbed and destructive. And immoral. This is what happens when you have such ferocious bias in the media and only one picture is painted. It's scary. If Hillary runs, I'm going to feel a need to run against her."



"Dr. Laura" **Schlessinger**, on rumors that Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) might run for president (NewsMax magazine)

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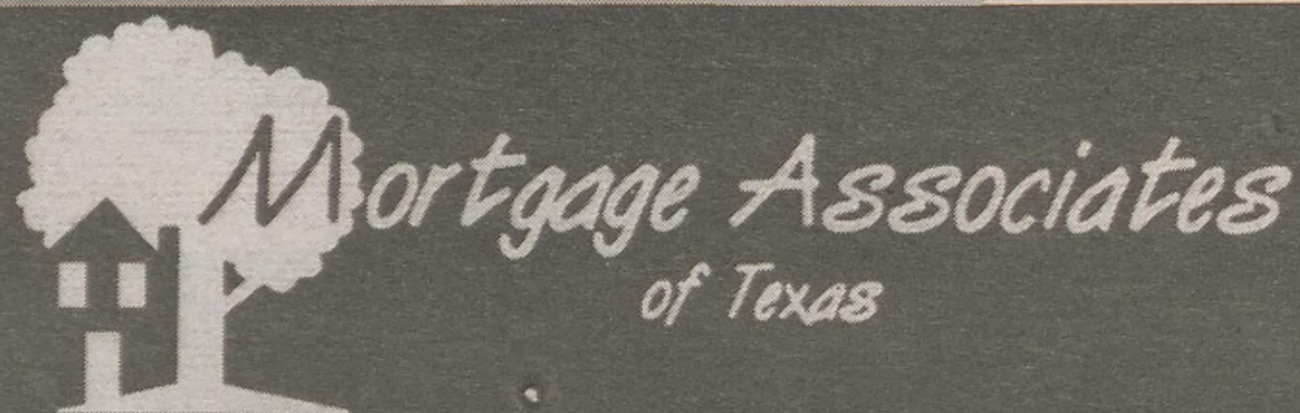
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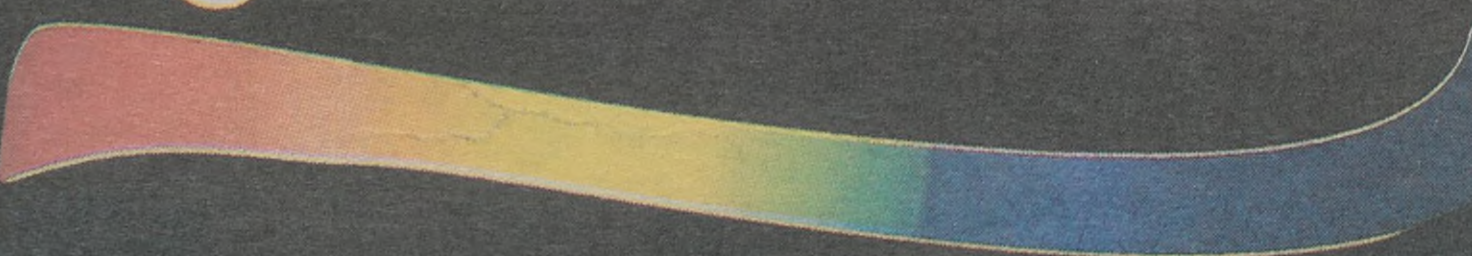
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**HOMEFRONT:** Yard and home appearance rules don't keep life in suburbia from being a viable option for gay Houstonians. **Page 20**

**THEATER:** Legendary film star **Tony Curtis** continues Houston run in 'Some Like It Hot,' now at Theatre Under the Stars. **Page 18**



# Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE

JUNE 14, 2002

PAGE 15

## Two different dads



A 'father by choice,' gay Houstonian Coy Tow enjoys his free time with his two boys, including Jacob, 4.

Houstonians Coy Tow and Sara Rook made their journeys to parenthood in non-traditional ways

By **KAY Y. DAYUS**

MOST GAYS PRIDE THEMSELVES ON DIVERSITY and, increasingly, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Houstonians are more and more diverse in parenthood, a state once reserved only for heterosexuals.

This Father's Day, two Houston parents celebrate as examples of non-traditional families and the advances gays have made as parents.

Nowadays, gays and lesbians are finding more creative ways to have the families that many always wanted but thought were beyond their reach. Options include surrogate mothers and fathers, in vitro fertilization, sperm banks and adoption.

Coy Tow, for instance, chose a unique path to being a dad, while transgender Sara Rook took the conventional heterosexual way. Their paths toward fatherhood couldn't have been more different.

Tow, executive director for the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, always wanted to be a father, but, as a gay man, thought it was out of reach. To make matters worse, his partner did not want children. He hastens to add that his partner likes children but didn't want a full-time family.

Tow's dream was realized almost five years ago through the help of his longtime friends, Renee and Sandy, a lesbian couple. No, he was not the sperm donor, and no, he did not legally adopt. Instead, Tow is, in his own words, "A father by choice." He willingly agreed to act as "dad" to their two boys, both born to Renee from donated sperm from Sandy's brother.

Yes, it can get complicated.

"Renee had the boys from sperm donated by Sandy's brother, so there would be blood from both their families," Tow explains. Her brother had no interest in being a parent with the concomitant responsibilities. "He is not in their life, lives back East and has no desire to be a father," Tow says.

"I was at the hospital as soon as Jacob (now 4) and Will (2) were born and, at the time of Jacob's birth, we didn't know what the circumstances would turn out to be," Tow recalls. He had no idea then that he would be asked by the mothers to be "dad" to Jacob and later to Will.

"Renee and Sandy wanted a father-figure for the children," explains Tow, who adds, "I am not a legal father of the boys, but I am a father by choice."

He says he was "really honored when they asked



Transgender Houstonian Sara Rook says her children — including Christine, 18 — have been supportive during her male-to-female transition. (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

### PrideFile

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

June is Pride Month, and the Houston Voice offers this update each Friday until Pride Week.

#### KICK OFF!

The official **Pride Kick Off Party**, hosted by the Pride Committee, will include drinks, entertainment and socializing. Cocktails and entertainment are 8 to 10 p.m., with dancing 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Cost is a \$10 donation at the door.

**GO:** 8 p.m. Friday, June 21. Sonoma Restaurant, 1415 California St.

#### BRING THE KIDS!

For **Family & Youth Day**, one of the themed days during Pride Week, JPMorganChase sponsors a family picnic at Hermann Park for GLBT families and friends with an emphasis on activities for children, including a visit to the Houston Zoo. Special guests from the Houston Energy, the city's champion Women's Professional Football League team, will be on hand to speak. There is no cost to attend. Discount adult zoo tickets and special Harlon's BBQ box lunches will be available.

