



**New & improved**  
Gay-inclusive makeover  
shows making viewers  
and homes more beautiful.

Page 16

## Police seek leads in homicide of gay lobbyist



Investigators go over the burned out home of Houston lobbyist Ross Allyn in search of clues. (Photos by Dalton DeHart)

## Heights resident Ross Allyn shot in neck, then home torched

By BINNIE FISHER

Houston Police Department homicide investigators called on gay men and lesbians to help in their investigation of the Nov. 21 slaying of gay lobbyist Ross Allyn.

"We do need help from anyone who had any contact with Mr. Allyn after 11 p.m. on Thursday night, Nov. 20," said homicide Sgt. Wayne Wendell.

The Harris County Medical Examiner's office ruled Allyn's death a homicide. The autopsy report, released on Monday, indicated that Allyn sustained a fatal gunshot wound to the back of his neck.

Allyn, who had attended a fundraiser for city controller candidate Annise Parker on Nov. 20, was found just inside the front door of his burning home a few hours later by firefighters, who were summoned about 4 a.m. on Nov. 21.

Neighbors reported hearing noises inside Allyn's home in the 900 block of Worthshire about the time the fire started.

His friends stood stunned outside his burned home the afternoon after the fire. Fire investigators Roy Paul and Leo Gonzales talked with friends of Allyn outside the

Please see GAY HOMICIDE on Page 9

## HIV discrimination looms large in U.S.

Complaints against Cirque  
typical of recent spate of  
lawsuits documented by ACLU

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

Officials with Cirque du Soleil, under fire recently for firing a gay HIV-positive gymnast, said it's too early to judge the company that delivers popular shows across the country, according to Renée-Claude Ménard, a Cirque spokesperson.

"The reasons that motivated our decision have nothing to do with discrimination, but safety," Ménard said. "Being accused of discrimination is biased right now. People are jumping to conclusions before the whole issue is analyzed by the authorities."

Cirque fired Matthew Cusick, an HIV-positive gymnast, in March after he spent

months preparing for an aerial act in the Las Vegas show, "Mystere," according to Cirque and Cusick.

"I was crushed," Cusick told Southern Voice. "I saw a dream that was happening, and now it's not. Now it's just something that's not coming true."

The national attention for Cusick's case and HIV discrimination escalated with protests of Cirque shows in San Francisco on Nov. 20 and a subsequent investigation into Cirque's policies by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

And on the verge of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, the ACLU also sought to raise awareness of HIV discrimination by releasing a report about the incidence of bias based on the disease. At the same time, the civil rights group announced that it filed lawsuits on behalf of an HIV-positive woman in Nebraska fired from her job.

"We all expected that we would learn of discrimination persisting, but we were sur-

prised that it was as prevalent as it was," said Leslie Cooper, staff attorney with ACLU's AIDS Project. "Almost everyone that we interviewed had stories of discrimination."

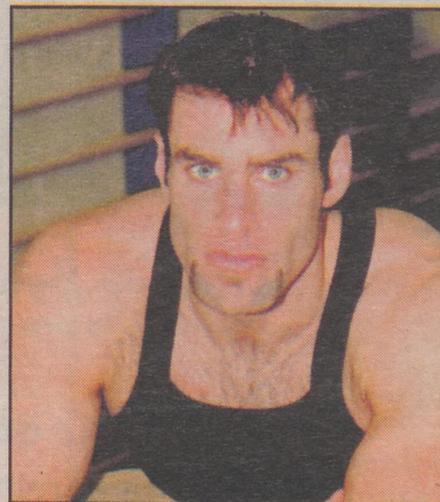
### Cirque defends firing

Officials from Cirque du Soleil met with attorneys from Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund for the first time Nov. 21 to negotiate a settlement for Cusick. The company offered him a "considerable job" as a coach, Ménard said.

"We have offered a job for Matthew, but he has not agreed," Ménard said.

Lambda Legal, a gay legal group, picked up the case and assisted Cusick in filing a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in July on the basis of discrimination.

Please see DISCRIMINATION on Page 5



Cirque du Soleil fired Matthew Cusick over his HIV-positive status, taking away his 'dream job' of performing aerial acts on a trapeze. The company said it is concerned for employee safety. (Photo by Michael Wise)

**WORLD AIDS DAY:** AIDS Foundation Houston seeks an extra \$1 million in 2004. **Page 9**

**AWAITING EXECUTION:** Richard Duncan to be executed for the Houston murders of his partner's parents. **Page 3**



# gay tv is here!



## playing in december



Life. Love. And a little payback!

### P.S. Your Cat Is Dead!

A Film By Steve Guttenberg

**"HILARIOUS!  
Razor-sharp dialogue!"**  
- *New York Daily News*



### Watching You

Award-winning compilation of lesbian shorts.

**"Hands-down the funniest  
collection of lesbian shorts  
ever compiled."**  
- *Curve Magazine*



What happens when the party  
comes to town.

### WHEN BOYS FLY

A Film By Stewart Halpern & Lenid Rolov

**"Honest, engaging..."**  
- *Instinct Magazine*  
**"Fascinating."**  
- *Rex Reed*



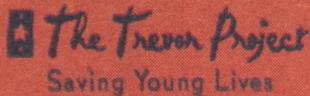
**PREMIERING DECEMBER 15!**

Meet the real gay mafia!

### Friends & Family

A Film By Kristen Coury

**"A cross between  
'La Cage aux Folles'  
and 'The Sopranos'."**  
- *Variety*



Help save young lives this holiday season by watching "Friends & Family." Between December 24th and December 31st, here! Pay Per View will donate \$1.00 of every pay-per-view purchase of "Friends & Family" to The Trevor Project. For more information visit [www.TheTrevorProject.org](http://www.TheTrevorProject.org).

Please visit our website at [www.hereppv.com](http://www.hereppv.com)

Coming to here! Pay Per View →  
Brotherhood 2, End Game, Ordinary Sinner and more!

Watch here! exclusively on DIRECTV® SERVICE channel 170  
To get DIRECTV® SERVICE call 1 800 DIRECTV (347-3288)

here! pay per view is  
sponsored in part by  
**Advocate OUT**

[www.DIRECTV.com/here](http://www.DIRECTV.com/here)



Activation of programming may be subject to credit approval and requires valid service address, social security number and/or major credit card. Deposit or prepayment may be required. To receive pay per view programming and to order by remote, a DIRECTV subscription is required. Programming, pricing, terms and conditions subject to change. Hardware and programming sold separately. Receipt of DIRECTV programming is subject to terms of the DIRECTV Customer Agreement; a copy is provided at [DIRECTV.com](http://DIRECTV.com) and in your first bill. Equipment specifications and programming options may vary in Alaska and Hawaii. DIRECTV services are not provided outside the U.S. © 2003 DIRECTV, Inc. DIRECTV and the Cyclone Design are registered trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc., a unit of Hughes Electronics Corp. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

## local news

# Former Houston man set for execution next week

## Time running out for gay man convicted of killing partner's parents

By BINNIE FISHER

But for the words of one man, former Houston resident Richard Charles Duncan might still be living in Federal Way, Wash., enjoying the life he built there more than a decade ago.

Instead, Duncan, now 61, sits on death row in Texas, awaiting a Dec. 3 execution for the 1987 murders of an elderly Houston couple who were the parents of his gay partner.

Duncan's attorney, K.S. Dunn of the Woodlands, filed an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court that, if granted, could postpone Duncan's appointment with death.

The appeal refutes testimony that helped convict Duncan of the murders of John Abner High and Ruth Brown High, according to Dunn.

Meanwhile, few current gay Houstonians remember what happened at 4415 McDermed Drive. But Ray Hill, a gay Houston activist and proponent of prisoner's rights, is one of the few.

"It was a sensational case at the time," Hill said. "It got a lot of media coverage."

At first, media coverage detailed the unfortunate but apparently accidental deaths of John High, 71, and Ruth Brown High, 73.

Police found John High on Oct. 7, 1987, in his kitchen with the gas turned on and a fatal wound to his head. His wife was in bed, apparently overcome by fumes from the gas that spewed from the couple's oven, according to media reports at the time.

Initial theories speculated that High was overcome by the gas fumes and passed out, striking his head.

A short time later, an autopsy revealed that High was struck with a blunt instrument and sustained several broken ribs and defense wounds on his arms. His wife, the autopsy revealed, was suffocated.

The case went unsolved for six years, until Robert John Alexander — a friend of Duncan and his partner, Gary High — contacted homicide detectives in Houston regarding the deaths.

According to prison documents and media reports, Gary High was living with Alexander in Federal Way, Wash., at the time of High's parents' death.

Media reports detailed how Alexander later told investigators that he first met Duncan in 1979 at a gay bar in Houston. Duncan was living with Gary High at the time, and the three became friends. Alexander moved in with Duncan and High, and the three talked about going into the relatively new business of computers.

The three started the business, but according to media reports, Alexander told investigators that they were not making as much money as they hoped. Alexander went on to say that Duncan suggested to him that if Gary High's parents were to meet an untimely end, the inheritance their son would receive could help with the finances of the three men.



Richard Charles Duncan is scheduled to die Dec. 3 for the murders of John and Ruth High, parents of Duncan's partner, Gary High.

"It was nasty. Duncan was a straight-up guy with nothing more than a parking ticket at the time."

—attorney Connie Williams

The group decided in late September 1987 to move to Washington state. High and Alexander went first to look for jobs, and Duncan stayed behind to sell the couple's Houston home, according to press reports.

Shortly after that, High's parents were found dead inside their home.

It wasn't until September 1993 that Alexander told investigators his conscience prompted him to contact the Houston Police Department with a story that solved the unexplained deaths of John and Ruth High.

Prison documents reveal Alexander told detectives that Duncan told him he bludgeoned John High with a blunt instrument and suffocated Ruth High with a pillow.

Duncan was arrested in Federal Way and returned to Houston for trial. He was convicted of capital murder and entered the Texas prison system on July 12, 1995.

His defense attorney at the time, Connie Williams, said the case was a difficult one to defend because the prosecution's evidence was overwhelming.

"The case was really one about punishment," Williams said. Williams' primary focus was to get a life sentence for Duncan instead of death, and he did his best to get the court to throw out a statement Duncan made to detectives in Washington state, he said.

The most damning piece of evidence was the autopsy report that revealed a three-hour time difference between when Ruth High was killed and when her husband was struck, Williams said. He said the jury surmised that the killer waited for John High to come home, suggesting premeditation.

"It was nasty," Williams said. "Duncan was a straight-up guy with nothing more than a parking ticket at the time."

Dunn, Duncan's current attorney, said his appeal includes an affidavit from Gary High refuting the testimony of Alexander.

Ray Hill, the Houston activist, said he remembers the trial and media coverage at the time, but he didn't know the three men.

"They weren't active in the politics of the time," Hill said. "They were just part of that vast majority of gay people out there who are not networked into any groups."

## inside

ISSUE 1205

LOCAL NEWS	3
NATIONAL NEWS	4
FORUM	10
OUT ON THE BAYOU	16
COMMUNITY CALENDAR	20
CLASSIFIEDS	22
HOROSCOPES	25



**ROYAL WELCOME FOR GAY NUPTIALS:** In a speech to Parliament this week, Britain's Queen Elizabeth was expected to make reference to a bill that includes a plan for registration of gay unions at local government offices throughout England and Wales. **Page 7**



**REINDEER AGAINST AIDS:** World Aids Day events include the World Aids Day Luncheon at the Houstonian Hotel on Dec. 1, and other events that include a special benefit performance Dec. 3 of 'The Eight: The Reindeer Monologues' at New West Theatre. **Pages 8 and 21**



**ARGUING AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE:** Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tex) announced her opposition to gay marriage by asserting, "I think we need to have a family-based society." **Page 12**

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, TX 77006. Houston Voice is published weekly, on Friday, by Window Media LLC. Subscriptions are \$92/year for 52 issues (only \$1.77 per issue).



## national news

### Colo. blind woman loses discrimination suit against clinic

DENVER (AP) — A Denver fertility clinic accused of discrimination for refusing to help a blind woman conceive was cleared of wrongdoing Nov. 21 by a federal jury. Kijuana Chambers, 33, put her head in her hands as U.S. District Judge Robert Blackburn read the decision in a civil case experts said was unique. Outside the courtroom, Chambers said the decision will prevent other disabled women from seeking fertility treatment. "There was a doctor who treated me like a woman in order for me to conceive her," she said, referring to her daughter and treatment she received later at another clinic. "So in that sense, it's a miracle she's here. But I've got to get the rest of them to do the same." Chambers sued after the Rocky Mountain Women's Health Care Center in suburban Englewood started fertility treatments in 1998, then stopped. Christopher Miller, an attorney for the clinic, said doctors worried Chambers couldn't care for a baby and turned her down because it was the right thing to do. During the two-week trial, Chambers said she had always wanted a child, but it seemed unlikely because she is a lesbian.



Kijuana Chambers, a lesbian who is blind, accused a Denver fertility clinic of discriminating against her based on her disability. A federal jury last week cleared the clinic of wrongdoing. (Photo by AP)

# Boots Black Tie & Boogie!

**A New Year's Eve Gala**  
Casino • Dancing • Cabaret Lounge • Discounted Rooms



presented by **The Chamber**  
the greater houston glbt chamber of commerce

at the **Warwick Hotel**  
**December 31st, 2003, 7pm-2am**  
Attire: Black Tie, Cocktail or Texas Chic

**Tickets: \$69+ Hurry! Every year sells out!**

Packages start at \$69.00 up to \$169.00 per person, packages can include options such full VIP dinner, cocktails, dinner buffet, and breakfast after midnight. See web site for details and to pay before tickets sell out.

For tickets: [www.GHGLCC.org](http://www.GHGLCC.org) or call 713-523-7576

### Wyo. student challenges ban on same-sex dance dates

BIG PINEY, Wyo. (AP) — A straight teenager is challenging a school district policy that bars students from bringing same-sex dates to school dances. In September, Amanda Blair tried to defy the rule by taking another young woman to the homecoming dance at Big Piney High School. They were kept out by sheriff's deputies at the request of school officials. Blair, a senior at Big Piney, has now enlisted the help of the American Civil Liberties Union in formally calling on Sublette County School District No. 9 to lift the same-sex date ban. In a letter sent Nov. 20 to Superintendent B. Weldon Shelley, the ACLU stated the policy violates a 1980 federal court ruling out of Rhode Island. Blair said her test of the policy is meant to help and support her peers who are gay.

### Chicago United Way, Boy Scouts end cooperation for annual funding

CHICAGO — After the city's United Way cut the community's Boy Scouts funding by more than 90 percent, the two groups ended their tradition of cooperation, the Chicago Sun Times reported. Leaders of the Chicago Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America called the split "amicable" in a press release, the newspaper reported, while gay rights activists said the parting of ways was sparked by boycotts against the city's United Way due to opposition to the Scouts' ban on gays. "As the Scouts and other nonprofits struggle in a weak economy for limited dollars, so has the United Way," Lewis B. Greenblatt, the local Boy Scouts board president, told the Sun Times. This fiscal year, the Boy Scouts were to receive just over \$24,000 from the city's United Way; just two years ago, the Scouts received more than \$460,000 from the group, the newspaper reported. Charity officials said the cuts in contributions to the Scouts are a result of the agency's change in methods of distributing funds.

