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Call him Dr. Ruth
Why is this gay man telling straight couples how to have better sex?
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SEPTEMBER 2, 2005

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NEW ORLEANS: 'Keep us in your prayers.' Page 7



The popular gay festival Southern Decadence set in New Orleans and planned for this Labor Day weekend was scrapped in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which one conservative group is already attributing to God's wrath over the 'wicked' gay event, held annually in the Big Easy. (Photo by William Luther/AP)

Katrina casualties include gay Southern Decadence

'Wicked' party blamed for destruction in New Orleans

By **ANDREW KEEGAN**

With winds topping 140 miles per hour as it roared ashore Aug. 29, Hurricane Katrina devastated portions of the Gulf Coast and New Orleans. Early news reports indicated that the French Quarter, home to many of the gay bars in New Orleans, would be spared from catastrophic damage.

But subsequent levee breaks along Lake Pontchartrain flooded the city that traditionally would be gearing up to host thousands of mostly

gay men celebrating Labor Day weekend.

In addition to flooded streets, a lack of fresh water and no electricity, New Orleans Councilmember Jackie Clarkson told the Associated Press on Wednesday that the French Quarter has been "attacked" and "looting is out of control."

In light of recent events, the city's 34th annual Southern Decadence festival was cancelled Aug. 31, according to one of the event's organizers, Johnny Chisholm.

The celebration, which began as a Labor Day party among friends 34 years ago, was expected to draw more than 100,000 participants from Aug. 30 to Sept. 5.

Please see **KATRINA** on Page 7



Soprano **Camille Zamora** returns to Houston Sept. 17 for 'Sing for Hope: An Evening of Art Songs & Arias' benefiting Bering Omega Community Services.

Camille Zamora returns for 'Art Songs and Arias'

A stint of volunteering at Omega House has brought Camille Zamora back to Houston on a mission of hope

By **RICH ARENSCHIEDT**

EASTMAN AND JULLIARD EDUCATED SOPRANO CAMILLE Zamora has been hailed by Opera Magazine as "a singer blessed with intense communicative ability who blazes with passion." Her credits include appearances with the London Symphony Orchestra and at the Spoleto Festival and Glimmerglass Opera.

Please see **SINGING** on Page 22



Local life
Since he he was a teen, **Sean Hawkins'** mission has been Saving Animals. **PAGE 8**

dish
Speaking of desperate, **Marcia Cross** is wearing a guy's engagement ring. **PAGE 17**



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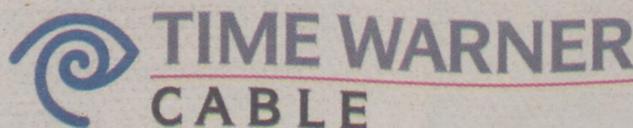
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local news

A gay helping hand for evacuees from Hurricane Katrina

Gays and lesbians in Houston are looking for ways to help refugees from New Orleans

By BINNIE FISHER

Gay Houston resident John Szewczyk admits it may not be politically correct to say so, but in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, "We need to take care of our own."

For that reason, Szewczyk has organized a meeting at 7 p.m. Friday at E.J.'s, 2517 Ralph, to coordinate a relief effort for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender refugees from the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, particularly that which took place in New Orleans.

"I'm just sort of putting out feelers to see what kind of committees we can set up," he said. "We need to do what we can to help our sister community. They have all provided many of us with great times at Southern Decadence, Mardi Gras and for vacations."

As Szewczyk was planning his meeting, agencies in Houston that serve gay and lesbian clients were stepping up to help out.

When officials in New Orleans issued a mandatory evacuation order prior to the landfall of Hurricane Katrina, tens of thousands of those evacuees ended up in Houston, in hotels, in shelters or housed with relatives and friends.

On Wednesday, as Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco ordered the citizens of New Orleans who had ridden out the storm to get out of the flood ravaged city, many



Starlight by the Park, a gay bar near the French Quarter, was damaged by Hurricane Katrina and the ensuing flood waters. (Photo courtesy of C.W. Stambaugh)

more refugees were expected in Houston.

Officials of the Montrose Counseling Center announced Wednesday that a special group counseling session has been set up for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender refugees from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

The session, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6, at the center, 701 Richmond, will cover the grief, stress and fear that accompany the aftermath of a catastrophe like Hurricane Katrina.

In addition, the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston will be available to provide refugees with information regarding services in Houston.

At the Montrose Clinic and the Assistance Fund, officials announced on Wednesday that they would make every effort to provide medical and medication assistance to those living with HIV/AIDS who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Clinic officials said it is crucial for continuity of care to be maintained for those who have been displaced by Katrina and who are living with HIV/AIDS.

"It is important to provide individuals displaced by Katrina access to health care services and medications they require," noted Montrose Clinic Executive Director Katy Caldwell. "We estimate the need for services to be great and will make every effort to provide assistance."

Eric Roland, the clinic's education director, added, "The Education Department will offer free rapid HIV testing to those individuals who do not have proof of HIV status so that they can get into care as quickly as possible."

The clinic has set up an evacuee emergency hot-line at 713-830-3047.

Szewczyk said he is hoping to find someone who can act as a coordinator for medical referrals.

Some medical records lost

"A coordinator in the medical field or who is familiar with the overall HIV/AIDS medical system in Houston will be invaluable," he said.

In many cases, he fears the medical records of evacuees could be lost if they

obtained care from physicians in small clinics in New Orleans.

Other agencies with announced plans for helping Katrina evacuees include Bering Omega Community Services and the Houston GLBT Community Center.

At Bering Omega Community Services, Director of Resource Development Fiona Dawson said, the organization is offering health care to those with HIV/AIDS and will host "drop-off" sites at the residential hospice (602 Branard) and the Adult Day Care Center (1429 Hawthorne) for anyone to bring donations for the hurricane victims.

Bering Omega is specifically collecting personal grooming items such as shampoo, soap, lotion, tooth brushes and toothpaste, and also linens, towels, sheets, pillows, as well as miscellaneous items like towelettes, children diapers, and bottled water.

Hours at the care center are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 24 hours a day at Omega House.

The Houston GLBT Community Center is also mobilizing to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

"The Houston GLBT Community Center is committed to assisting with the local response to the overwhelming need," said center president Christopher Bown said. "The Community Center frequently works in collaboration with other community groups, and we are involved in discussions with groups right now about working together on efforts that will complement other worthwhile efforts in our community."

Bown said the center, at 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207, expects to provide a number of services including offering meeting space, for community groups delivering assistance, a place for displaced persons from hurricane affected states, phone and internet access for displaced persons, a place for information exchange, a possible web-based effort to disseminate information regarding housing and employment and a base for the organization of fundraising events.

Szewczyk said he has spent many hours researching what in addition to medical care the refugees are likely to need. He said he has found several areas where Houston can be of assistance, and

he's hoping the meeting will produce an individual to chair a committee in each of those areas.

He said his research revealed that in addition to medical care, evacuees will need help with housing, access to service providers, communication and access to government agencies.

Needs will be great

Szewczyk said after the meeting, other needs could be identified.

"We want to form a support system for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters who have nowhere to go," he said. "These people will need help. Some of the refugees will only have the clothes on their backs. We need to be able to access organizations that can help with clothing, food assistance and also networking for them to get FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and other types of aid."

By Wednesday morning, Szewczyk said, he had already heard from others who are concerned about gay evacuees.

"I'm already getting offers from people who have places to stay," he said. "Hopefully after Friday, we'll have someone who can head up a housing committee."

By late Wednesday morning, Houston city officials confirmed that New Orleans evacuees who had been housed at the Super Dome would be transferred to the Houston Astrodome. Red Cross officials said they have planned for 23,000 evacuees to be housed in the Astrodome.

While he was glad to hear that storm refugees living in deplorable conditions at the New Orleans facility would be able to come to the Astrodome, where they would have hot meals, hot showers, air conditioning and toilets that work, Szewczyk said, group housing doesn't always work for gays.

"Being a gay person housed in a tent city with a bunch of rednecks is not going to be that much fun," he said. "When you've lost everything, you don't need to worry about your sexual orientation or your HIV status being revealed."

When the meeting gets underway on Friday, he said he plans to ask, "Can a gay evacuation shelter be set up somewhere until we can get these people settled?"

A coordinator familiar with government agencies is needed, Szewczyk said, because in some cases, residency requirements may have to be waived in order for evacuees to be eligible to receive services.

A communications coordinator is needed, he said, because, "Many of these people will need computer access as well as telephone access. They will need to communicate with family and friends. A list of people or organizations who can offer computer time will be of great help as well as donations of phone cards." John Szewczyk.

A disabled gay man with HIV, Szewczyk said, he can empathize with Katrina's victims. His apartment was flooded during Tropical Storm Allison.

"I had a foot of water in my apartment," he said. "That was traumatic enough, but it was nothing compared to this."

i MORE INFO

Help for Katrina evacuees

Planning Meeting
7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2
E.J.'s
2517 Ralph

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston
713-529-9211

Montrose Counseling Center
Group Session for Evacuees
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 6
701 Richmond
METRO Routes 25 and 34
www.montrosecounselingcenter.org

Montrose Clinic and Assistance Fund
Emergency hotline
713-830-3047
www.montrosecclinic.org

Bering Omega Community Services
www.beringomega.org

Houston GLBT Community Center
713-524-3818
www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org

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- Most Interesting / Diverse Crowd _____
- Special Night / Party _____
- New Bar / Club _____

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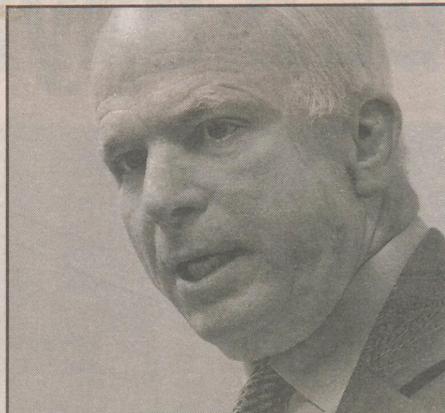
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national news

McCain backs Ariz. amendment to ban gay marriage

PHOENIX (AP) — More than a year before the general election, U.S. Sen. John McCain is backing an initiative that would change Arizona's Constitution to ban gay marriages and deny government benefits to unmarried couples. The Republican senator is the most prominent Arizonan to add his voice to what has become a flurry of measures competing for a place on the state's Nov. 7, 2006, ballot. A McCain staffer said it was the first time the senator had been formally asked to support the marriage amendment and the first chance he had to meet with supporters. The amendment "would allow the people of Arizona to decide on the definition of marriage in our state," McCain said in a statement last week. McCain, who opposes a federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, believes those are state matters.



U.S. Senator John McCain, a potential Republican candidate for president in 2008, backed a movement for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage in his home state of Arizona. (Photo by Matt York/AP)

Spokane mayor seeks to block release of computer drives

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Lawyers for Mayor Jim West, the subject of a recall petition drive over a City Hall sex scandal, have asked a court to block the release of copies of potentially embarrassing contents of computer hard drives. In a sworn affidavit filed last week in Spokane County Superior Court to support the request for a temporary restraining order, West said his city-owned computer's hard drive may contain information relating to "personal social contacts" from his use of the device outside City Hall. Last week, the state Supreme Court cleared the way for a recall petition drive based on an allegation that West used his position to write a recommendation for a City Hall internship to someone he met online in a gay chatroom — and believed to be an 18-year-old man. The "teen" turned out to be a computer forensics expert hired by the Spokesman-Review newspaper as part of its investigation of the mayor.