**GO:** 1-4 p.m. Sunday, June 23. Hermann Park near Circle Drive, next to Harlon's BBQ

#### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

The Pride Committee is teaming up with The Alley Theatre to bring revelers a night of song and dance with some of Houston's best performers through **"Before the Parade Passes By,"** a.k.a. Cabaret Night at the Alley Theatre. It's all part of Arts Appreciation Day, another themed day for Pride.

**GO:** 8 p.m. Friday, June 28. Alley Theatre, 615 Texas St.

**MORE INFO:** [www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org)

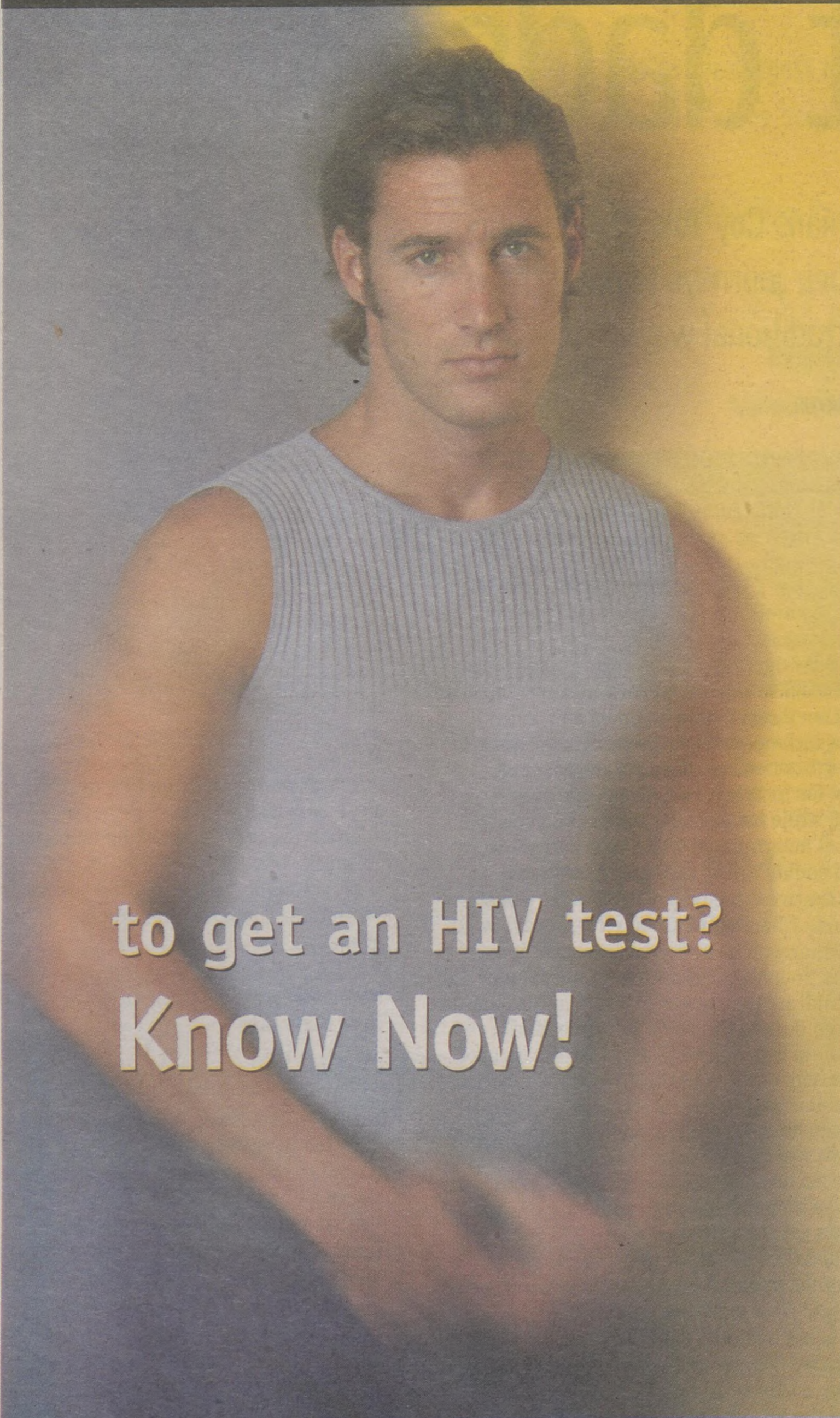
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Please see **DADS**, on **Page 17**

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## out on the bayou

# Father's Day highlights uniqueness of modern families

DADS, continued from Page 15

me. I have always loved kids and not having children was my biggest disappointment as a gay man."

The boys call him "Dad" and, although they have both been told the situation, they are still too young to understand.

"I feel like they're mine, especially Jacob because he's older and we've spent more time together," glows an enthusiastic Tow. "I just adore them." His partner enjoys the kids too.

"I didn't take this lightly," he says in a more serious tone. "The hardest thing about saying 'yes' to this is that it's a commitment forever. It keeps me in Houston and will keep me in Houston as long as they're here."

He loves to pick up Jacob from school. "He comes a'running — he's so excited when I'm there." And he loves to hang out with them and take them to movies, but he doesn't get in the way of the mothers and their relationship with the boys.

"The mothers are both wonderful ladies and are, of course, the primary parents," he points out, and Tow has no wish to undermine or interfere with their roles.

Tow does not discount future problems due to the complex parental roles, but he says both the moms and he are very open with the boys and when they are ready, they'll explain as much as they want to know.

For now, he's having a great time with the kids even though he has not yet kept

them overnight.

"They are kind of spoiled and still sleep in their mothers' room, even though Jacob has his own room," Tow relates. "I told him he would have to sleep in his own room if he spends the night with us, and he doesn't want that, but when he does, he can stay."

All in all, everyone is happy and content with the situation and Tow couldn't be more delighted.

"It gives a nice balance to the children and I get the chocolate icing," he explains. "For me, I get fun and quality time with them."

Unfortunately, he'll be at the Democratic State Convention in El Paso this weekend, but the boys do have "stuff" for him for Father's Day, Tow adds.

**TRANSGENDER HOUSTONIAN SARA** Rook also enjoys quality time with her two children, although they are now grown. They used to know her only as a father, but that was before she began her transition to female more than four years ago.

"Now I sometimes get a Mother's Day card or a Father's Day card and sometimes both," says Rook. "But," she adds, "to them I'm still their father."

Rook, who was married four times as a man, had daughter Christine, 18, and son Ron, 21, by his first wife. Christine is in college at Texas A&M and Ron lives with Rook in conservative Liberty County, east

of Houston and Harris County. For the most part, says Rook, both young people have dealt well with the change.

"They've known for so long. I told them when they were younger because I was afraid their mom would tell them first," she recalls. But then they thought he was just a cross-dresser, not a transsexual, Rook explains.

