



### INSIDE



Montrose has evolved over the years to its look today, but the neighborhood still hosts the annual Pride festivities.

Page 3



Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist speaks out in favor of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Page 8



The new Hollywood Center in Montrose boasts a successful Vietnamese and Chinese cuisine restaurant.

Page 19

## 25<sup>th</sup> Pride the biggest ever

Crowd estimated near 150,000 on the silver anniversary of the Houston Pride Parade

By PENNY WEAVER

The silver anniversary Houston Pride drew the city's largest crowd ever, organizers said this week.

The highlight of the annual June celebration was the Houston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 28. The Pride Committee of Houston powered the parade and the previous "25 Days of Pride" to mark the 25th annual pride festival.

Jack Valinski, parade director this year for the committee, said the Houston Chronicle reported the parade crowd estimate was at 150,000.

"We have no official count," Valinski said, noting that neither PCOH or the Houston Police Department do a crowd count at the Pride parade.

But longtime Pride-goers in Houston agreed that this year's fest was the largest ever, Valinski said. It largely went off "without a hitch," he added.

"We were very pleased with the entire event,"

Valinski said. "Everything went pretty well."

The parade awards were handed out as follows:

- RUBY SLIPPER (best walking unit) - Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce
- GYPSY ROSE (best out-of-town unit) - Turtle Creek Chorale / The Strangerettes
- EDISON (best lighting on a non-professionally built unit) - Community Gospel Church
- HOUSTON (best non-professionally built motorized unit) - The Krewe of the Moons of Uranus
- RAINBOW LIGHTS (best lighting on a professionally built unit) - Diageo (Smirnoff Twist)
- TEXAS (best professionally built motorized unit) - JP Morgan Chase P.R.I.D.E. Team
- STONEWALL (best commemoration of Pride) - Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation
- SILVER CELEBRATION (best interpretation of theme) - Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History, Inc.
- SPIRIT OF MONTROSE (best overall entry) - Turtle Creek Chorale / The Strangerettes

Please see PRIDE on Page 2



Gay Houstonians brought out the rainbow flag and took to the streets for Pride over the weekend. See pages 15 and 16 for more photos from the Pride parade and other events. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

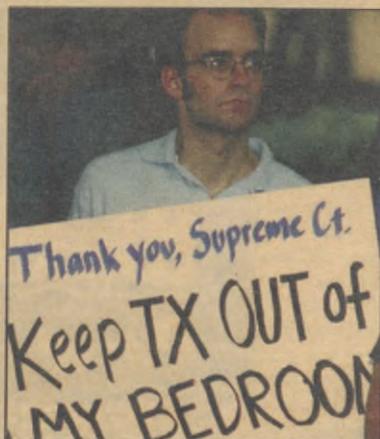
## Gay Houstonians rejoice at sodomy case decision

Hundreds turn out for rally after Supreme Court ruling

By PENNY WEAVER

A week after what some are calling the most important gay civil rights court decision of this generation, waves of reaction continue to flow across Houston and the nation.

"The potential impact of the ruling is starting to be realized," said gay Houston attorney Mitchell Katine. "Each day, I read about something else happening in either a court or a city government in response to the Supreme Court ruling, and I am encouraged that this case will be the starting point for additional equalization of laws and societal acceptance for gay and lesbian people."



More than 200 Houstonians took part in a victory rally on Thursday, June 26, on the steps of city hall in reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down the anti-gay Texas sodomy statute. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

- Some seek information on the private lives of Lawrence and Garner. See story, page 5.
- Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist supports a constitutional ban on gay marriage. See story, page 8.

When the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision June 26 in Lawrence v. Texas — and effectively struck down sodomy laws across the nation — celebrations among gay Americans ensued.

In Houston, where the case originated, Katine and the two men at the center of the case — John Lawrence and Tyron Garner — helped lead the rejoicing at the victory.

All three, along with Lambda Legal's Lee Taft and other local gay activists,

Please see DECISION on Page 4

local news

# Committee announces parade winners



On Sunday, members of the Pride Committee of Houston gathered to hand out awards for the best entries of the 2003 Houston Pride Parade. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

About a dozen people stood at different points along the Pride parade route with anti-gay signs, protesting the festivities. (Photos by Dalton DeHart)



PRIDE continued from Page 1

Parade judges were Carol Wyatt, community activist; Brenda Thomas, community activist; Jone Devlin, QueerVoices host; Pamela Zager of Red Bull; and Larry Bagneris, City of New Orleans Human Rights Commissioner.

The 25th annual Houston Pride included a 1,000-pound chandelier — dubbed the “world’s largest” — displayed in the air above the intersection of Westheimer Road and Montrose

Boulevard. The chandelier was lit in rainbow colors with hundreds of lights for the occasion.

**i FOR MORE INFO**

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## local news

## Montrose continues to thrive in 2003

Hit hard by AIDS pandemic and other changes, the traditionally gay neighborhood marches on

*Editor's note: In honor of 25 years of Pride and gay history in Houston, this story is the final in a three-part series taking a look at the changes in the Montrose neighborhood, traditionally known as the heart of gay Houston.*

By JOHNNY HOOKS

Montrose at the dawn of the 1980s was surely unrecognizable to many people who grew up there.

"Queer as Folk" devotees take note: Montrose had its own Babylon, the queen of 1978-1980 lower Westheimer clubs.

Babylon became Numbers and as the '80s took shape, Numbers became the epicenter of the burgeoning punk movement. The lower Westheimer strip, which runs from Montrose Boulevard east to Elgin, was only a few years earlier, spotted with Euro-influenced nightspots and petit cafes. Now however, the quasi-fabulous Montrose scene had been reduced, nearly, to nudie clubs and strip joints. Fantastic exceptions from the time include Tootsies and the salon/boutique Strands, which held their own glitter amidst the grime.

I grew up in a small, preppy town, Greenville, S.C. When my mother remarried in 1981, we moved to League City. At school, I met a beautiful girl named Susan. She was a "punk" and looked exactly like Olivia Newton-John; she even wore a sweatshirt (ok, it was a pink off-the-shoulder, "Flashdance"-inspired sweatshirt) that said "Olivia Who?" on it.

I was hooked and, at the time, I thought I was in love, but more likely I just wanted to be her. Susan took me to Montrose for the first time in 1983. She picked me up after my parents had gone to bed. I snuck out wearing my stepfather's white construction boots with my blue jeans tucked in, a sleeveless British flag T-shirt, white bow tie, lipstick, eyeliner and a white swirl on my cheek that went into my mouth. Susan said, "You look great; lose the bow tie"

Heading toward town, Susan said, "We're stopping to pick up my LESBIAN friend, Tina. Do you know what a lesbian is, Johnny?" I did and I couldn't believe it. We ended up at Rudyard's, then Numbers, and we finally walked to Lola's. The walk from Numbers to Lola's was a rite of passage for us back then. It was if a bomb had gone off in my head, and I knew where I wanted to take be, here...in Montrose.

I became a fixture at Numbers. There I met the man I lost my virginity to, saw bands from Sheila E to the Cure, and honestly, spent my formative years dancing, having sex and living like a rock star.

We would stand outside and model our punk outfits for cruisers, charging \$2 per



Largely still the heart of gay life in the Bayou City, Montrose continues to be the neighborhood where the Houston Pride Parade is held each year. (Photos by Dalton DeHart)

photo. Cruising down Westheimer was monumental, yet the crowd was almost entirely straight. The Houston Post: "Ask any teenagers who cruise up and down lower Westheimer on a Saturday night... 'Hey, I'm not a faggot,' one proclaims.... it's like a foul-mouthed Beach Party movie."

The one bright spot in that dingy Montrose area was the curve.

Populated by The Daiquiri Factory and shops like Tiz Avenue, The Flat Earth and Wear it Again Sam, the curve was an oasis. I saw Annie Lennox shopping down the street once.

The cruising ended in 1987. Police Chief Lee Brown (Yes, that Lee Brown) ordered policemen mounted on horseback to sweep lower Westheimer. I can remember them literally shoulder-to-shoulder, across all four lanes of Westheimer at the Tower Theater, heading east arresting, harassing and scaring people with their helmets and batons.

Unfortunately, the Montrose community was facing bigger demons than Brown's horsemen. AIDS had reared its ugly head and was beginning its sweep through Houston, all too familiar to those losing friends in San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles. Fortunately, what would become the AIDS Foundation Houston and Montrose Clinic had been in place long before they were needed.

Like many communities across America and the world, in Montrose, people began dying at an accelerated rate and a dark cloud settled over our beloved neighborhood. Don Gill remembers, "I was so proud of Houston's reaction to the pandemic. People went so far as to open their homes to men who had lost everything, and were now facing death alone...I'll never forget that."

The advent of the AIDS cocktail, while not the cure we had all been waiting for, at least put a stopper in the flood of death.

The late 1990s saw the Montrose begin to return to its roots (so to speak), with the return of influential straight singles and families moving back into the area: Instead



of rushing away from Montrose, people began returning in droves. Preservationists and purest alike decried their return, especially the penchant to buy and tear down the bungalow houses that had become architectural staples of Montrose and its surrounding neighborhoods.

Town homes sprang up like mushrooms after a long spring rain. Cafes, coffee shops and restaurants like Empire Caf , Brazil, and Mark's at one end and Aldo's, La Strada and Marrakech at the other set the standard for a new and ever-changing Montrose. Many GLBT people were forced out of their longtime homes because as demand came, rents rose. It seemed as if our community was yet again under attack. How would our little piece of Heaven fare?

Flash forward to 2003. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in our favor, decriminalizing gay sex. Westheimer from Shepherd to Elgin is full of fabulous shops that sell everything from leather to art supplies. Restaurants abound from Hugo's to Caf  Complique to Fabio's. We even have the first Loft Tower going up on the curve! The Briar Patch, one of Houston's oldest queer bars, and perhaps its only true piano bar, has moved into Montrose, and the new Hollywood Retail Center off Fairview is packed.

Montrose thrives because it is ever changing, always growing, always welcoming newcomers of every persuasion, shape and sexuality, observers agree. The next time someone asks where you live, stand a little taller when you say "Montrose." It's a tradition that gays and the city of Houston can truly have PRIDE in!

## inside

ISSUE 1184

LOCAL NEWS.....	3
NATIONAL NEWS.....	6
FORUM.....	10
OUT ON THE BAYOU.....	15
COMMUNITY CALENDAR.....	21
APPOINTMENTS.....	21
CLASSIFIEDS.....	22
Q PUZZLE.....	23
MY STARS.....	26



**CONTROVERSY:** Known for decrying the presence of 'homos in the military,' Rep. Randy 'Duke' Cunningham distances himself from comments made by HRC's Elizabeth Birch. Page 6.