Okla. library sets up special collection for 'sensitive' books

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — After a complaint about children's books with gay content, a library commission has decided to place youth material of a sensitive nature in a special collection in the adult section. Members of the Metropolitan Library Commission voted 10-7 last week to place such "easy, easy-reader and tween" books dealing with "sensitive or controversial topics" into a special collection that only will be accessible by "adults in authority." Mike Canfield, representing the American Civil Liberties Union, urged the commissioners to "honor the library system's long-standing tradition of free access to knowledge." The commission didn't decide how librarians would enforce such a plan and also did not rule on which books would be in this adults-only section. Instead, it voted to form a committee to make those choices. The policy is the commission's response to a complaint lodged by a patron in April that young children had access to library books with homosexual themes.

Salt Lake City mayor seeks to extend benefits to domestic partners

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Mayor Rocky Anderson wants to extend health benefits to unmarried partners of gay and straight city employees. He would prefer to do it with the agreement of the City Council, but believes he has the power to do it administratively on his own. "As long as we're going to do this, we should demonstrate unity on this issue," he said last week. "Providing for equality should not create more division in our community." Anderson said he will offer the benefits once the city finishes its research on the plan and he gets formal word he can do it without City Council approval. The city attorney has yet to issue an opinion. Some supporters of Utah's new constitutional amendment against gay marriage contend it also bars extending benefits to domestic partners, and Anderson's move could be challenged. Further, state Rep. LaVar Christensen (R-Draper) has said he would be willing to sponsor legislation to stop the city from proceeding.

Utah Supreme Court to consider lesbian couple's custody case

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The case of a lesbian who wants to be a parent to a child born to a former girlfriend will be heard by the Utah Supreme Court. The issue before the high court on Tuesday will be whether the woman is legally entitled to a continuing parental relationship with the child when the biological parent objects. Keri Lynn Jones and Cheryl Pike Barlow met in 2000 and were together for about three years. "Probably after we were dating six months maybe, we decided we wanted to have a baby in the next year so we spent a lot of time talking to our attorney," Jones contends. Jones contends they intended to rear the girl — now 4 years old — together and took several steps to establish a legal relationship for her and the baby. Barlow disputes that she ever intended for Jones to have a legal relationship to the child. At the beginning both women shared in the joy of the birth.

From staff and wire reports

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national news

Md. gay couples get a day in court

Judge presses state to explain harm same-sex marriage would cause

By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

BALTIMORE — Nine gay Maryland couples and one man whose partner died finally had their day in court Tuesday, when the Baltimore Circuit Court heard arguments in a marriage equality case that is being watched closely by advocates on both sides of the issue around the country.

The suit, *Deane and Polyak vs. Conaway*, was filed in July 2004 by the American Civil Liberties Union. It challenges the constitutionality of a 1973 Maryland provision that limits marriage to a man and a woman, according to David Rocah, an attorney with the ACLU working on the case.

It could take a couple of months for the judge to issue a ruling, which will likely be appealed whichever side prevails.

"I just don't look at it as good for our society," said Rick Bowers, chair of Defend Maryland Marriage, shortly before arguments started. "It's just wrong scripturally."

Once the hearing began, Kenneth Choe, an attorney for the plaintiffs, implored the judge to examine when courts have intervened to correct once acceptable, but unconstitutional, forms of discrimination, like bans on interracial marriage.

"The fundamental right to marry is not only enjoyed by those who historically enjoyed the right to marry," Choe told the court. "History often shows there was persistent discrimination. That does not absolve the court to examine the constitutionality in the here and now."

Attorneys for the state asked that the issue be left to the legislature and said there was not enough known about the societal impact of same-sex marriage to assess its consequences. Assistant Attorney General Steven M. Sullivan said the state prefers to take a "step by step approach."

After the hearing, Lisa Polyak, a plaintiff in the case, took issue with Sullivan's argu-



Six of the couples and a man whose partner died are among the plaintiffs suing for the right to marry in Maryland. Here they are joined by supporters, including Equality Maryland Executive Director Dan Furmansky and ACLU lawyer Ken Choe at a rally before the Tuesday's hearing. (Photo by Rudy K. Lawidjaja)

ment. In *Loving vs. Virginia*, a case cited often by Choe, it took 30 years for the majority of Americans to agree with the Supreme Court ruling that permitted whites and blacks to marry, Polyak pointed out.

"Was it appropriate to wait?" Polyak said.

Gita Deane, her partner and fellow plaintiff, interjected, "Is it appropriate to vote on civil rights?"

When asked to respond to the opponents' view that "activist judges" should not decide marriage rights, Polyak said, "We went to the legislature [for the vetoed Medical Decision Making Act.] We had support from both parties. It took one person to undo all that. What course do we have?"

The state also argued that permitting gays the right to marry would put Maryland at odds with the federal govern-

ment, triggering a crisis.

But Choe pointed out that there are several areas in which state and federal law conflict and that there has been no "crisis" in Vermont and Massachusetts, where civil unions and marriages are permitted respectively.

"The legislation has broad authority, but it is not unchecked," Choe said. Their laws must not violate the state or federal constitution, he added.

The state's ban on same-sex marriage constitutes discrimination based on sexual orientation, as well as sex because it is the person's gender that prohibits the right to marry, Choe said.

"It's no defense that the law equally burdens males and females," he said. "Whether a man can marry a man turns on sex."

Cutting through all the legalese, Judge M. Brooke Murdoch asked the state's attorney Sullivan a question repeatedly posed by gay rights advocates: "What is the tangible harm" of allowing gays to marry?

Sullivan did not directly answer the question, causing Murdoch to say that absent "tangible harm" it was difficult to comprehend the "rational basis for opposing this." Later Sullivan told the judge that if hearings were held in Annapolis on the issue, then harm could be demonstrated.

"They never articulate the harm," said Polyak after the arguments. "I'm waiting for the answer to that question."



Takia Foskey and her partner Jo Rabb are two of the plaintiffs suing the state of Maryland for the right to marry. When Rabb was hospitalized in 2003, hospital officials refused to grant Foskey access to her partner or any information about her condition, the pair said. (Photo by Rudy K. Lawidjaja)

i MORE INFO

Equality Maryland
8121 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-587-7500
www.equalitymaryland.org

Association of Maryland Families
8028 Ritchie Hwy., Suite 315
Pasadena, MD 21122
410-760-9161
www.mdfamilies.org

When Doug Stiegler, executive director of the Association of Maryland Families, was asked to explain the harm caused by same-sex marriage, he said it would discriminate against children who need a mother and father.

"That's a wrong situation," he said outside the courthouse. "Those kids are not in a right environment."

He said that the country was based on "moral laws, God's laws, God's rights" and that the separation of church and state is a "figment of people's imagination."

The plaintiffs endeavored to show the damage done to them and their families by Maryland's family law barring same-sex marriage.

For instance, when Polyak's partner, Gita Deane, was in labor, the anesthesiologist refused to administer the epidural until Lisa left the room.

When her partner was pregnant with their second child they went to great lengths to ensure the hospital staff knew they were a family, she said. They met with an attorney and prepared an advanced directive, as well as a birth plan. But, she said, one doctor dismissed all of that planning.

Dan Furmansky, executive director of Equality Maryland, a statewide gay rights group, listed the obstacles faced by each of the plaintiffs at a news conference outside the courtroom.

"Stacey was treated like a stranger and denied access to her own son during a medical emergency after he was born. Charles and Glen worry about being denied access to an ambulance or hospital room or nursing home. When John Lestitian's partner passed away, John lost the home they shared."

Takia Foskey, another plaintiff in the case, told reporters that when she was working part-time, her two children were uninsured because they couldn't be covered under her partner's state health benefits. Her partner, Jo Rabb, is a Baltimore city bus driver.

In 2003, when Rabb had an emergency gallbladder operation, Foskey wasn't allowed to see her and wasn't given any information about her condition.

"I look forward to the day when [my partner and I] are no longer treated as legal strangers," she said.



ON THE WEB

More photos from Tuesday's events online at www.washingtonblade.com.

Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg can be reached at eweill-greenberg@washblade.com.

national news

Katrina postings dominate gay Internet sites

KATRINA, continued from Page 1

"I regret to inform you that due to Hurricane Katrina, Southern Decadence in New Orleans has been officially cancelled," Chisholm wrote in an e-mail on Wednesday.

Chisholm noted that festival-goers that were charged for weekend passes will receive refunds.

Chisholm owns Oz, New Orleans' largest gay dance bar, which is located on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter. He stated in the e-mail that the bar suffered damage, and the club hopes to reopen by Halloween.

'Have sympathy first'

In addition to the thousands expected for Southern Decadence, more than 600 people had pre-registered for Convergence 2005, an event during Southern Decadence for plus-sized gay men and their admirers.

In a posting on its Web site, convergence2005.com, the group cancelled its "Big & Easy" celebration. The organization notes that it may take time to issue refunds, due to venue cancellation policies. The group suggests donating any refunds to the Red Cross/New Orleans Disaster Relief Fund.

The Human Rights Campaign is referring gays wanting to help victims of the hurricane to the Rainbow World Fund, which bundles donations from gay people and contributes them to causes outside of the gay rights movement. Katrina donations to RWF will be passed on to America's Second Harvest, a food bank serving hurricane victims, according to the group's Web site, www.rainbowworldfund.org.



ON THE WEB

Rainbow World Fund
www.rainbowworldfund.org

A city damaged beyond comprehension has cancelled Southern Decadence in New Orleans and sent residents evacuating to other cities such as Houston and San Antonio. (Photo by William Luther/AP)

The New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau posted information on its Web site stating the city is under a mandatory curfew. At press time Wednesday, the Web site said the situation in New Orleans continued to deteriorate, with an additional "9 to 15 feet of water expected to flow into the city," threatening the French Quarter.

Looters are also damaging the historic area, according to news reports.

No one from outside of New Orleans is being allowed to enter the city for at least the next week, according to the site. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said Wednesday that it will be at least three months before any citizen will be allowed to return to the city.

The airport is under water and hotels are being used as shelters to house vic-

tims of the monster storm, the Web site said.

A travel agent at All Points Travel in Atlanta said customers who booked vacation packages for Southern Decadence hoped for a miracle, but in reality "a lot of folks have given up."

Steve Kay planned on having a great time at the largest gay Labor Day celebration in the South. Now, having a good time is far from his mind. Kay suggested that people who purchased passes to many of the parties donate their refunds to building a "better Southern Decadence" next year.

Customers who booked hotels at locally owned properties should "have sympathy first," said Tom Nibbio, North American sales manager for the International Gay & Lesbian Travel

Association.

"We need to be considerate of their immediate situation," he said. "If you're not in immediate need of a refund, put it on the back burner."

But Nibbio noted that direct bookings through airlines should be dealt with immediately.

'Wicked city'

While gay Internet sites have been inundated with postings exhibiting concern for the city, one anti-gay organization seized upon the calamity to promote its agenda.

Philadelphia-based Repent America issued a statement calling Hurricane Katrina an "Act of God" that destroyed a "wicked city" just days before Southern Decadence.

The group blames the city's previous three mayors, and every citizen in New Orleans, for tolerating and welcoming such "wickedness" as Southern Decadence and Mardi Gras.

Houston city and county officials announced Wednesday that the Astrodome would be open to refugees who had been housed at the New Orleans Super Dome since shortly before Katrina hit. By Thursday morning, busloads of evacuees from the Super Dome were filing into the Houston Astrodome, home for the foreseeable future.