Although they have had their growing pains through the years, Rook says she will never forget their response when she first told them about her "other life."

"They were 12 and 9 respectively, and they said, 'You're our dad and we love you.'"

She says she never lied to them about her gender identity. "They might not like the truth, but I had to tell them. I'm still the same dad; I just have different wrapping."

Do they have any confusion about what to call her? Rook says no, although they do have fun with it. Christine, who is outgoing and free-spirited, calls her "Moddy," her own little combination of mother and daddy.

Ron the quiet, more introspective sibling, still calls her "Dad," except when they're out in public or he introduces a friend to her. Then it's Sara or Aunt Sara.

"My son is still apprehensive and people at his work think I'm his aunt," Rook explains, but Rook understands that apprehension. Her daughter is more "cool" with the idea.

"She uses it as a gauge to judge people she brings home. She'll say, 'This is my dad.'

They'll say, 'Where?' when they look at me. Some are okay with it, some not. My daughter knows that those who are not okay with it won't be her friends," Rook says proudly.

Rook's happiness with her children is obvious when she says, "I'm their dad; they've got a mom."

Both young people chose to live with her — not their mother — after a contentious custody battle.

"Their mother took me back to court and used the transgender card when my daughter was almost 17," Rook explains. "Even though she told the judge she wanted to stay with me, he wouldn't let her. So she took extra courses to get out of high school early. She went to college when she was 17."

Rook, who has worked for Shell Oil for 11 years, says she is very happy with herself nowadays. There is a hint of sadness in her voice stemming from past pressures of coming to terms with herself and with problems associated with transitioning from male to female.

But she has come a long way and couldn't have done it without her kids.

"My kids kept me going," Rook explains. "They're both pretty good kids. They come to the [Transgender] Unity Banquet and to the Pride Parade. My kids are pretty special."

She's not sure what will happen on Father's Day this year, because her kids took her out for dinner on Mother's Day. But no matter what, she says, "They always remember."



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## out on the aisle PENNY WEAVER

'Some Like It Hot' continues run through next week with film legend Tony Curtis

## June stages heat up

### 'Some Like It Hot'

Film star Tony Curtis takes a different role in the Houston production of "Some Like It Hot," in which he starred with Marilyn Monroe and Jack Lemmon in the MGM film. The production runs through June 23. Curtis appeared as "Joe" in the big-screen hit and portrays the rich suitor Osgood Fielding III in the new local production. The musical makes its premier in Houston before embarking on a 50-city tour and features several new songs. Two struggling Chicago musicians witness the St. Valentine's Day Massacre and realize that their only way out of the city is to join an all-girl band. So Joe and Jerry disguise themselves as "Josephine" and "Daphne," and the laughs begin.

### on stage 'Some Like It Hot'

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### 'Squeeze Plays'

Fan Factory Theatre Company presents "Squeeze Plays 2002," a collection of nine short plays presented by local writers, directors and actors. The shows have simple production values and are intended as works in progress, according to the Fan Factory. Plays to be presented are: "Drunk Leaving a Bar," written by Ken Watkins and directed by William Shepherd; "It Was Meant To Be," written by Fernando Dovalina and directed by Alex Gardner; "Neon," written by Lucie Scott Smith and directed by William Shepherd; "The Money Factor," written by Diana Weeks and directed by Alycia Harvey; "Primary Care Scene III" and "Primary Care Scene VI," written by Bill Monroe and directed by Tanya Lunstroth; "Dear God," written by Melrose Fougere and directed by Alex Gardner; "Petit Mal," written by Holly Hildebrand and directed by Tanya Lunstroth; and "10x10n10," written by Walter Boyd and directed by Jonathan Harvey.

### on stage 'Squeeze Plays'

8 p.m. June 14, 15, 21 & 22  
2:30 p.m. June 16 & 23  
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### 'The Firebird'

The latest production at Stages Repertory Theatre is an original script commissioned by the theater's EarlyStages. "The Firebird," written by Houstonian Kate Pogue and directed by Chesley Krohn, first ran in March 2000. The children's dramatic literature piece draws on accurate historical Russian tradition, according to Krohn.



A devastating Marilyn Monroe starred with Tony Curtis in the big-screen 'Some Like It Hot,' and Curtis returns to the piece now on stage at Theatre Under the Stars in Houston.

### on stage 'The Firebird'

10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays  
11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays  
Tickets: \$8  
Stages Repertory Theatre  
3201 Allen Parkway • 713-527-0123  
[www.stagestheatre.com](http://www.stagestheatre.com)

### 'Light Up the Sky'

Through the end of the month, The Company OnStage presents "Light Up the Sky," a comedy by Moss Hart. The leading actress, the producer, the director and others involved with an experimental new play are found in a feverish state of joyful anticipation of the expected great success of their new show. When opening night seems like a flop, despair and savage recriminations are exchanged in this portrait of the zany and mercurial personalities involved with theater.

### on stage 'Light Up the Sky'

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through June 29  
Tickets: \$12 or \$10 for seniors and students  
Company OnStage • 536 Westbury Square  
713-726-1219 • [www.companyonstage.org](http://www.companyonstage.org)

### 'Comfort and Joy'

Jack Heifner's "Comfort and Joy" comedy is presented by Theatre Suburbia as an official event of Houston Pride. Scott and Tony, a happily married gay couple, find themselves in the midst of a Christmas disaster created by the arrival of zany members of their respective families and an unusual fairy who teaches the others about love, hope and forgiveness.

### on stage 'Comfort and Joy'

8:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, through June 29  
3 p.m. Sundays, June 16 & 23  
8 p.m. June 26 Special Benefit Performance  
Fund-raiser for Houston Pride Committee and Gulf Coast Archives & Museum of GLBT History  
Tickets: \$10 adults, \$9 seniors and students, \$8 matinees  
Theatre Suburbia • 1410 W. 43rd St.  
713-682-3525 • [www.theatresuburbia.com](http://www.theatresuburbia.com)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF PAIN – 6TH ANNUAL MASTER/DADDY AUCTION**

Join the Brotherhood at Ripcord Saturday, June 16 for the Master/Daddy Auction Master of Ceremonies Tiffany Penn will start the show promptly at 10:30pm Registration is at 9pm ▶ Show to benefit Steven's House



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STORE HOURS MON - SAT NOON - 8PM

RIPCORD STORE SUN - THURS 8PM - 11PM

FRI & SAT 9PM - 3 AM

**BOY OF MONTROSE CONTEST**

Be at Ripcord on Sunday, June 30 for the Boy of Montrose contest.

Master of Ceremonies Mr. Mark Frazier with Mr. Robert Harwood start the show at 8pm.