**MEDIA SCRUTINY:** Last week's U.S. Supreme Court decision has increased the glare of the spotlight on gay Houstonians John Lawrence and Tyron Garner. Page 5.



**NO GAY MARRIAGE:** U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist speaks out in favor of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would limit marriage to heterosexual couples. Page 8.

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## local news

## Dozens line up to thank Lawrence, Garner

DECISION, continued from Page 1

spoke at an afternoon press conference that same day at the Houston GLBT Community Center. Lawrence read a brief statement on behalf of himself and Garner. The two did not take questions from the press.

That evening, they were the guests of honor at a rally on the steps of Houston City Hall. A number of gay activists and political leaders spoke during the event, which drew more than 200 people.

"This is about the government finally getting it right," said Annise Parker, the first lesbian to be elected to the Houston City Council. Parker now is running for the comptroller spot for the city.

Clarence Burton Bagby, a longtime political activist and president of the community center, also spoke at the rally.

"Every American deserves equal rights. This is about all people," he said of the Supreme Court decision. "This ruling is the most important civil rights achievement in a generation."

Those present also remembered activists who helped lead the way for gay civil rights but are no longer living and could not be present to enjoy the milestone.

Other speakers included former state lawmaker Debra Danburg; PFLAG mother and secretary Sue Null; longtime lesbian activist and city council candidate Sue Lovell; gay activist Ray Hill; and state Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston).

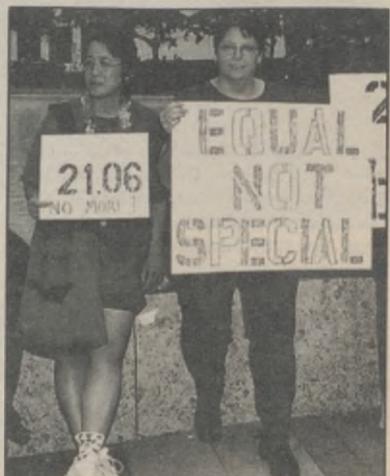
"This is all of our day when rights are restored that should have never been taken away in the first place," Coleman said. The lawmaker said he was asked, in a media interview earlier that day, if the Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas* puts into question the state's new Defense of Marriage Act.

That DOMA, similar to a federal act and others passed in several other states, states that Texas will not recognize any marriage but that between a man and a woman.

Coleman's reply when asked if the Lawrence decision affects Texas' DOMA?



More than 200 people gathered at Houston City Hall on June 26 to celebrate the Supreme Court ruling on *Lawrence v. Texas*. Many held signs thanking the justices for their action. One person stood nearby with an anti-gay sign in protest. After the rally, dozens of people lined up to thank John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, and Houston attorney Mitchell Katine, for spearheading the case. (Photos by Dalton DeHart)



"You're goddamned right it does," he told the cheering crowd at the rally.

Hill recalled the years that many gay activists spent working on civil rights, women's rights and other causes.

"We were doing all this work for other

people's freedom, so why not do it for ourselves?" Hill said. Gays now are beyond an era when their private actions are made criminal, he added.

"21.06 was enforced every day, but not as a criminal statute," Hill said. "Slam that door shut. We can never, by this decision, go back there again."

Katine said the announcement this week by Wal-Mart that the retail chain will now include sexual orientation in its anti-discrimination policy is directly related to the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision. He hopes for even more good to come out of the case.

"The whole case and case analysis is being cited by the people at Wal-Mart as helping them," Katine said. "It just helped the people understand the issues better."

"There should be other direct results as well; we're just waiting for them to come to light," he added.

Katine points out two sections of the Supreme Court decision that stand out for him.

"I'm getting very excited as I read and re-read the opinion," he said.

One portion is at the beginning of the ruling: "This, as a general rule, should counsel against attempts by the state or a

court to define the meaning of the relationship or to set its boundaries absent injury to a person or abuse of an institution the law protects. The liberty protected by the constitution allows homosexual persons the right to make this choice [regarding intimate conduct with another person]."

And, at the end of the opinion, Katine points out, the justices state: "As the constitution endures, persons in every generation can invoke its principles in their own search for greater freedom."

Katine said, "That sentence is amazing. That sentence encourages people now and in the future to look to the constitution in search for greater freedom. That's really what we did here."

"This opinion is full of gems like that," he added. "I understand that that is why the conservative commentators are so concerned about this case is because the case truly talks about freedom and liberty and privacy and that homosexuals are included under that protection."

"The more you look at it, the better we all should feel," Katine said. "I'm just sitting back and watching the ripple effects from the decision already."



John Lawrence read a brief statement on behalf of himself and Tyron Garner at a press conference on June 26 at the Houston GLBT Community Center in reaction to the *Lawrence v. Texas* ruling. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

## local news

# Sodomy case defendants 'just regular guys'

Media probes private lives of Lawrence, Garner after Supreme Court decision

By PENNY WEAVER

Few details have been made public about the two men at the center of the Texas case through which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down anti-gay sodomy laws across the nation.

But after last week's court decision, more people — particularly in the mainstream media and conservative circles — began to ask: Who are John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner?

By now virtually every American adult knows the basics of the case. Lawrence, then 55, and Garner, then 31, were arrested in Lawrence's Houston apartment on Sept. 17, 1998, and charged with violating Texas' so-called "homosexual conduct" law. Both pleaded no contest to the charge against them, each paid a \$125 fine, and they went on to challenge the state's sodomy statute all the way to the nation's highest court.

But the landmark Supreme Court decision put the two quiet Houstonians into a more intense spotlight.

"I am not a public speaker," Lawrence said at a press conference June 26 at the Houston GLBT Community Center. He read a brief written statement as Garner stood silently beside him at a podium crowded with news microphones and recorders, in a room at the center packed with reporters, photographers and television camera crews.



Gay Houstonians John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner have been the subject of intensified media scrutiny since last week. After a June 26 press conference at the Houston GLBT Community Center, the pair were followed by about a dozen reporters and photographers. From left are Lambda Legal's Lee Taft, Garner and Lawrence. (Photo by Penny Weaver)

"We never chose to be public figures or to take on this fight. But we also never thought we could be arrested this way," Lawrence said. "We're glad not only that this ruling lets us get on with our lives but that it opens the door for gay people all across the country to be truly equal. We're grateful to everyone who has respected our privacy over the last few years, even if the state of Texas did not respect it that night in 1998."

Following the Supreme Court ruling and press conference, Lawrence and Garner made perhaps their most public appearances yet, as guests of honor at a rally at Houston City Hall that evening, and in the Houston

Pride Parade on Saturday, June 28.

Lawrence, who is white, is almost 59 now, a longtime medical technologist with a nondescript face and receding hairline, a quiet way about him. He said little at the rally, smiling at supporters, then stepping to the side of the city hall steps to light a cigarette and smoke alone.

Garner, who is black, turns 36 next week, and seems only slightly more animated than Lawrence. The Houston Voice previously has reported that Garner has worked in the moving business. He is shorter than his counterpart, but also says little. Both refer to their attorneys to discuss the case for them.

On June 27, the Dallas Morning News called Lawrence and Garner "invisible warriors" who have been "working with their lawyers to keep their lives secret."

The Morning News detailed the criminal histories of both men, largely information previously reported. Harris County court records list arrests for assault, drunken driving and possession of a small amount of marijuana for Garner, the newspaper reported. Department of Public Safety records show two convictions for assault, in 1995 and 2000, according to the Morning News.

Lawrence has two convictions for drunken driving and one for murder-by-automobile in 1967, the Morning News reported, facts that the Houston Voice uncovered in 1999.

Houston Police Department spokesman John Cannon this week confirmed that Garner has a criminal record.

"He's been handled by HPD before. He's got a couple of misdemeanor charges," Cannon said.

The Morning News also reported details on the men's private lives, including that Lawrence is in the midst of bankruptcy proceedings and still lives in the apartment where he and Garner were arrested.

But gay Houston attorney Mitchell Katine, who handled the Lawrence and Garner case from its beginnings and all the way to the Supreme Court, said the recent media reports are nothing new.

"It's basically a lot of old stuff. We've said all along these are just regular guys," Katine said. "Those problems that they've had in the past have nothing to do with our challenge to the unjust [sodomy] law."

"I don't think it's relevant," he added. "This case has never been about the facts of the case. Our clients stipulated to the facts. They never challenged the entry by the police officer. They never challenged the facts. They were willing to say, 'I'll go get a conviction which will enable my lawyers to best challenge the underlying law.'"

According to Katine, the imperfections of the two men make their willingness to continue the case a greater sacrifice.

"That even makes it that much more courageous, in my opinion, for people who have some criminal indiscretions in the past to be willing to go forward publicly to challenge this law, realizing that at some point someone would discover this public information and it might not be very nice," Katine said. "They should be given credit not to be embarrassed or fearful to have gone forward."

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## national news

## HRC denies speech outed anti-gay congressman

'Duke' Cunningham denies meeting official or questioning whether he is gay

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — It began as a remarkable vignette about a virulently anti-gay congressman who reached out in private to gay activists with questions about how people know if they are gay.

But last month retold before an audience of nearly 200 at a Gay Pride town hall meeting, a remembered encounter from eight years ago has raised questions about whether the leader of this country's largest gay rights organization has on several occasions effectively outed a member of Congress.

The occasion was a Gay Pride forum on June 3, where a panel of gay rights leaders was addressing whether there was "a gay agenda." Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, began her presentation, which focused in part on reaching out to gay rights foes, with an example about a private meeting she and an HRC colleague had in 1995 with an unnamed conservative Republican congressman who opposes gay rights.

The congressman startled her, Birch said, when he ushered his staff members out of his Capitol Hill office, closed the door, and asked Birch and Daniel Zingale, then HRC's political director, just how it was that they came to know that they are gay.

"You know, how do you know you're that way?" Birch quoted the congressman as asking.

In hushed tones, Birch told the audience that the congressman leaned back against his desk and revealed that he was asking the question because he had "loved men" in his past.

"[T]his guy's got three tours in Vietnam, and there were a lot of guns on the wall," Birch told the audience, which laughed in response. "Whips and stuff like that. ... I looked at Daniel and I went, 'Oh my God.'"

Birch described how she and Zingale told the congressman how they and other gay people struggle with their own feelings until they come to terms with who they are and affirm to themselves that they're gay.

"And finally, he said, 'Because I've loved men,'" Birch recalled the congressman saying. "And I said, 'Was that in a military setting?'" Again, the audience laughed, acknowledging how awkward the conversation was for Birch and Zingale. "He said yes," Birch recalled. "He said, 'Yes indeed, on the field of battle, but I've also loved men.'"

Birch did not identify the congressman but said the meeting took place a short time after the congressman created a controversy in 1995 when he referred to gays as "homos" on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Media reports and other background facts indicate that U.S. Rep. Randall "Duke" Cunningham (R-Calif.), an archconservative from San Diego, fits many of the details in Birch's story.