Although Houston city officials stressed that only refugees from the Super Dome would be housed at that city's former football stadium, among the first arrivals early Thursday were New Orleans residents who had been waiting outside the Dome for days on an overpass. According to early morning television news reports, those evacuees commandeered a parked school bus near the Super Dome and appointed a 20-year-old man with a commercial driver's license to steer it to Houston.

Binnie Fisher contributed to this report.

'Keep us in your prayers'

Gay business owners leave behind structures damaged beyond belief

By ED WALSH

C.W. Stambaugh thought he dodged a bullet. The owner of the popular Starlight by the Park, a gay bar on North Rampart Street on the outskirts of the French Quarter in New Orleans, decided to defy Hurricane Katrina on Sunday.

He held an impromptu hurricane party and kept the bar open throughout the night as the fierce storm approached. The

Starlight became a makeshift shelter for about two-dozen tourists and locals alike who had nowhere else to go.

"We used the bar as a shelter and the quality of the gay population, local and tourist, was fantastic. We all pulled together and fed and took care of each other," Stambaugh said in an e-mail interview.

Stambaugh said the Starlight and the Moulin Rouge, about a mile away in the Marigny, were the only gay bars open during the storm.

In Katrina's wake, Stambaugh said he joined others in walking through the area and found that nearby gay businesses weren't damaged and that the French Quarter was spared the extensive flooding seen in other areas of the city.

But by Tuesday night, that changed. Stambaugh had to close the bar as the city was ordered evacuated. He was sheltering people in his home as the area started to flood.

"There's a strong community still here but we're trying to get people out," Stambaugh wrote in an e-mail Wednesday afternoon.

Douglas Haller, the gay owner of the Creole Inn in the Marigny, evacuated his five-unit bed and breakfast on Sunday, a day before Katrina arrived. Haller said later that he was in some ways reassured by TV news footage of looters at a nearby grocery store, figuring that was an indication that the flooding wasn't severe.

"I don't think anyone knows the extent of physical damage unless they remained

there," Haller said. "And if they remained there, they should get the hell out."

The impact of the hurricane will hurt businesses expecting a boost from Southern Decadence over Labor Day Weekend, according to Jess Beaty, the gay owner of Five Continents Bed & Breakfast, which he opened two years ago.

"The economic impact on me is devastating," Beaty said in an e-mail. "I will probably go under as a result. I was booked solid for Decadence. ... At this point I have to assure that whatever the storm didn't destroy, the floodwaters did or that the looters will have cleaned me out."

Beaty said he fled the storm to stay with family in Florida.

"Keep us in your prayers," he said.

out in houston

(Photos by Dalton DeHart)



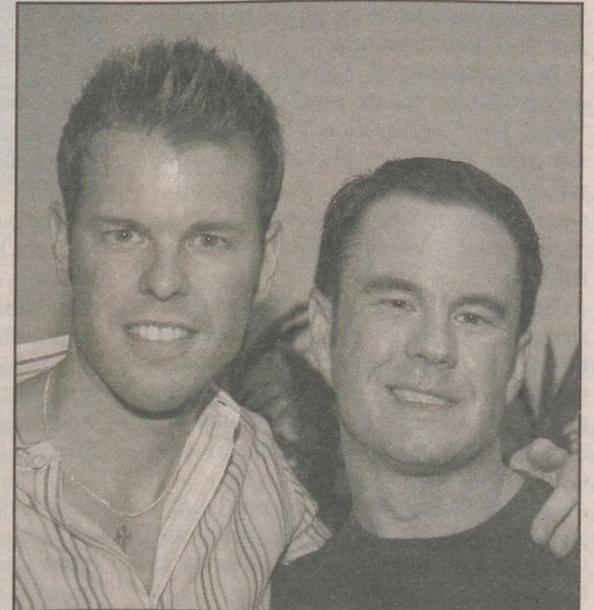
During the Literacy benefit at 1415 Lounge, models showed off the latest fashions.



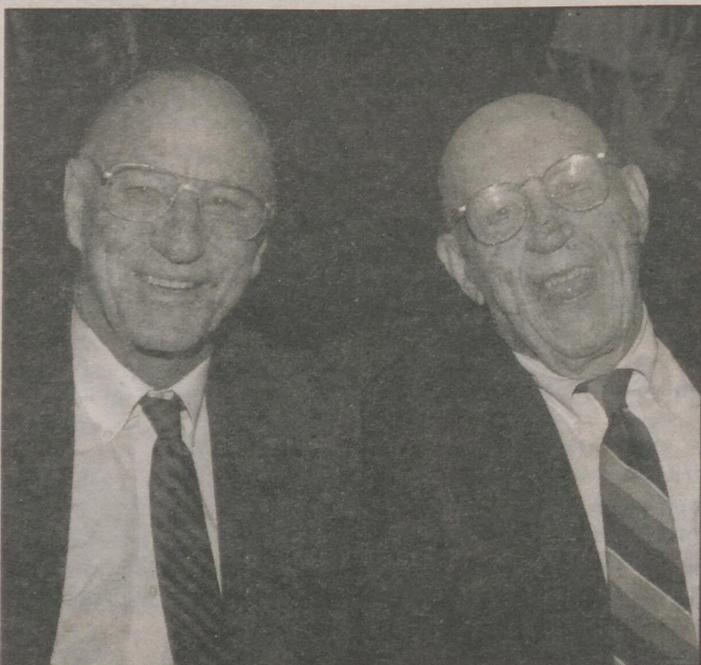
Thea Austin sang her heart out for an enthusiastic crowd at Rich's.



Jeff Shell, Tracy Baskin, Ally Shell and Ed Dzengeleski gathered at 1415 Lounge for a photo during the Neil Hamil Agency's Light the Way to Literacy Book Drive benefiting Houston Read Commission.



Bryan Hlavinka (right) threw a going-away party for Gay Men's Chorus member David Hoey, who is moving to California.



Gene and Glenn C. Smith were among the guest at a party honoring former Houston Fire Chief Eddie Coral.



Among the attendees at the Diana Foundation Social at Frank Staggs home were from (left) Bob Briddick, Del Barnhardt, Sergio Gutierrez and Staggs.

A new nonprofit states his mission well: Saving Animals

As a teenager, Sean Hawkins saw that dogs and cats needed him to be their advocate

SEAN HAWKINS EASILY RECALLS THE moment his perceptions about animals changed forever.

He was a teenager, volunteering at a shelter that put homeless pets up for adoption but also euthanized hundreds each month that were not adopted out.

He had been volunteering since he was 12, working his way up from cleaning cages and walking dogs to working in the back, where he helped with giving vaccinations and with euthanasia.

"It was just a matter of fact that more animals came in than there were homes for," he said.

On one Saturday, he said, animals were being euthanized on a wholesale basis because the shelter had received too many dogs and cats that day.

One little puppy sat watching as all the other dogs and cats before her were put to sleep. When Hawkins picked her up for her turn, he said, for some reason, he looked into her eyes.

"Her eyes looked into my eyes," and Hawkins said he saw fear and recognition. She knew she was next, he was certain of it.

"One animal had created an epiphany moment for me," he said. "I put the puppy in my pocket and walked out the door. I made a commitment to that puppy and to myself that it was not right for puppies and kittens and dogs and cats to have to be destroyed."

He vowed that day to do everything within his power to prevent the needless euthanasia of dogs and cats because they don't have homes. The key, he was certain, was pet birth control.

It was a promise he kept, commandeering the pro-bono services of veterinarians for a low-cost sterilization clinic that he organized when he was still a teenager.

Eventually, he founded the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP), a nonprofit program that grew to include affiliates in other states, a mobile clinic and programs in Mexico.

Hawkins eventually left SNAP, and in July he founded Saving Animals, a nonprofit organization that will do some of



Sean Hawkins has left SNAP to start a new organization dedicated to 'Saving Animals.' (Photo by Dalton DeHart); 'Saving Animals' logo (inset).

the same work SNAP does, but will go a step or two further.

The mission of Saving Animals is "to eliminate the financial, geographical and cultural barriers that cause animals to suffer."

In addition, he said, "Saving animals provides the highest quality sterilization and veterinary services for dogs and cats and promotes their physical security and well being through education and adoption."

When he left SNAP to start Saving Animals, Hawkins said, he sought to, "broaden the scope and knowledge" of the problems animals face by working with city and country governments, starting in Houston.

Among the ultimate goals, he said, is to "become philosophical with the ultimate goal elevating the status of animals within our society. We want to create a society where animals are not discarded as trash.

Hawkins wants to see pet owners value their canine and feline friends enough to keep them safe and to have them spayed or neutered.

If that goal is to be achieved in the United States, Hawkins said, Saving Animals must also work in Mexico, where sterilization and education are badly needed.

"Mexico is where the U.S. was 30 years ago in animal protection," he said. "We want to start a program that will be the seed that changes how people think. As our border vanishes, it's very important that we deal with domestic violence, the environment and animal protection issues."

The goals are lofty ones that will need money behind them. Hawkins has recruited Tyson and Tina Faust of Faust Distributing to help him. The organization's first gala is Sept. 24 at the

i SEAN HAWKINS

Birthplace: Cocoa Beach, Fla.

Age: 38

Occupation: Saving animals

Education: University of Houston

Relationship status: Partnered with Michael for three years

Intercontinental Hotel Houston.

Marvin Zindler from Houston's Channel 13 will be presented with the Humanitarian of the Year Award.

"Marvin always helps the underdog," Hawkins said.

Saving Animals is a long haul from that day in the back room at the animal shelter, but keeping the promise he made that day is something he works at daily.

And the puppy that changed his life that day? He named her Sizeeke.

i MORE INFO

Saving Animals Gala

Sept 24

Intercontinental Hotel Houston

www.savinganimals.org

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editorial

Rushing to judgment on Justice Roberts

With O'Connor's decidedly mixed gay record and what little we know so far about Roberts, it's more than a stretch for these gay groups to conclude that, "his elevation to the court would be a shift away from equality."

By CHRIS CRAIN

JUST DAYS BEFORE THE Senate Judiciary Committee opens hearings into the nomination of John Roberts to the U.S. Supreme Court, four major gay rights organizations announced last week their

official opposition to his appointment. There's a lot more to be said about the timing of the announcement than the decision the groups reached.

The joint statement — issued by the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) — takes Roberts to task for being a rigid ideologue who will not consider fairly the civil rights claims of gays seeking redress in the courts.

But by pre-judging his nomination before Roberts can even answer basic questions about his judicial philosophy, these four groups have shown themselves to be every bit as ideologically-driven as the nominee they oppose.

To support their premature position, the activist groups cite extensively from memos written by Roberts decades ago, when he was just out of law school, working as a young lawyer in the Reagan and Bush Sr. administrations.

These documents do provide useful insights — and raise legitimate concerns — about the formation of Roberts' beliefs, but they also come loaded with caveats. Aside from his youth, Roberts' role was to help shape policy and advocate the settled views of conservative presidents.

The gay groups rightfully conclude that the John Roberts that emerges from these 1980s-era memos is one with a very cramped view of the role for courts in protecting civil rights. They are also correct in pointing out that the current President Bush contributes to our poor understanding of Roberts' record by refusing to release memos he wrote for the senior President Bush.

STILL, HIS MUSINGS FROM 20 YEARS ago do not justify rushing to judgment on Roberts, especially when you consider his assistance to the gay rights lawyers who argued the landmark case of *Romer vs. Evans* in the mid-'90s. This much more recent evidence deserves far greater weight than it receives from the four gay rights groups.