**Judges:**

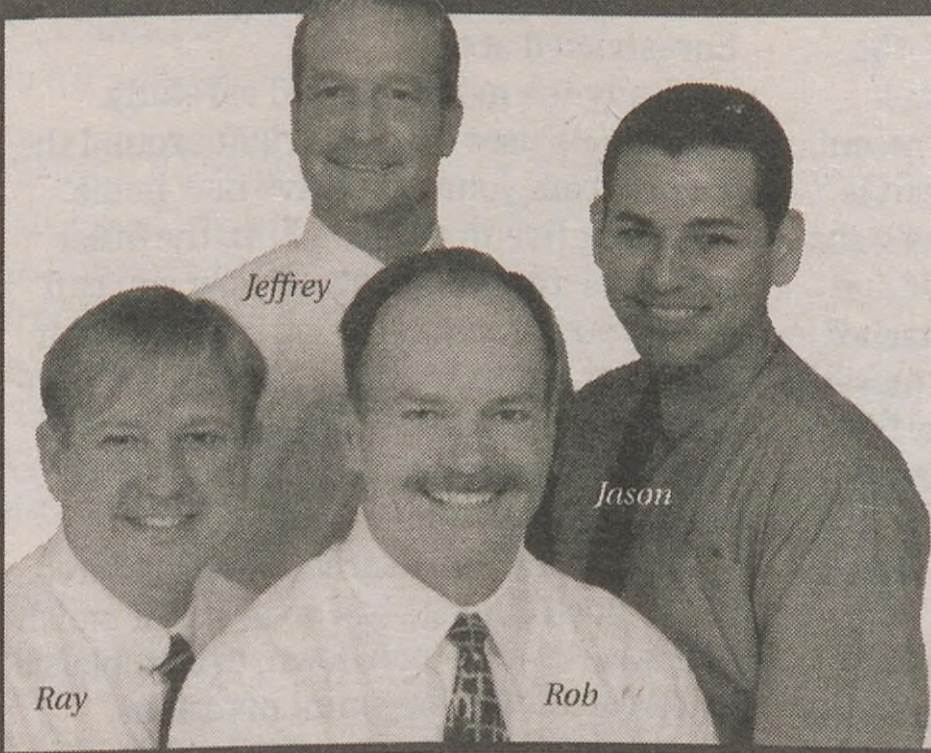
Mr. IML 2002 Stephen Weber, Mr. Louisiana Leather 2002 Danny Alford, Boy Tim, South Central Leather Boy 2002, Daddy & Mother of Montrose 2002.

**Categories to be judged are:**

1. Appearance (dress to impress as if for dinner with daddy)
2. Question and Answer
3. Fantasy Boywear (leather, jock, shorts, club attire)
4. Three minute speech on the topic of contestant's choice

Entertainment by Andy Clements, David Barron, Dwain Walker, TJ Thurman, and Jessica & Chris — benefiting PWA Holiday Charities working account. Applications can be picked up at Black Hawk Leather, Ripcord or Studio 911 Hair: 713.521.0911.

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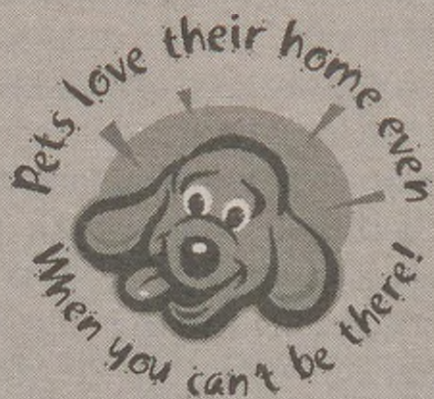
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## The Reform Church of Galveston, Texas

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Father Tom Martin, pastor

**3712 Broadway**  
**Galveston, Texas 77550**  
**409.765.8500**

## homefront ELLA TYLER

Outside Montrose and the Loop, suburbs offer another option, but with some yard and garden restrictions

## Consider the suburban life

FOR MOST OF MY LIFE I HAVE LIVED within a mile of the 610 Loop, though not always in the same neighborhood. When we moved to Houston in 1963 (I was a child), the city ended at Westheimer and Chimney Rock. After that, you were in the country, or at least on your way.

However, in 1991, I needed an apartment with advanced security features, and I couldn't afford them inside the Loop. I found a wonderful apartment at Dunvale and Richmond. It is past Hillcroft, and when I moved there, there were still large tracts of vacant land next door. They are now home to various "marts."

It had trees and a huge deck, and amenities that weren't standard with Montrose apartments: a dishwasher, a pantry, big closets, laundry room, security gates, burglar alarms, a pool and a workout room. I loved it.

It was a year, though, before I could shake the lingering fear that any minute I'd be transformed into a Kay Bailey Hutchison clone and start voting for Republicans and shopping at the Galleria. When I began to see people I knew when I was out and about in the neighborhood, I started to feel at home. I found a restaurant that stayed open past 10 p.m., a library, and a bookstore, and I was happy.

I think there is a feeling among gay Houstonians that living in suburbia implies some sort of rejection of gayness — evidence of latent desires to be heterosexual. Probably not. The appeal of the close in suburbs is expressed by transgender activist Phyllis Frye in her recent recruitment for the "Westbury Lifestyle."

In an e-mail sent to several list serves, she writes, "All of the homes here are three and four bedrooms with mostly two-car attached garages, and well developed trees and mostly large backyards," and then details how fast and easy it is to get anywhere in Houston from the neighborhood. "Finally, if the METRO rail is extended to Sugarland, it will run right by here," she adds.

Phyllis brags about her neighbors, "There is a good mix of white, black, Hispanic, Asian and LGBT, some elderly and some with young kids — we all get along together." Westbury has a group called WAGLES that advertises regularly in the monthly Civic Club newsletter, she says.

In these diverse communities, gays and lesbians fit right in. Deborah Rogers, former president of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, who lives in far-West Houston, said, "No one cares what you do as long as you are good to the kids and mow the lawn." In these deed-restricted communities, the unacceptable nonconformity is painting your house purple, growing a wildflower lawn or having the wrong kind of fence.

So gays can live in suburbia and do garden and yard work the way they wish, within some restrictions.

If you want to be avant-garde with your exterior design, check those deed restrictions carefully. Many subdivisions



Those who live in the suburbs but also want to be avant-garde with exterior design should check out deed restrictions carefully.

have detailed regulations about what your house can look like, enforced by an architectural control committee.

As I drive through Bellaire, I see the virtue of aesthetic controls. It has zoning, but apparently not an architectural review process. There are lots of big, ugly, expensive houses there, especially along Mulberry. There, everyone has "done their own thing" and it is not pretty.

Deed restriction enforcement is serious: Since failure to enforce deed restrictions can nullify them, even the smallest deviation is challenged. Arguing about this can get expensive, since losing the battle often requires payment of the association's lawyer. If you want to be a non-conformist, you might be better off in an unrestricted area.