The news media in San Diego reported at



U.S. Rep. Randy 'Duke' Cunningham (R-Calif.) decried the presence of 'homos in the military' on the floor of Congress in 1995. He matches many of the details of a story told by HRC's Elizabeth Birch about a member of Congress who seemed to be questioning his sexual orientation.

that time that in a speech on the floor of the House, Cunningham decried the presence of "homos" in the military. He appears to be the only member of the House to call gays "homos" on the House floor at that time, and most likely at any time since then, according to a review of news media reports and the Congressional Record.

Two gay Democratic activists in San Diego this week confirmed that Birch told members of that city's gay Democratic club a nearly identical story in 1996, and on that occasion directly identified Cunningham as the congressman in question.

### Congressman denies meeting

Harmony Allen, Cunningham's press secretary, said Cunningham never met with Birch and never made any such comments about gays or his feelings toward men.

"He has never had a conversation with that woman," Allen said. "The meeting did not take place." Allen added, "He is a heterosexual."

Birch has since refused to comment about whether she has met with Cunningham and whether she based her story on Cunningham's private comments to her and Zingale. She said she never reveals the identities or remarks made by members of Congress in private meetings.

Allen said several of the facts in Birch's story don't fit Cunningham's background. Birch said the congressman in question had five children, while Cunningham has three children, Allen said. Birch noted that the congressman in her story served three tours in Vietnam. Cunningham, a decorated fighter pilot and acclaimed pilot instructor, served just two tours, according to Allen.

"He never had guns on his walls," Allen said. Regardless of whom she referenced, Birch said, the subject of her story never actually said outright that he was gay, Birch told Houston Voice. The person in question merely inquired about how someone knows he or she is homosexual, Birch said.

"There was more than one person who



Elizabeth Birch, the executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, told a story at a June town hall meeting about an anti-gay, conservative, Republican Congressman who told her, 'I've loved men,' and asked how he would know if he is gay.

has expressed curiosity about being gay," Birch said. "I scrambled the facts. I created a composite."

### Record of hostility toward gay rights

Cunningham has long been considered one of the most ardent adversaries of gay rights advocates in Congress. His reference to gays as "homos" surfaced during a May 1995 debate on the House floor over renewing the Clean Water Act. During a heated debate, Cunningham said Democrats who opposed changing the water pollution control law are "the same people who would vote to cut defense \$177 billion, the same ones who would put homos in the military."

When Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.) rose to protest Cunningham's remarks, Cunningham told her, "Sit down, you socialist," according to an account by the Los Angeles Times. Cunningham later apologized for his comments.

In 1998, Cunningham drew further condemnation in the San Diego press for insulting gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.). In an appearance before prostate cancer survivors, Cunningham discussed the rectal procedure he had undergone for the condition, describing it as, "just not natural, unless maybe you're Barney Frank," the San Diego Union-Tribune reported. Cunningham once again offered an apology for the comment.

Despite Birch's denials about referring to any one congressman, at least two members of San Diego's gay Democratic club say she made it clear to them that Cunningham was the subject of a similar story she told them.

"She told us that same story but she said it was Cunningham who said those things," said Craig Roberts, former president of the San Diego Democratic Club, a gay Democratic group.

Doug Case, another one of the group's former presidents, said he remembers vividly that Birch told the story about how Cunningham asked her at a meeting in Cunningham's Washington office how gay people know they're gay. Case said he doesn't recall Birch saying that Cunningham also

disclosed that he "loves men."

Allen, Cunningham's press secretary, dismissed the comments by the San Diego gay Democrats, saying they are longstanding political opponents of Cunningham and lack credibility.

"Isn't it interesting that this is coming up just before an election year?" she said.

HRC spokesperson David Smith said the organization would have no further comment on the claims by the San Diego gay Democrats that Birch told them Cunningham was the subject of her story.

Reiterating Birch's assertion that she never meant to imply the congressman in question is gay, Smith pointed to the part of Birch's speech in which she explained her reason for telling her story.

"[T]here was a moment when we touched each other," Birch said of the congressman, noting that he returned to the House floor the next day and apologized for his "homos" remark.

"And we believe there can be a human-to-human contact at some form that will break open something inside someone," Birch said.

Cunningham scored 17 points out of a possible 100 in HRC's current congressional scorecard, which rates how supportive congressmen are of gay rights issues.

### Activist 'surprised' by Birch speech

Several gay activists who saw Birch deliver her speech at the town hall meeting said Birch conveyed the clear impression to them that the congressman she talked about was struggling with his own sexual orientation at a time he referred to gays in a derogatory way.

"Not knowing who she was talking about, I got the impression that this was a closeted congressman struggling with his sexuality," said Craig Bowman, executive director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, which advocates for gay youth.

Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, who was among the other speakers at the town hall meeting, said he, too, drew the conclusion from Birch's remarks that the congressman in question was "questioning" his sexual orientation.

Patrick Guerriero, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay GOP group, who also spoke at the town hall meeting, did not return a call seeking comment about Birch's speech.

For the transcript of Birch's speech, please visit [www.houstonvoice.com](http://www.houstonvoice.com).

### MORE INFO

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## medical report

### Experts propose international program to find AIDS vaccine

WASHINGTON (AP) — A crash program to develop an AIDS vaccine may be the only way to reduce a worldwide death toll that could reach 70 million by 2020, according to some of the world's leading researchers. Twenty-four scientific leaders advanced a formal proposal in the journal *Science* last month calling for a network of coordinated research centers dedicated to the sole purpose of developing and testing an AIDS vaccine. Co-authors of the proposal include two Nobel Prize winners, the heads of major public health departments of the U.S. government, and AIDS researchers from several nations. In concept, said co-author Dr. David Baltimore, the proposal is rather like a Manhattan Project against AIDS. The Manhattan Project produced the world's first atomic weapon. "In the sense it is a commitment to use the skills of the scientific community to solve a problem, it is like the Manhattan Project," said Baltimore, a Nobel laureate. "But the Manhattan Project depended on secrecy and we're doing the exact opposite."



Dr. David Baltimore, a Nobel laureate, co-authored a report calling for a Manhattan Project against AIDS to coordinate research into a vaccine for a disease. (Photo courtesy of web.mit.edu)

### Bisexuality linked to HIV spread among minority women, study says

DETROIT (AP) — Black and Hispanic women are being infected with HIV at a higher rate than the rest of the population in part because many of them don't know their sex partners are bisexual, a new study shows. "I run into so many women who say they were infected by their husbands and significant others," said Paula Sirls, 40, of Detroit, who contracted HIV from a man who had a relationship with her for 20 years before telling her he was HIV-positive. "So I want to talk to the ladies: You need to get documented proof that he has been tested," Sirls, now an HIV/AIDS educator and counselor, told the *Detroit News*. Black and Hispanic men are more likely than white men to engage in bisexual behavior, according to a study by the Michigan Department of Community Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. "We interviewed these men, and this is very real," said study leader Eve Mokotoff, chief of HIV/AIDS epidemiology at the state health agency. "What underlies this problem is our unacceptance of homosexuality."

### Study shows high numbers of gay men having unsafe sex

NEW YORK — A new study discovered that almost half of the gay and bisexual men they interviewed had unprotected anal sex during the past six months, according to Reuters. The study by the *American Journal of Public Health* looked at 4,295 men from six cities. The findings "emphasize the continued need for effective behavioral strategies designed to prevent HIV infection among men who have sex with men," wrote Dr. Beryl A. Koblin of the New York Blood Center in New York City. The interviews were part of an ongoing effort to identify risk behaviors that may be increasing HIV transmissions in the U.S.

### Federal health officials to provide 250,000 rapid HIV tests

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention recently contracted to purchase 250,000 quick-test kits to try and slow down the infection rate, according to Reuters. Researchers said 25 percent of people with HIV are unaware of it. The CDC plans to send the tests to the 50 state health departments in hopes it might slow down the current rate of 40,000 new infections annually. The test gives the result in only 20 minutes. Researchers stressed the benefits of people learning they are infected early and said people who wait until they are sick are more likely to be black, Hispanic and heterosexual with a high school education or less.

### Researches report break in seeing through AIDS disguises

LA JOLLA, Calif. — Researchers said they may have a break in understanding how a rare antibody can identify the disguises of the AIDS virus, which they hope will lead to a vaccine, according to Reuters. The antibody was taken from a patient whose body can resist the virus, recognizes and attacks the human immunodeficiency virus, unlike most of the body's defenses. "Nothing like this has ever been seen before," lead researcher Ian Wilson of the Scripps Research Institute said in a statement. AIDS is responsible for the deaths of 25 million people around the world. Dozens of potential vaccines are currently being tested, but none so far has shown it can be effective. Antibodies are an important part of the body's defenses against germs. They are usually able to recognize an invader by structures on its surface, called antigens, and can either call in help, or neutralize the invader themselves by pasting themselves against it. The problem has been that AIDS has many looks and it has been hard for vaccines to identify.

From staff and wire reports

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## national news

## Senate leader supports gay marriage ban

Activists fear impact of Frist's remarks

By JOE CREA

WASHINGTON — Some gay activists are worried that a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage is on the verge of picking up momentum, following Sunday's remarks by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) declaring support for the measure.

Frist said on ABC's "This Week" program that he is "concerned" about the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to strike down the Texas sodomy statute and said he would support an amendment that defined marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

"I very much feel that marriage is a sacrament, and that sacrament should extend and can extend to that legal entity of a union between — what is traditionally in our Western values has been defined — as between a man and a woman. So I would support the amendment," Frist said.

His office did not return calls seeking comment.

President Bush told reporters Wednesday that he is unsure if a constitutional amendment is needed at this time.

"I don't know if it's necessary yet. Let's let the lawyers look at the full ramifications of the recent Supreme Court hearing. What I



Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) said Sunday that he supports a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as between a man and woman only. (Photo by AP)

do support is the notion that marriage is between a man and a woman," Bush said during an impromptu news conference after he nominated Randall Tobias to be his new Global AIDS Coordinator.

Gay civil rights activists expressed concern that the recently proposed constitutional amendment will gain even more support if the Massachusetts high court decides later this summer to legalize gay marriage there.

"The issue has been gaining steam because we are gaining ground in public opinion," said Matt Foreman executive direc-

tor of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. "The religious right understands very clearly that time is on our side and they believe they are cornered like rats."

A lawsuit was filed in Massachusetts in April 2001 on behalf of seven gay and lesbian couples who argued that the right to marry the person of one's choice is protected under the state's Constitution. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is expected to issue a ruling on the case possibly as soon as this month.