### Ky. city council prepares to override mayoral veto of anti-gay measure

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — The Lexington council voted last week to consider overriding Mayor Teresa Isaac's veto of a resolution that would have kept her from extending health insurance coverage to city workers' domestic partners. The council voted to place the item on a future agenda, a first step toward an override. The week before, for the second time in four months, Isaac used her veto power in connection with the benefits plan. In a one-sentence document, she cited the city's 1999 Fairness Ordinance, which prohibits anti-gay discrimination in employment, as well as a Kentucky Constitution section that forbids "absolute and arbitrary power." Isaac has said the Fairness Ordinance requires her to treat all employees the same and that extending health insurance benefits to domestic partners — same sex or opposite sex — is necessary because spouses of married city employees receive such benefits.

### Ohio judge sued after jailing gay man on nonexistent law

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — A federal lawsuit is targeting a judge who sent a gay man to jail for violating a law that previously was struck down by Ohio courts, the Gay People's Chronicle reported. Keith E. Phillips, 21, of Youngstown served four months in jail this year after he pleaded no contest to violating an "importuning" law that made it illegal to ask someone of the same sex for sex if it might offend that person, the newspaper reported. In May 2002, the Ohio Supreme Court found the state importuning law unconstitutional. Phillips was convicted of breaking an identical law in the city of Warren; that law was repealed a month before Phillips was first charged, according to the Chronicle. The \$10 million suit against the city of Warren, its municipal court, Phillips's former attorneys and two social workers alleges false arrest, false imprisonment, legal malpractice and denial of several rights, the newspaper reported.

From staff and wire reports

## national news

## Gay HHS official wins White House AIDS post

Bush appointments of Bates, Thompson expected early next year

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — President Bush has quietly put in place a gay official at the Department of Health & Human Services as deputy director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy and a former White House domestic policy staff member as the office's director.

Bush administration sources said this week that Christopher Bates, the gay acting director of the HHS Office of HIV/AIDS Policy, and Carol Thompson, a former member of the White House Domestic Policy Council, began conducting duties at the White House AIDS office more than a month ago on an "unofficial" basis.

The White House is expected to formally announce the appointments of Thompson and Bates in January, according to two sources familiar with the administration.

Marsha Martin, executive director of AIDS Action, one of the nation's largest AIDS advocacy groups, said the group and other national AIDS organizations have already interacted with Thompson and

Bates in their capacities at the AIDS office.

"They are covering all of the bases that need covering," Martin said of Thompson and Bates.

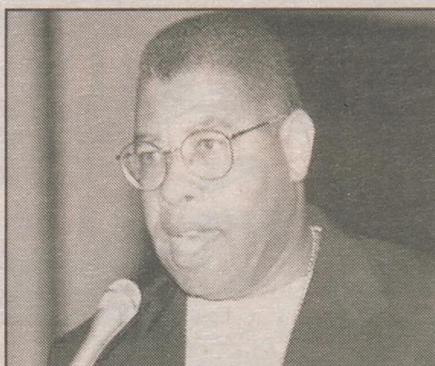
Martin called Bates highly knowledgeable in the field of AIDS policy.

"He comes from the community," she said. "He is linked to a very large gay and lesbian and people of color network" that would prove helpful to both the Bush administration and the AIDS community, Martin said.

President Clinton created the White House Office of National AIDS Policy after AIDS activists and members of Congress urged him to create a centralized AIDS policy clearinghouse. The head of the office has been dubbed the nation's AIDS czar.

Thompson most recently served as deputy director of the office while Joseph O'Neill, a gay physician, served as director of the office. In August, Bush named O'Neill as deputy coordinator of the newly created Office of Global AIDS Coordinator at the State Department. The global AIDS office is charged with carrying out the president's \$15 billion global AIDS initiative, which is to help countries in Africa and the Caribbean cope with AIDS and other diseases.

Bates, a longtime Washington resident, worked in various positions at HHS for the last five years. Cheryl Robinson, a member of the staff of the White House AIDS



Christopher Bates, a gay official at the Department of Health & Human Services, is expected to move into the White House AIDS office in January.

office, said Bates remained in his HHS office while performing White House AIDS office duties in recent weeks. She said Bates was expected to move to the White House complex in January.

Bates declined to comment on his new post, saying he could not discuss his status with the administration until an official announcement is made.

Gay Republican activist Abner Mason, a Bush appointee on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, lauded the selections.

"They are very good quality, talented and smart people," Mason said.

Mark Mead, a spokesperson for the gay Log Cabin Republicans, said the group is

confident in Bush's AIDS policies, including his selection of people to head the White House AIDS office.

"We have worked with Carole and Chris in the past and we feel they are very good," Mead said. "It's a positive development if, in fact, these appointments will take place."

A White House press spokesperson did not return a call seeking comment on the Thompson and Bates appointments by press time.

In a related development, a PACHA meeting expected to be held in Washington this fall has been postponed until March. One source familiar with PACHA said administration officials postponed the meeting because White House and HHS officials can't agree on who Bush should appoint to replace several PACHA members whose terms are expiring.

Similar to past disputes over AIDS policy, the source said, one administration faction favors appointing conservative ideologues that would push an agenda of abstinence-only until marriage on the advisory panel. The other faction reportedly favors appointing moderates, including one or more gay people, to serve on PACHA.

Mason and Brent Minor, another gay PACHA member, said they were not aware of such a dispute.

## Report underscores prevalence of HIV bias, ACLU says

DISCRIMINATION continued from Page 1

The case "continues, but isn't settled," said Hayley Gorenberg, director of Lambda Legal's AIDS Project.

"The employer doesn't remedy discrimination by then handing our client some other job that then happens to be available, if the employee who was discriminated against can do the job for which he applied and for which he was hired," Gorenberg said.

In the EEOC complaint, Cusick said he disclosed his HIV status to the company months before he was fired, and was twice cleared by Cirque physicians to perform.

But Cirque, which does not test its athletes for HIV, said the company couldn't risk infection of other performers or patrons, Ménard said.

"We have said all along that justice in this case could include reinstating him, include training and education so this won't happen again, and compensation for what he has had to endure," Gorenberg said.

Lambda does not have a specific figure in mind if Cusick and Lambda receive "a right to sue letter" from the EEOC, a necessary step in proceeding with the lawsuit.

On Nov. 20, the evening before officials with Lambda and Cirque met, protestors holding signs, stickers and flyers gathered outside Cirque's show "Allegría" in San Francisco.

"The response from show-goers was extraordinarily positive," said Michael Adams, director of education and public affairs for Lambda Legal. "Many chose to wear stickers protesting discrimination into the show."

Adams estimated 50 protestors joined the event, while Cirque's Ménard, who also attended, counted "a maximum of 20 protestors."

## HIV-positive performer a hazard?

As part of the EEOC's investigation to determine if Cusick should be allowed to sue, Cirque submitted evidence that Cusick would be a safety hazard to other performers and circus goers, Ménard said.

The EEOC investigation requires Cirque to show that Cusick, who was hired to perform tricks on tall Chinese poles and in trapeze acts, posed a health risk to others.

"We have a very good idea of the type of incidents that do occur with artists in aerial acts," Ménard said.

Cirque submitted to the EEOC a list of injuries that pose risks of HIV transmission during aerial acts documented from the past, such as collisions and falls, Ménard said.

But Lambda and Cusick point to policies at major athletic organizations, which allow HIV-positive athletes to compete. Those groups include the National Collegiate

Athletic Association, National Basketball Association and the International Olympic Committee.

"There is no case of transmission ever in the case of HIV in sports," Gorenberg said. "There is no reason to test or bar athletes from performing. We don't see any proof otherwise, and neither do any of these other American or international organizations."

The Human Rights Commission in San Francisco launched an investigation on Nov. 21, after the protests, to assure Cirque complies with San Francisco city codes that ban discrimination based on HIV status, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

If Cirque, which leases property from the Port of San Francisco, is found to hold discriminatory policies, it faces fines, termination from its current contract or no possibility for a city contract for up to three years, the Chronicle reported.

## Discrimination 'everywhere'

Fear of job termination is just one of the many reasons why people at risk of HIV do not get tested, and potentially spread the disease to others, according to a report released by the ACLU AIDS Project earlier this month.

"Because of that fear, more people get infected, more people get sick, and more people die," according to the report.

The ACLU surveyed more than 40 AIDS service organizations across the U.S. for the report, helping to paint "a clearer picture of the problems out there," said Cooper, director of the ACLU AIDS Project.

"Everywhere we went, clients of community-based organizations were facing discrimination," she said.

But there are no precise numbers documenting HIV discrimination cases, Cooper said.

"Forty community based organizations represent a tiny fraction of the people with HIV in the country," Cooper said. "Given the prevalence of discrimination we've seen just in those communities suggests that much more discrimination is going on out there."

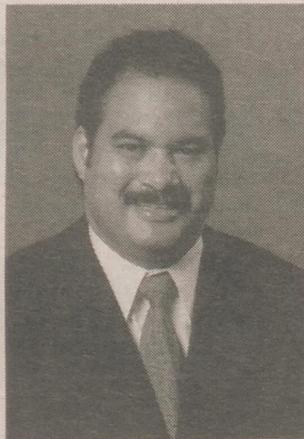
The ACLU said the organizations it contacted reported cases of discrimination in employment, child custody and visitation, medical care, and housing and shelters.

Roughly 362,260 people were living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. at the end of 2001, according to the latest estimates by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

New York contained the highest number of residents with HIV in 2001 at 60,437. Georgia placed seventh with 12,154, according to the foundation.

For many people, seeking justice against discrimination based on HIV status is not an option, Cooper said.

# Don't Let The Conservatives take **US** out of Houston.



"Electing Conservatives Orlando Sanchez and Bruce Tatro will jeopardize our nondiscrimination ordinance and endanger funding for parks, libraries, mass transit, health services and after-school programs.

Once they're in, our progressive voice in City Hall will be gone."

State Rep. Garnet Coleman

## The Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus PAC

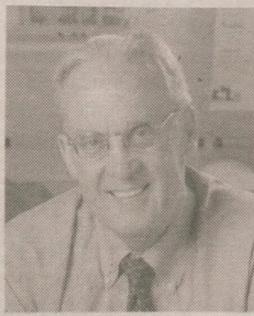
*urges you to vote for these candidates:*



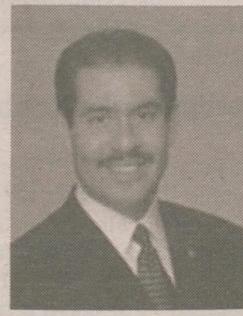
Bill White  
*for Mayor*



Annise Parker  
*for Controller*



Peter Brown  
*for City Council #3*



Adrian Garcia  
*for District H*



Michael Gomez  
*for HISD #3*

**EARLY VOTE ENDS DEC 2 · ELECTION DAY IS DEC 6**

## international news

### Survey: Majority of British support plan for gay unions



Britain's Queen Elizabeth was expected this week to introduce plans for the equivalent of marriage for gays, in England and Wales in the Queen's Speech to Parliament. (Photo by Adrian Dennis/AP)

LONDON — England's deputy minister for women and equality, Jacqui Smith, said last week that eight out of 10 people support unions that grant gays legal rights equal to those of married couples, the Guardian reported. A bill including a plan for gay unions was expected to be included in the Queen's Speech this week. A government survey found that 83 percent of respondents favor the plan, Smith told the Guardian. "Same-sex couples have been invisible in the eyes of the law for too long," she told the media. Of those surveyed, 74 percent of organizations and 84 percent of individuals supported the gay union plan, according to Smith, but out of 20 responses from religious groups, only three supported the measure. Gays would be able to register their union at a government office, according to the proposed plan. The registration would be open to same-sex couples only and would cover England and Wales, the Guardian reported.

### Canadian mayor denies discrimination against gays

SAINT JOHN, Canada — Shirley McAlary, mayor of Saint John, said she did not violate human rights by not allowing a gay pride group to participate in the Santa Claus Parade, CBC News reported. Port City Rainbow Pride complained to the Human Rights Commission about McAlary after she decided their float could not be in the event, the CBC News reported. But McAlary said she doesn't discriminate against anyone. She said the proposed group float — which was to depict gay families — was more of a political statement than one to celebrate Christmas, according to the News. "If they had a float application in and they wanted to put a whole choir together singing Christmas carols and it wasn't promoting their lifestyle then it would have been fine," McAlary told the CBC News.

### Gay Brits allege abuse after kissing in taxi

IPSWICH, England — A trio of gay men allege that a kiss in the back of a taxi led to the driver abusing them and ordering them out of the car, the Suffolk Evening Star reported. Chris Bush said he and two companions were discriminated against because they are gay, and he alleged that the driver would not have thrown out a man and a woman for what he said was a quick peck on the lips, the Star reported. Bush was in the front of the taxi and his two friends were in the back. The driver of the Four One Seven cab claims the kiss was more intimate. Bush told the Star: "My two friends had a little kiss — it was just a peck." According to Bush, the driver asked the men to not do that in his car, so they apologized. Bush said the driver then began shouting at the trio, the Star reported, and then ordered them out of the taxi. But the driver alleged the men were "slopping all over one another," the Star reported, and that they shouted at him when he politely asked them to get out of the cab.

### British lesbian couple accuses boss of sexual harassment

SALISBURY, England — A lesbian couple is suing their boss for sexual harassment, alleging that she asked them detailed questions about their sex life, according to media reports. Stacey Mathias and Sian Bowen both worked at a Burger King in Salisbury. They said their supervisor, Kate Hibbs, harassed them, made offensive comments and asked if they were interested in threesomes, Gaycom UK reported. Mathias and Bowen said they brought the issue to the attention of senior management, but they allege nothing was done. "I tried to ignore it, but Kate would not take no for an answer. I had said no to her and she should have understood that," Bowen told the employment tribunal in Southampton. "She should have left us alone and given us some kind of respect." Hibbs said comments were made about breasts, but she did not make them. She denied all other charges. A trial on the matter continues.

### Gay politician considers run for mayor of Canadian city

EDMONTON, Canada — The only openly gay man in city politics may vie for the mayor's spot next year, the Edmonton Sun reported. Michael Phair said the fact that he is the only gay politician in Edmonton will be "a factor" in his decision. "It's not exactly uncharted territory," Phair told the Sun. He already is Ward 4 councillor and expects to announce soon whether he will challenge Mayor Bill Smith for the office in 2004, the newspaper reported. "There's Mayor Glen Murray in Winnipeg, and Winnipeg's a large western city. I think that the fact I'm gay hasn't been a particularly significant issue with most people," Phair told the Sun. He noted that the higher profile of the mayoral race, plus the need to win voters from across the city, may be a challenge for him. "It's always been a factor, and it's one of the things I'm going to have to look at," he told the newspaper.

From staff and wire reports

SOUTHWEST INFINITI  
Simply the Best  
#1 Certified Pre-Owned Dealer



Infiniti G35 Sedan



Motor Trend 2003  
Car of the Year

also available  
pre-owned  
Lexus  
Jaguar  
BMW  
Mercedes  
all other makes & models!

Call:

Candace 713-341-0473  
www.texasinfiniti.net

Mike 713-341-0464  
infinitilux@aol.com

10495 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX

Each certified Infiniti includes: 60 month/72,000 mi. basic warranty and 84 month/100,000 mile powertrain warranty from original in service date, loaner car, 24 hour roadside assistance, complete service history, carfax lemon check, 72 hour return policy, and reconditioned to factory standards.

NOVEMBER 30

"Waiting for the Unexpected"

Rev. Janet Parker

Maranatha  
Fellowship  
Metropolitan  
Community Church



"Building Community Through Compassion"

Visit Our New Improved & Larger Nursery/Children's area

Church Service begins at 10am and nursery is available for small children. Shepherd Groups meet during the week for prayer and bible study, contact church office for information.