Study the neighborhood carefully. Obnoxious uses can lurk right around the corner from your expensive new home.

If you live in a flood plain, the other source of regulation about how you can build your dream castle or remodel your dungeon comes from the flood plain management regulations. These require that new construction or substantial remodeling be elevated above the flood plain.

In the Braeswood area, which suffered heavy flood damage last year, lots of ranch houses are being torn down, to be replaced by elevated two story mini-mansions, because of this requirement. In other areas, like Meyerland, the pace of tearing down and building anew is a bit slower.

Before you start looking at specific houses, choose your neighborhood. Ask your friends who have left the homeland of Montrose how they feel in their new homes.

After you've decided on a gay-friendly place, do spend some time driving around the general area at different times of the day and week. There might not be a loud bar, but there might be a noisy little league field, a sewage treatment plant or a school that makes traffic a mess just as you want to get to work.

After that, let yourself be seduced by a yard that's big enough for a vegetable garden, a home workshop and a guest room. That's part of the lure of suburban life for gay Houstonians no longer quite as limited in their choices for a home.

**dining** KATHREEN LEE

Authentic tastes at Café Rabelais  
let patrons indulge themselves

# French cuisine excels

CAFÉ RABELAIS, A SMALL COZY French bistro tucked away in Rice Village, is aptly named after the French philosopher, writer and former Benedictine monk, Francois Rabelais, whose heyday during the pre-Renaissance age arose from his humanistic and libertarian views surrounding hedonistic self-indulgence.

Promoting the virtues of spoiling oneself — whether through the corporal pleasures of wine, food and sex, or through the intellectual stimulants of reading and rousing conversation — Rabelais embraced a true hedonistic lifestyle. In one of his most prominent works, Rabelais created a utopian society where the motto engraved on the gates proclaims, “Fay ce que voudras” or “Do what you want,” a dictum which is also prominently stenciled on the restaurant’s window front.

Café Rabelais encourages its patrons to live up to this fundamental tenet of its namesake and to indulge themselves with fine wine, rich foods, decadent desserts, pampering service and merry company. Subdued moss green furnishings, dappled earth brown colored walls, and Impressionist portraits of vineyards provide the pastoral backdrop to an intimate but not cramped two-story interior where diners can relax in the warm candlelit atmosphere.

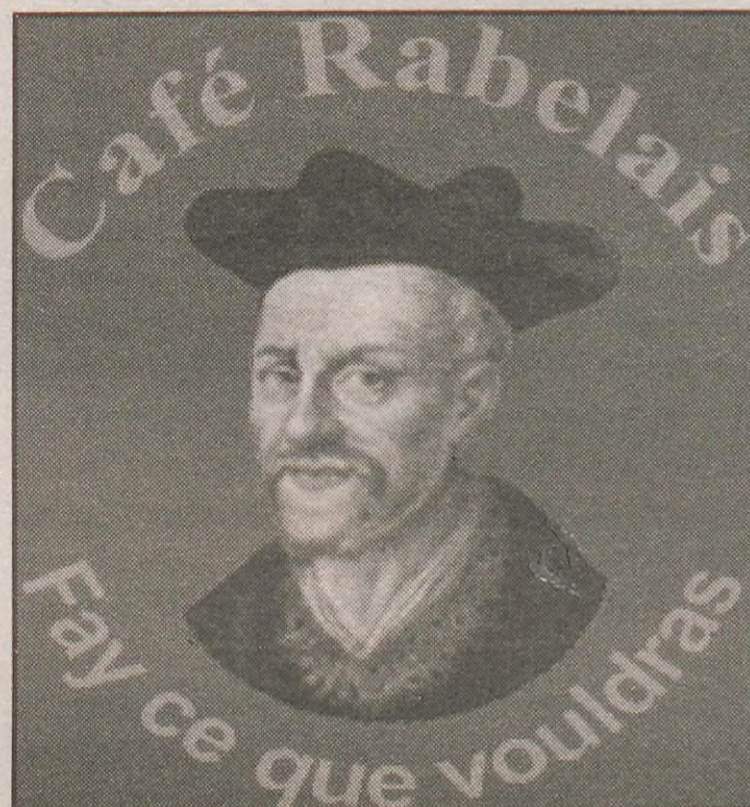
Native French-speaking chefs and wait staff further the rustic French bistro’s authentic nature.

TO TRULY RELISH THE CAFÉ RABELAIS experience, one must sample from the restaurant’s exceptionally extensive French wine selection. Cheval Blanc from Bordeaux, Meursault and Clos de Vougeot from Burgundy, along with wines from the other provinces, are offered mostly by the bottle.

When a friend ordered water in lieu of wine, our server was slightly taken aback and had to double check to make sure she heard right. Apparently very few partake in the splendors of Café Rabelais cuisine without also indulging in its wine collection. If you’re unsure about what type or vintage to order, Café Rabelais provides an extensive primer on the various French wines divided by vineyards and provinces.

The “fay ce que voudras” principle applies not only to the patrons, but to the chefs as well. Café Rabelais’ menu changes every day, with chefs given the liberty to exercise their own creative genius in fashioning the food choices as they want for that day. The hors d’oeuvres and entrees of the day are scrawled on a blackboard menu which patrons crane their necks to see from the various nooks in the restaurant.

On one particular day, the entrees ranged from pork cutlets in a white cream sauce (\$17) to moules (mussels) steamed in a white wine sauce (\$15). The mussels were large, fresh and adequately marinated in



the broth. While the hint of garlic was just enough to give the broth a seasoned kick, it was in no way overpowering and only served to further highlight the zesty sauce.

The pork cutlets were also pleasing with the tender lean meat drowned in a rich and flavorful cream which was neither too fluffy nor too heavy and had just the perfect consistency to suffuse the succulent meat. Frites, or French fries, are also served with each of the entrees, and while they resembled those found in fast food establishments, they definitely were not as greasy nor as mass produced.

CAFÉ RABELAIS DESSERTS ALONE are enough to fill anyone’s decadence quota for the year. One of its many treats includes a pear half slightly poached for flavor and topped with vanilla ice cream, whipped cream and a warm thick chocolate syrup. The sweet natural juices of the pear mingles perfectly with the rich chocolate and smooth ice cream, causing paroxysms of tasting pleasure rippling through all revelers involved.

Café Rabelais lives up to the philosophy as prescribed by its namesake, and diners looking to indulge themselves in delectable food, vintage wine and great company are sure to have all their epicurean fantasies satisfied. Ascetics need not apply.



**Café Rabelais**

2462 Bolsover  
713-526-6841

Food: 101101101101  
Service: 101101101101  
Value: 101101101101  
Scene: 101101101101

♥ = Stay home and eat cereal  
101101 = Well, if you really must  
101101101 = Fine for all but the finicky  
101101101101 = Worth more than a 20-minute drive  
101101101101101 = As good as you’ll find in this city

## Maranatha Fellowship MCC

3333 Fannin, Suite 106, at 10AM

For more information, call the church office 713.528.6756

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June 16

“The People of God”

Rev. Janet Parker

Please join us for Praise & Worship  
We would love to have you visit us!