Anyone who has worked in a large private law firm — and I have worked in two, one of them in Washington, D.C. — knows how unlikely it is for a lawyer of Roberts' caliber to offer up free legal assistance on a civil rights case with which he fundamentally disagrees.

Even if it was only an intellectual exercise for Roberts, it at least shows he's no vehement homophobe — like Justice Antonin Scalia — and has an intellectual curiosity about gay rights claims — unlike Justice Clarence Thomas.

A Supreme Court nominee who is better than Scalia or Thomas may be the best we can expect from this president, and contrary to the conclusion of the four gay rights groups, Roberts will likely vote like retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on most gay rights cases.

Remember that O'Connor voted with the 5-4 anti-gay majority on the infamous sodomy case of *Bowers vs. Hardwick* and reaffirmed that vote two years ago in *Lawrence vs. Texas*.

On HIV/AIDS, O'Connor dissented from the landmark 1998 case of *Bragdon vs. Abbott*, which established that persons with asymptomatic HIV are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The groups remind us she voted with the majority in *Romer*, which struck down an anti-gay amendment in Colorado. But they neglect to mention that she also voted with the majority two years later in *Equality Foundation vs. Cincinnati*, letting stand an appeals court decision that upheld a strikingly similar city ordinance.

And our supposed critical "swing vote" for equality also voted with the 5-4 majority dismissing the case brought by James Dale against the Boy Scouts of America for excluding gays.

With O'Connor's decidedly mixed record and what little we know so far about Roberts, it's more than a stretch for these gay groups to conclude that, "his elevation to the court would be a shift away from equality."

THE MOST SERIOUS CRITICISM OF Roberts is that he rejects the entire notion of a "right of privacy" that was the basis for the *Lawrence* decision in 2003.

"Roberts' writings clearly indicate that he does not agree with the cases and constitutional foundations of *Lawrence*," they say. A basic law school lesson is that anytime someone argues a point as "clear," it is anything but. Memos from 20 years ago and briefs filed for clients do not "clearly indicate" Roberts' view on this critical subject.

As usual, Lambda Legal gets it right where HRC, the Task Force and other predictably leftist groups get it wrong. Rather than rush to judgment on Roberts, Lambda Legal has focused the pressure where it ought to be, on the senators who will question Roberts during his confirmation hearing.

They have drawn up 30 questions that Roberts should be asked by senators, and launched an online petition to urge friendly senators on the Judiciary Committee to put them to the nominee.

We will accomplish far more by pressing gay-friendly senators to ask Roberts tough questions than we will by prejudging Roberts to reaffirm our friendship with knee-jerk groups like NARAL Pro-Choice America, which is fast becoming the NRA of the left.

If under questioning, Roberts is unwilling to affirm a basic "right of privacy" or "right to liberty," recognized by the court 40 years ago and reaffirmed two years ago in *Lawrence*, then his nomination should be opposed. If his responses are vague, and the Bush administration persists in refusing to release his Justice Department memoranda, then he can be justifiably fought as a right-wing stealth nominee.

In the end, there is much to be commended about what these four gay rights groups have said about the role of the Supreme Court as a bulwark for minority rights, and much reason to be concerned based on what we know about Roberts. But rushing to judgment on his nomination at this point says more about the activist groups than it does about him.

@ Chris Crain is executive editor of the *Houston Voice* and can be reached at ccrain@houstonvoice.com.



viewpoint CEDRIC HARMON

We must celebrate Black Gay Pride, and black gay spiritual pride to show we're not 'godless gays.'

Sewing the Quilt of Black Gay Pride

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS TELLS US that, "Pride goeth before a fall." In the case of Black Gay Pride celebrations, Pride will go on before the fall and throughout the fall, as thousands of African-American LGBT people come together in cities across the country to celebrate their lives from July through October.

The celebrations will allow black people to pull together the strands of their identities, to sew the patches of race, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation into one beautiful quilt.

But there must be another piece for this glorious Quilt of Blackness to be complete. Throughout history, black people have found tremendous strength in communities of faith. And yet those communities of faith have sometimes been the first to reject their LGBT children.

And so, in addition to celebrating Black Gay Pride, we must also learn to celebrate black gay and spiritual pride. For the "Quilt of Blackness" to truly cover the feet of our community, it must be sewn together with the "Quilt of Faith."

I ATTENDED A CONFERENCE IN Chicago in June called on black religious identity that gave me a foretaste of the kingdom (or kin-dom) to come, where the different strands of my identity as a black same-gender-loving man of faith could be brought together.

It represented the "already but not yet" of the coming time of justice and equality for my LGBT brothers and sisters.

Each attendee luxuriated in the richness of their religious and sexual experience, contributing texture, color, brilliance and the woven complexity of living authentic black gay and religious lives.

Pastors, elders, bishops, theologians, academics, musicologists and social activists all participated, shared and enriched the experience. This was in no way a reflection of stereotypes about queer communities as anathema to faith. This was not a group of "godless gays."

These were out and proud LGBT people of color fully engaged and embracing faith as foundational to their lives. This was liberation theology, womanist theology, social gospel, social justice, civil rights and inclusivity: "God is still speaking" in the flesh.

Bishop Yvette Flunder, founder of City of Refuge UCC in Oakland, told us to embrace that "we have been called out of eternity into this time to do a specific work and to celebrate the prophetic call upon our lives."

THE GREAT SOCIAL MOVEMENTS OF previous centuries changed society in amazing and unforeseen ways, and we are now involved in such a social movement for positive change. The benefits of this push toward greater justice are not always evident to us while we struggle, but there will be benefits.

letters

It may be unwise to discount Roberts without hearing him out

To the Editors:

I was dismayed by HRC's announcement opposing John Roberts' confirmation to the Supreme Court last week. It seems we have heard from everyone except the nominee himself, but have rushed to conclude he is unworthy nonetheless.

From what we do know of Roberts, it is entirely possible that we could do much worse from a Bush White House. And like it or not, Bush is going to be picking the next 3 to 4 members of the Court. If we will oppose a nominee who helped us win *Romer* (an important gay rights victory that led directly to the court's striking down sodomy laws in *Lawrence v. Texas*), what Bush nominee would we ever support? If we will automatically oppose any Bush nominee without so much as a hearing, then have we not rendered ourselves irrelevant to the debate for the next three years?

Four of the six-member majority who supported gay rights in both *Romer* and *Lawrence* were appointed by Republican presidents. The same Republicans who gave us Rehnquist, Scalia and Thomas *also* gave us Stevens (Ford), O'Connor (Reagan), Kennedy (Reagan), and Souter (Bush). With 3 to 4 vacancies on the Court likely to occur before Bush leaves office — and with the justices Bush appoints likely making decisions affecting our lives for the next 30 years or more — the gay community can ill afford to be irrelevant. We need thoughtful leadership and objectivity, not merely reflexive opposition to all things "Republican."

JEFFREY L. DORRELL
Houston

Among these potential benefits for the LGBT community, and to black people as a whole, are stronger family structures, a healthier population, increasing economic equality, more children in loving homes, and people realizing their full creative potential without fear of rejection because of whom they love.

Maurice Charles, an Episcopal priest and doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago Divinity School, advised us to "live to resist." Resist every force that seeks to dissuade us from voicing our desires and dissatisfactions.

Resist the urge to be silent. Resist the safety of living quietly in alcoves of apathy and complacency. Resist the labels foisted upon us by those opposing progress. Resist and re-imagine. Ours is a mandate to grow. While we are fully aware of the rich soil we grow out of, we must push our shoots out of the soil

toward the warm sunlight of this new day.

These were the messages worked into the quilt of black gay and spiritual pride. But there are more pieces to be sewn in.

The beauty of a quilt is not to be found in monochromatic color, nor in homogeneity of material, but rather in the artful piecing together of various bits of cloth, each with its distinction and color.

So it is with the Quilt of Blackness and the Quilt of Faith: Distinctions abound, yet the skillful sewing of these two aspects will reveal our beauty in all of its fullness. Now is the time to pick up your needle and thread and begin the work.

@ Rev. Cedric Harmon lives in Washington, D.C., and is a member of the National Religious Leadership Roundtable for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. He can be reached at media@thetaskforce.org.

THE

President Bush's pick for U.S. Supreme Court judge seems to be a man of contradictions. What are your thoughts?



Congress didn't want him as a judge in the first place, and he picked him anyway when they were on vacation. So, although I voted for Bush, I don't agree with the way he's running the government now.

JASON FOSTER, 28
Houston
Sales



The administration should continue looking for a more centrist nominee.

ANDY GRIFFIN, 51
Houston
Self-employed



Men who say, "No" and really mean, "Yes" are a dime a dozen.

GIL WARRICK, 40
Houston
Reporter



I'm afraid he's too squeaky clean to really know the truth until it's too late.

DON HURST, 67
Houston
Retired

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Interviews and photos by Dalton DeHart

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Santorum was right
Pamela Anderson proves
gay marriage leads to
dogs getting married.
Page 21

SEPTEMBER 2, 2005

The head inspector

Gay advice guru Michael Alvear brings 'Sex Inspectors' to HBO

By BRIAN MOYLAN

M

ICHAEL ALVEAR GETS a chuckle out of his unlikely career path.

"When I first started writing, my goal was to be a serious writer," he says. "I ended up on national

TV telling people how to fuck. I don't think anyone's more surprised than I am."

What's just as surprising is that this gay American man is doling out sex advice to straight British couples on "The Sex Inspectors: A Real Sex International British Import," a six-part series that was scheduled to premiere on HBO Sept. 1 and air each Thursday at 11 p.m.

"If you concentrate on the message and not the messenger, it makes all the sense in the world," Alvear says about his presence on the show.

Actually, both the messenger and the message got a whole lot of attention even before the show hit the air on the U.K.'s Channel 4 last November.

The premise is a bit racy. Alvear and Tracy Cox, an author, sex expert and former magazine editor, observe actual couples having sex. They're not perched on folding chairs in the bedroom, but they're mighty close.

The show places surveillance cameras in British couples' bedrooms — with their approval — and films them having bad sex. Alvear and Cox watch the tapes, figure out what they're doing wrong and then offer advice on how to do it better.

The couples then go back into the bedroom for another round of filming, so we can see if they've learned anything.

Even though English television has much looser broadcast standards than

its American cousin, just the premise of the show got everyone in a lather.

"Channel 4 has been at the forefront of smutty, obscene and pornographic programs, and it comes as no surprise they want to venture into this kind of material. I think it is a mistake," John Beyer director of the conservative group Mediawatch told the Scotsman, a newspaper in Scotland, before the show aired.

Even more liberal critic Zoe Williams questioned the show's motives on the op-ed pages of the Guardian in London.

"If [a couple] really wanted to be open, they could talk to each other; if they ran short of ideas, they could read a book or even, at a push, visit a sexpert in the privacy of the sexpert's office," she writes. "[Agreeing to be on 'Sex Inspectors'] is just attention-seeking, and differs in no way from sexual exhibitionism that gets footballers into trouble in car parks."