Please Join Us For  
Praise and Worship at  
our Sunday Morning  
Service And Experience  
the Love of God!

3333 Fannin, Suite 106, at 10AM

Church office 713-528-6756 • E-mail maranatha@ev1.net

www.maranathamcc.com

## local news

# Need for AIDS funding continues to grow

## World Aids Day 2003 luncheon to benefit people with AIDS in Houston

By BINNIE FISHER

In the 21-year history of AIDS Foundation Houston, the statistics continue to remain alarming and so does the

need for funding.

As the foundation readies plans for its 2003 World AIDS Day Luncheon Monday, Dec. 1 at the Houstonian Hotel, budget figures reveal that serving people with

HIV/AIDS will cost more than \$1 million more in 2004 than it did last year.

Kelly Adels, director of development for the foundation, said the budget now being finalized rings up at \$7.5 million, compared to the \$6.3 million budget adopted in 2003.

More services are needed, she said, because new drug regimens have enabled people with AIDS to live longer. That's the good news.

That also means that those people are in need of services much longer. And, each month, the foundation adds 150 new cases to its case rolls.

In dealing with clients, Adels said, the foundation finds that AIDS is only part of the problem. Too many AIDS patients are homeless, and 87 percent of the foundation's clients exist with incomes of less than \$10,000 per year.

The AIDS Foundation Houston finds its funding from the federal government and from corporations, individuals and events such as the World AIDS Day Luncheon.

AIDS activists and service providers say events such as World AIDS Day are important to draw attention to the fact that AIDS is still a growing threat.

"The numbers are simply overwhelming," said AIDS Foundation Houston Chief Executive Officer Michael B. Mizwa. "Five people worldwide die of AIDS every minute of every day. HIV has hit every corner of the globe, infecting more than 42 million men, women and children."

Closer to home, he said, nearly a million Americans are living with HIV/AIDS, and an estimated one in 90 Houstonians are HIV infected.

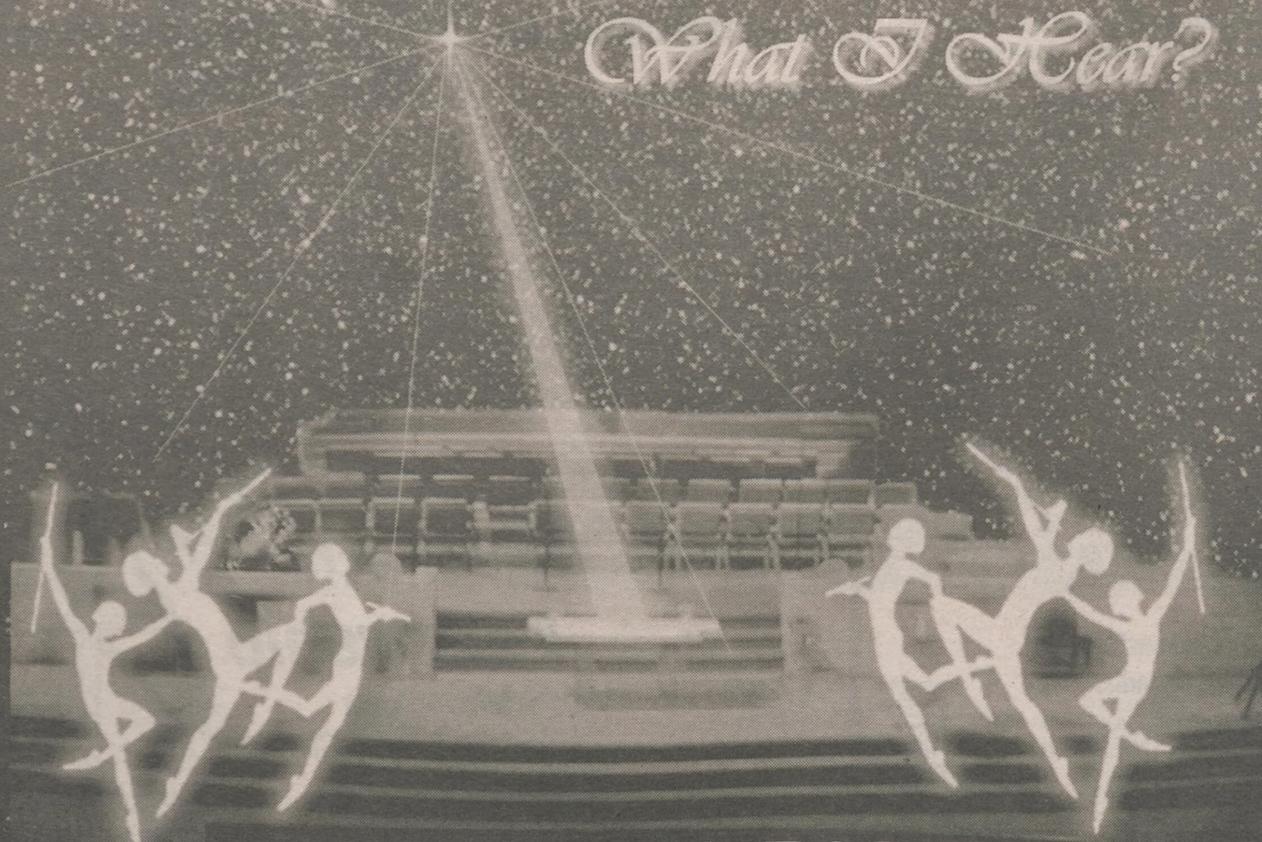
The 2003 World AIDS Day campaign slogan, "live and let live," is one that needs to resound throughout every city in the world, Mizwa said, to eliminate the stigma of AIDS and discrimination against those diagnosed with the disease.

"After 21 years of service to the Houston community, AIDS Foundation Houston is still addressing these obstacles to effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care," he said. "Fear of stigma and discrimination may prevent one from accessing medical care, treatment or social services. By ending ignorance, we end the prejudice which people with HIV experience."

This year's luncheon helps AIDS Foundation Houston continue to provide services for people with HIV/AIDS, and it supports Camp Hope, which provides safe and fun-filled activities for children with HIV.

*Resurrection MCC*  
presents

*Do You Hear  
What I Hear?*



**A CHRISTMAS FANTASIA**  
December 7th, 9am and 11am  
December 14th, 4pm

Also Join Us For:

A Craft Bazaar & Gingerbread House Decorating Party December 7th, 12:30 pm	Christmas Eve Services December 24th, 7 pm & 10 pm	New Year's Eve December 31st Potluck 10 pm Watch Night Service 11 pm
---	---	---

**Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church**  
2025 West 11th Street Houston, Texas 77008 (713) 861-9149  
www.resurrectionmcc.org

### MORE INFO

**World AIDS Day Luncheon**  
11:30 a.m., Dec. 3

**Houstonian Hotel**  
111 North Post Oak Lane  
Individual tickets \$150  
Tables for 10 at various levels

Benefitting **Camp Hope &  
AIDS Foundation Houston**  
713-623-6796

## local news

# Allyn homicide a shock to friends

GAY HOMICIDE, continued from Page 1

house. They said little, but by the afternoon after the fire, they were aware that they were dealing with a homicide.

Parker, a lesbian and current city council member, said she learned about Allyn's death soon after the fire was extinguished.

"At first we wondered if he had awakened, found the house on fire and tried to get out," Parker said. "I got a phone call early on Friday morning, and at that time, I was told that homicide had been called in."

Parker, a close friend of Allyn, said the news came as a tremendous shock.

"So many folks had seen him the night before at the fundraiser," she said.

Allyn attended the event with a friend. Sue Lovell, a lesbian who lost her bid for the At-Large Position 4 seat on the City Council, said she talked with Allyn that evening.

"I walked him to the door," she said. "I watched him walk out." When she heard the news the next day, Lovell said she was devastated. "He had a good heart."

Another friend, Nixon Wheat, said he spoke with Allyn by phone about 11 p.m. on Nov. 20, and that he seemed in good spirits.

"That was the last we heard of him," said Wes Robbins, another friend who stood outside the charred

'At first we wondered if he had awakened, found the house on fire and tried to get out, I got a phone call early on Friday morning, and at that time, I was told that homicide had been called in.'

—City Councilwoman Annise Parker

house the afternoon after the fire.

Allyn was a lobbyist who fought City Hall for clients ranging from retail shops to low-income housing units. Most recently, he won a 10-year, \$178 million retail contract for Paradies IAH-LLC at Bush Intercontinental Airport.

In 1997, Allyn, a former aide to City Council member Ben Reyes, was snared in an FBI sting that later sent Reyes and Houston Port Commissioner Betti Maldonado to prison. A judge later threw out the charges against Allyn.

That history caused his friends to take notice when reports surfaced that he had recently indicated he feared his phone was tapped.

Parker said it was not unusual for Allyn to make that kind of statement.

"I heard that," she said. "It may be that was just the way Ross lived. Ross told me that ever since the FBI sting, he was of the belief that he was being watched."

Despite the past, Parker said Allyn never seemed to hold a grudge. It was his ability not to take matters personally that made him good at what he did, she said.

"He was a very effective lobbyist," Parker said. "You could tell him, 'no,' and he would keep coming back. He was very persis-



Houston Lobbyist Ross Allyn died Nov. 21 of a gunshot wound inside his burning home. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

tent, and he never took it personally."

The way in which Allyn was killed has left friends wondering what happened inside his home in the Heights.

"Right now, I'm at a loss to think of the scenario," Wheat said. He wondered about what he calls "a new class of con artists" who Wheat said have begun preying on affluent gay men in the last few years.

He said these con artists are straight men who pose as gays. "They use their physical beauty to get into the lives of wealthy gay men. To me, it's on the level of a hate crime," he said.

HPD's Wendell said five investigators are assigned to the Allyn case.

"There is a lot of interest in this case," he said.

A memorial service for Allyn was conducted Nov. 25 at St. Anne Catholic Church, where he was an active member.

He is survived by a brother, Mark Allyn and wife, Dorothy, of Dallas; sister, Mary Lynn Miller of Philadelphia, PA; another brother, Danny Allyn of Oklahoma City, OK; and several nieces and nephews.

## MORE INFO

Houston Police Homicide Division  
713-308-3600



Nixon Wheat (right), a longtime friend of Ross Allyn, talks with Houston Fire Department investigators (from left) Roy Paul and Leo Gonzales. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

# Montrose Clinic announces reorganization

## Funding shortfalls result in job and pay cuts but no reduction in services

By BINNIE FISHER

At a time when the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta reports an increase in syphilis among gay men, funding shortfalls have necessitated a reorganization of the Montrose Clinic.

Executive Director Katy Caldwell stressed that the

measures were undertaken to be certain client needs are met without reductions in services.

"Some departments are being restructured, some positions have been eliminated and, all senior management has taken a reduction in pay," she said.

The Montrose Clinic had its beginnings in 1978, when a group of volunteers started providing services to gays and lesbians with sexually transmitted diseases.

The mission of the clinic is to provide preventative and primary health care to under-served communities. A United Way agency, the clinic provides low- or no-cost health, vision, social, educational and clinical research services to individuals with HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and Hepatitis C (HCV), and to those who are at risk.

"During this economic downturn we want all clients to continue to look to the clinic as the leading provider for their health care services," Caldwell said.

## MORE INFO

Montrose Clinic  
215 Westheimer  
Houston, TX 77006  
713-830-3000

**EDITORIAL & PRODUCTION**

Executive Editor CHRIS CRAIN  
 Editor BINNIE FISHER - bfisher@houstonvoice.com  
 Production JOEY CAROLINO, KIKI CARR  
 Correspondents: LOU CHIBBARO, JR., JOE CREA, LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN, LAUREL FAUST, MIKE FLEMING, MATTHEW HENNIE, RYAN LEE, BRIAN MOYLAN, KEVIN NAFF, KEN SAIN, CHRISTOPHER SEELY, STEVE WEINSTEIN  
 Contributors J.A. CHAPMAN, JILL DEARMAN, DALTON DEHART, JARRETT BARRIOS  
 Photographers DALTON DEHART, KIMBERLY THOMPSON  
 Webmaster ARAM VARTIAN

**SALES & ADMINISTRATION**

General Manager DANIEL EMERICH  
 demerich@houstonvoice.com  
 Account Executives  
 BRETT CULLUM - bcullum@houstonvoice.com  
 SCOTT RYAN - sryan@houstonvoice.com  
 JENNIFER HOLLAND - jholland@houstonvoice.com  
 Administrative Assistant  
 JOHNNY HOOKS - jhooks@houstonvoice.com  
 National Advertising Representative  
 Rivendell Media • 212-242-6863

A WindowMedia Publication

Publisher- WINDOW MEDIA LLC  
 President- WILLIAM WAYBOURN  
 Editorial Director- CHRIS CRAIN  
 Corporate Controller- BARNETTE HOLSTON  
 Art Director- ROB BOEGER  
 Operations Manager- MICHAEL KITCHENS  
 Marketing Manager- DAN GARRIOTT



**the chamber**  
 the greater houston glbt chamber of commerce

CHARTER MEMBER

Established 1974 as the *Montrose Star*.

500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200  
 Houston, Texas 77006  
 (713) 529-8490  
 Fax: (713) 529-9531  
 www.houstonvoice.com  
 Contents copyright 2003  
 Office hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays

**To submit a letter**

Letters should be fewer than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for content and length. We will withhold names upon request, but you must include your name and phone number for verification. Please send mail to Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006; fax (713) 529-9531 or e-mail to editor@houstonvoice.com. Opinions expressed therein do not reflect those of the *Houston Voice*.

All material in *Houston Voice* is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced without the written consent of *Houston Voice*. The sexual orientation of advertisers, photographers, writers and cartoonists published herein is neither inferred or implied. The appearance of names or pictorial representation does not necessarily indicate the sexual orientation of that person or persons.

*Houston Voice* accepts unsolicited editorial material but cannot take responsibility for its return. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any submission. All rights revert to authors upon publication. Guidelines for freelance contributors are available upon request.

Issue 1205

# Forum

**editorial**

## AIDS: forever 'our' disease

Don't be fooled by changing demographics. Whatever happens, AIDS will always be associated with gay men — and we should never forget that.

By STEVE WEINSTEIN

**I** used to object to World AIDS Day, Dec. 1. Why, after all, should there be one day devoted to calling attention to this epidemic? Shouldn't every day be World AIDS Day?

But indifference and complacency have changed my mind. If it takes a special occasion to commemorate those who have died — and are continuing to die — from this, the worst pandemic in the history of the world, then I'm all for it.

Because the truth is, despite the headlines about President Bush's \$2 billion initiative, arguments over drug patents, former President Clinton's foundation and even CIA documents about the disease's long-term destabilizing global influence, AIDS has fallen off of most American's radar.

The Sept. 11 attacks and the ensuing wars in the Middle East have undoubtedly done their share in taking away the lime-light. The wavering economy, political campaigns, even Michael Jackson's travails — they all have driven AIDS off the front pages.

The fact that a recent U.N. report has raised new alarms about the increased spread of HIV across the globe thus receives even less attention. Such reports seem to be greeted with a collective weary yawn, a sigh of "So what's new?"

What is even more shocking and disturbing is the spread of apathy and complacency in the gay world.

Harvey Fierstein, the actor currently starring in Broadway's "Hairspray," has publicly complained about donor burnout. He also has noted how many gay men apparently believe that anti-viral drugs are making HIV a manageable disease. This is merely ignorance.