### WANT TO LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE?

MF MCC is sponsoring a free 6-week beginning sign language class on Saturdays 10:30am until noon. The only cost involved is approximately \$30.00 for the textbook. If you are interested, please call the church office at 713.528.6756.

Church Service begins at 10am and nursery is available for small children. Mid-week “Home Group” services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

For more info...  
713-528-6756 or email  
maranatha@ev1.net



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## CALENDAR

<p><b>Friday • June 14</b> Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm “K-Pax”</p> <p><b>Sunday • June 16</b> Happy Father’s Day</p> <p><b>Monday • June 17</b> Eucharist 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>Friday • June 21</b> Morning Prayer 10am</p> <p><b>Monday • June 24</b> Eucharist 7:30pm</p> <p><b>Friday • June 28</b> Movie Night 7pm “Vanilla Sky”</p>
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## community calendar

## SATURDAY, JUNE 15

**Houston Area Bears.** Social at Mary's, 9-2 a.m. 713-867-9123. www.HoustonAreaBears.com.

**Houston Outdoor Group.** Breakfast at LePeep Restaurant in West University Village, 6128 Village Parkway. 713-523-7337. H.O.G.: David M., 713-868-7991.

**Pink Pistols of Houston.** Monthly field trip to a gun range; the trip is titled "Queer Pride Target Slaughter" this month. 2 p.m. American Shooters Range, an outdoor range located near West Oaks Mall, at Highway 6 and Westheimer. Pink Pistols of Houston, 7826 Marinette, Houston, TX 77074. 713-272-8265

## EVERY SATURDAY

**All-Spanish Worship Service/Culto en español.** 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-9403 or 713-861-9149.

**After Hours.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m.-3 a.m. 713-526-5738.

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

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

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

**Houston Outdoor Group.** Memorial Park walk. 9:30 a.m., meet in front of tennis center. Jimmy, 713-864-7299.

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

**Resurrection MCC.** Noche Espiritual, Spanish language worship, 6 p.m. 713-861-9149.

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

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

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in, noon-4 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 16

**Houston Outdoor Group.** Blueberry farm trip. Meet at Howard's, near Kirby and West Alabama. 10 a.m. RSVP to Howard, 713-528-6174. E-mail: howardk@hotmail.com.

## EVERY SUNDAY

**Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group.** 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**GLOBAL.** Gay Lesbian Or Bisexual Alliance. University of Houston GLBT student group meeting, 6 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.uh.edu/~global. E-mail: global@bayou.uh.edu.

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

**Houston Mission Church.** Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.

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

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

**Rainbow Riders.** A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

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

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

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

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

**Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Adult discussion, 9:45 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

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

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

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in, 2-5 p.m. • LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifth), 2 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## MONDAY, JUNE 17

## EVERY MONDAY

**AIDS Mastery.** 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight. Keys West. 713-830-3000.

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

**gayDAR.** Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

**Gay Fathers/Fathers First.** Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom, 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydadshouston/

**Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.** Open rehearsals, 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.

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

**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

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

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

**Queer Voices Radio Show.** 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1 713-529-1223.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 18

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

## EVERY TUESDAY

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

**CPR Classes.** 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.

**For Mature Audiences Only.** Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

**Gay Men's Process Group.** 7 p.m. 3316 Mount Vernon. 713-526-8390.

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

**Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous.** Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

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

**HTGA.** Support group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

**Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.** 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.** Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Mary's; 9 p.m.-midnight at Ripcord; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at E.J's; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Midtown Spa. 713-830-3000.

**Houston Pride Band.** Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-524-0218.

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

**Lesbian Literature Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • S&M (Snacks and Movies), 7 p.m. • Houston Black Lesbian & Gay Coalition welcome reception, 7:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 20

**Bi-Net Houston.** Mixed gender meeting, 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.

**Gulf Coast Archives & Museum.** Meeting. 713-227-5973.

## EVERY THURSDAY

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

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at The Outpost; 8 p.m.-midnight at Brazos River Bottom and Cousins; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

**Freelance Art Classes.** By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

**FrontRunners.** Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021. Web site: http://homeswbell.net/iarathon/houfir.htm. E-mail: iarathon@swbell.net.

**GLOBAL.** Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston-Central Campus. Weekly meeting, 6 p.m. e-mail: nguyenn023@hotmail.com.

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

**HIV Art Therapy Program.** 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

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

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

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

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

**STD exams & treatment.** Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

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

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Mayoral Liaison Community Roundtable, 7 p.m. • Community Center board meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 21

**Eye Candy.** New women's social and charity event, hosted by Eye Candy Promotions, to be held the third Friday of each month. This month's event benefits Houston SPCA. Women who arrive before 9:30 receive a free drink ticket and \$3 Cosmopolitans until midnight. \$10 cover charge. 8 p.m. Grasshopper, 506 Main St. 713-977-3777. E-mail: iam@PDQ.net

## EVERY FRIDAY

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Meatrack; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at E.J's and at Midtown 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.

**Freelance Art Classes.** By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Light breakfast provided. 713-523-9530.

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

**Govinda Yoga Club.** Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.

**Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting.** 713-942-7002.

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

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

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

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Art Group: A GLBT group for all Houston artists, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

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

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

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

**Houston Montrose Athletic Association.** Volunteers, sponsors and runners are needed for the Fifth Annual Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 5K Run/Walk to be held June 8. HMAA sponsors the event, which will benefit AssistHers. Contact Steve Ruimveld, 713-868-8904, e-mail: sruiumveld@ev1.net; or B.J. Almond, 713-864-4120, e-mail: balmond@ev1.net.

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

**Pride Committee of Houston.** Volunteers are needed for Houston's annual Pride parade from 8:45 to 11 p.m. Saturday, June 29. 713-529-6929. E-mail: info@pridehouston.org.

**Scholarship Foundation.** The Amethyst Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, seeks two executive board members and ASF Community Event volunteers. The group provides college scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. 210-372-2020. www.amethystscholarship.org.

@ To list an event, call 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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# appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

## SPECIAL

THROUGH JUNE 16

Houston Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival screens at six venues across the city. The sixth annual event provides a platform for gays to tell their stories and examine crucial issues that impact their lives. HGLFF, 803 Hawthorne. www.hglff.org.