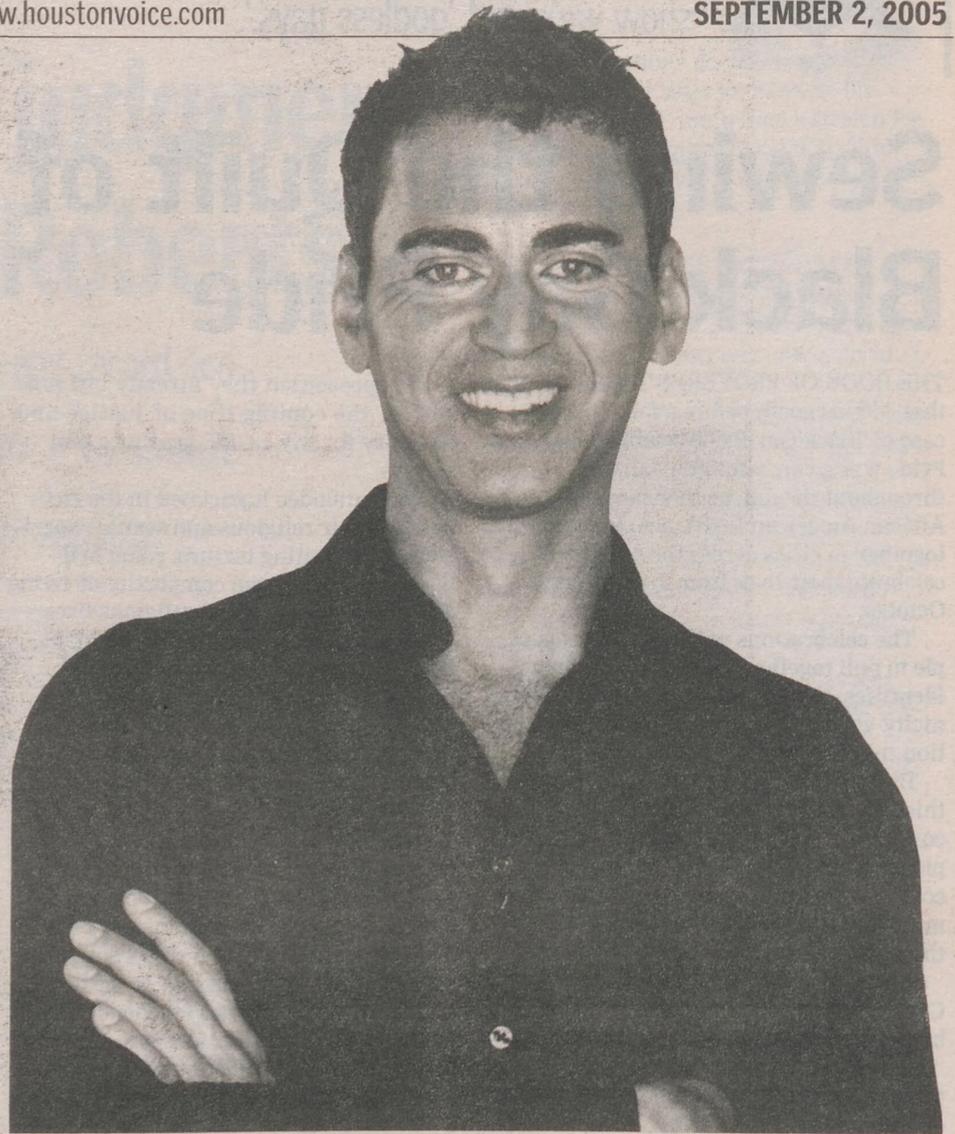
AS IS USUALLY THE CASE IN THESE types of controversial situations, when the show finally aired, it debuted as the leader in its time slot.

Reviews of the actual show were favorable as well.

"Yes, there is a car-crash element of: 'Ohmigod I can't believe you're admitting that on national TV,'" critic Liz Hoggard wrote in the Observer, another London newspaper. "But what's clear is how unhappy sexual dysfunction is making the couples — and how important it is to sort it out."

Alvear is also quick to defend the show.

"How can you have a cooking show without showing the food?" he says, when asked about the graphic content. "This is not a show that is going to make you horny or want to have sex. It's a show where you're going to turn



to your partner and say, 'Honey, it's time to talk about our sex life.'"

That said, there is plenty of graphic footage in the show, but it is presented in a way that is reminiscent of high school sex-ed class.

From the creative mind of Daisy Goodwin (who also created "How Clean Is Your House?" and "Would Like to Meet," which were imported for Lifetime and TLC respectively), "Sex Inspectors" is more like one of the many makeover shows that populate cable channels. But instead of renovating a house, garden or car, the sex drive is getting a tune up.

And to the critics who say that the show is a platform for exhibitionists, Alvear says that it was actually difficult to find couples; many would drop out.

"What [the couples who agreed to be filmed] had in common was that they genuinely needed help and that the stigma of therapy was too great for them," he says.

BUT THE QUESTION REMAINS: WHERE does a gay guy get off telling straight people how to get it on?

Alvear, 46, got his start writing about gay sex. Many gay people might know him better as Woody Miller, who writes the "Need Wood" column that runs in this and about a dozen other gay newspapers across the country and on the cruising site www.M4M4Sex.com.

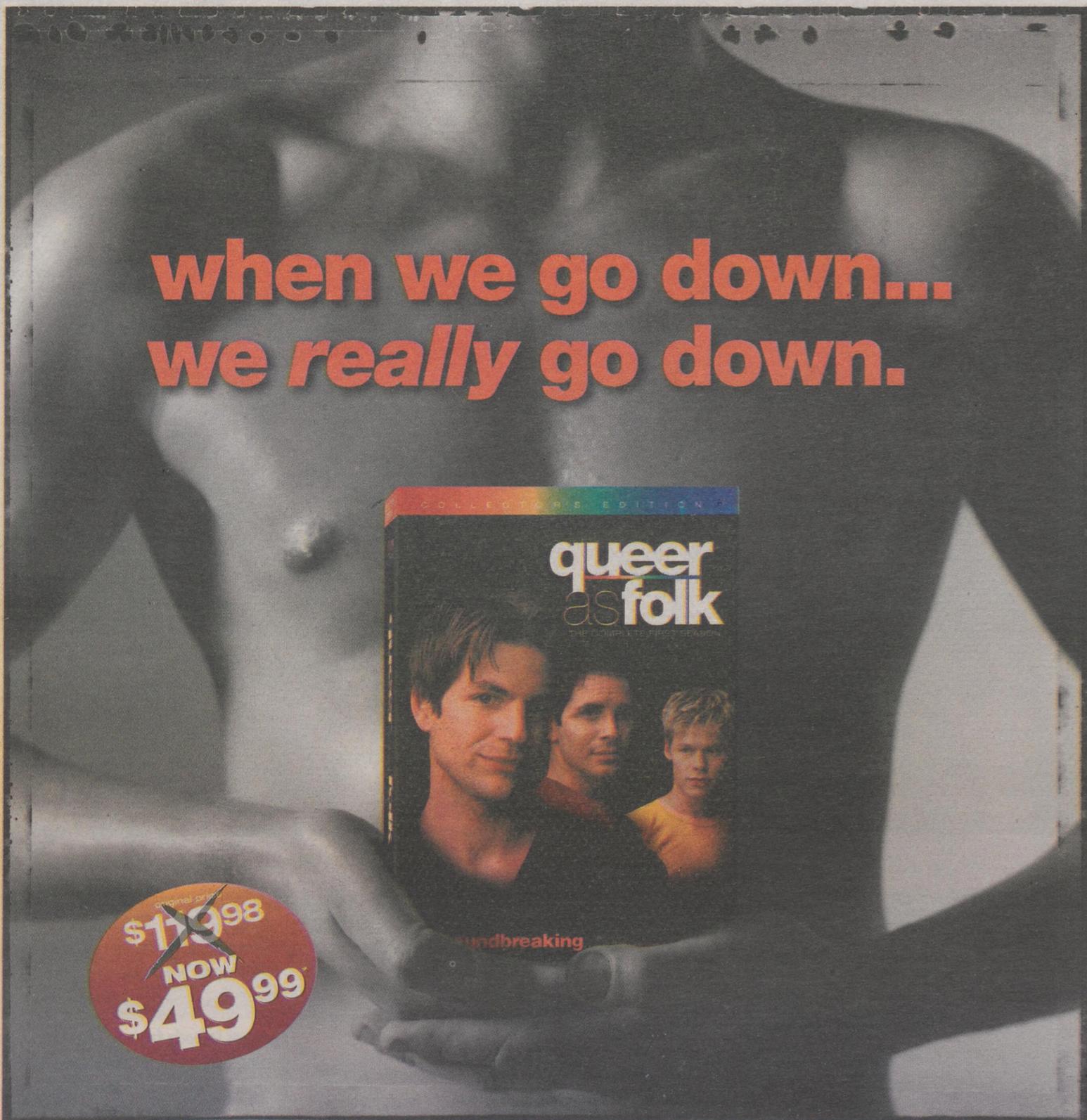
The idea for the column came in 1999 from Chris Crain, the executive editor for gay newspaper chain Window Media, which owns the Blade, who, at the time, was editor of Atlanta's gay newspaper, the Southern Voice.

When gay advice columnist Dan Savage, whose column appears in the City Paper and in other publications nationwide, said he didn't want his column to run in a gay paper, Crain turned to his friend Alvear. He was working full-time as a media buyer while writing op-eds for the paper. Crain suggested that he create a column and share advice about sex between men, marrying the wit of Dan Savage and the sass of Dr. Laura with Alvear's own uniquely twisted sense of humor.

Please see **ALVEAR** on Page 23

ON CABLE TV: A gay P-I in a Jessica Fletcher role and Lisa Kudrow in a 'Comeback' role. **Page 17**

HUSH HUSH: Finally on DVD, Bette Davis at her scary, bitchy best and 'Mommie Dearest' hurling gay clichés. **Page 18**



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Reyataz does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed[®], Halcion[®], Orap[®], Propulsid[®], Camptosar[®], Crixivan[®], Mevacor[®], Zocor[®], rifampin, St. John's wort, AcipHex[®], Nexium[®], Prevacid[®], Prilosec[®] or Protonix[®]. Do not use Viagra[®], Levitra[®], Cialis[®], Vfend[®], Advair[®], Flonase[®], or Flovent[®] while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider. **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription**

and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **Rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking Reyataz, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C,

your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.

- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Other side effects of Reyataz taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, dizziness, trouble sleeping, numbness, and tingling or burning of hands or feet.

You should take Reyataz once daily with food (a meal or snack). You should take Reyataz and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

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Please see Important Patient Information about REYATAZ on the next page.

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†REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea. ‡People who have taken anti-HIV medicines before usually take REYATAZ with ritonavir once daily as part of their HIV combination therapy.

PATIENT INFORMATION

REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz)

(generic name = atazanavir sulfate) Capsules

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ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ. Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

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REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.**

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?

Do not take REYATAZ if you:

- are taking certain medicines. (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?

Tell your healthcare provider:

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- If you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- About all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
- For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.
- For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food. Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- Always take REYATAZ with food (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not open the capsules. Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- If you are taking antacids or VIDEX® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you miss a dose of REYATAZ, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is not complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- rash (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- yellowing of the skin or eyes. These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.

- if you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate).
- some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- changes in body fat. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- VERSED® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIVIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIVIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).
- Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:
 - Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
 - St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
 - "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRLOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole).

Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR together.

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- VASCOR® (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (ADVAIR®, FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- FORTOVASE®, INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- VIDEX® (didanosine) or antacids.
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil), and others.
- BIAVIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception.

REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

Remember:

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.**

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-321-1335.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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Based on package insert dated June 2005

television BRIAN MOYLAN



Gay cable channel Here! shoots straight with mystery series 'Third Man Out,' and HBO's 'The Comeback' takes a bow.

I want my Here! TV

MY GRANDMOTHER LOVED "MURDER, She Wrote," the prime-time mystery with Angela Lansbury that ran on CBS for more than a decade. She seemed thirsty to see an honest and positive representation of someone like herself solving a crime or two.