What is unconscionable, however, is the spreading belief that, as the demographics of the disease changes, AIDS is no longer our concern. Yes, it is true that the face of AIDS has made some marked contrasts in its 22 years, just as the virus itself has continued to morph into new strains.

WHILE NO ONE CAN TRACE THE beginning of the disease, we can pretty well pinpoint the beginning of the epidemic.

The first people in this country succumbed to AIDS in the early 1980s. Allowing for an HIV incubation period of a few years (depending on the prior state of

the infected person's immune system), the disease probably arrived here sometime in the mid- to late-1970s.

In his definitive narrative of the epidemic's early years, "And the Band Played On," the late Randy Shilts posits an interesting theory that Congolese sailors may have brought the virus over during Operation Sail in New York Harbor in 1976. The sailors probably had sex with prostitutes (as sailors do), who in turn gave it someone who infected a gay man. The rest, as they say is history — one of the saddest histories you'll ever read.

However the disease got here, we know that it spread like wildfire throughout the gay community. Thanks to extreme poverty, it also first became widespread among Haitians, and, thanks to short-sighted policies by the nation's blood banks, hemophiliacs.

It took a while before it really took hold among drug users who shared their needles. From them, HIV has taken hold as the primary killer among the young inner-city poor.

As noted in the Nov. 14 *Blade*, the brouhaha over the TV film "The Reagans," which CBS shamelessly bunted to its pay-TV sister channel Showtime, focused some much-needed attention on the activity — or, rather, inactivity — of President Reagan while all of this was going on.

When the final chapter of this sorry story is written, I am convinced that Reagan will earn a place as the greatest mass murderer in history. If he had only heeded the advice of his surgeon general, Dr. Everett Koop, AIDS could have been a footnote, like Legionnaire's Disease or SARS.

But he didn't, and once the disease returned to its African roots, it did so with a vengeance, infecting whole nations. Today, for example, more than one-third of the entire adult population of Botswana carries the HIV virus.

This is especially tragic because Botswana is the most democratic and well-run country on the continent. AIDS is slowly wiping out its economy and will likely cause instability that would never have been there otherwise.

Now the disease has inevitably branched out into every area of the globe. It is running rampant in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Republics. It has taken firm root in South America (although freewheeling Brazil apparently may contain the epidemic through some very enlightened policies).

In Thailand, government thugs are murdering prostitutes, drug abusers and street urchins in a misguided attempt to stay the spread of HIV. In Myanmar (formerly Burma), a brutal military dictatorship is only now beginning to acknowledge its presence — too little, too late.

AIDS has already devastated the Indian subcontinent, where condoms are hard, if not impossible, to come by. And in China, a vile, self-supporting ruling class has made only the first tiny steps to contain an epidemic largely of their own making, thanks to their selfish, stupid policies.

MEANWHILE, GAY MEN, LOST IN OUR little crystal-infused clouds, are taking more and more chances with our health. As pointed out elsewhere in this issue, cases of syphilis — a sure indicator of unprotected sex — is markedly on the rise, especially among urban gay males. San Francisco leads the pack.

In the midst of all of this unending spiral of bad news, many gay men have abandoned AIDS as a cause. "It's not our disease," they say. "No one cared when we were sick. Why should we care when they get it?"

Aside from the obscene moral obtuseness of these remarks (and trust me, I've heard them in one form or another, many times), they ignore the fundamental fact that, until there is a cure, AIDS will always be a dire threat to gay men.

Even if it weren't, however, we have a moral imperative not to abandon those suffering from AIDS, be they in the Anacostia section of Washington, D.C., or Soweto, South Africa, or Guangdong, China.

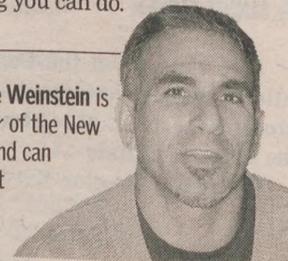
For the rest of our lives — and very likely, the next generation, and the generation after that — AIDS will continue to be what it started out as: a "gay plague."

If you like to dance, great. Volunteer for a benefit party. If you like to have sex with a lot of guys, volunteer to run a safe-sex workshop at a bathhouse.

Like to be around food? Spend an hour a week serving at God's Love We Deliver or one of the Momentum Project sites. Are you a clothes horse? Help DIFFA with a fashion show or sample sale.

On Dec. 1, the world will turn its gaze briefly to AIDS. Don't turn away. Do something. Do anything. And don't tell me there's nothing you can do.

@ Steve Weinstein is editor of the New York Blade and can be reached at [sweinstein@nyblade.com](mailto:sweinstein@nyblade.com).



point JARRETT BARRIOS



Cheryl Jacques has been the clearest voice for gay people in Massachusetts, and will do the same as director of the Human Rights Campaign.

# The right pick to lead HRC

DURING THE NEAR-DECADE

Elizabeth Birch has spent as executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the organization has helped to enact a sea change in the way our elected officials respect and understand gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans.

During her tenure, HRC has achieved things that would have been impossible even a decade ago. As a community, and as a nation we are all the better for Elizabeth's leadership, and it is so fitting that the organization will pass from her capable hands to those of my colleague Cheryl Jacques, who will start as the executive director in the new year.

GLBT Americans, and the entire country for that matter, will soon learn what I have known for years as a state legislator in Massachusetts: Cheryl is one of the most effective and articulate voices for progressive values in any state legislature in the United States.

If you'll forgive the pun, Cheryl's arrival is one small step forward for her, but one giant leap forward for HRC and the GLBT community.

In the state legislature, Cheryl has fought tough fights and has scored major victories. She authored the country's toughest gun control law, banning assault weapons and keeping guns out of the hands of felons. She has staunchly defended survivors of domestic violence and led to the creation of real means of helping them back on their feet. She has advanced rights and protections for consumers.

Because of her work — and success — in some of the toughest policy arenas (it's not anyone who can take on the

NRA and win every time!), she has been named to Boston Magazine's list of "Women Who Run This Town".

IT IS CHERYL'S WORK FOR GLBT YOUTH and our families shines most brightly. Her leadership on the GLBT safe schools bill helped ensure that our youth in Massachusetts will be protected at school, and that GLBT youth organizations will continue to educate peers and families about equality.

She also led a bipartisan coalition of legislative leaders — including a partnership with the Senate minority leader, a Republican, to defeat the state Defense of Marriage Act last year. Though I will miss her dearly in Massachusetts, I will look forward to watching Cheryl take that energy and vision to HRC.

Cheryl is one of the most down-to-earth, friendly and accessible people I have ever known. She naturally puts people at ease, and speaks across a spectrum of ideologies and beliefs to build understanding.

In fact, when she was first elected to the state senate, she took the seat from a Republican who had held the post for more than 30 years, winning because her fresh ideas and sincere words persuaded people across political lines to support her values.

As an openly gay man in our State House and now in our State Senate, I can attest that she has been an outstanding civil rights advocate for her entire career.

Hers is a story that is a wonderful testament to the fact that coming out is an empowering, life-affirming step for all GLBT people to take. She has taken her story and transformed attitudes toward gay and lesbian families across Massachusetts.

CHERYL IS THE BEST FACE AND THE clearest voice the



GLBT community has in Massachusetts. She, her partner Jennifer, and their two boys Tommy and Timmy are a welcome and cherished member of the Massachusetts political landscape.

Today, more than ever, we treasure her strong, clear voice in Massachusetts. Tomorrow, America will need her voice as the country grapples with the scope of the court decision to end discrimination against same-sex couples.

We live in a dynamic and difficult time in history. There are so many important battles to be fought by HRC, and the entire GLBT community.

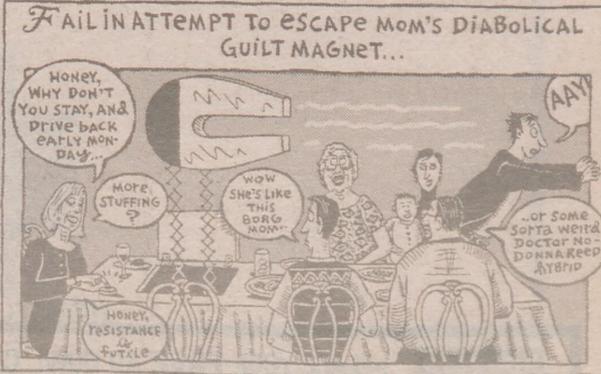
We need a leader for this movement who has a unique blend of passion and pragmatism, ideology and vision. Having worked with Cheryl as a state legislator for years, I whole-heartedly believe that she is the perfect person for this job.

I am thrilled for her, and more importantly, I am thrilled for each of us as GLBT Americans who will benefit from her work.

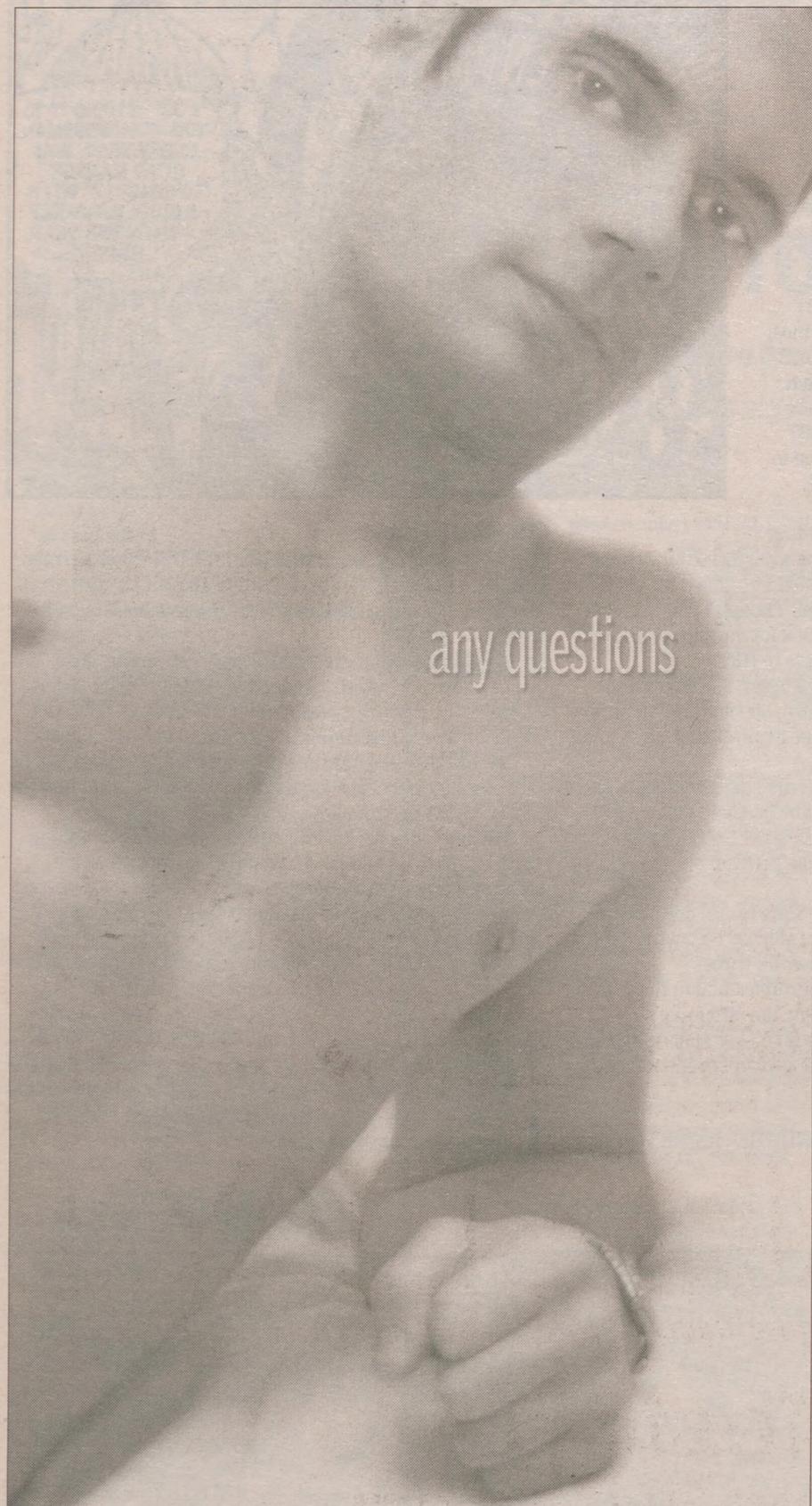
@ Jarrett Barrios served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1999 to 2002, and beginning this year in the state Senate; he can be reached at [jbarrios@senate.state.ma.us](mailto:jbarrios@senate.state.ma.us)

## ETHAN ENCORE

by Eric Orner



## on the record



any questions

what are you waiting for? it's free!

HOUSTONVOICEpersonals

**Houston  
voice**

PLACE YOUR FREE AD NOW! CALL 877 863 1885  
OR PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT [WWW.HOUSTONVOICE.COM](http://WWW.HOUSTONVOICE.COM)



"Justice is not hypothetical to me."  
**Margaret Marshall**, chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and author of the decision requiring the state to recognize gay marriages; she is a South Africa native and was among a handful of white students who led protests against apartheid (*Boston Globe*, Nov. 23)

"Does that mean you have to allow a man to marry his pet, or a man to marry his chair? I mean, at some point, it needs to stop."

**Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning** (*Associated Press*, Nov. 18)

"I don't want to live next door to people who have a same-sex relationship and have children and have my children playing with them."

**Maryland Del. Emmett C. Burns** (D-Baltimore County), who plans to introduce legislation blocking Maryland from recognizing gay marriages from other states (*Washington Post*, Nov. 19)

"[Heterosexual marriage] is how our society is set up, and it's how our laws are structured. I don't want to start having our schoolchildren be confused about this issue. I don't want it to get into our education system or something that there is another way of life that would be supported. I think we need to have a family-based society."

**Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson** (R-Tex.), announcing her support for the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment, which would prohibit states from recognizing gay marriages and, possibly, civil unions and domestic partnerships (*Dallas Morning News*, Nov. 23)

"When liberals argue for gay marriage, they make it sound like a really good employee benefits plan. Or they frame it as a civil rights issue, like extending the right to vote. ... The [truly] conservative course is not to banish gay people from making [marital] commitments. We shouldn't just allow gay marriage. We should insist on gay marriage. We should regard it as scandalous that two people could claim to love each other and not want to sanctify their love with marriage and fidelity."

**Conservative columnist David Brooks** (*New York Times*, Nov. 22)

"Let me give you a slightly different spin on it. It's about the money. This sort of thing will raise havoc with the Social Security Administration, with retirement benefits, with property rights."

**South Dakota Attorney General Larry Long**, on the motivation behind the push for gay marriage (*Rapid City Journal*, Nov. 19)

"Homosexual behavior is suicide on the installment plan, and to elevate a self-destructive lifestyle to the level of marriage is like telling a drug addict by virtue of his addiction that he's qualified to be a pharmacist. There's never going to be homosexual marriage. This movement will be defeated."

**Randall Terry**, founder of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue, now leading efforts to fight gay marriage (*Reuters*, Nov. 19)

"Where were you last night when I was sitting in my hotel room alone watching **Michael Jackson** on TV and wondering if that was going to be me someday?"