## UPCOMING

Community Center Art Festival is set for next weekend as a benefit for the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. The event will feature a silent auction of works by local gay artists who have donated their work for the fund-raiser. They include David Aylsworth, Alma Chavarria, Kermit Eisenhut, David Groover, Christina Lewis, Tori McMillan, Patrick Palmer, Vera Taylor and Kat Zemanek. Live entertainment and light refreshments are planned. Suggested donation: \$10. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 22, Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818

## FILM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 14 & 15

"Carousel," directed by Henry King, is the 1956 classic that reunites Shirley Jones and Gordon MacRae from "Oklahoma!" A darker tale, the film involves a brash carnival barker who attempts to change his life after he falls in love with a good woman. When he is killed trying to stop a robbery, he begs for the chance to return to Earth to set things right with his family. Tickets: \$6. 7 p.m. Friday, June 14, and Saturday, June 15. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Caroline Wiess Law Building, corner of Main Street and Bissonnet/Binz. 713-639-7515. www.mfah.org.

## GALLERIES

ONGOING

Photographer David Lewis will exhibit his collection of photographs at Paulie's Restaurant, 1834 Westheimer, through the end of July. This collection of photographs explores images from China and Europe, as well as close to home in Southern cities like New Orleans and Houston.

Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History Satellite Exhibition. The first exhibition from the GCAM collection presented at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center honors the NAMES Project Houston. Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

ONGOING

Positive Art Workshop Photography Exhibition. Artists living with HIV/AIDS created these pictures with accompanying text. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## MUSIC

Houston Symphony presents a concert featuring the debut of Hans Graf, the new music director for the organization. The program includes Mikhail Glinka's Overture to "Rusian and Ludmila" and Tchaikovsky's triumphant "Symphony No. 5." Tickets: \$7-12. 8 p.m. Friday, June 14. Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, 2005 Lake Robbins Drive. 281-363-3300.

## DANCE/PERFORMANCE ART

"Clear" is the latest concert by Weave Dance Company, Houston's first all-women dance collective. The work is an evening-length piece of all new choreography by Weave co-founders Juliet Hicks and Megan Lyle. It explores the transition between the demise of the human spirit and the resurgence of life. Tickets: \$20. 8 p.m. June 14 and 15. DiverseWorks Artspace, 1117 East Freeway. 713-526-6884.

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**Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at 11 a.m.**

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## FOOD EMERGENCY

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Houston Humane Society  
PO BOX 450428  
Houston, Texas 77245-0528  
For information, call 713-434-5555.

## DAY SHELTER

Needs new or used clothing and shoes in good condition • Contact Etalia or Ruth at 713-528-5667 • 402 Pacific

## MR. PRIME CHOICE

We are looking for "Prime Choice" vest of our former and deceased winners. Vests are to be placed in the archives. If you have one or know where any of the vests are, please call Don Gill at 713-521-0911

## EMPLOYMENT

### BOOKKEEPER

Experienced with Excel, QuickBooks (A/R, A/P, Payroll), 2-3 day week, Memorial Park area, smoke/drug free environment, 713-802-9021. Ask for Manager or Owner.

Resurrection MCC Seeks Interim Gospel Ensemble Director. Previous musical direction, will work with pianist/arranger, knowledge of African-American worship music and styling. Part-time position. Contact: Mark Unbehagen - 713-861-9149 ext. 110.

### ARE YOU THAT SPECIAL NURSE?

Adult day care for non-critical HIV patients seeks full-time nurse weekdays, occasional hospice work, nights/weekends • Pleasant work place in Montrose • Competitive salary and good benefits • Psych/rehab experience • Spanish speaking • RN preferred, but will consider all applicants • Pick up application at Bering Care Center, 1427 Hawthorne.

## FREE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Offering free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals. Including job preparedness, training, resume development, and job searching assistance. For more info call 713-981-1543

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### WESTBURY GARDENS

Furnished Bedroom in Private Home w/large closet, private bath, use of washer/dryer, light cooking only. Covered Parking. Non-smoking student preferred. \$550/mo. Deposit Required. 713-729-9316.

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\$850/mo. Large 1BR/1BA with study. 100% newly renovated duplex minutes from Downtown. Large cook's kitchen with all new appliances, central A/C, washer/dryer, hardwoods and garage. 2533 White Oak. Contact Gary: 713-256-3377.

### Montrose Cottages

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## FOR SALE

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## SWEDISH MASSAGE BY PATRICK

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## PETS



## PET OF THE WEEK

Houdini, a 14-month-old domestic medium hair kitty cat. He says, "I am very friendly, but if I have to, I will use my magic to warm my way into your heart. Won't you help me disappear out of here and into your home? You won't be sorry!" To adopt Houdini or another homeless critter, contact the Houston Humane Society at 713-434-5555.

# Q. Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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64					65				66			

## "He Has Range"

### Across

- Davis or Midler
- Susan Feniger preparation
- Guinness of "The Lavender Hill Mob"
- Threesomes
- River near Michelangelo's "David"
- "Love Songs" poet Teasdale
- Some circuit partyers
- Na of "Mulan"
- Throw a knuckler, perhaps, to Billy Bean
- Start of a quote from Sir John Gielgud
- Pacifier
- Stat for Kopay
- Like phone sex
- Malcolm Boyd, for example
- A favorite material of Liberace
- Boy George's "Whether They Like \_\_\_ Not"
- Spokes of Dykes on Bikes, e.g.
- Margaret of "All-American Girl"
- More of the quote
- Vernon Berg's USN rank
- Bates of "Primary Colors"
- \_\_\_ Him on a Sunday" of 11-Down
- Successfully donates sperm?
- "L.A. Law" lesbian kisser Michele
- Mondrian and Delano
- Castro to Mission District dir.
- \_\_\_ Vegas (Siegfried and Roy's home base)
- End of the quote
- Be reminded of S&M, e.g.
- Dimension of a big shooter
- Shore of Palm Springs
- Where you stack wood or spank a fanny
- Sean and Debra's costar
- "Dirty Dancing" director Ardolino
- Word for a drag queen's things
- "Jeffrey \_\_\_ Mother Theresa"
- "Show Me Love" singer \_\_\_ S

### Down

- AC capacity measure
- Episodes with Dr. Kerry Weaver
- Fashion accessory for a butch lesbian
- Spelling of "Trick"
- Some Stein pieces
- Lesbian parents
- Sinead O'Connor's country
- Suffragist \_\_\_ Howard Shaw
- Republican erection?
- Away from one's first mate
- Singer Nyro
- Swashbuckling Flynn
- Piece of leg
- Santa Fe's hrs.
- Amsterdam export
- Seasoning in a Traci Des Jardins recipe
- Joe of "The Ruffian on the Stair"
- Upright, but probably not erect
- Blow it
- Cocteau contemporary Maurice
- Billie Holiday's "Hours \_\_\_"
- Circumcision, e.g.
- Pansy Division's "Touch My Joe \_\_\_"
- Whoopi, in "The Lion King"
- One of the "Maneater" singers
- Biathlete, for one
- Where studs hang
- Controversial Michael Cuesta film
- Well-hung ones beneath riders
- Horny African animal
- Woolf's "The Common \_\_\_"
- Anne of "John Q."
- Lover, after "significant"
- Birch and Rosen
- Illegal Amsterdam export
- All het up
- Lake traveled by Ohio ferries
- Oscar-night transport
- Pointy protrusion
- Hillary's Wellesley classmate MacGraw
- Clucking mama

Answers on Page 25



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## astrology JILL DEARMAN



### My Stars!

June 14 - 20



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

Venus in your house of creativity this week should bring you oodles of yummy inspiration. It's time to make something beautiful that has lasting value. A Leo is turned on by the artiste in you.