U.S. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.) and five other sponsors introduced on May 23 a federal marriage amendment (HJ RES 56), drafted by the Alliance for Marriage, which defines marriage as the union of a man and woman. The bill, which now has 26 co-sponsors, was referred to the House Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution last week, according to a spokesperson from Musgrave's office.

Patrick Guerriero, executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans, said he was concerned about the proposed amendment.

"I take the threat serious and we are hoping cooler heads will prevail in a few days and there will be a rethinking of this effort," Guerriero said. "You will see a lot of smart conservatives opposing the amendment mainly because, historically, the Constitution has been amended to expand civil liberties not diminish them."

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer told reporters on Tuesday during a White

House press briefing that the president, to the best of his knowledge, had never discussed the notion of a federal marriage amendment with Frist but supports the Defense of Marriage Act passed in 1996.

The New York Daily News reported on Tuesday that sources in the White House said that President Bush's political advisers believe such a constitutional amendment would be good for the president's re-election bid, yet believe that the chances of it happening are "virtually zero."

The sources said that support for the amendment would restore confidence in the president's conservative base while appealing to independents who support traditional values. According to the source, internal polling shows "very high" support for the amendment.

Some social conservatives say that a constitutional marriage amendment is needed to prevent a judge in one state from recognizing a gay marriage performed in another.

Jonathan Rauch, a gay writer for National Journal and a writer in residence at the Brookings Institution, said that DOMA, not the proposed constitutional amendment, already thwarts such possible encroachment and will not be overturned.

"The chances of DOMA being found unconstitutional is as unlikely as monkeys flying out of your posterior," Rauch said. "What these supporters want to do is ban [gay marriage] everywhere in the country and start a national culture war over marriage."

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## national news

### Anti-gay judge takes seat on U.S. Court of Appeals

DENVER (AP) — Former Colorado Solicitor General Timothy Tymkovich, who in a law journal article compared homosexuality to cockfighting, bestiality, suicide and prostitution, was sworn in June 27 as a judge on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. President Bush appointed Tymkovich to fill the seat in May 2001, but Senate confirmation was held up until April 2003. As Colorado's solicitor general, Tymkovich handled a challenge to the anti-gay rights Amendment 2 approved by voters in 1992. He defended the law before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1995, but the amendment was later ruled unconstitutional. In reiterating his longstanding opposition to gay civil rights laws, Tymkovich referred to such laws in a law journal article as "special legal protections for homosexuals." In the article, he listed prohibitions on "immoral" behaviors including "sodomy, bestiality, suicide, drug use, prostitution and sodomy." Gay civil rights advocates, including the Human Rights Campaign and Log Cabin Republicans, opposed the nomination. The 10th Circuit Court hears appeals from U.S. District Courts in Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming.



Timothy Tymkovich was sworn in last week as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals, over the objections of both Democratic and Republican gay activists. (Photo by AP)

### Wrong N.M. gay rights bill signed into law

SANTA FE (AP) — A new gay rights law in New Mexico inadvertently wipes out broad civil rights protections for tens of thousands of the state's residents. The new law, effective July 1, expands the state's Human Rights Act to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The legislature sent Gov. Bill Richardson the wrong version of the bill, and he signed it. It contains language that exempts businesses with fewer than 15 full-time employees from having to comply with any provisions of the state Human Rights Act, which previously included exemptions only for businesses with fewer than four workers. The bigger exemption was included in an amendment to the bill that was later changed, but the earlier version was sent to the governor by the Senate Enrolling & Engrossing Committee. Fixing the gaffe could require a special session of the state legislature and risk opening the gay rights provisions up to further debate.

### N.J. court hears arguments on same-sex marriages

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — One day after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Texas law banning gay sex, an attorney for seven gay couples argued in a New Jersey courtroom that same-sex marriage should be legally recognized by the state. Superior Court Judge Linda Feinberg said she would not rule on the matter for at least two months. The June 27 hearing was on a state motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed by the same-sex couples. Deputy Attorney General Patrick DeAlmeida said there is nothing in the New Jersey Constitution that guarantees gay couples' right to marriage. David S. Buckel, the attorney for the couples, argued that the marriages should be allowed under the constitution's guarantees of equality and privacy. "The federal Supreme Court sent a very strong message that the day has come when lesbian and gay couples are due dignity and respect," Buckel said.

### Vt. civil union law marks third anniversary

MONTPELIER, Vt. — As Vermont's landmark civil unions law celebrated its third anniversary on July 1, studies show the legislation has an impact on the state's economy, with many gay couples traveling from out of state to formalize their relationships. Of the 5,693 civil unions since the law was enacted, only 845 were for Vermont residents, the Times-Argus reported, prompting a boost for bed-and-breakfasts and other businesses that cater to gay couples traveling to the state for the unions. "It has been an absolute gold mine," said Ken Richardson, owner of Black Bear Inn in Richmond. A University of Vermont study of about 300 couples who had joined in civil unions showed that about two-thirds are women, 90 percent are white, and their average incomes are \$55,000 for lesbian couples and \$65,000 for male couples, according to the Boston Globe.

### Calif. governor urged to oppose 'gay marriage' bill

FRESNO, Calif. — A group calling itself the Campaign for California Families is touring the state with a public campaign calling on Gov. Gray Davis to oppose a bill that would give "the rights and duties of marriage to persons registered as domestic partners" starting in 2005, the Fresno Bee reported. The proposal gives gay couples child custody rights, discrimination protections and allows them to make funeral plans for deceased partners. "Anytime there is a law that equates natural sex with homosexual sex, activists' lawyers can pursue and create homosexual marriage," said Randy Thomasson, executive director of the Campaign for California Families. Opponents of the domestic partner bill want Davis recalled if he doesn't speak out against the measure, which is now in the state senate after passing the Assembly earlier this month. Davis has not said if he supports the bill, according to the Sacramento Bee.

From staff and wire reports

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# Forum

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## editorial

# Supreme Court ignites gay marriage battle

So much for 'compassionate conservatism', as  
Frist endorses constitutional gay marriage ban

By KEVIN NAFF

JUNE, 2003 WILL SURELY be remembered as a landmark month for advances in gay rights. From the Supreme Court's historic decision striking down sodomy laws in 13 states to the legalization of gay marriage in Canada, gays and their supporters had much to celebrate at Pride Month festivities around the country, which culminated last weekend with events in San Francisco, New York, Atlanta and elsewhere.

But as revelers were sipping their mimosas and closing out Pride weekend events on Sunday, the next battle for full gay equality was taking shape on the morning news. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), who recently took over from Trent Lott as Senate Majority Leader, told ABC's "This Week" program that he endorses a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

"I feel very much that it is a sacrament, and that sacrament should extend and can extend to that legal entity of a union between, what is traditionally in our Western values has been defined as between a man and a woman," Frist said. "So I would support the amendment."

Once again a prominent Republican leader is confusing religion and state. A sacrament refers to certain Christian rites (baptism, confirmation, receiving of the Eucharist) that have nothing to do with the legal rights and benefits conferred by the state on legally married couples. I have no expectation of ever walking down the aisle of a Catholic church to marry my partner; I do, however, hold out hope that the state will one day recognize my relationship and those of my straight friends equally.

Frist didn't stop there. He added, "I have this fear that this zone of privacy that we all want protected in our own homes is gradually — or I'm concerned about the potential for it gradually being encroached upon, where criminal activity in the home

would in some way be condoned."

It was an ironic moment for Frist, given the expectation that he would represent another new face of "compassionate conservatism" and an antidote to Lott-like bigotry. Frist revealed himself to be just the opposite: another Republican leader determined to infuse fundamentalist Christian beliefs into discriminatory laws. A constitutional amendment banning gay marriage would be a disaster for the gay rights movement and a blow to America's credibility as a freedom-loving nation. In a time when Belgium, the Netherlands and now Canada have legalized gay marriage, certain Republican leaders in the United States are still pining for the days when gays stayed in the closet.

President Bush responded to the Frist trial balloon on Wednesday. "I don't know if it's necessary yet," Bush said of the amendment. "Let's let the lawyers look at the full ramifications of the recent Supreme Court hearing. What I do support is a notion that marriage is between a man and a woman."

There is no doubt that gay marriage rights represent the next major legal and cultural battle for gays. In fact, Justice Antonin Scalia's stinging dissenting opinion in the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision predicts it.

"Today's opinion dismantles the structure of constitutional law that has permitted a distinction to be made between heterosexual and homosexual unions, insofar as formal recognition in marriage is concerned," Scalia wrote. "This case 'does not involve' the issue of homosexual marriage only if one entertains the belief that principle and logic have nothing to do with the decisions of this Court."

Scalia's words were likely intended as a wake-up call to gay rights opponents that a constitutional amendment is the only way to ensure perpetual discrimination against gays and lesbians. If so, then Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.) is listening.

Musgrave is the main sponsor of a proposal to ban gay marriage through a

constitutional amendment. The measure was referred to the House Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution last week. According to the proposed amendment, "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman."

"The traditional values Americans hold are being traded in for counterfeit marital unions. It is important to secure this institution and protect it from distortion," Musgrave said in a press release.

She is no stranger to crafting such legislation. Musgrave devoted much time and effort to passing an anti-gay marriage bill while she was a state senator in Colorado. Each year from 1996-2000, she introduced the measure, which was vetoed twice by Democratic Gov. Roy Romer, but was finally passed and signed by Republican Gov. Bill Owens in 2000. With such stellar achievements under her belt, the good people of Colorado sent her to Washington.

Her latest effort to prevent gays from enjoying equality under the law may be a long shot — a constitutional amendment requires approval by two-thirds of the House and Senate and 38 state legislatures — but gay rights advocates shouldn't underestimate the power of prejudice. After all, 37 states already have anti-marriage laws targeting gays on the books.

In some states, including Massachusetts, the gay marriage battle is already underway. The case of *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* is pending before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and a decision is expected this summer, possibly sometime this month. The suit, which was filed by the rights group *Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders* on behalf of seven same-sex couples who were denied marriage certificates, asserts that the right to choose a spouse is protected by the state Constitution and that there is not an emotional distinction between straight and same-sex couples.

At a Capital Pride event last month, Matt Foreman, the director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, warned in a speech that a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage was "an ember becoming an inferno." His remarks seemed dramatic at the time, but with the Scalia dissent and now Frist's endorsement of a constitutional marriage ban, Foreman's words seem prescient and appropriate. The Supreme Court's ruling last week has likely supplied the spark needed to ignite the inferno.

@ Kevin Naff is managing editor of the *Washington Blade*, a sister publication of *Houston Voice*. He can be reached at knaff@washblade.com.



**viewpoint** RICH ARENSCHIEDT



# Lions, tigers and bears...oh my!

WHAT A MONTH JUNE 2003 HAS BEEN! Gays are so proud right now you would have thought that Ellen Degeneres would have jumped right out of the sea and into the White House.