**Gay musician Rufus Wainwright** on stage in Washington, D.C.'s Lisner Auditorium, replying to a male fan screaming "I love you, Rufus" (Nov. 20)



# MEN

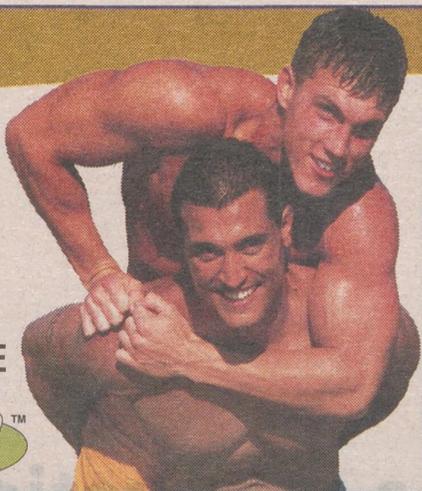
Local • Live • Now

Houston 713-595-9952

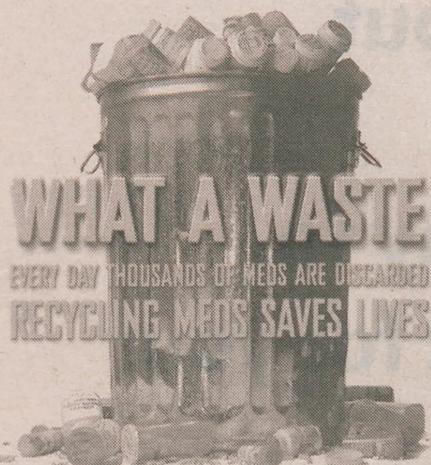
817-289-1234 214-379-7979

210-933-1234 512-735-5002

Call Toll FREE 1-888-399-MALE



1-800-988-8586 (79¢/min) 18+ 1-900-446-1212 (\$1.99/min) www.InteractiveMale.com



## WHAT A WASTE

EVERY DAY THOUSANDS OF MEDS ARE DISCARDED  
RECYCLING MEDS SAVES LIVES



### AID FOR AIDS

www.aidforaids.org

AID FOR AIDS needs unused HIV medicines of all types to send to HIV-positive people in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. If you've switched therapies of stockpiled meds, you can save lives by donating these medications to AID FOR AIDS now!

You can also mail medications to: AID FOR AIDS 515 Greenwich St. Suite 506 New York, NY 10013 Phone: 212 337 8043 x 28



**YOU DECIDE!**  
FIND EVERYTHING  
YOU ARE LOOKING FOR  
IN THE  
HOUSTON VOICE CLASSIFIEDS

**HOUSTONVOICEclassifieds**  
PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD ONLINE NOW!  
AT [WWW.HOUSTONVOICE.COM](http://WWW.HOUSTONVOICE.COM)  
OR CALL TO PLACE YOUR  
**AD NOW: 877 863 1885**

# BILL GREEN

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
HOUSTON TEXAS

ARRESTED? INJURED?  
**(713) 266-1004**  
ANSWERED 24 HOURS  
INITIAL FREE CONSULTATION



¥ Former Elected State District Attorney, 3rd. Dist.  
¥ Former Elected County Attorney, Anderson County

¥ DWI ¥ Drugs ¥ Sex Crimes  
¥ Motions to Revoke Probation  
¥ Motions to Adjudicate Probation ¥ Occupational Drivers License ¥ Wills  
¥ Probate ¥ Auto Accident

#### MEMBER:

¥ State Bar of Texas ¥ Houston Bar Assoc.  
¥ Harris Co. Criminal Lawyers Assoc.  
¥ Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Assoc.

¥ Licensed by Supreme Court of Texas  
¥ Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Monday, December 1, 2003

# WORLD AIDS DAY

One out of four people with HIV don't know they have it. **Get Tested, Know Now!**

## Free HIV Testing

Extended Hours from 9am - 7pm



215 WESTHEIMER • HOUSTON • 713.830.3000 • [WWW.MONTROSECLINIC.ORG](http://WWW.MONTROSECLINIC.ORG)

**There's a medication  
you should know about.**

**Here's the simplest way to  
ask your doctor if it's right for you:**

**Say: *RAY-ah-taz***

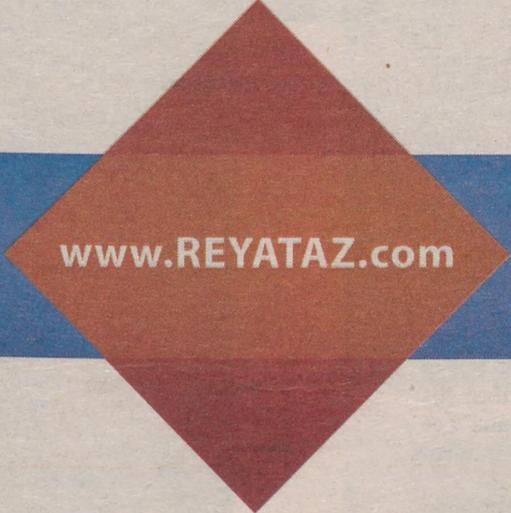
If you would like more information, talk to your doctor.

REYATAZ is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. ©2003 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Princeton, NJ 08543

December 2003 F1-K0012



**REYATAZ™**  
(atazanavir sulfate)



[www.REYATAZ.com](http://www.REYATAZ.com)



**ANGELS AT LAST:** After a decade of preparation, 'Angels in America' comes to cable. **Page 17**

**TALE OF TWO LUNCHES:** Oversized sandwiches and hearty soup provide the perfect respite from holiday shopping. **Page 18**

# Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE  
NOVEMBER 28, 2003  
PAGE 16

## You and yours, only better

Gay-inclusive cable makeover shows popular with wide audience

By MIKE FLEMING

MAYBE GAY PEOPLE are just more in tune with reinventing themselves and their surroundings. Maybe there's something to the stereotypes that gay men can make anything "a little more fabulous" and lesbians can "fix anything with the right tool."

Whatever the reason, gay viewers are flocking to the genre of reality makeover shows that restore, redesign and reinvent the looks of people and places.

Bravo's "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" is the most obvious example of shows that are self-consciously gay. But most reality makeover series — The Learning Channel offers some of the most popular with "Trading Spaces," "While You Were Out" and "What Not to Wear" — are gay inclusive with hosts, designers or subjects who are openly gay.

"There is a gay sensibility to makeovers that makes us a natural to be on the shows and to watch the shows," says Clinton Kelly, a gay fashion expert on TLC's "What Not to Wear."

The show "ambushes" fashion victims — including two women in Atlanta this weekend — who are nominated by friends and family for the makeover. Producers secretly videotape subjects for two weeks, then move in to surprise them with personalized tips on improving wardrobe, hair and accessory choices. That's followed in each episode by a shopping spree and a "reveal" sequence that puts the advice to practical use.

"It's fun to see people's reaction to how a few changes can change the way they feel about themselves," Kelly says.

An episode airing Dec. 5 includes not only gay expert Kelly, but a gay "victim" as well: stage actor David Lee, who just com-

pleted an extended run in the lead role of "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" in Florida.

"At first, I was offended that they thought I was a fashion victim," Lee says in a recent telephone interview from Orlando. "I wear cool clothes; I still think my clothes are cool, but they took my surf shorts and flip flops and my ripped up KISS shirts and showed me what could be done with my tastes."

Rather than making Lee look like someone he is not or leave him with an impossible fashion standard, Kelly and his cohorts brought him to stores "that are my style with more money," Lee says.

Lee got to keep "42 items from a wallet to a suit," and the show's producers encouraged him to be open about his sexual orientation, he says.

"With the success of 'Queer Eye,' they were excited to have a gay person on the show and I think had more fun with it," Lee says. "I was invited to be as openly gay as I wanted to be."

On the secret tapes the show shot of Lee before he knew that "What Not to Wear" targeted him, he described his "look" as "gay surfer trash," and Lee appears in full drag as part of a segment on his "Hedwig" role.

And the show inadvertently comprised a test of how "out" Lee was, he says.

"I had to tell my mother to warn my stepfather and their church members that I am gay before the show airs," Lee says. "It was a great test for me. Even though I consider myself totally out, it was very freeing to be out on national television and realize I was OK with that."

FASHION COMES TO MIND WHEN many viewers think of makeovers, espe-

Please see **CABLE MAKEOVERS** on **Page 19**



David Lee, the gay 'victim' on the Dec. 5 episode of TLC's 'What Not to Wear,' is shown here 'before' and 'after' his makeover. (Photos courtesy of The Learning Channel.)

## television LAWRENCE FERBER



After a decade of preparations, cable channel brings film adaptation of 'Angels in America' to television.

# On a wing and a prayer

THE LONG-AWAITED MOVIE ADAPTATION of gay playwright Tony Kushner's 1993 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning "Angels in America" arrives next week compliments of director Mike Nichols and HBO.

Much like the Broadway production, the show is presented in two three-hour parts: "Millennium Approaches" and "Perestroika."

Originally subtitled "A Gay Fantasia on National Themes," the story revolves around two radically different Manhattan men with AIDS in the late 1980s. Prior Walter (Justin Kirk) is an out, smart, well-adjusted gay man. But after he breaks the news that he's developed AIDS — and Kaposi's Sarcoma lesions — to lover Louis Ironson (Ben Shenkman), Prior's world falls apart.

Louis, panicked by Prior's worsening health, abandons him and begins an affair with Joe Pitt (Patrick Wilson), a closeted Mormon Republican whose alienated wife, Mary-Louise Parker, is a mentally disturbed Valium addict.

Unbeknownst to Louis, Joe is friends with Roy Cohn (Al Pacino), the infamously obnoxious and self-hating Jewish gay man who worked alongside Sen. Joe McCarthy during the '50s anti-Communist witch hunt.

Cohn has just been diagnosed with AIDS. But denial-prone, he insists it's merely "liver cancer," even when he lands in a hospital bed, haunted by the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg (Meryl Streep).

A SUBLIME CRITIQUE OF A RIGHT wing era when AIDS was deemed just punishment for gays, "Angels" is bitingly humorous, profoundly affecting, visually stunning and supremely put together.

It's taken a decade for "Angels" to reach the screen, small or otherwise. In 1994, heralded director Robert Altman began working towards a cinematic adaptation with Kushner. But after coming up against numerous difficulties "we sort of came to the realization that wasn't going to happen," Kushner says.

In 2001, Nichols name came up, and Kushner was more than interested.

"I said 'absolutely, but I can't imagine he'd want to,' Kushner says. "I think that's also the first time Al Pacino got involved."

In translating "Angels" from play to film, Kushner and Nichols made both cuts and additions. Kushner says a number of monologues and scenes were scrapped, and a section of "Perestroika" altered. One significant element retained from "Angels" stage incarnation is double-casting: Streep plays three characters, and Thompson appears as the Angel, a homeless woman and a nurse.



A stellar cast in the film adaptation of 'Angels in America' includes Emma Thompson in the symbolic role of an angel.

THE DOUBLE CASTING ALSO APPLIES to actor Jeffrey Wright, the only original Broadway cast member to carry over to the movie version.

"It was my feeling that if I wasn't invited to be a part of it, I was gonna burn the sets down," Wright laughs. "So they didn't really have a choice."

Wright, who won a 1994 Best Featured Actor Tony Award for playing Prior's best friend Belize, a former drag queen who ironically serves as Roy Cohn's nurse, and Mr. Lies, the mirthful figment of Harper Pitt's malformed imagination, kept in touch with Kushner over the years.

Kushner credits the Broadway ensemble as "the most astonishing cast of actors you could possibly wish for," but he concedes that most of them are now too old to play their characters.

"These guys have to be in their early 30s, they can't make these mistakes in their late 40s," Kushner says.

But Belize "is a slightly older person, he's a more together person," Kushner says. To that end, Wright refined his performance to reflect added maturity.

"I think I wanted him to be harder," Wright affirms. "I think it's an outgrowth of time and being older and having seen more."

Kushner and Wright both say that "Angels" remains politically and socially relevant a decade after its Broadway appearance.

"I'm pleased with the way the play has straddled both the end of the first Reagan period and the present administration," Kushner says.

### **i** MORE INFO

'Angels in America Part 1: Millennium Approaches'  
Debuts Dec. 7, 7 p.m.  
HBO

'Part 2, 'Perestroika'  
Debuts Dec. 14, 7 p.m.  
HBO

## GAY MEN'S CHORUS of HOUSTON presents *Silver Bells* HOLIDAYS IN THE CITY

Let your  
spirit soar!

GMCH invites  
you to join us in  
our Holiday concert  
celebration!

25  
SILVER SEASON CELEBRATION  
2003-2004

James Knapp, Artistic Director  
Beth McConnell, Principal Accompanist



Monday, December 8, 2003 8 pm  
Friday, December 12, 2003 8 pm  
Sunday, December 14, 2003 3 pm

Wortham Center – Cullen Theater  
501 Texas St., Houston, Texas

Tickets: \$15 – \$34

By phone: Box Office Tickets:  
800.494.8497

On-line: [www.boxofficetickets.com](http://www.boxofficetickets.com)

More Info: [www.gmch.org](http://www.gmch.org)



all shows 3 pm matinee only

# GMCH

## HOUSTON

# Masterworks CHORUS

Music has the power to change lives for those who sing and for those who listen.

Tickets for this concert are \$15.  
General admission seating.

3131 W. Alabama, Ste. 302  
Houston, TX 77098-2031  
713-529-8900  
713-529-7325 - fax  
[houston@winstarmail.com](mailto:houston@winstarmail.com)

Houston's Largest Independent Chorus -  
Craig Hella Johnson, Music Director

For tickets and other  
information about  
Houston  
Masterworks Chorus,  
please visit our  
website at  
[www.choral.org/hmc](http://www.choral.org/hmc)  
or call 713.529.8900.

### HEAVENLY PEACE

Saturday - December 6, 2003 - 7:30 pm  
Christ United Methodist Church

Sunday - December 7, 2003 - 4:00 pm  
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church



## Gay Men Have Wonderful Relationships (if they know how)

Loving well brings the things we want most: comfort, companionship, fun, happiness, honesty, kindness, loyalty, mutual respect, satisfaction, security, sensuality, sexual fulfillment, understanding, warmth. These workshops will help you have these things.

### Finding the Right Partner, A workshop for single gay men

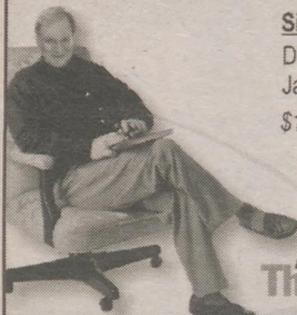
This workshop is designed to teach single gay men to have more successful, lasting, love relationships, and to help them avoid repeating old mistakes. It is also helpful to men who are beginning to date again.

### Loving and Being Loved Well, A workshop for gay couples

This workshop is excellent for enriching established relationships, for new couples who want to ensure the success of their relationships, and for couples who are considering breaking up.

Register for one of these weekend workshops which have helped thousands of gay men find and keep what they want in relationships. Although you will not be pressed into unpleasant or excessive self-disclosure, you will have the fun of meeting others who are taking positive steps toward attaining their dreams of loving and being loved. You'll be served lunch on Saturday and wine and cheese following the Sunday session.

All workshops are Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm. Singles workshops are \$155 per person or \$290 if you bring a friend. Couples workshops are \$290. As space is limited, a deposit and reservations are required.