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

The Sun, Mercury, and Saturn are all transiting your money sector this week, which suggests that you need to be more aggressive about financial matters. Take care of lingering debts as soon as possible; then plan your future. Start today! An Aquarius is a surprisingly inspirational figure in your life.



#### GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Summer arrives and the Sun shifts into your house of money. You can do quite well in business while others are playing outside. I'm not saying you should become a workaholic, but do make hay while the sun shines. A Taurus can help you in surprising ways.



#### CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

You are attractive to a lot of people while Mars and Jupiter are conjunct in your sign all week long. Baby, you can play and make up for some long, lonely nights. A Scorpio will go where you say.



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

Your integrity could be called into question this week so make sure you treat everybody with special care and kindness. Many have power over you now. A Sag might make you an offer you can't refuse, but take the proper time to weigh your decision. Avoid impulsiveness, fire sign!



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

You need to focus on what's important and get back in touch with your inner altruist. A fellow Virgo makes a good partner in crime for you. Friends who've been out of reach return to your loving arms after the 21st.



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

The Sun, Mercury and Saturn are all conspiring to make you have more fun and be less serious about life's irritating minutia. You need to make a list of what brings you joy, check it twice, and make it a priority. A Leo will help you forget your angst.



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

Your life takes a bright turn after the 21st. You can maintain this feeling of hope and optimism by surrounding yourself with the right people. A Gemini lifts your spirits, but be careful of people who make you want to give up your power. Resist them!



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

Mars and Jupiter are conjunct in your house of serious relationships, which suggests that you should trim the fat where love is concerned. Don't settle into lazy habits. Put some real energy into making your romantic life what it should be. A Gemini is there for you all the way.



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

Venus in your house of permanent partnerships is giving you the green light to make significant changes in your love life. You have to let go of the illusion that you can keep destructive people in your life as "investments," just in case your real relationship doesn't work out. Give yourself fully to an Aquarius.



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

You are closer than you realize to getting a big reward in your career. Hard work is starting to pay off. Resist the Uranian urge to sabotage all your plans at the 11th hour and move in a totally different direction. A Pisces will keep you on track and remind you who you really are.



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

Pluto is pushing your career forward, but you have to pay attention to the subtle signs and signals, darling. A Capricorn can help you. You are missing something important. Shut up and listen for awhile.

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

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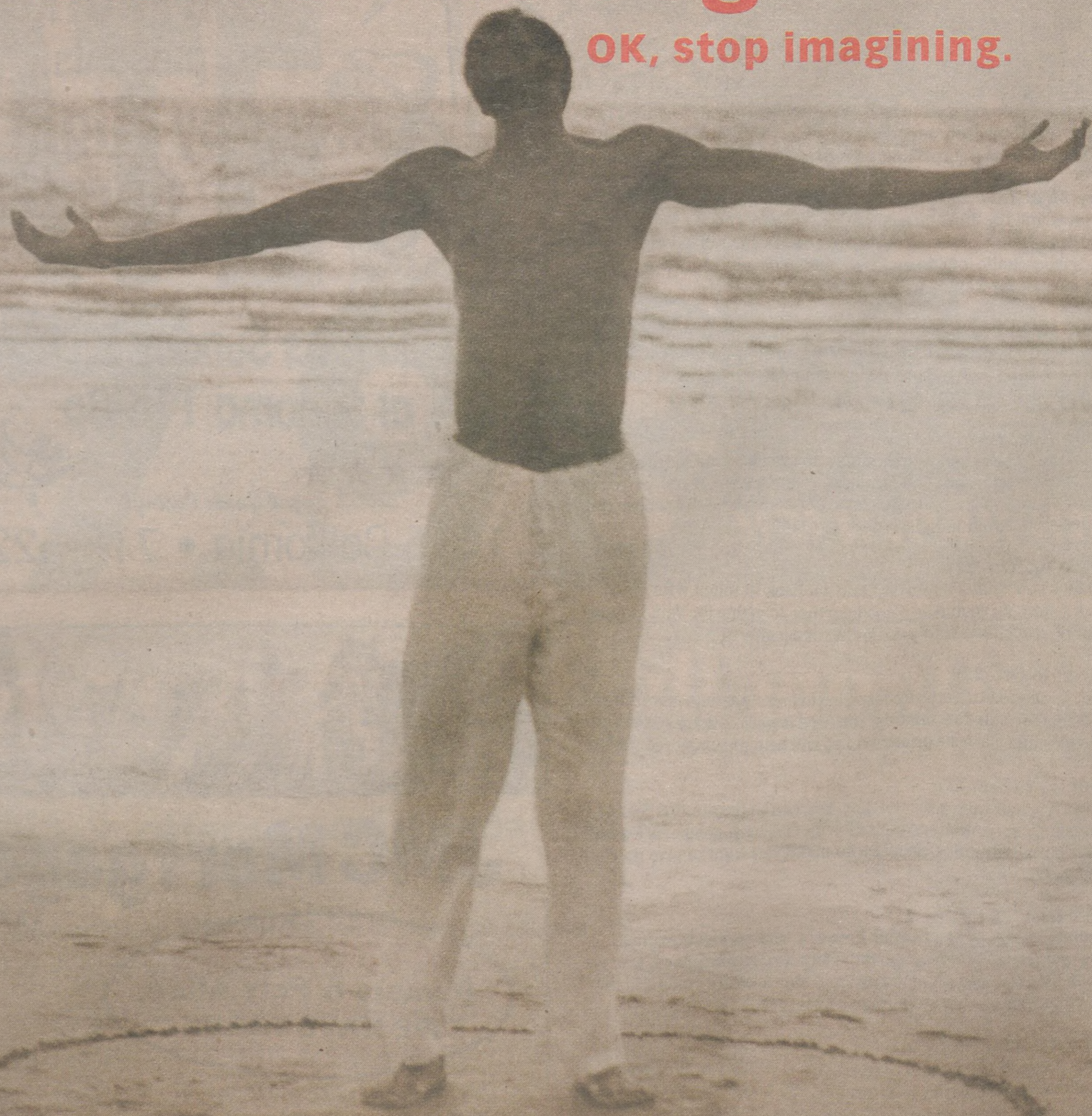
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