Twenty-five years of pride and the most important ruling in my gay lifetime. Finally what Ruth and Esther were reputed to be doing during biblical times is now legal (though some scholars think that we may have exaggerated the significance of "whither thou goest I will go" and "where thou lodgest, I will lodge"). Sounds like the world's first lesbian-owned "U-Haul" franchise was in Jerusalem after all.

The past few weeks have proven that events always crash into each other simultaneously. The nine Supremes grabbed the religious right by its high fashion weave and dragged it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The New York Times "Today's Headline" page for Friday, June 27, was non-sequitural at best: "Gays Celebrate and Plan Campaign for Broader Rights" and "Strom Thurmond, Foe of Integration, Dies at 100" appeared right on top of each other. Our dear Strom apparently just couldn't stand the shock. One suspects that after reading the court's landmark opinion, he simply expired.

The unlikely propinquity of these events boggles the mind. Was there a cause and effect relationship at work here?

Cries from the wrong shouted that this was a sign of the apocalypse. Dissenting justices accused their brother arbiters of embracing the "homosexual agenda." Frankly, looking at a recent picture of Rehnquist, Scalia and Thomas, I don't want them anywhere near my agenda. The only things I want them to

embrace are weekly BOTOX injections.

Our "agenda" is working. Here's the secret formula: If we can convince the Supreme Court to completely disregard the other two branches of government, by introducing truly equal rights, we may be able to single-handedly kill off the Republican right.

This will be harder than it seems. Disposing of Strom (whose first name spelled backward means "death" in at least two foreign languages) was easy. He was so old his musical review was the next act scheduled to headline in Branson, Mo. His protégé, Trent Lott, will be a tougher case.

After the ruling, Lott stated that now "the door will be open to almost anything." Who knows what could happen? Bigamy? Incest? Sexual abuse? Adultery? Here...in America? Now that the court has legitimized one aspect of expression, where will it lead? If Mr. Lott is next in our Salem witch hunt, some heinous rulings would have to be handed down to assure his timely demise.

Multi-million dollar federal tobacco farm subsidies for his home state would have to vanish, reproductive rights for indigent women would have to be assured, legislation preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation, allowing the adoption of children by gay parents and, worst of all, a ruling legitimizing gay marriage would have to pour forth from the oracle of justice in order to trick up Trent's testicles (oh, pardon me, I meant "ventricles").

All of this ammo is needed - it's gonna take more than one pansy-fied liberty-oriented ruling to elevate Mr. Lott's cardiovascular risk factors. Lott and Thurmond were close friends. Perhaps they'll see each other sooner rather than later.



Aside from the political fallout associated with the ruling, one more sobering aspect of the decision has received scant coverage. Now that gay sex is legal, will it become boring and passé? Everything is more exciting when you aren't allowed to do it. I remember smoking "Kools" in the attic at age 12. Cigarettes made me barf but I still had a great time smoking them. Gay sex doesn't have the same effect (although some of my ex's may tell you differently) but I wonder what lies ahead. I can see our bland sexual future in multitudinous "Dear Abby" columns: "My boyfriend never touches me and our Pekinese has taken my place in the bed. What do I do?" Abby's response, "Seek counseling from a therapist with tasteful office décor and replace your Pekinese with a Pit Bull." Oh, how humdrum!

Think about what this will do to daytime television. "Jerry Springer" will become as exciting as "The Lawrence Welk Show." What will replace our previously infamous, now normalized sex acts as the target for ridicule and scandal? Nationally televised revelation of same-sex liaisons to unsuspecting spouses will become as ordinary as Marvin Zindler's daily

litany of slimy ice machines.

Will there now be nothing that distinguishes us from others? Will the Gay Pride Parade simply degenerate into a whiney gathering comprising us and every dissatisfied yuppie wife who decided to move into a trendy, overpriced, claptrap Montrose townhouse with her bisexual husband? Even if the wife has an affair with the "77006" FedEx delivery gal, the husband can't even ask his spouse for divorce. Sameness and ambiguity are bound to breed boredom.

We must move beyond this and forward. Gays have contributed so much to the world: the layered "collar up" double Polo shirt, spandex biker pants with Day-Glo accents, vertical structural food, the WNBA, faux finishes. Our history is rich; we must again reinvent our sexual expression so that none of us dare utter the phrase long associated with sexual ennui: "Honey, move your head; I can't see Letterman."

@ Rich Arenschioldt is a freelance writer for Houston Voice. He may be reached at [oscwildeman@hotmail.com](mailto:oscwildeman@hotmail.com).

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of ETHAN GREEN

by Eric Orner

**Thursday**  
Rejection Ain't Pretty

**Friday**  
Tuesday

...DESPITE YOUR KNOWING *way* BETTER, here YOU ARE BACK ON THE I-LIKE-HIM-BETTER-THAN-HE-LIKES-ME GERBAL WHEEL...

WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOU THAT MAKES YOU IGNORE EVERYTHING LAID AT YOUR FEET, MAKES YOU COVET ONLY WHAT'S UNAVAILABLE?

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MAYBE YOU'LL BUY A GUITAR, SCRIBBLE DOWN ALL THE PATHETIC, TEAR-JERKING THOUGHTS YOU'VE BEEN THINKING, AND MOVE TO NASHVILLE TO RECORD COUNTRY WESTERN CDs...

# You can kiss my butt!

■ We mean that literally. The Texas Sodomy Law was found to be unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 26, 2003 making consensual anal and oral sex between same sex partners in Texas legal for the first time in 30 years. It's a landmark case for LGBT rights, but there are still discriminatory laws out there and more are on their way. Last session lawmakers filed five anti-gay bills at the Texas Legislature. Those bills will be back next session, and we, as a community, must be ready to fight them. That's where The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas comes in. We lobby at the state level on behalf of the LGBT community to stop anti-gay/lesbian bills before they become laws. Call 512.474.5475 to find out how you can help kick some butt at the Texas Legislature.



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## on the record



"The way my dad puts it, I am his point person for the campaign. I can't imagine doing this for anybody but my father."

*Lesbian Mary Cheney, on her decision to resign from the board of the Republican Unity Coalition, a gay-straight alliance organization, to assist in the re-election of her father, Vice President Dick Cheney (New York Times, June 23)*

"The gays have won. The problem is one will admit it. The biggest and latest news is that Canada is poised to legalize same-sex marriage. But the signs of the gay victory have been all around for us for years."

*Conservative columnist Jonah Goldberg, writing one week before the U.S. Supreme Court issued its landmark sodomy ruling in Lawrence v. Texas (Washington Times, June 20)*

"You might remember me as Peter when we left Yale."  
*A transgendered woman, introducing herself to President Bush at a Yale class reunion hosted by the White House (Washington Times, June 18)*

"Now you've come back as yourself."  
*President Bush, responding as he grabbed the hand of a transgendered alum attending his Yale class reunion at the White House (Washington Times, June 18)*

"They should get a room. That scenario is out of the 1950s. ... People can't have sex in public, on the beach or in the dunes, no matter how duplicitous or tortured their private lives are. Why don't closeted lesbians come to the beach to have sex in the dark so their husbands won't know?"

*Stephen Gaines, gay author of "Philistines at the Hedgerow," a book about life in the Hamptons resort in New York, on the arrest of gay men for having sex in beach dunes there (New York Post, June 19)*

"People who haven't had much positive to say about marriage are suddenly enthusiastic as long as you put the words 'same sex' in front of it."

*David Blankenhorn, director of the Institute for American Values, which has organized cultural leaders from across the political spectrum to discuss the institution of marriage (New York Times, June 21)*

"I can't answer that question because it's a legal question."  
*Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, on whether he believes states in this country should recognize same-sex marriages obtained in Canada (NBC's "Meet the Press," June 22)*



"Less than two weeks after Bravo announced that American TV's first gay reality series, 'Boy Meets Boy,' would arrive on cable this summer, CBS jumped the gun, staging the first live gay network reality show in prime time. They called it 'The Tony Awards.'"

*Columnist and theater critic Frank Rich (New York Times, June 21)*

"According to USA Today, the producers of the Tony awards received several complaints after the two male songwriters of 'Hairspray' kissed each other on stage. The producers were shocked about the complaints and said, 'We had no idea straight people watch the Tony's.'"

*Talk-show host Conan O'Brien (NBC's "Late Night," June 17)*



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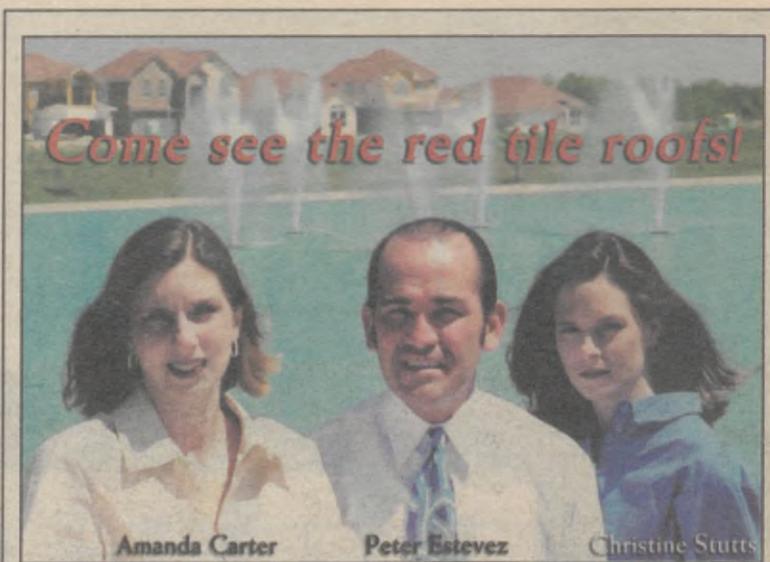


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**BOOKS:** Man-boy love makes touchy subject for worthwhile, suspenseful novel. Page 17.

**DINING:** The new Hollywood Center's restaurant serves up tasty Vietnamese and Chinese foods in the heart of Montrose. Page 19.



# Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE  
JULY 4, 2003  
PAGE 15

## 2003 Houston Pride Parade

Saturday, June 28, 2003



Actor Robert Gant, a cast member on 'Queer As Folk,' appeared in the parade on the South Beach float.

All photos by Dalton DeHart

Past Houston Pride Parade grand marshals helped lead this year's event, the 25<sup>th</sup> of its kind.

More Pride photos on Page 16.

out on the bayou

# 2003 Houston Pride



All photos  
by Dalton DeHart



**books** J.S. HALL

Man-boy love makes touchy subject\*  
for worthwhile, suspenseful novel  
that may make some uncomfortable.

## Look, but don't touch

IN LIGHT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S sex abuse cover-ups and resulting scandals in Boston, ephebophilia — the topic of adult male-adolescent boy sex and sexual attraction — has rarely been a more timely subject for a novel. Never one to shy from controversy, author Michael Lowenthal follows a path that few authors dare to tread.