#### Single Men

December 13 & 14, 2003 or  
January 10 & 11, 2004

\$155 each; \$290 for two

#### Gay Couples

December 6 & 7, 2003 or  
January 24 & 25, 2004

\$290 per couple

For Reservations or More Information

**713-527-0000**

Tony@HoustonTherapist.com

**houston  
Therapist.com**

## TONY CARROLL, LMSW-ACP

1006 Missouri Street, Houston, Texas 77006

## THE Health Club for Montrose

fitness exchange

### Our Trainers Are Waiting For You!

**Yoga &  
Spinning  
Included!**

**713.524.9932**  
**www.FitnessExchange.cc**

## dining J.A. CHAPMAN

Classic deli sandwiches

and bowls of hearty soup

provide respite from holiday shopping

# A tale of two lunches

The busy holiday season is upon us. Juggling shopping and a meal over a midday break can be a challenge. Fortunately, two new lunch spots are here to help.

Tucked in next to the Goodyear Tire shop on Westheimer, near South Shepherd, is the Brown Bag Deli, a new venture from the guys who brought you Barnaby's.

The concept is simple. Grab a brown paper bag with the menu options printed on one side. Build your sandwich by checking the box to indicate your choice of bread, meat, cheese and toppings. Choose sides and a drink if you like, and take the bag to the counter to order.

The ingredients are high quality - Sheila Partin's Sweet Sourdough breads, Boar's Head meats, Cabot cheeses. The sandwiches really live up to expectations.

The turkey sandwich came with a generous serving of meat, crisp lettuce and a ripe tomato slice. The homemade chicken salad was a winner as well. Fresh chunks of chicken with a bit of egg and spices make this a simple and delicious choice.

The sweet sourdough bread works with most meats, but I longed for something more robust for the roast beef sandwich with horseradish sauce. Rustic multigrain bread is available, but you have to know to ask for it.

Vegetarians might want to inquire about the garden burger and Boca burger, also off the menu.

Dessert choices are printed on the bag, but ask if there's anything new, since things change. The tantalizing aroma you are certain to notice comes from the homemade waffle cones ready to be filled with your choice of several Dreyer's ice cream flavors.

Take your lunch to go or dine in at one of the cheery, chrome-sided tables or booths. Linger over a cup of Starbucks coffee while accessing the Internet on the available computers, or bring your own.

All sandwiches are \$3, sides and drinks are \$1, and desserts are \$2. Just don't forget to bring cash or a check, as no credit or debit cards are accepted.

IF YOUR SHOPPING TAKES YOU to the fun and funky stores on 19th Street in the Heights, then stop into Cricket's Creamery & Caffe for a cup of coffee, a scoop of gelato, or a hearty soup for lunch.

Cricket's offers two homemade vegetarian soups daily (\$5.25/pint), one creamy and one broth-based. Served with a slice of Whole Foods bread, the soups come in pint-to-go containers. It's perfect for lunch on the run.

The filling tomato, barley soup has a subtle tomato base, with carrots, mushrooms and loads of barley. It's a hearty choice on a cold day. The creamy potato soup is rich with potato flavor and packs a peppery heat that sneaks up on you. Chunks of potato and cauliflower add more texture than you might expect.

My personal favorite is the tomato vegetable soup. The tomato base is fragrant with

fresh herbs and loaded with carrots, broccoli, peppers, chunks of tomato, and a bit of barley. The soup is strong, vibrant and perfect for a chilly afternoon.

A variety of coffee drinks are available, ranging from \$1.45 for a standard cup of coffee to \$4.45 for the "biggest" caramel mocha latte. The high quality coffee is available in both medium and dark roast.

For a treat, try a scoop of locally made, creamy gelato or crisp sorbet (\$2.35/3.45 small/large). Flavors vary weekly and the quality is always high.

Cricket's is sectioned out of a larger store. The display window has been converted to a seating area, perfect for people watching. The rest of the cafe is an eclectic mix of colors and themes. Magazines and newspapers are available for adults, while small tables and crayons help keep kids busy. Check out the trinkets for sale - you might find that perfect stocking stuffer.

If you find yourself needing a quick lunch during this holiday season, try the Brown Bag Deli or Cricket's Creamery and Caffe. The food is good and the prices are reasonable. You just might have time for a little shopping for yourself.



**BROWN BAG DELI**

2038 Westheimer  
Houston, TX 77098  
713-807-9191

Food: 100101010  
Service: 100101010  
Value: 100101010  
Scene: 1001010



**Cricket's**



**Creamery & Caffe'**

315 W. 19th St.  
Houston, TX 77008  
713-869-9450

Food: 100101010  
Service: 1001010  
Value: 1001010  
Scene: 100101010

☛ = Stay home and eat cereal  
1001010 = Well, if you really must  
100101010 = Fine for all but the finicky  
10010101010 = Worth more than a 20-minute drive  
1001010101010 = As good as you'll find in this city

## out on the bayou

# Reinventing faces, places makes for popular gay TV

CABLE MAKEOVERS, continued from Page 16

cially when it comes to gay sensibilities. But the cable shows with the biggest audiences focus on themes of interior and garden design, another stereotypically gay field of interest.

But designer John Bruce is the newest gay addition to another popular TLC show, "While You Were Out." (The show also features gay designer Mark Montano.) Bruce says that their show, which works with partners and family members to surprise someone with a redesigned room, appeals to a wide audience.

"Before I was part of 'While You Were Out,' I may have fallen into a common misconception that gay people are more drawn to design," Bruce says. "But I am constantly overwhelmed by the diversity of people that are design savvy or interested in what we do."

"Aesthetics used to be relegated to people who are interested in culture, detail and fashion, but it's become much more democratic and widespread," he adds. "It's a cultural progression toward aesthetics, people realizing that your environment affects the way you feel, and maybe gay people paved the way for that in the past."

Bruce credits the mass appeal of design shows to the way the genre "humanizes" redecorating and puts the results within reach of anyone.

"We're not completely buttoned up and perfect," he says. "We're working it out, flying without a net and changing our minds as we go. That's really inspiring to people who can say, 'I can jump in and feel free to experiment. There are no high falutin' rules or a set formula or a secret equation that equals good design.'"

Bruce recently taped an episode in Chicago in which a gay man surprised his partner with a new living room. But they weren't chosen for the show based on their sexual orientation, he says.

"We're happy to represent a cross section of people out there, but we don't say 'Let's find a gay couple or a black couple or whatever,'" Bruce says. "They had a rich story we

could capitalize on where the partner being surprised had made sacrifices to move to Chicago when the other partner got a job. One of the guys was a minister and a choreographer, the other was a vintage television fanatic. So we really look at what's their story and focus on their relationship."

Bruce also helped a lesbian surprise her partner last year.

ULTIMATELY, MAKEOVER SHOWS inspire everyday people, and that may be the genre's biggest appeal, Bruce says.

"I think we encourage people to take the leap on their own, that ordinary folks can have fabulous surroundings," he says. "People can open their eyes and take elements of what they see and improve on their own home."

Kelly from "What Not to Wear" agrees, and he offers a common blunder for everyday Joes and Jo Anns to avoid in the clothes they choose.

"Don't dress like a teenager," Kelly says. "When you no longer have a need for Clearasil, you should stop taking your fashion inspiration from MTV."

For Lee, who was made over for the Dec. 5 episode of "What Not to Wear," the end result of his makeover affected his self image, if not dramatically.

"I was very happy with the results," he says. "It was me, only better. They showed me that I can make choices in the shops I already like and improve on what I've been doing."

### MORE INFO

#### 'What Not To Wear'

Subject: David Lee  
Premieres Dec. 5, 9 p.m., 12 a.m.  
TLC  
<http://tlc.discovery.com>

#### 'While You Were Out'

New episodes Fridays, 4 p.m., 7 p.m.  
TLC

## SCHMERLER AGENCY



Great  
Car  
Insurance!

**713.661.7700**

For Auto, Home, Renters  
Life, Health, Business Insurance  
and much more.

6575 W. Loop South, Ste. 185  
Bellaire, TX 77401  
[www.SchmerlerAgency.com](http://www.SchmerlerAgency.com)

UNWINGED PRODUCTIONS  
presents

Ann C. James  
Chris Jimmerson  
A COMEDY BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG  
**LAUGHING  
WILD**  
In cooperation with Stages Repertory Theatre  
Directed by Rutherford Cravens

**DEC. 5-28 AT STAGES**  
Thursdays at 7:30PM Fridays at 8PM Sundays at 3PM Saturdays at 8 PM  
**\$20 Seniors/Students \$15**  
Stages is at 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh  
Call the Stages box office today at 713.527.0123

Unwinged Productions is funded in part by grants from the City of Houston through the Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County with additional funding provided by the Texas Commission on the Arts Decentralization Program. Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

## THE LOVETT INN

Distinctive Lodging and Catering Accommodations

Call us for your next out-of-town guest!



Historic Accommodations • Corporate Meeting Rooms  
Banquet Facilities • Jacuzzi Suites • Pool/Hot Tub  
Near Downtown, Museums and Medical Center

We do catered events for up to 200 people!

501 Lovett Blvd. Houston, TX 77006

(713) 522-5224 • (800) 779-5224

Fax (713) 528-6708 • [lovettinn.com](http://lovettinn.com)

**YOU'LL LOVE IT!**

# community calendar

**Authentic New York Pizza**  
**FREE Delivery!**  
 From Anthony's Kitchen to your Home!



**Pizza Pasta**  
 We deliver more than pizza!  
**Salads Sandwiches**

**Midtown** (713) 533-1140  
 306 GRAY AT BAGBY

**Galleria Area** (832) 251-0220  
 5727 WESTHEIMER

Indoor/Outdoor/Patio Seating

**NEW YORK PIZZERIA**

[www.nypizzeria.com](http://www.nypizzeria.com)

**GAY FRIENDLY**

celebrate in style

HWFFL presents

**new year's eve stardust**  
 an event for women and their friends  
 december 31st 2003  
**Renaissance Hotel**  
 6 Greenway Plaza East (Edloe and Richmond)

8:30 pm - 1:30 am  
 buffet dinner / dj / dancing / cash bar  
 dress: semi-formal to formal

Tickets available online  
[www.aceva.com/go/NYEve](http://www.aceva.com/go/NYEve)

or call toll-free 866-462-2838  
 limited Pre-sale tickets \$75 until 12.15  
 after 12.15, tickets \$85  
 discounted room rates at the renaissance hotel

A portion of the proceeds will benefit  
 AssistHers and the Montrose Clinic/LHI

## SATURDAY NOV. 22

**SATURDAY Nov. 29 All-Spanish Worship Service/Noche Espiritual** 7 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-861-9149.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SUNDAY NOV. 30

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County.** 502 Church St. Service, 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • New Covenant Christian Church, 10 a.m.-noon • Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF) 2-3 p.m. • S.I.S.T.E.R.S. 3:30-6:30 p.m. • GLOBAL meeting, 6 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## MONDAY DEC. 1

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 1-7 p.m. at the clinic, 215 Westheimer and 3311 Richmond, Suite 100; 4-8 p.m. at Bricks, 617 Fairview; and 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. at O, 710 Pacific. 713-830-3070.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## TUESDAY DEC. 2

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

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at The 611, 611 Hyde Park; and 8 p.m. - midnight at Club Houston, 2205 Fannin. 713-830-3070.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WEDNESDAY DEC. 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## THURSDAY DEC. 4

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

**Free HIV Testing.** Houston Area Community Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. Also 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Gallery Medical Clinic, 5900 North Freeway, and Club Toyz

from 9 p.m.-midnight. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.- midnight at Brazos River Bottom (BRB), 2400 Brazos, atd at Cousins, 817 Fairview, and 4 -8 p.m. at All-Star News, 3415 Katy Freeway. 713-830-3000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop in 2-9 p.m. • "Mending and Stitching," 2 p.m. • Montrose Writers Project 7-9 p.m. • PFLAG Houston Board Meeting 7-9 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## FRIDAY DEC. 5

**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. 1-5 p.m. at the clinic, 215 Westheimer and 3311 Richmond, Suite 100; 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto; 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. at The Meatrack, 2915 San Jacinto; 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. at Midtown Spa, 3100 Fannin; 10 a.m. - 1 a.m. at E.J.'s, 2517 Ralph. 713-830-3070.

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Women's Game Night 7:30-9:30 p.m. • In Our Own Write (Poetry Night) 8-10 p.m.; 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

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

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

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

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

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

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

appts

MONDAY, DEC. 1

Gay Diverse Works Artspace, the Dominic Walsh Theater and Hope Stone Dance present The Illumintion Project, a benefit performance for HIV/AIDS, at 7:30 p.m. on the Diverse Works stage, 1117 Interstate 10 at North Main. Specific beneficiaries include the Pediatric AIDS Initiative of Baylor College of Medicine and A Caring Safe Place. The performance will culminate with a candle-lighting ceremony in honor of people with AIDS. Tickets are \$35, and memory candles are \$25. 713-526-1907.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

The AIDS Housing Coalition invites the public to tour the West Heights Shelter, the last emergency shelter in Houston for people with AIDS. The shelter will be open after noon, and those who stop by will have the opportunity to make donations to help keep the shelter open. Call for directions, 713-864-1795.

A giant AIDS ribbon made of poinsettias, speeches by four people living with HIV/AIDS and a candlelight vigil will highlight a program sponsored by the Houston Department of Health and Human Services to observe World AIDS Day. The ceremony, from 5-7 p.m. will take place in downtown Houston at Jones Plaza, 600 Louisiana 713-558-9638.



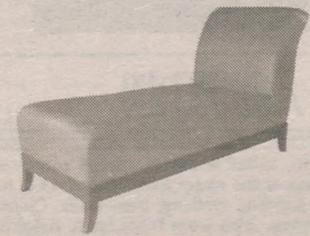
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

Theatre New West opens "The Eight: Reindeer Monologues" by Jeff Goode with a special performance at 8 p.m. benefiting the Center For AIDS Hope and Remembrance Project. Tickets for the benefit are \$20. The play centers around Santa's dysfunctional herd of reindeer. Is Cupid the only gay reindeer? Is Vixen really a porn queen? Could Blitzen be a lesbian? And, who accused Mrs. Claus of sexual harassment? The play runs through Dec. 21, and the theater is located at 1415 California St. 713-263-1611.

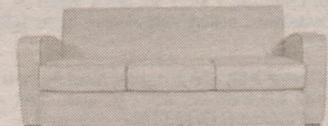
get your style



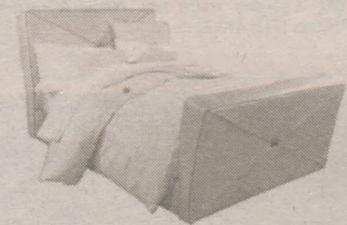
OVERSTOCKED  
SAVE UP TO 40%  
FINAL WEEK



Any Style



Any Leather



Any Color

WWW.URBAN-LEATHER.COM

"Urban Leather  
Redefines Style"

Houston Design  
Resource Magazine



S. RICE AVE. @ WESTPARK  
713.432.7632  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77081

Visit The World's  
Largest Clogstore



theclogstore.com

1-800-948-CLOG

3701 S. Macgregor, Medical Center

Glamorous Tudor 1.2 acres on the Ravine, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths over 5000 square feet, custom updates, high ceilings, faux finishes, designer kitchen, stainless steel appliances, master suite w/loft. Open Sunday 1-4pm.



Womack Development Realtors  
713-523-7402

# CLASSIFIEDS

## SALE / HOUSTON



## RENT / HOUSTON

**CHARMING, QUIET & SMALL.** Gated community located across the street from beautiful T.C. Jester Park. Jogging, walking, bike trails. Close to the 610 Loop. Mins from Downtown, Heights & Galleria areas. Reserved prkg. Call (713) 681-8004 for details on our move-in specials!