That's what gay men should feel about "Third Man Out," the first original scripted drama on Here! TV, the all-gay cable channel, that debuted Sept. 1.

Based on a book in the popular series of detective novels by Richard Stevenson, "Third Man Out" stars Chad Allen as gay private investigator Donald Strachey, who possibly has the lamest name of anyone in the genre.

He lives with his politico partner, Timothy (Sebastian Spence), in Albany, N.Y., and is hired by John Rutka (Jack Weatherall), a gay activist who outs closeted gay men on his Web site. Because of these tactics, someone is trying to kill Rutka.

The resulting story is right out of "Murder, She Wrote," "Columbo" or "Magnum, P.I." — but with less chest hair. Though the plot gets a little convoluted, it's a capable puzzler with a surprising ending.

Allen and Spence are good in their roles, and especially believable as a gay couple. And the rest of the cast is better than one might expect. Porn star Matthew Rush even delivers his lines well, while simultaneously creating an excuse to get naked.

Like my grandmother, if we are looking for representations of ourselves on screen, this fresh spin on the old P.I. convention hits the mark. For those who just like a good mystery, Here! owns the rights to all six Strachey mysteries and has another movie in production now.

Here! is currently available as an on-demand service from many digital cable providers (including Adelphia, Comcast, Cox, RCN and Time Warner) and from satellite providers DIRECTV and Dish Network. To find out if it's available in your target area, visit www.heretv.com.

WHILE HERE! IS JUST ROLLING OUT



'Third Man Out' star Chad Allen gets worked over by the bad guys as gay P.I. Donald Strachey in the new Here! TV special.

its first original programs, this Sunday, Sept. 3, at 10:30 p.m., marks the final curtain call for another show on HBO, when "The Comeback" airs its final episode. Devised by gay "Sex and the City" creator Michael Patrick King and "Friends" star Lisa Kudrow, this experimental series was entertaining.



Lisa Kudrow

Kudrow played Valerie Cherish, a mid-level sitcom star who faded into obscurity. "The Comeback" is supposedly the raw footage of a reality show that Cherish is making in conjunction with her supporting role in a new sitcom.

While the comedy is wedded to Valerie's desperation to regain fame and the insults she takes from those around her, Kudrow's mastery of the role has been a pleasure to witness. Whether taking advice from her gay hairdresser and best friend, Mickey (Robert Michael Morris), or standing up to the contemptuous comedy writer Paulie G. (Lance Barber), Valerie is someone who smiles for the camera, even while those around her try to put her down.

No wonder Ms. Cherish is something of a gay icon.

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MORE INFO

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dvd MATTHEW FORKE



New to DVD, the Southern gothic camp film 'Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte' depicts Bette Davis at her scary, bitchy best.

Hag horror classic

MORE CAMP THAN A FIELD OF PINK tents, director Robert Aldrich's unrestrained Southern Gothic melodrama "Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte" ranks among the most criminally unsung gay classics in history. A shame, because gems like "Charlotte" (along with the Maysles' exquisite "Grey Gardens") are often overlooked in favor of standard-issue gay clichés — yes, "Mommie Dearest," I'm talking about you.

Aldrich initially planned to re-team newly revitalized stars Bette Davis and Joan Crawford in "Charlotte," the follow-up to his smash-hit sister film "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?" But the notoriously bitter off-screen rivalry between the two leading ladies (a key to the success of "Jane") finally came to a head during the first several weeks of production.

"[Davis] wanted to make a basket case out of Joan, and she almost succeeded," recalls director George Cukor ("The Women") in Shaun Considine's book, "Bette & Joan: The Divine Feud." Crawford could only take so much of Davis' abuse and checked herself into Cedars Sinai hospital with a "respiratory illness." Aldrich, at his wit's end, was forced to hire a replacement: "Gone With the Wind's" sweet Melanie Wilkes herself, Olivia de Havilland.

DURING THE FILM'S PROLOGUE, SET IN 1927, we learn that young debutante Charlotte Hollis (a carefully lit Davis) is having a scorching affair with a married man, John Mayhew (Bruce Dern). At Hollis House, a sprawling Bayou plantation, John ends his relationship with a devastated Charlotte and soon loses several vital body parts, including his head, to an enormous meat cleaver.

Flash-forward to present-day 1964, as the local county commissioner attempts to force the reclusive (and wealthy) Charlotte off her land to make room for a new highway. Generally believed to be a murderess and a madwoman by the entire town of Hollisport, Charlotte turns to her estranged cousin Miriam (de Havilland) for help and extends an ill-advised invitation to Hollis House.

"It'll be the saddest day of your life, Missy, if she does come. Your cousin Miriam ain't nevuh had but one idea in her head and that is lookin' out for hushself," warns Charlotte's loyal ragamuffin of a housekeeper, Velma Cruther (Agnes Moorehead).



Bette Davis portrays reclusive spinster Charlotte Hollis in the almost forgotten camp classic 'Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte,' now available on DVD.

And where there's a family fortune to inherit, devious cousin Miriam (a New York PR lady) and her former flame Dr. Drew (Joseph Cotten) are sure to come "sniffing around." Together, they conspire to give poor Charlotte, who is already an emotional bag of snakes, the final "heave ho" off the edge of sanity.

SOUND COMPLICATED? HANG ON TO that magnolia tree, because there's even an echo of H.G. Clouzot's "Les Diaboliques" amid the histrionics.

Attacking her role as if she'd never work again, Miss Davis employs every overwrought and wild-eyed gesture known to mankind. Whether she's hurling epithets ("You're a vile, sorry little bitch!") or verbally assaulting cousin Miriam ("Now let me see, what is it you call your job ... public relations? Sounds like something pretty dirty to me!"), she's crazy as a bedbug. Obviously, that's the fun.

Incidentally, lesbian actress Moorehead (Endora on TV's "Bewitched") was included among the films seven Academy Award nominations and sports probably the most bizarre Cajun accent recorded on film.

In her sleek designer gowns, only de Havilland escapes without appearing as a gorgon, at least not on the surface. Witness, for example, her smacking the daylight out of a hysterical Davis while disposing of a body.

And for the ultimate in camp, there's Davis, shrieking and crawling down on all fours, followed by de Havilland petting her like a dog and whispering, "Hush ... hush, sweet Charlotte." For fans of "Hag Horror," it doesn't get any better.



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FILM CLIPS

books VAN GOWER



Captivating new book takes look at gay hard-rock and punk musicians who challenge norms and expectations.

Rockin' out loud

IN THE EARLY '90S, sandwiched between the dance divas and show tunes that dominated queer aesthetic tastes, a radical musical movement emerged that delivered a shock to the gay system.

The musicians at the heart of the movement are featured in the captivating new book "Homocore: The Loud and Raucous Rise of Queer Rock."

Its authors, David Ciminelli and Ken Knox, say "Homocore" was coined in the '80s as a sister term for "Hardcore." It eventually came to describe musicians who eschewed popular gay culture in favor of loud guitars and thunderous drums as well as the fierce political statements they could make in the rock music realm.

Brian Grillo, one of those in-your-face rockers, was shunned by his parents for being gay while in his teens. Grillo hit the streets and learned to live by his wits. Along the way, he did time in a few short-lived rock bands before forming Extra Fancy in 1993.

The lone gay member of Extra Fancy, Grillo's determination to be out and proud while lyrically conveying his anger over anti-gay injustice courted controversy at every turn. After some indie success, the punk quartet was signed to corporate label Atlantic Records.

But Grillo's openness about his sexual orientation and HIV-positive status, his aggressively queer lyrics, and a sexually explicit video for Extra Fancy's "Sinnerman" ultimately prompted Atlantic to unceremoniously drop the band.

AS THE HOMOCORE MOVEMENT grew, women were proving they could rock as hard as men. In addition to groups like Tribe 8 and Fifth Column, one of the most seminal of these groundbreaking dyke-rock bands was Team Dresch. The quartet, fronted by Donna Dresch and including Kaia Wilson — who would later join The Butchies — injected lesbian-centric lyrics into the genre.

Team Dresch played gay and straight clubs, but their



Pansy Division

headstrong lesbian agenda riled some straight audiences, who often hurled verbal insults and even fists at the women. The band members responded to one incident by taking self-defense classes, which they incorporated into their "Self-Defense Tour," featuring defense instructors giving pre-show demonstrations.

Perhaps the most well known of the homocore bands profiled in the book is Pansy Division. Formed in 1992, the quartet melded free-wheeling punk riffs with unabashedly sexual lyrics in songs with tongue-in-cheek titles like "Dick of Death," "Groovy Underwear" and "The Cocksucker Club."

Early on, Pansy Division was championed by chart-toppers Green Day, who selected the band as the opening act on its 1994 "Dookie" tour. The brush with mainstream exposure introduced Pansy Division to straight audiences who were largely averse to songs about gay sex, bondage and a fetish for boys in white briefs.

Pansy Division is one of the few original homocore bands that still tours and records. Their influence on a generation of newer gay rockers and fans is still felt, according to the authors.

IN "HOMOCORE," CIMINELLI AND Knox also chart the careers of other pioneering and emerging gay rockers including Hüsker Dü's Bob Mould, the Skinjobs, Super 8 Cum Shot, IamLoved and gender bender Kelly Mantle.

The artists discuss the personal struggles and ideologies that fueled their desire to defy gay musical stereotypes.

The authors also write that a common denominator shared by a majority of homocore acts, in addition to outspoken lyrics and earsplitting amps, was the way the music's alternative sensibilities appeal strongly to fringe-dwelling queer youth and others who feel alienated from prevailing pop culture as well as gay culture.

MORE INFO

'Homocore: The Loud and Raucous Rise of Queer Rock'
By David Ciminelli & Ken Knox
Alyson Books
196 pages, \$15.95



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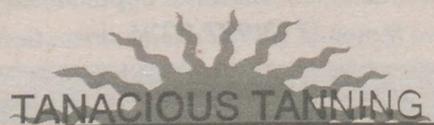


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All over H-Town, clubs and individuals are thinking about our brothers and sisters who weathered the storm called Katrina.

Lend a helping hand

HELLO HOUSTON. THIS WEEK I AM going to dispense with the chit chat and cut to the chase. Refugees are arriving in Houston and San Antonio for what is sure to be a lengthy stay, if not a permanent one. The legendary **Southern Decadence** party scheduled for this weekend in the Big Easy has been cancelled, sort of. According to Web reports, some of the festivities are being moved to Pensacola, Florida, but it is highly unlikely that people are going to put themselves in harms way to get there. So what can we do to help our neighbors and ourselves? First try to remember the golden rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Patience is at a premium, so please practice it and pass it around. Let's show the country and the world that our hearts are as big as our state!

IF YOU HAVE SHELTER TO OFFER, OR products or are looking for a way to help, **EJ's** is having a community meeting starting at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 2. Stop by and see how to help. **EJ's** is located on Ralph Street, at Westheimer.

AS OF DEADLINE THE FOLKS AT **Charles Armstrong Investments**, who own **SOBE**, the Montrose Mining Company, **JR's** and **Meteor** were still putting their heads together to come up with exactly how they are going to help. Our fabulous **Miss Kofi** was on her way back to Houston from Lafayette and as you can imagine, it's taking her longer than expected, though she is safe. They anticipate two different events to take place in the next week or so. Please plan on attending and help Charles and company help our "gaybors" to the east!

THIS WEEKEND AT **SOBE** THEY ARE planning on letting loose with a dance your cares away weekend. First up, **Saturday, Sept. 3,**

register to win a free trip to Miami's South Beach for two or \$500 cash or a **SOBE** Platinum VIP Card. They provide the winners with airfare, hotel and ground transfers. Drawing is at 1 a.m. You must be present to win, however no purchase is necessary. Free cover from 10:30 p.m. until 5 a.m. 18 and up to party, 21 and up to drink.