In the impressive result, "Avoidance," Lowenthal definitely avoids the dreaded sophomore slump syndrome and delivers a narrative that's both thoughtful and suspenseful.

"Avoidance" explores the concepts of ostracism and exile as they apply to isolated communities — in this case, the Amish community of Pennsylvania as well as Camp Ironwood, a boys' summer camp in Vermont.

Harvard grad student Jeremy Stull bridges these disparate groups. He's studying the Amish and their shunning rituals for his thesis and spends his summers as a camp counselor and director at Ironwood.

His father died when Jeremy was eight, and his mother enlisted in the Army to make ends meet. Accustomed to a wandering life, Jeremy found a home at Ironwood as a child and a father figure in Ruff, the charismatic ex-military man who ran the camp.

One of the campers endears himself to Jeremy. Fourteen-year-old Max breaks his wrist on the first day of camp, starting a chain of events that keeps Jeremy and him in close proximity.

JEREMY FINDS MAX'S COMBINATION of adolescent bravado and moments of genuine vulnerability an intoxicating mixture, and the more time Jeremy spends with him, the deeper their bond grows. To his initial horror, Jeremy soon realizes that his feelings for Max are more than platonic.

But before he acts on those feelings, Max confides a dark secret: one of the other adult men at Ironwood sexually molested him. At the same time, painkillers go missing from the camp infirmary, and Max appears to be the prime suspect.

This leaves Jeremy in a dilemma: if he believes Max and reports the incident, he'll be turning in a close friend and exposing his closest equivalent of a home to scandal and possible ruin.

Lowenthal's prose radiates poise, treating an undignified subject matter in a dignified manner. Largely passive, sexually abstinent and continually wrestling with his conscience, Jeremy Stull transcends the "Chester the Molester" stereotype and begs the question of whether attraction to one adolescent makes him a pedophile. Do his thoughts and feelings automatically put him in the same category as the fellow camper who actually acted on such impulses?

Lowenthal further challenges our already-challenged preconceived notions



Author Michael Lowenthal deftly tackles the risky subject of ephebophilia in his timely novel 'Avoidance.'

on the subject of ephebophilia and youth-adult attraction.

EQUALLY WELL-WRITTEN ARE THE Amish segments of "Avoidance," in which Jeremy remembers visiting a settlement, living among the Yoder family and learning their strict codes of conduct.

"Try to imagine not even knowing how to fall, because a hand was always, always there to catch you," he writes of their close ties.

Critics ridicule the Amish and their ways, but Jeremy comes to admire their rigid boundaries. At least someone being shunned knows exactly where they stand and what they must do for forgiveness and re-acceptance.

He knows all too well that life outside the Amish world isn't nearly so black and white or easily defined, as much as he wishes it was.

A beautifully written book concerning a distasteful premise, "Avoidance" may well repel as many readers as it entrances. Lowenthal never flinches from describing moments of genuine beauty or desire within heinous acts, or how desperately and painfully a young man can want something that will prove so destructive to him.

The characters rarely get to make easy decisions, and Lowenthal's fiction becomes that much more powerfully compelling as a result. Kudos to Lowenthal for taking a risk, and to Graywolf Press for publishing it.

### **i** FOR MORE INFO

'Avoidance' • By Michael Lowenthal  
Graywolf Press, 2002, trade paperback, 272 pages, \$16.00

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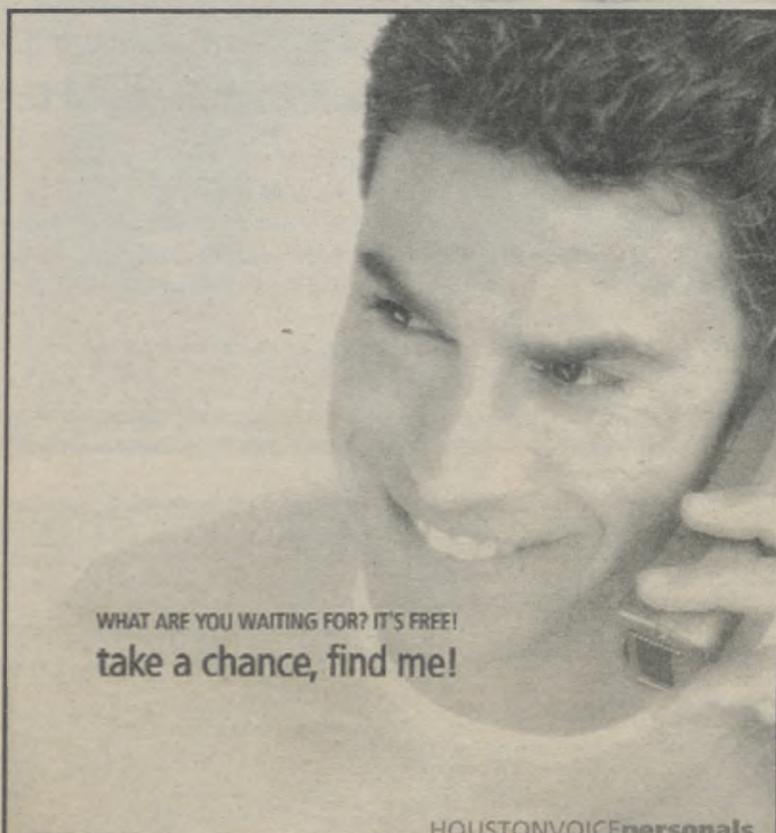
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**dish** There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

**Martha Stewart** outraged over hints in TV movie that she likes the ladies; Calif. murder takes scandalous twist.

## Airing dirty laundry

LIFESTYLE GURU **MARTHA STEWART** has plenty to think about these days after being indicted on five charges in connection with an alleged insider-trading scheme.

But the tabloids report that she's reserving her outrage for "Martha Inc.," a made-for-television movie about her life that aired twice last month.

Stewart is not upset that the super campy movie had **CYBILL SHEPHERD** portraying her as an unbalanced, controlling egomaniac. She's mad that the movie insinuated she's a lesbian.

"In her view, Cybill set out to make her look like a monster, and the gay hints were aimed at grinding her already tarnished image into the dirt," a "family insider" revealed to a source, who tattled to the Examiner.

One offending scene apparently involves a young Martha (played by **DORIE BARTON**) fixing a female classmate's collar. The classmate subsequently responds, "I always knew she was a lesbian."

The other scene involves Sheperd and Joanna Cassidy, who portrayed Sharon Patrick, the president and chief executive officer of Stewart's company. The scene depicted Stewart's character tenderly swiping a lock of hair away from the CEO's face.

The "source" told the paper, "Martha's reaction went from disbelief to cold fury at those seemingly gay scenes."

But Stewart shouldn't be worried. With all those perfect meals, elaborate centerpieces and ingenious home inventions, people might believe that she's actually a gay man.

But a lesbian? Never.

RECENTLY THE MEDIA, AND CERTAINLY the tabloids, have had a lot to report about handsome accused killer **SCOTT PETERSON**, the California



man who was arrested in connection with the murder of his wife and their unborn child.

Now the Globe reports an amateur drag queen claims to have had sex with Peterson while he was married. **VICTOR CORDEIRO**, told the Globe that Scott picked him up one night behind the Brave Bull bar, a gay club in Modesto.

The Globe gave Cordeiro a polygraph test, which he supposedly passed.

Cordeiro was performing in drag the night he met Peterson. After briefly flirting in the parking lot, Cordeiro says

Peterson took him home and Scott got naked in the bed that he normally shared with Laci.

"We kissed some more, and I could see that he was very excited. I was still fully clothed. He told me to perform oral sex on him on the bed, which I did. He seemed to be real-

ly enjoying the experience and it was certainly a happy ending for him," Cordiero told the paper, adding that Scott's "manhood was average-sized."

The Globe called in expert Dr. Martha Kirkpatrick, a professor of clinical psychiatry at University of California, Los Angeles, to decipher what Peterson's same-sex affair could mean to the case.

"In misery over not getting 'cured' of being physically attracted to men, Scott could have blamed Laci for not helping to fully convert him to being a heterosexual. His rage boils over, and he kills her," she said.

That may be, but an amateur drag queen airing dirty laundry does not a motive for murder make.



Cybill Shepherd (left) as Martha Stewart, and Joanna Cassidy as Caroline Kass, the chief executive officer of Stewart's company. (Photo courtesy of NBC)

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

## dining J.A. CHAPMAN

New center's restaurant serves up Vietnamese, Chinese flavors that satisfy

# Hollywood pleases

THE FIRST THING YOU NOTICE ABOUT the new Hollywood Center is the bright, primary-colored lettering on the side of the building and the large rainbow flag out front. Housing a bookstore and café, nail salon, real estate office, and a Vietnamese-Chinese restaurant, it's clear that this shopping center is full of gay pride.

On a recent weekend evening, we decided to try the Vietnamese-Chinese restaurant. Given the bright colors outside, we were pleasantly surprised by the calming interior. Decorated in muted sage, with Asian-themed etched glass panels dividing the room, the restaurant projects an air of casual sophistication.

We started off with an order of spring rolls (\$5.25 for four) and a bowl of crabmeat and asparagus soup (\$3.95). The spring rolls were excellent, filled with the usual vermicelli, vegetables and generous-sized shrimp. I was skeptical about the accompanying peanut sauce at first, thinking it lacked verve, but it grew on me as the spicy kick emerged.

When the soup arrived, we tried it, only to determine we'd been given the chicken version. We informed our waitress and she gladly exchanged it for us. The crabmeat soup was infinitely superior to the chicken version. A light, tasty broth held chunks of crabmeat and slices of asparagus, with a hint of egg to thicken. The asparagus and crab combination was an unexpectedly lively mixture, and the soup was delicious.

For our main course, my dining companion ordered Vermicelli with Charcoal Broiled Beef (\$5.95). A pile of lettuce, shredded cucumber and cilantro came topped with a generous serving of vermicelli and char-grilled beef, and tangy-sweet *nuoc cham* sauce on the side. This dish was an excellent interpretation of an old Vietnamese favorite. The char-grilled beef was superb, with a deeply smoky flavor that clearly took time to achieve. On a hot summer day, this coolly refreshing dish is hard to beat.

I chose one of my personal Vietnamese favorites, Spicy Chicken with Coconut Curry Sauce (\$9.95). The vivid yellow curry that enveloped this dish was properly spicy, but the soothing, creamy coconut milk seemed missing in action. With top quality mushrooms, glass noodles and the crispy onions, the dish was quite tasty, if not exactly what I'd expected.