**EASTWOOD** edition located off 45' South. Short commute to UofH or Med Center. Lrg 2 BR, 1 BA, deh & formal DR, hdwd flr, built-in bookshelves. Bottom story of renov home. \$650/mo. (713) 923-2621.

**EASTWOOD** Large 3 BR, 1BA bungalow, hdwd flrs, new kit & new bath, new appliances incl WD, CAC, quiet street across from church. \$1,000/mo. (713) 899-1409.

**HEIGHTS** Lrg 1 BR, 1 BA, hdwds, CAC, fresh paint. \$690/mo. Call Sean, (281) 380-0438. 1 mo FREE w/ 2 yr lease!

**MONTROSE 305 AVONDALE** 2 BR, 2.5 BA, very cute, great location. WD, 2 parking, ceiling fans, central AC, courtyard, patio. \$1,150/mo. (713) 410-7215.

**RENT IT FAST** with our new features. Draw attention to your ad by using our **bold** or box feature. Contact our customer service reps for more details. (877) 863-1885.

**STUDIO APARTMENT** Heights area efficiency, garage apt. Minutes to downtown, Montrose and Galleria. Access to yard, WD, storage space. Quiet neighborhood, near bus. \$450/mo plus utilities. (713) 476-9193.

## SHARE / HOUSTON

**MONTROSE AREA GM, share furn 2 BR apt, \$275/mo. Leave call back (713) 521-1712.**

**NEAR 610 / NORTH** Seeking gay single male to share 2 BR, 2 BA home in quiet neighborhood. \$450/mo + 1/2 utils. Furnished, no pets, no smokers, \$100 dep. REFERENCES REQ. (713) 957-3878. bigjock2@aol.com.

## COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

**ANNOUNCE YOUR UNION** The Houston Voice is proud to announce the addition of a "Commitment Ceremonies" category to our Classified listings. When making arrangements for your Union, don't forget to include the most important aspect of all...announcing the date. Publishing your union is easy & simple. Call (877) 863-1885 ext 223 to put the finishing touches on your ceremony.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITES

**BUSINESS FOR SALE** Large gay bar in Reno, NV. 15 owned slot machines. Stage, lights & sound. 29 years. BEST BUSINESS BKG (800) 208-9021. www.bbbreno.com.

Visit [houstonvoice.com](http://houstonvoice.com) to place your ad. Up to 25 words only \$12.50 per week. 50¢ each additional word. Fax toll-free 1.888.409.6768, or call toll-free 1.877.863.1885

## TRAVEL / INTERNATIONAL

**GAYRIBBEAN CRUISES IS SAILING FROM GALVESTON IN 2004**

✓Spring Fling Cruise April 25-May 2.

✓Grand Princess Cruise December 04-11.

Call or go on-line for rates & info (888) 813-9947

[www.GayibbeanCruises.com](http://www.GayibbeanCruises.com).

**SANTO DOMINGO CONDO** Dominican Republic, 2 BR, 1 BA, Caribbean breakfast, daily maid, 7 nights get r/t airport transfer & beach tour. (939) 630-7072. [www.santo-domingo-gay-tourism.com](http://www.santo-domingo-gay-tourism.com).

## TRAVEL / U.S.A.

**DC GuestHouse** Elegant Victorian mansion built in 1867. Logan/Convention Center location. Bks away from world class dining & diverse entertainment. Gay owned & operated. (202) 332-2502 [www.dcguesthouse.com](http://www.dcguesthouse.com)

**HILTON HEAD, SC** Planning to relocate? Need a vacation? Make your plans now to come to beautiful beaches of Hilton Head, South Carolina. Long term rentals or limited short term rentals. See some of our property listings at <http://homelistings.tripod.com/>. Feel free to send inquiries to [Melroselongterm@aol.com](mailto:Melroselongterm@aol.com).

**KEY WEST** Call me for best deal on renting a luxury townhouse in gated community in old town. (202) 607-4178.

**LOST RIVER, WEST VIRGINIA** The Guest House at Lost River. 2 hrs Beltway. Premium accommodations in a cozy country-style B&B setting. Quietly secluded, private & bordering the million-acre George Washington National Forest, this mini-resort offers a continuous atmosphere of tranquility & absolute peace while in a luxurious setting. Our main lodge, w/ over 4,000 sq ft of common area, is constructed of log & cedar w/ an enormous 19-foot tall stone fireplace. Guest will always find a nook or cranny to enjoy a cozy place to cuddle, relax & enjoy the space to yourself. Amenities incl.: heated pool; outdoor jacuzzi, indoor subterranean stone & tile grotto w/ 10 person spa & 8-person steam room, new fitness center, ACE-Certified Personal Trainer by appt, massage therapy room, licensed therapist on staff, facials & tanning. Dinner Saturdays. (304) 897-5707. E-mail: [guesthse@hardynet.com](mailto:guesthse@hardynet.com) Web page: [www.guesthouseatlostriver.com](http://www.guesthouseatlostriver.com)

**MOOSE MEADOW LODGE** Vermont log home, Waterbury. Gay-owned, luxurious Adirondack-style B&B on 86 acres. Premier site for civil unions & romantic getaways. (802) 244-5378.

[www.moosemeadowlodge.com](http://www.moosemeadowlodge.com)

## NEARBY GETAWAYS

**GALVESTON ISLAND GETWAY** Fabulous selection of beachfront, beachside, & bayfront homes. Weekly & weekend rentals. Sand N' Sea Pirates Beach. Call (800) 880-2554 for a free brochure or visit [www.sandnsea.com](http://www.sandnsea.com) for photos, info & weekend specials.

**SOUTH BEACH, FL. ISLAND HOUSE.** Be in the middle of the sexiest strip at SoBe's largest gay guesthouse. Rooms/studios. Complimentary breakfast & weekend happy hour! Walk to gay beach, hot nightlife, the finest shopping & dining. 1428 Collins Ave. (800) 382-2422.

[www.islandhousesouthbeach.com](http://www.islandhousesouthbeach.com)

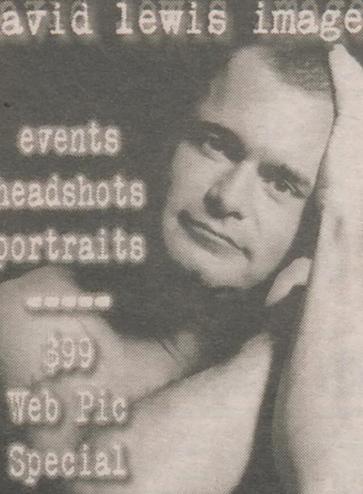
UNBELIEVABLE

[houstonvoice.com](http://houstonvoice.com)



# PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**david lewis images**



events  
headshots  
portraits

Web Pic Special

713.240.5508

www.davidlewisimages.com

**SHAWN PENN**  
AT THE ROMAN

"Hairstyles for the Civilized World"  
(713) 864-1200  
Tuesday-Saturday • By Appointment Only!  
2602 Whitney • Houston, TX 77006  
www.shawnpenn.com



**\$6,000 OFF ALL CORVETTES!**  
*From a Cadillac to a Corvette  
I can get you there!*

Ask for Pete Ramirez  
(281) 342-4200



• best pricing anywhere  
• GLBT Friendly

**if your hair isn't  
BECOMING to you, then  
you should BE COMING to me.**

**DON GILL  
STUDIO 911**  
713-521-0911  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

**Bartenders for all Occasions**  
Catering to all your Holiday needs  
"No Party too Large or too Small"

For more information call  
832-607-5892 business  
832-228-3971 cell

**Jerry W. Simoneaux, Jr.**  
attorney at law  
713-227-1717  
Legal Protection for  
GLBT Families  
Houston, Texas  
law.Simoneaux.com  
Not Certified, Texas Board of Legal Specialization




**THE TIRE PLACE**  
Inc.

- Alignment
- Brakes



1307 Fairview  
(3 blocks west of Montrose)  
713-529-1414

**WELLER & RYGIEL**  
CONSTRUCTION

415 Fairview St. • Houston, TX 77006  
Contact Richard Weller at  
832.867.0391

- SERVICES •

Remodeling: Interior and exterior.  
Additions: Any kind of room added  
to your home.  
New Construction: New buildings  
of any kind, home, garage, etc.

FREE ESTIMATES

Commercial and Residential  
No Job Too Small



**Alignments**  
**Brakes**

2314 Washington  
713-880-4747

Dr. Quan V. Nguyen D.C.  
**WESTHEIMER CHIROPRACTIC**

**FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION**  
\$30 Chiropractic Adjustments

713.627.PAIN (7246)  
3535 Westheimer Suite 218

Offering treatments for: Wellness Care, Back & Neck Aches, Nutrition (Vitamins & Herbs), Auto Injury, Head Aches, Sports Injuries & Carpal Tunnel

**Tell them  
you found them  
in the Directory!**

**Support our Advertisers!**

**Ryan Fugate**  
RMT, NMT, II RMT  
Therapeutic Massage  
& Bodywork



713-269-7926

**MASSAGE**  
MIND • BODY • SOUL

- Swedish
- Deep Tissue
- Relaxation
- Montrose Location

**JOEL 713.397.8808**  
RMT 34440



**MASSAGE** Back From New York!  
*by rail*

Nationally Certified Massage Therapist  
7 Days A Week, Days/Early Evenings  
Recommended 1.5 Hours...\$75.00  
1 Hour.....\$60.00

**20% DISCOUNT ON FIRST TIME VISIT**  
713-527-0400 or 832-524-7700

**A MAN'S TOUCH**

Ultimate Swedish Massage for Today's Business Man. Single & Tandem "4 Hands" Massage. Body Waxing & Body Cuts Available!

**MALE LOPEZ**  
281-844-7456  
and associate  
**KENTON LITTLE**  
832-577-2905

mlopez@wt.net

**MASSAGE**  
Full Body Relaxation  
manmassage.net

**713.942.2399**

- Montrose Location
- 7 days/evenings
- Visa/Mastercard
- Outcalls welcome



Roland

Relax... you've got

**Rubs by Ron**  
Full-body Swedish Massage  
& Reflexology by Licensed Therapist

**(713) 524-8692**

By appointment only, 24 Hours notice please.  
Leave full name and phone number. MT03505.

**REWARD YOURSELF**  
A NICE TOUCH/RELAXATION  
OF BODY AND MIND BY

**LEE**

**832 978-7017**  
CENTRALLY LOCATED  
7 DAYS/EVENINGS  
OUTCALLS WELCOME



**Get results! Call now at 713.529.8490 to place your ad in the directory!**

## astrology JILL DEARMAN



Uranus and Neptune  
are stirring up passions  
so, put romance back in your life.

### Get off the couch, Libra!

**♈ Aries (March 21 to April 20):** Uranus will be traveling with Neptune through your house of friends during most of December, which means you need to shake up some of your platonic relationships. Make 'em shine again, darling. Instead of complaining that no one calls you anymore, why don't you pick up the phone? A Pisces needs you!

**♉ Taurus (April 21 to May 20):** It's hard for you to figure out where a relationship with an Aries is meant to go. Instead of trying so hard to control it, put some of that fierce energy of yours into letting go of the reins. Let a lover come to you with an offer you can't refuse. When you stop trying so hard, you start getting what you want.

**♊ Gemini (May 21 to June 21):** Uranus moves forward in your house of teaching and learning, so use that clever mind of yours to improve humanity, not just your bank account. A little altruism by day leads to a little decadence by night with a do-gooder Pisces who sure knows how to do you good.

**♋ Cancer (June 22 to July 22):** Mercury hooks up with Venus in your house of love and makes it impossible for you to hide your feelings for an Aries. Good! Your little acts of self-protection have turned into little acts of deception lately. Better to reveal your heart and risk getting it broken than to keep a relationship at the same tedious, superficial level. Stop treading water, darling.

**♌ Leo (July 23 to August 22):** This is the right time for you to get more involved in the arts, Leo - not just by supporting other people's creative talents, but by exhibiting your own to the world. When did you get so humble? It doesn't suit you. A Cancer wants to run your PR campaign.

**♍ Virgo (August 23 to September 22):** Jupiter is still on your side, darling, and so is a Capricorn. Your goal this month should be to figure out who is helping you reach your goals and who is standing in the way of them - and not just your material goals. Stop wasting time on people who only want to waste your time!

**♎ Libra (September 23 to October 22):** Uranus and Neptune are stirring up the passionate part of your nature, Libra. It's time to be laid back no

more - especially if you want to get laid by a sexy and spontaneous Gemini. Get off your couch and get back into the social swing. You have grown bored with yourself. Put the romance back in your life.

**♏ Scorpio (October 23 to November 21):** This is a light-hearted time for you, Scorpio, so enjoy it, don't destroy it. You don't have to get involved in all the social dramas going on around you. Laugh at the silliness of your hysterical friends, and indulge in fun and mischief with a Gemini.

**♐ Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21):** It's easy to blow up at the people around you during this intense Plutonian cycle, Sag. But why not look in the mirror and ask how you can improve yourself? And I don't mean cosmetically! (You know you're sexy just as you are, darling.) A Cancer won't settle for you flying on auto-pilot. Why should you?

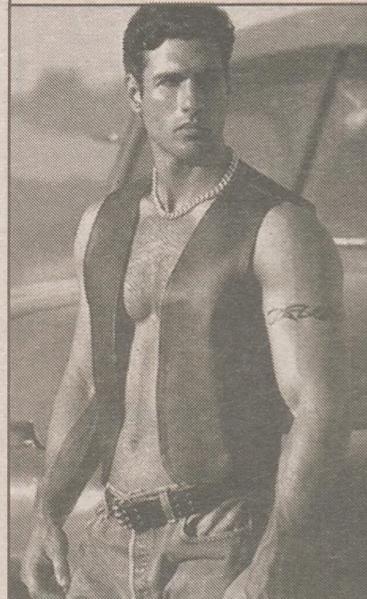
**♑ Capricorn (December 22 to January 19):** You are so close to getting what you want from your relationship and you can't even see it! Look at your priorities, Capricorn. You have put too much emphasis on material things and on work, work, and more work. Spend some meaningful time with the people who matter most to you. A Sagittarius needs you.

**♒ Aquarius (January 20 to February 18):** This is a hot time for your pet projects, my pet. Do some self-promotion to get your ideas out there. Once again, you have tapped into the collective unconscious. Pursue your dream with passion. A Sagittarius will help you make it come true.

**♓ Pisces February 19 to March 20):** Your career clicks into overdrive in December, dear Pisces. Some of your social activities will have to move to the back burner. You have deadlines to meet. A Libra will work with your schedule, not against it. For once, ask people to accommodate you instead of the other way around.

**@** 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.

*"Been Rear-Ended?  
We Can Assist You!"*



Highline Body Repair  
& Collision Service

State of the Art Technology

FREE ESTIMATES

We support the Gay &  
Lesbian Community

**Sudden Impact**

COLLISION CENTERS

Call us at 713.520.9696 or visit us at 106 W. Gray in Houston  
[www.suddenimpactcollision.net](http://www.suddenimpactcollision.net)

A new  
medium for  
advertising  
is right under  
your nose.

**HOUSTON  
VOICE**



**PSYCHIC READINGS BY MIA**

- Aura Reading
- Dream Analysis
- Palm Reading
- Astrology
- Tarot Cards
- Crystal Readings
- Love/Relationships

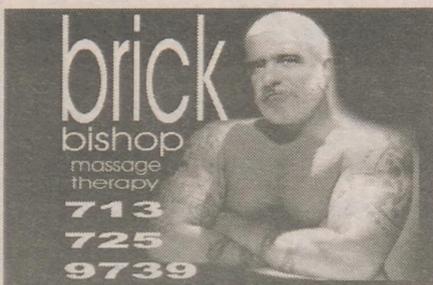
She will channel positive  
Energy into your life.