Then Sunday, Sept. 4, welcome the return of **DJ Barry Harris** of **Thunderpuss**, producer/remixer to the stars! \$15 advance with no line, \$20 at the door. Monday, Labor Day sees free cover with a Labor Day Pass; see any **SOBE**, **JR's** or **Meteor** bartender over the holiday weekend for one.

RICH'S OWNER **NASSIM JOSEPH** AND **DJ Mark D** had already planned a canned food drive for the folks at **AIDS Foundation Houston's Stone Soup Pantry** this weekend, before Katrina hit. Help raise much-needed funds by bringing canned food goods or make a donation. All door proceeds go *directly* to benefit **AIDS Foundation Houston!** \$5 donation value suggested, but come on dig deep people! Make a difference this Saturday to your own community. Then for the *entire* month of September, both Friday and Saturday nights, **no cover** with food/clothing/supplies/cash donation.

All donations/proceeds go directly to GLBT family members in need.

This special excludes special events and promotions.

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IN ADDITION TO ALL THAT'S ALREADY happening on the Katrina front, there will be many more announcements in the coming weeks. We'll bring you all the details as they become available. Too many of us have had good times at **Southern Decadence** and at **Mardi Gras** to turn our backs on those in need now. When I wanted to take my mom away for a weekend recently, where do you think we went. To the Big Easy, of course. To our displaced brothers and sisters, you're in our thoughts and prayers.

FINALLY, THE **9TH ANNUAL HOUSTON Gay and Lesbian Film Festival** is here and they have a special opening party that will blow your mind! **Thursday, Sept. 8** starting at 6:30 p.m. the one and only **Holly Woodlawn** will be here! **Holly** was the star of Warhol's film "**Trash**" and immortalized in Lou Reed's song "**Walk on the Wild Side**." Remember? "**Holly** came from Miami, F-L-A, hitchhiked her way across the USA."

Start with a reception at the **Angelika Film Center**, followed by a screening of "**The Life and Times of Andy Warhol**." Afterward, adjourn to **Rich's** for a night at Warhol's Factory. Anyone with a ticket stub from the movie will get into the Factory free and gain entrance to "**Andy's Inner Sanctum**" bar upstairs. Enjoy your first drink free with your Inner Sanctum pass. More information is available on the website: www.hglff.org



If you have any club announcements or events, email them to jhooks@houstonvoice.com or call 713-529-8490. See you on the Go-Go!

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

On the B-list

A gay dog wedding, guys going wild and some end-of-summer gossip

Boys and girls, you know that Dish tirelessly searches the world (or at least the World Wide Web) each week to bring you the best in gay entertainment news and gossip. But, children, it's the end of the summer.

Dish's mind is on the hot boys she'll see at the beach this weekend, not who's doing what with whom. Alas, nothing much is going on.

We have sunk to B-level gossip, my sweets, but Dish promises to return next week with some mind-blowing nuggets of the dirtiest dirt.

Speaking of B-list, **PAMELA ANDERSON** arranged a wedding on the beach Aug. 17. No, it was not for her and her well-endowed ex-hubby, **TOMMY LEE**, who were married next to the surf in 1995.

It was for her two dogs: Star, a Golden Retriever, and Luca, a Chihuahua, according to the World Entertainment News Network. Here's the clincher, they're both male.

This is proof that **RICK SANTORUM** was right when he reasoned that if you let the gays get married, next thing you know, animals will be getting married, too. Either that, or it's proof that Anderson, 39, is a bit off her rocker.

About 20 of her friends, including 'Da Ali G. Show' star **SACHA BARON COHEN**, showed up for the ceremony in Malibu, Calif., near Anderson's home. The proud mother of the grooms also gave them plenty of gifts fit for gay dogs, like cashmere blankets and angora sweaters.

This & that

In other end-of-summer news, Mantra Entertainment is releasing three new movies in the "Guys Gone Wild" series on Sept. 13. These hour-long videos of hunky boys on spring break baring their bums and naughty bits are \$19.99 each, or \$54.97 for the entire set. If desperate enough, you can buy the three — "Heat Stroke," "The Big Easy," and creatively titled "Dude, Where's My Pants" — at www.guysgonewild.com.

Speaking of desperate, **MARCIA CROSS** is engaged — to a man. Though the star of ABC's "Desperate Housewives" was the subject of a nasty Internet rumor (that Dish reprinted, much to her chagrin) that she was about to come out as a lesbian, Us Weekly



Pamela Anderson arranged a romantic wedding ceremony for her canine friends, both of whom are male.

says the 43-year-old Cross is set to marry her 43-year-old stockbroker boyfriend, Tom Mahoney. Let's hope their dogs don't join in the ceremony.

In other crazy relationship news, a threesome scene in the new Atom Egoyan movie "Where the Truth Lies" is causing some trouble for the film's rating, Reuters reports. Apparently, the director is afraid that a love scene between a woman (**RACHAEL BLANCHARD**) and a comedy duo (**KEVIN BACON** and **COLIN FIRTH**) may earn the picture a restrictive NC-17.



Marcia Cross

Egoyan is ready to appeal the decision but is worried cuts will need to be made, because he doesn't have any coverage shots of the scene. Dish can't wait until late October, when the movie is released, to see what all the fuss is about.

As if seeing Kevin's bacon isn't good enough, **EWAN MCGREGOR** has just signed up for a gay role in the dark comedy "Scenes of a Sexual Nature," which follows seven couples over an afternoon in London. Along with the rest of the cast, which includes Brits like **SOPHIE OKONEDO**, **HUGH BONNEVILLE** and **POLLY WALKER**, the resident diva on HBO's "Rome," McGregor has taken a sizeable pay cut to star in this independent flick.

In other wacky project developments, **ELTON JOHN** and longtime songwriting partner **BERNIE TAUPIN** are about to debut their first musical theater work in San Francisco, says Playbill magazine. Their piece "Lestat," based on the novels of Anne Rice, is set to open in late 2005 to prep for a Broadway opening in the spring.

Still no word on whether this vampire story sucks.

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local cover story

Singing is her joy, but Bering Omega is her mission

SINGING, continued from Page 1

She has performed at Carnegie Hall, on National Public Radio, the BBC and Deutsche Radio.

So, what would make an opera star with those credits spearhead a fundraiser for a Houston agency that serves people with HIV/AIDS?

As it turns out, Camille Zamora's interests are not solely musical. She cares deeply for Houstonians living with HIV/AIDS.

"Years ago, a friend of mine mentioned that there was this great volunteer opportunity literally across the street from where I went to high school (at the Houston School for the Performing and Visual Arts)," Zamora said. "At that time Omega House was a tiny three-bed facility. I started volunteering and eventually spent every Sunday afternoon there making some amazing friends in the process."

On Sept. 17, at the Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall, Zamora and a talented troupe of up-and-coming operatic talent will present "Sing for Hope: An Evening of Art Songs and Arias."

This is the 11th year she has come back home to Houston to stage the fundraiser that benefits Bering Omega Community Services. Funds raised from the event will go toward the operation of Omega House, Bering's residential hospice, as well as the organization's Adult Day Care Center, den-

tal clinic and support network.

In the early days of the AIDS epidemic, much of the funding for HIV related services came from intimate events created by small, innovative groups of people.

"Back in 1994 I was volunteering with two terrific guys, Aldo Gomez and Jim Murdaugh," Zamora recalled. "The three of us started brainstorming about the feasibility of some kind of fundraiser. I felt certain I could rope some of my musician friends into performing a benefit - when you believe in a cause you are shameless about asking people to help. That first year we were at "Ovations" in the Village and raised \$2,000."

She continued, "The following year I moved to New York to continue my career and entered the Masters Program at Julliard. As I continued to develop as a singer, the event grew with me. In the next few years it began to take on some real legitimacy."

ZAMORA'S INVOLVEMENT WITH HIV/AIDS took an unexpected and much more personal turn when her best friend from HSPVA, tenor Frank Logan, contacted her while in the final stages of AIDS.

"Frank spent the last six weeks of his life at Omega House," she said. "The care he received there was incredible, and it transformed my involvement with Bering Omega. What I understood at that time was that there was nowhere else for him to go."

When she talked face-to-face with her friend about his stay at Omega House,

Zamora said, "I could see the look of complete relief in his eyes. I realized how valuable this service was. At that point my gratitude and commitment to the community were absolute. 'Art Songs and Arias' really blossomed as a result of my involvement with Frank and is now a tribute to his memory and our friendship." Zamora said.

SPRING FORWARD SEVERAL YEARS and "Art Songs and Arias" now is one of the fall season's most anticipated events. This year's cadre of singers comprises some significant talent according to Zamora. "Three of the artists have made their Metropolitan Opera debuts within the last year - these are some of the most exciting singers in the operatic 'thirty-something' set."

She pointed out that "Art Songs and Arias" requires a commitment from the artists who agree to perform.

"Many singers will do a single charity event, but this endeavor requires six days of intensive rehearsal time from the artists and production personnel, all of which is donated," she said. "The concert is specifically crafted for this community every year. Our partners, Continental (Airlines) and Marriott (Hotels) underwrite a significant amount of expenses. Without them, this wouldn't be possible."

While some may think that "Art Songs and Arias" sounds a bit stuffy, in actuality

MORE INFO

'Sing for Hope: An Evening of Art Songs & Arias'
7 p.m., Saturday, September 17
Zilkha Hall
800 Bagby St.
Cocktail attire
\$250 Orchestra/\$125 Mezzanine (performance only)
713-315-2525
www.thehobbycenter.org

the evening possesses a lilt - something these young artists aim for. In addition to arias, it includes showtunes. "The event is fun and has a truly uplifting vibe," Zamora said. "We are constantly trying to attract new audiences. A concert that combines Broadway and classical works is a great way to do that. The program includes everything from Mozart to Sondheim."

Zamora's life continues to intensify personally and artistically. In spite of the arrival of a new baby boy this past October and ever increasing recognition of her vocal abilities, her commitment to "Art Songs and Arias" is steadfast.

"I don't know if I will ever create the most high-powered career for myself," she said. "As you begin a family, there are choices you have to make to balance your career and the rest of your life. The great thing about this process is: singing is my joy in life, but this concert is my mission."

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eclipse cover story

Alvear takes unexpected route to television

ALVEAR, continued from Page 12

Since then, his columns have been compiled in a book, "Men are Pigs but We Love Bacon." While promoting the book, Atlanta-based Alvear went to London's Pride celebration, where he met the editor of the Gay Times, a national gay magazine.

Shortly after, the producers of "Sex Inspectors" called the editor and asked if he knew any gay advice columnists (which the Brits call "agony uncles" or "agony aunts"). Alvear was his only recommendation.

"They purposely wanted a gay man on the show," Alvear says. "Part of it is very unsettling and predatory-looking about a straight man showing a woman sex techniques. Even in this age of equality, there is a huge power dynamic between men and women."

"While Tracy can show a man how to perform cunnilingus," he explained, "it doesn't have the same feeling as a straight man trying to show a woman how to give oral sex."

In most instances on the show, Alvear is sent off with the woman, while Cox converses with the man.

Alvear says that he and Cox get along famously, and they divide the labor in whatever way feels natural and will make the couple most comfortable.