Private/Confidential Readings.

**713-664-9388**

Call NOW for an Appointment!

# DIRECTORY



**brick**  
bishop  
massage  
therapy  
713  
725  
9739

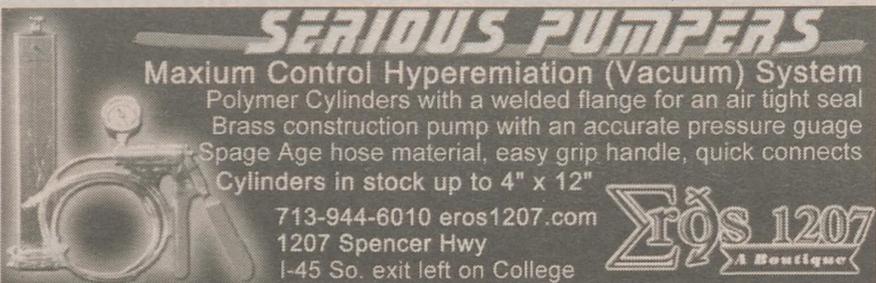


**FOR MEN ONLY**  
Professional  
Full Body Massage  
For Total Relaxation  
& Pain Relief  
Call **LUIGI**  
281 804-8027  
7 days a week • Day & Evenings • Outcalls Welcome  
MT 027249 • Galleria Area



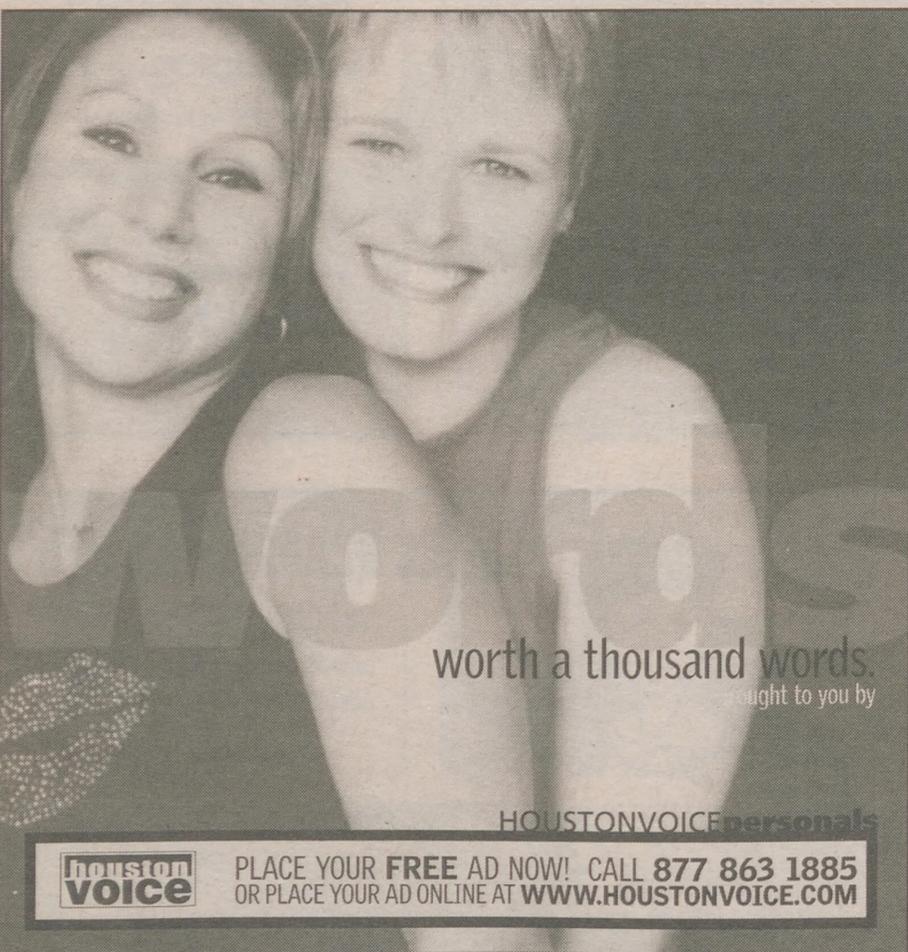
**rob**  
morgan  
massage therapy  
713-899-9526  
#TR37934

**Tell them  
you found them  
in the Directory!**  
Support our Advertisers!

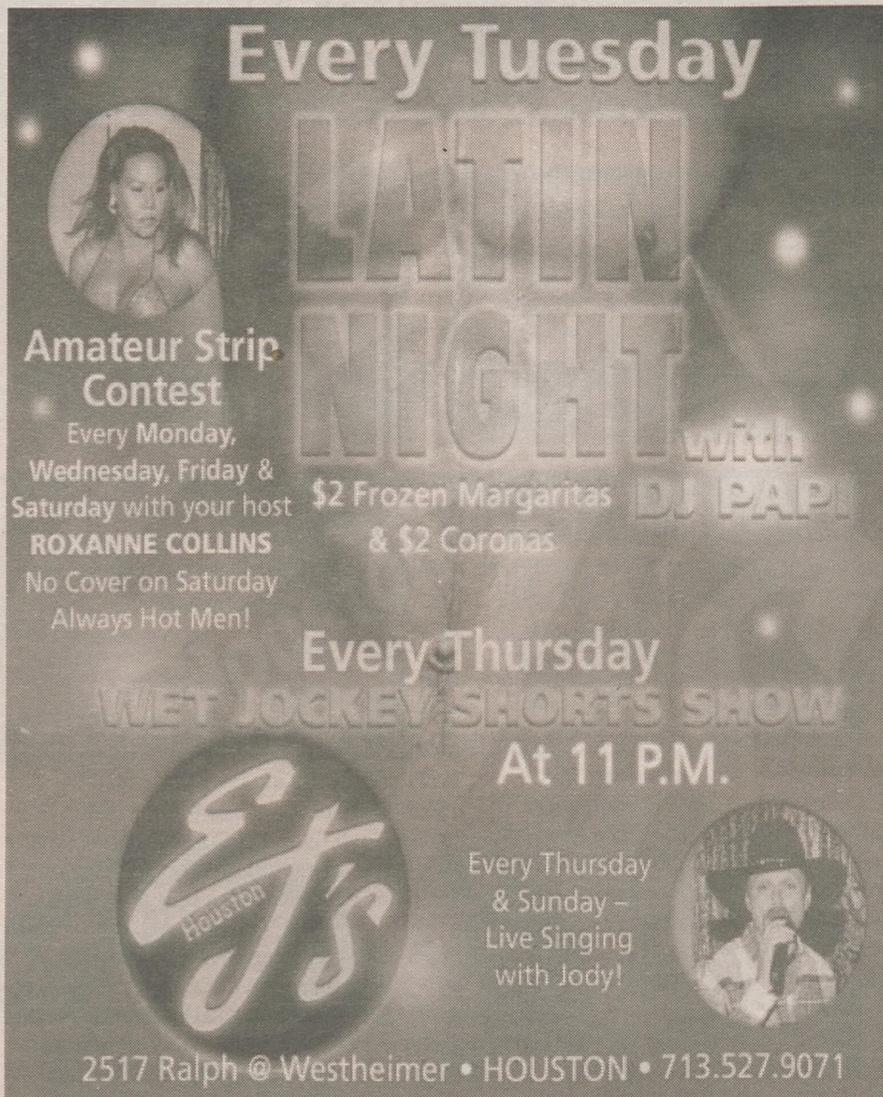


**SERIOUS PUMPERS**  
Maxium Control Hyperemiation (Vacuum) System  
Polymer Cylinders with a welded flange for an air tight seal  
Brass construction pump with an accurate pressure guage  
Spage Age hose material, easy grip handle, quick connects  
Cylinders in stock up to 4" x 12"  
713-944-6010 eros1207.com  
1207 Spencer Hwy  
I-45 So. exit left on College  
**Eros 1207**  
A Boutique

**Get results! Call 713.529.8490  
to place your ad in the directory!**



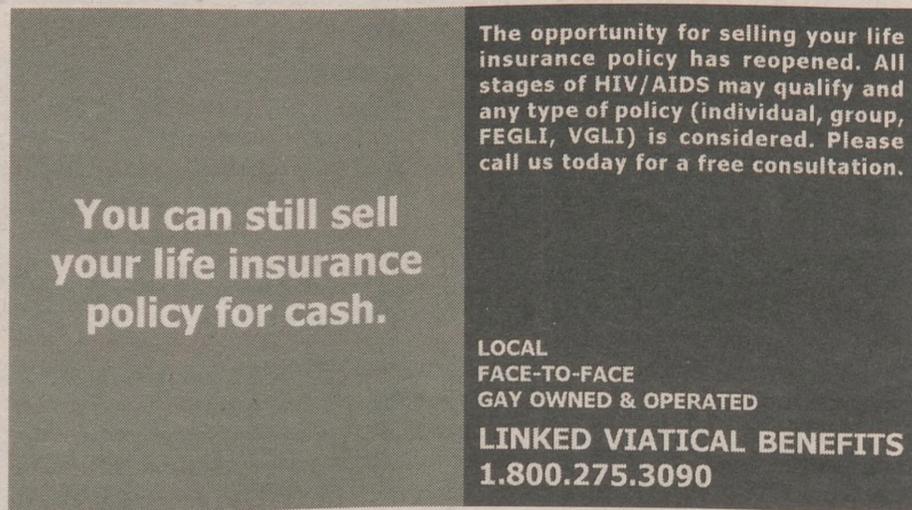
worth a thousand words.  
brought to you by  
HOUSTONVOICEpersonals  
**houston voice** PLACE YOUR **FREE** AD NOW! CALL 877 863 1885  
OR PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT [WWW.HOUSTONVOICE.COM](http://WWW.HOUSTONVOICE.COM)



**Every Tuesday**  
**LATIN NIGHT** with DJ PAPA  
**Amateur Strip Contest**  
Every Monday,  
Wednesday, Friday &  
Saturday with your host **ROXANNE COLLINS**  
No Cover on Saturday  
Always Hot Men!  
\$2 Frozen Margaritas & \$2 Coronas  
**Every Thursday**  
**WET JOCKEY SHORTS SHOW**  
At 11 P.M.  
Every Thursday  
& Sunday -  
Live Singing  
with Jody!  
2517 Ralph @ Westheimer • HOUSTON • 713.527.9071



**\$9.95 CLOTHING CLOSEOUT \$7.95 \$19.95**  
Label Names Like **Greg Parry, L'Homme, Parks & more!**  
**DISCOUNTS ON LEATHER!**  
**DISCOUNTS ON FETISH!**  
October - November!  
**Eros 1207** A Boutique  
713-944-6010  
Open 10 a.m. - Midnight  
1207 Spencer Hwy • So Houston, TX 77587  
I-45 south, College exit, right 2 miles to Spencer & Allen Genoa



**You can still sell  
your life insurance  
policy for cash.**  
The opportunity for selling your life insurance policy has reopened. All stages of HIV/AIDS may qualify and any type of policy (individual, group, FEGLI, VGLI) is considered. Please call us today for a free consultation.  
LOCAL  
FACE-TO-FACE  
GAY OWNED & OPERATED  
**LINKED VIATICAL BENEFITS**  
1.800.275.3090



# PASSION

give into it

at the worlds largest gay adult entertainment website  
**WWW.BADPUPPY.COM**  
 THE INNOVATOR! Continuously Online Since 1995

# queerasfolk

## Season 3



**Reserve your DVD or VHS copy today!**

Be the first to place an order for Queer As Folk Season 3. This is a prebook item and you will not be charged until your order ships on 2/24/04.

**888-910-7372 10percent.com**



### The Lion's Den

*Christmas Special!*  
*Give yourself a gift!!*

Dan and/or David  
 Sometimes the "Cubs"  
 available for appointments

**(713) 529-1090**



### FRIENDLY

- Body Builder
- 6', 235#
- Well Endowed
- Massage
- Stripping

**Joseph**  
**281.687.3735**

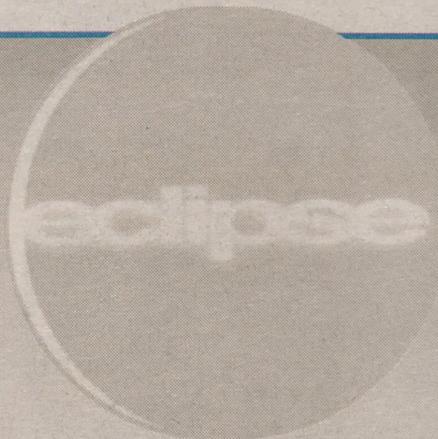
### BARELY LEGAL

MALE OR SHE-MALE ESCORTS

**713-526-1531**

IN/OUT CALLS • 24-7  
 HOTEL • RESIDENCE • OFFICE

www.BarelyLegalEscorts.com  
 Selectively Hiring




### Jay

EROTIC Rubdowns  
 38y/o, 6ft, 198lbs  
 Hairy chest and abs  
 (clipped close)  
 SPECIAL Daytime rates

VERSATILE bottom  
 in/out calls  
**281.468.9607**

### ESCORTS

TONY-MONTROSE AREA. In/Out. Versatile.  
 Tony (281) 434-7188

VERY HANDSOME!  
 Masculine, Muscular, 32y.o.,  
 5'9", 44"-chest, 31"-waist, 175lbs.  
 Sculpted Physique.  
 (713) 480-0231.

EVAN - Tops the Galleria. Private & Discrete. Credit Cards  
 accepted. 24-hours. (713) 629-8611.

### BODYWORK

HOT SCOTT Sensual rubdowns by muscle stud. In/out.  
 Noon-midnight. (713) 524-8692.

### SERVICES

GAY GIFTS ONLINE  
 cafeexpress.com/gayspirit  
 www.rainbowprod.com/bilbo

WWW.SQUIRT.ORG  
 Places to meet guys for sex in Houston.

### Brad

- Young College Student
- Massage/Model
- In/Out - 24/7

**281-658-1199**



Come in and enjoy  
 a soothing and relaxing  
 massage by two  
 young guys!  
 You will not  
 be disappointed!  
 Call for an appointment.



Michael Jason  
**832-605-7596**

**THE PRIMARY SOURCE BOOK FOR GAY MEN**

**Don't miss our 11th annual Men We Love December issue**

11TH ANNUAL MEN WE LOVE ISSUE

# GENRE

HOW WE LIVE

**FALLING FOR  
GRAHAM  
NORTON  
PLUS**

MARC SHAIMAN  
SCOTT WITTMAN  
MERCÉ CUNNINGHAM  
JOHN RECHY  
MARK LENO  
ESERA TUAOLO

**96**  
OF THE BEST THINGS  
TO GIVE (OR RECEIVE)

**MUSICIANS A LA MODE**  
APRES-SKI ACTION  
**VOULEZ-VOUS PARTY?**

DECEMBER 2003 • NO. 123  
\$4.95 / \$6.95 CANADA



0 71896 49370 2

GENREMAGAZINE.COM



**ENRE** SUBSCRIBE NOW AND DON'T MISS AN ISSUE

**CALL 1.888.576.9933 AND GET 1 YEAR FREE**

Two years for the price of one - that's 20 issues for only \$19.95