Gay sex advice columnist Michael Alvear, pictured above with co-host Tracy Cox, helps improve the love lives of straight British couples on the 'Sex Inspectors,' which debuted in the United States Sept. 1 on HBO. (Photos courtesy of HBO/Freemantle Media)

"SEX INSPECTORS" WAS SUCH A HIT IN the U.K., that it is now in its second six-episode season, and the ratings are even better than before (even though the program is regularly beaten by a hit show hosted by gay comedian Graham Norton on the BBC).

Despite the presence of Alvear and two gay directors, the show, the show still hasn't featured any gay couples seeking advice. Alvear says that they hunted for a lesbian

couple, but none would agree to be filmed.

Straight sex aside, Alvear, who is currently in a relationship, says that gay couples can learn plenty from their straight counterparts.

"For gay couples, the No. 1 problem is mismatched libidos. Another problem is how you approach sex — some people need a lot of foreplay to get in the mood, others don't," he says. "These are all universal

 MORE INFO

'Sex Inspectors'

HBO

Thursdays at 10 p.m.

problems. There isn't a problem that straight couples have that gay people don't."

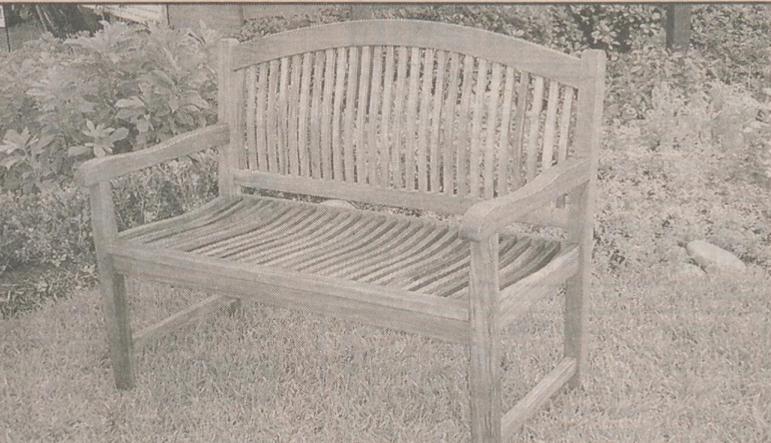
Alvear sees a bigger divide between Americans and Brits than gay and straight folks. He says, in a world where Janet Jackson's televised bare breast elicits a huge outcry and even bigger fines, he doesn't think a show like this would fly in the U.S., outside of HBO.

"I think it's a sad statement about sexual attitudes that Americans have that the only place a show whose stated aim is to keep couples together and keep families intact — a show whose end result is family values — can only be shown on a network that is immune to advertising boycotts and is outside the jurisdiction of the FCC," he says.

Still, HBO is keeping relatively quiet about the show.

Outside a few promos for "The Sex Inspectors" in between movies and other programs, the subscription cable channel hasn't given it much publicity. In contrast, the debut of its original (and more tame) series "Rome" has been advertised in countless publications as well as on buses, billboards and movie trailers.

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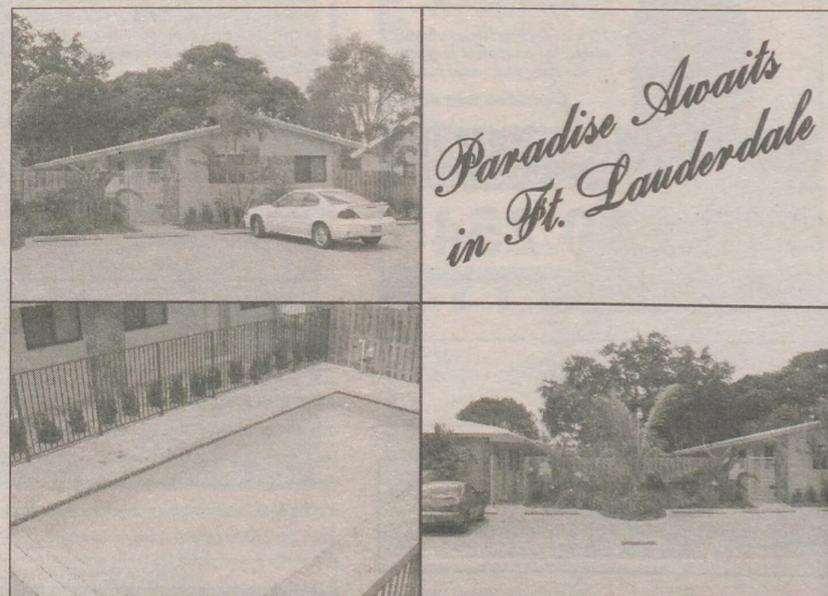
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THE NEXT TIME I HEAR, "OH HOW I wish I were an Oscar Meyer weiner," I'm going to write and say most of us actually don't, until they start making them bigger. After being dumped by a really hot guy, I've learned something today: They only like dating other hot guys.

WE REVERE PEOPLE WITH PERFECT gym bodies but try to cut down people who manifest any other achievement. Then we wonder why people consider us to be so shallow.

DIANA ROSS, PATTI LABELLE, CHER, Gladys Knight and Aretha: These, my young children, are divas. Britney, Ashanti, Jessica Simpson and Christina Aguilera have a long way to go before they can earn this title.

WHY ARE GAY CHAT ROOMS SO BORING?

ALL THE PICTURES ARE EITHER crappy or if they look good, don't actually represent reality. Nobody likes to be stuck at a dinner date with someone who's older and fatter than the picture they sent.

HOW COME I RARELY SEE ANY OLD gay people? Are most of us destined to die before 50?

TO THE GUY WHO THINKS YOU ONLY contract syphilis through unprotected sex: You should really do your research before you bitch.

Bitch Boy responds: Don't feel bad, original bitcher! This "expert" bitch misspelled syphilis.

IF YOU ARE HITTING ON A GUY, TRY not to get all snippy with someone else talking to him. Your target might just think you're rude.

Gay men put down rock as 'breeder music,' but the diva-disco they go ga-ga for is all from a straight woman's point of view.

Just because I have never had a girlfriend is no reason for my fellow lesbians to rag on me.

Bitch Boy responds: No, but misspelling lesbians as "lesbiens" is.

TO THE GUY WHO NOTICED A discrepancy between the same guy's profile on two different Web sites: Does that kind of comparison shopping make you any more virtuous? Get a life beyond the computer.

TO ANSWER THE QUESTION OF WHY lesbians treat other full-figured lesbians as unfit to be in a relationship: Because if you are unfit to take care of yourself, then you aren't fit to take care of a relationship. Femme up, get rid of the Subaru, and go on a diet to lose that lard ass.

LET ME DOWN ONE MORE TIME like this, and I will get freaky on your ass with a fire hose.

TO ALL THOSE COMPASSIONATE queens who feel sorry for those of us who are single and in no hurry, let me tell you something: I have a job, my own vehicle,

home and dogs to show. I'd rather be alone than wish I was.

SO THE FACT THAT SOMEONE CARES about education makes him an intellectual lightweight? My word, but you're confused.

TO THE GUYS WHO ONLY DATE FOR looks: You are limiting your life from some good friends. Looks fade after a while, but true friendship lasts a lifetime.

I'LL ALWAYS WONDER WHY MY fellow homos who spread false rumors that I have HIV now claim that I think I'm better than them because I don't associate with them.

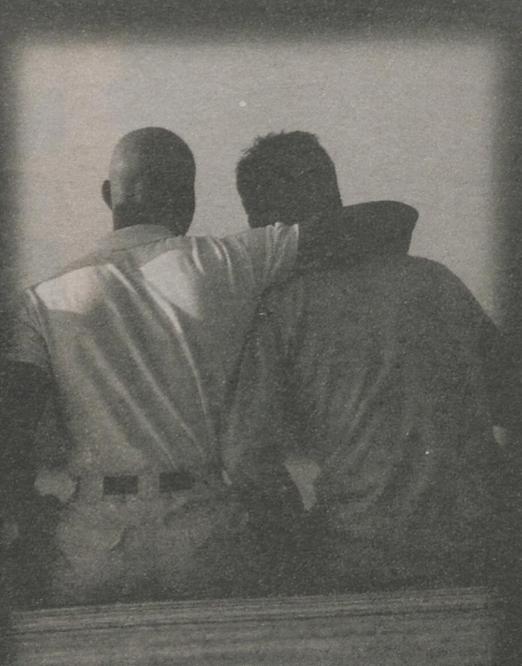
WHY DO GUYS WITH AVERAGE, stocky and heavy builds get angry when slim or athletic guys turn them down?

TO ALL THE JUDGMENTAL AND self-righteous among us: We should be helping our community. Drug and alcohol addiction are diseases.

TO THE GUY WHO SAID THAT "REAL" men don't care about soap: You're wrong! Stop using masculinity as an excuse to manipulate others into accepting your filthy-ass way of living!

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

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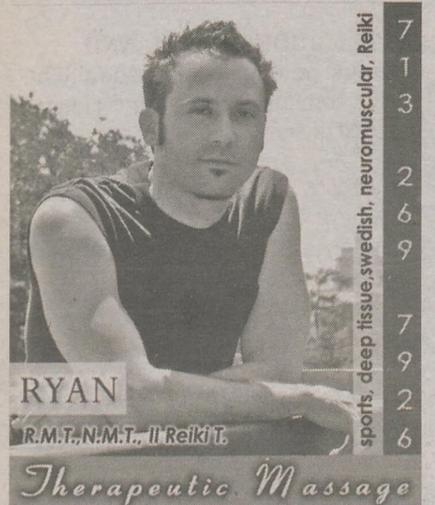


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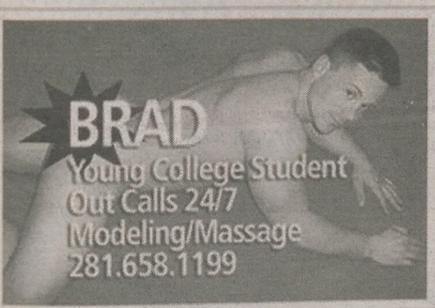


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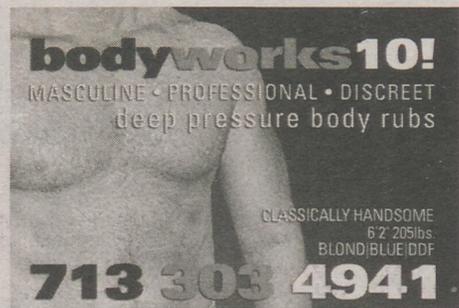
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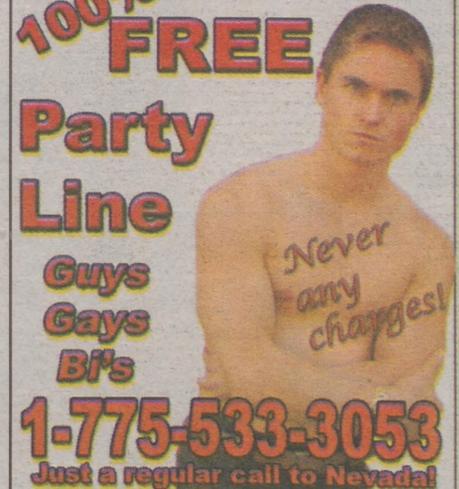
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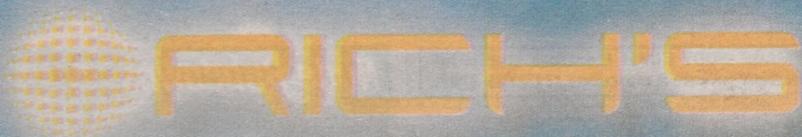
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