We decided to order dessert and that's when the service began to get, well, eccentric. Our original waitress disappeared and an enthusiastic young waiter materialized to describe the desserts for us. The list is quite extensive, with around 12 different desserts and 15 flavors of ice cream. No dessert menu was available, but our new waiter offered us his handwritten list, since we couldn't keep everything in mind. As we were perusing this, our original waitress reap-



peared and tried to give us our check.

We told her we wanted to order dessert, and asked her to tell us about a couple of the selections. In stark contrast to the waiter, she was unable to describe the desserts. When we asked if perhaps there might be someone who could help us, she informed us that no one in the restaurant could tell us about the desserts because they never try them! As a last resort, we asked if we could see the desserts, and she said they were on display in the café. Relieved, we paid our check and headed down the way to the café.

The helpful café staff informed us that the desserts come from Rustika, the charming bakery near West University. There was indeed a wide selection of desserts, and we settled on a slice of chocolate silk pie (\$3.95). With velvety smooth chocolate, and a crunchy crust, it was a deliciously decadent way to finish our meal.

On another visit, during the lunch hour, the restaurant was busy with folks from the neighborhood. All lunch items come with soup, fried rice and an egg roll. The hot and sour soup was excellent, and the Kung Pao Chicken (\$5.95), loaded with chicken, crispy bell peppers and onions, had excellent flavor, but lacked some of the heat you might expect. With generous portion sizes, lunch is an exceptionally good deal.

The Hollywood Center is an exciting addition to the Montrose area. As an entirely gay-owned center, it fills a niche left vacant by the recent closing of other businesses. Despite the uneven service, the Vietnamese-Chinese restaurant is a very pleasant place to dine, either inside in the sleek dining area, or outside on the covered patio. With good food at a reasonable price, a great atmosphere, and a convenient location, it's a real find. Welcome to the neighborhood, Hollywood.

### Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese Cuisine

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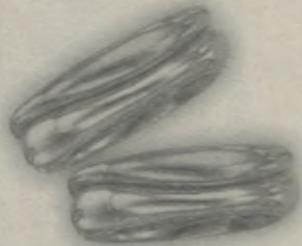
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## sports LEE DAVIS

Even in July heat, gay Houstonians  
plan sporting activities outdoors

# Summer can't stop sports

### Attain your goal

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

The only requirements for membership are that those interested be a team player, know the rules of soccer and have basic skills — you don't have to be a pro, just played before. Those who want to join don't even have to be gay — just willing to be mistaken for gay.

For more information, send an e-mail to [MontroseSC@soccer.com](mailto:MontroseSC@soccer.com) or go to <http://www.geocities.com/MontroseSoccer>, or log on to other sites such as the international Gay & Lesbian Football Association, Oak Lawn Soccer Club, or West Hollywood Soccer Club. If you have the international flair, contact the Munich Elves (yeah, in Germany).

### Ship to shore thing

On Saturday, July 26, the Rainbow Fishing Club plans a deep-sea fishing trip with Captain Elliott's Ferry Boats out of Freeport.

The cost for the 12-hour trip is \$75 with a \$40 deposit. Those who really want to be on this trip must turn in their reservation and deposit to the Club immediately.

Departure is at 6 a.m., with a return to the docks planned by 6 p.m. The boat operators supply all fishing equipment and bait, as well as ice for the catches of the day. This charter company is virtually booked for the entire summer already, so hurry!

### Yee haw

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

### Tennis for everyone

The Houston Tennis Club meets on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. For weekend play, check them out on Sundays from 9 a.m. until noon.

For more information, contact the Houston Tennis Club at 713-692-2701 or log on to [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com).

### Volley season

The Lone Star Volleyball Association announces its next league

play will begin July 13 with open play at the University of St. Thomas, Jerabeck Center.

The group will host two weeks of open play before the actual league begins July 27. The Recreational/Intermediate games are played from 4:30 to 7 p.m., with the Power/Competitive games from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come on out to bump, set, and spike. Log on to [www.lsva.com](http://www.lsva.com) for more information.

### Gay basketball

The replies on this subject are still coming. Looks like it won't be long before this venue gets its kickoff.

In case you missed it: Anyone interested in a gay basketball league? If so, please e-mail me via [editor@houstonvoice.com](mailto:editor@houstonvoice.com). A lot of replies will be great to match the number of inquiries so far!

### World Series Softball

NAGAAA (North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association) holds its 27th annual tournament in Washington D.C., beginning Aug. 17. Those interested in going should plan a trip now. All are encouraged to support local teams in attendance, with team representations expected from all over the United States and Canada.

Rooms will fill up fast, so contact the organizers of the tournament via e-mail at [information@Series2003.org/](mailto:information@Series2003.org/), or call 202-543-0326.



### MSL stats

The Montrose Softball League (MSL) announced as of Week 9, in mid-June, the Houston Force, lone competitor in the A Division, clinched a spot in the World Series in D.C.

In the B Division, Rich's Hellcats insured themselves a trip to the nation's capital. In the C Division, the division regular season champs are Meteor; and the C division playoff champions are the Drillers. The D Division regular season champions are the Trojans, and the D Division post-season tournament champs are the Toros.

Speaking of softball and fun, the MSL is hosting its annual Casino Trip next week, on Saturday, July 12. A chartered bus departs Guava Lamp at 2 p.m. and returns around midnight that day. Cost of the trip is \$20 per person.

Contact the league via the World Wide Web at [www.montrosesoftball-league.com](http://www.montrosesoftball-league.com) for information.

# community calendar

## SATURDAY, JULY 5

**Houston Buyers Club.** Free BIA (Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis) the first two Saturdays of the month. Hours: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Houston Buyers Club, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 604. 713-520-5288. [http://www.houstonbuyersclub.com/bia\\_testing.html](http://www.houstonbuyersclub.com/bia_testing.html)

## EVERY SATURDAY

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

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

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

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 11 pm-2 a.m. at Vivarais 713-830-3000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, noon-5 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston. 7 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

## SUNDAY, JULY 6

### EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

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

**Community of Kindred Spirits in Beaumont.** Worship at 6 p.m. 1575 Spindletop Ave., Beaumont, Texas. 409-813-2055. E-mail: [cksv3@netzero.net](mailto:cksv3@netzero.net)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club.** Practice from 4-6 p.m. For more information, log on to [www.roughnecksrugby.org](http://www.roughnecksrugby.org).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The Women's Group.** Meeting and discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571. [www.womensgroup.org](http://www.womensgroup.org).

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • GLBT Community Church with Rev. Melissa Wood: Bible study, 10:10-10:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m. [www.geocities.com/glbtc](http://www.geocities.com/glbtc) • B.A.B.B.L.E. support group, 1 p.m. • STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys), 6 p.m. • GLOB-AL meeting, 6 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

## MONDAY, JULY 7

### EVERY MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • AVER (American Veterans for Equal Rights), 7 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

## TUESDAY, JULY 8

### EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:00-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com)

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, 2-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Pride Band rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

## THURSDAY, JULY 10

### EVERY THURSDAY

**BiNet Houston.** Group for bisexuals, everyone welcome. 7:30 p.m. Hobbit Cafe, 2240 Purtsmouth. [www.flash.net/~bilhouse](http://www.flash.net/~bilhouse). 713-467-4380.

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

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

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

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

**Free HIV Testing.** 7-9 p.m. at All Star News, 3415 Katy Freeway. Health clinic with free testing for HIV and syphilis. 713-869-7878.

**FrontRunners.** Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021. Web site: <http://homes.wbwell.net/larathon/houf.htm>. E-mail: [larathon@wbwell.net](mailto:larathon@wbwell.net).

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

**GLOBAL.** Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston-Central Campus. Weekly meeting, 6 p.m. e-mail: [njuyen0023@hotmail.com](mailto:njuyen0023@hotmail.com).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • "Mending and Stitching," 2 p.m. • Montrose Writers' Project, 7 p.m. • PFLAG Houston board meeting, 7 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

## FRIDAY, JULY 11

### EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

**H.A.T.C.H.** Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets 7:30 p.m. For meeting information, call 713-529-3590. [www.hatchyouth.org](http://www.hatchyouth.org).

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:00-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontennisclub.org](mailto:houstontennisclub.org)

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Women's game night, 7:30 p.m. • In Our Own White poetry night, 8 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. [www.houstonglbtcenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcenter.org).

## VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

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

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

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

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

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

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

# appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

## SPECIAL THIS WEEKEND AND NEXT WEEKEND

**Theatre New West** presents additional and final performances of "Jerker." The play by Robert Chesley revolves around two men who share a unique relationship through the phone. Chesley evokes the humor of the bizarre relationship as well as the feeling of isolation, loneliness and the unabashed honesty of one human reaching out to another. "Jerker" is directed by TNW Artistic Director Joe Watts, and stars Brett Cullum and Glen Fillmore. Tickets: \$20. 8 p.m. Friday and

# CLASSIFIEDS

Call toll-free 1.877.863.1885 to place your ad. Up to 25 words only \$12.50 per week. 50¢ each additional word. Fax toll-free 1.888.409.6768, or visit houstonvoice.com.

## REAL ESTATE SERVICES

**COLDWELL BANKER UNITED REALTORS** When you consider selling your home, isn't it nice to find a realtor that's in the family? Call Mark Boline...he's family. Call Mark today! (713) 523-5709.

**PUT YOUR TRUST** In the best! Call RE/MAX METRO Real Estate Services (713) 528-1800 or toll free (888) 920-MIKE (6453). Visit our website @ www.mikecopenhaver.com or mikecopen@aol.com.

## SALE / HOUSTON

**MONTROSE REALTY** Check out these wonderful homes!  
 ✓River Oaks/Grey Area - Space & Security! 1 BR, 1 BA, 901 sqft w/ area pool. \$111,900, Ref #1011.  
 ✓Montrose Area - Delightfully Montrose! 2 BR, 2.5 BA, 1189 sqft. \$135,000, Ref #1012.  
 ✓Heights Hideaway - Hidden Yet Convenient! 2 BR, 1.5 BA, 1015 sqft. \$149,000, Ref #1013.  
 ✓Fabulous Condo in the Heights - High in the Heights! 2 BR, 2.5 BA, area pool & "FIERCE" view from rooftop! 1496 sqft. \$194,900, Ref #1014.  
 ✓Midtown Area - Cute TH in Midtown! 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 1658 sqft. \$199,000, Ref #1015.  
 ✓Champions/1960 Area - Beautiful Home, Great Price! 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2320 sqft. \$159,000, Ref #1001.  
 ✓Kingwood Area - Efficient & Quiet! 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2109 sqft. \$118,000, Ref #1002.  
 ✓The Woodlands - This Size! This Price! In the Woodlands? YES! 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2112 sqft. \$121,900, Ref #1005.  
 ✓Winwood North Area - Suburban Life! 3 BR, 2 BA w/ in-ground pool, 1740 sqft. \$82,800, Ref #1010.  
 Call Steven Michael Bridgwater, Montrose Realty (713) 520-0789 or e-mail montrosehomes@aol.com.

**STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD** Is your home special? Tell our readers about it. Guarantee they will see it with our new features. **Bold** or box your ad for added attraction. Contact our customer service reps for more details. (877) 863-1885.

## RENT / HOUSTON

**HEIGHTS AREA** Studio apt. Quiet, newly remodeled. Mins from downtown, Galleria, Montrose. Can walk to stores, banks, more. Access to WD. \$475/mo. Low deposit. (713) 943-8212.

**MONTROSE AREA CONDO** 2 BR, 2 BA, 1140 sqft, wet bar, WD, LR, den, pool/jacuzzi, covered pkg, \$1,400/mo, Ref #1007. Montrose Realty, Steven Michael Bridgwater (713) 520-0789 or montrosehomes@aol.com.

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

**WEST U** Vintage TH style duplex. 2/1/1, CAC/heat & fans, hwd fls, new apps & WD. Priv patio, gated, tree lined streets, near shopping, entertainment. Must see! (713) 665-7587.

## SHARE / HOUSTON

**HEIGHTS AREA** Renov 3/2 w/ pool & spa to shr w/ 30ish, NS, GWM. \$575/mo + shr utils. Quiet neighborhood, close to everything! (832) 277-0413.

**WESTHEIMER / OLD** Farm, GWM, late 30s, NS / no drugs, shr furn 2 BR / 2 BA apt. Many amins. \$460/mo + 1/2 utils. (713) 789-0974.

## COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

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

**ARTISTIC WEDDING INVITES** Unique & colorful wedding/commitment invitations for the couple seeking to express their

individuality. Please visit my website  
www.nicolerivera.com.

**VIDEOGRAPHY** For commitment ceremonies & weddings. Call (770) 636-2222 or e-mail videofreelancer@earthlink.net for more info.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HOMELESS CHARITY DONATIONS** AIDS shelter needs items for rummage sale & client recycle. Must be in working order. Tax receipt & non-profit. (713) 864-1795. (502 W 24th St)

## EMPLOYMENT

**ADVERTISING SALES** The Houston Voice, the region's GLBT media leader, is seeking an advertising account executive. You'll be responsible for all phases of the sales process: qualifying; cold-calling; prospect development; conceptualizing, planning & delivering sales presentations; writing proposals, negotiating contracts & closing new business. One year of print or on-line advertising sales experience preferred, but not necessary. We offer a challenging & exciting opportunity in a fast-paced, goal-oriented (yet fun) environment. We offer competitive compensation; specific training & a comprehensive benefits package including health/dental/life insurance, generous paid holidays, vacation & more. If you have a proven track record in sales, are results-driven & want to help build a newspaper that has a positive impact on your community, we want to hear from you. Send cover letter & resume to: General Manager, The Houston Voice, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77006. Fax: (713) 529-9531. E-mail: demerich@houstonvoice.com.

**BARBER STYLIST / COSMETOLOGIST** Montrose area. To lease a chair. Very reasonable. More money in your pocket. Call Frank (713) 522-2263.

**CARPENTER & CARPENTER'S** Assist wanted. Call Larry @ Lawrence Construction, (936) 760-5531.

**DIGNITYUSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
 The premier national organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgendered (GLBT) Catholics & allies, seeks an experienced, innovative Executive Director. Responsible for results-oriented mgmt w/ a primary emphasis on programming, fundraising & public visibility. The Executive Director will implement policies of the DIGNITYUSA board of directors, supervise staff & activities of national office (Washington, DC) & represent DIGNITYUSA on the national level to allied organizations & in the media. Req's include: strong verbal & written communications skills, proven fundraising track record, 3-5 yrs exp in general mgmt of a membership &/or nonprofit organization including experience in managing personnel, membership development, financial records & resource development & marketing/public relations. See www.DIGNITYUSA.org for more details & application info by July 25. Send resumes to ed-search@dignityusa.org.

\*This position is located in Washington DC & does not provide for relocation expense\*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
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| <input type="checkbox"/> In Memoriam          | <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost/Found           | <input type="checkbox"/> Limousines/Drivers     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resumes              | <input type="checkbox"/> Catering               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment           | <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Help        | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Improvement       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Careers              | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting/Wallpapering  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Positions Wanted     | <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers           | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groups               | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts      | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports               | <input type="checkbox"/> Hauling/Removal        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction          | <input type="checkbox"/> Moving                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Accommodations | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel International | <input type="checkbox"/> Massage                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel USA           | <input type="checkbox"/> Hypnosis               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nearby Getaways      | <input type="checkbox"/> Dating                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Tickets       | <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling/Support     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Companions    | <input type="checkbox"/> Body & Soul            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buy/Sell             | <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts/Antiques        | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Services   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles             | <input type="checkbox"/> Open House             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sales                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sale (Real Estate)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pets                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to Buy          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Rental Services        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mail Order           | <input type="checkbox"/> To Rent (Real Estate)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Services       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to Rent         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities        | <input type="checkbox"/> Roommate Services      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial            | <input type="checkbox"/> To Share (Real Estate) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Services       | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer             |   |

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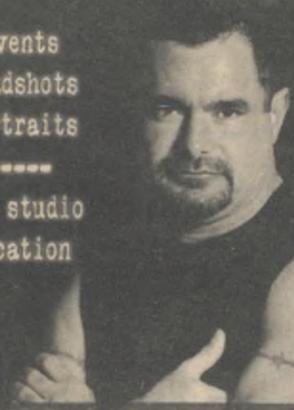
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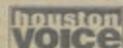


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## astrology JILL DEARMAN



# My Stars!

July 4 - 10



### ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

Stop swallowing your deepest fantasies and fears, darling. It's time to let your dreams come out into the open. Your days of people-pleasing and ass-kissing are coming to an end. Instead, concentrate on you, you, and you, honey. A Pisces understands you best, especially in bed. This is a period of strange surprises. In fact, one major mystery in your life could be solved within the next two weeks.



### TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

You are about to embark on a romantic journey, dear one. It's time to admit that sex comes first. Let the whore in you come out. Stop fussing over your home and obsessing about food. Put that energy into your sex life and all will be well. A Libra would love to take you higher, so why do you keep acting shy? Surprise your lover and yourself this week and next by pushing your orgasms and your fantasies to the max.



### GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Neptune in your house of travel pushes you to consider a spontaneous summer journey to someplace desperately impractical and delicious. You need to live the life of the body once more, not just the life of the mind. An Aries can help you. Play it hot, not cool, about what you want in love.



### CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

Bide your time before making any aggressive moves, baby. This is a groovy time to socialize, flirt it up with an Aquarius, and slack off at work. Downtime is something you rarely give yourself. Well, be a lazy bum in mid-July (it's your birthday season, dammit), and you'll be back with 10 times your usual energy once August arrives.



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

This is a fine time for you to use your artistic talents on the work front, my darling. You could become famous for your artistic talents - or become even more of a star-lover than you already are! A Capricorn might want to lure you into a tabloid scandal. Your reputation will only benefit from spending time with people in low places.



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

Lucky Jupiter is midway through your house of endings and new beginnings, dear one. During this period, you should milk old schemes for all they're worth. Dust off an idea or project from the past and breathe new life into it. An Aries is looking for inspiration, so perhaps you two should get together. In fact, a hot night on the dance floor is an absolute must. Wear something as transparent as your intentions.



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

The Sun's transit through your career house is apt to give you the burst of industriousness that you need (you lazy whore) to make your colleagues believe in you again. And you need their loyalty during this key time in your career. You can trust a Taurus. A work-related disappointment during mid-July is one of those blessings in disguise.



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

Many planets will be hanging out in your house of adventure this week, so travel with a fun pack of pals! The full moon on July 13 could get you thinking about going back to school or learning more lessons on the street. The worst thing for you to do right now is to rest on your laurels. A Gemini can bring out the best in you.



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

The moon in your sign on July 10 brings you extra intuition about a business matter. Follow your cautious inclinations (the few that you have!) and don't try to force a temperamental associate's hand. You can, however, guide a Gemini's hand all over your body. Dig in your heels and fight for the love you want. Your ability to stick to a romantic agenda is (for once) unmatched.



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

If someone wants to play a power game with you, don't struggle with how to respond. Give 'em their ball back and refuse to play. You'd do much better during this yummy, romantic season to use your own balls (metaphorically, dearie) to pull a sexy Scorpio onto your team. Your gift for strategizing comes in handy during mid-July.



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

This is a fine time for you to do some writing, painting, or musical experimenting, sweetie. It would be a shame to let your artistic gifts go to waste. A Sagittarius is lured by your charisma as well as by your cute butt. The full moon will fall in your house of mysticism at week's end, so throw a trippy party for you and your witchy friends.



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

This is a potentially amazing time for your love life, darling, as the Sun gives you the guts to go after the one you want (a dear Cancer, methinks). Jupiter in your money house of permanent investments helps you close the deal. Be bold and forget what your depressed friends tell you. This is your adventure.

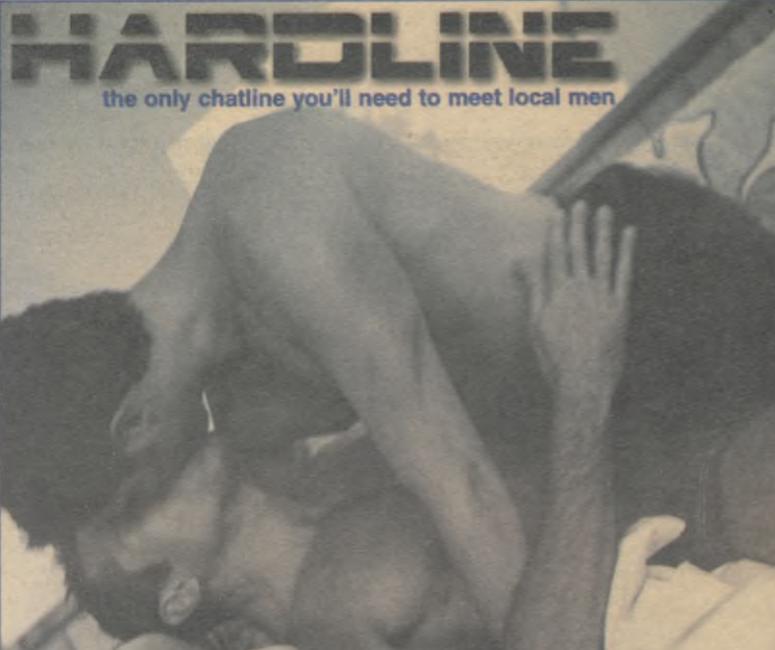
Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail [QScopes@aol.com](mailto:QScopes@aol.com).



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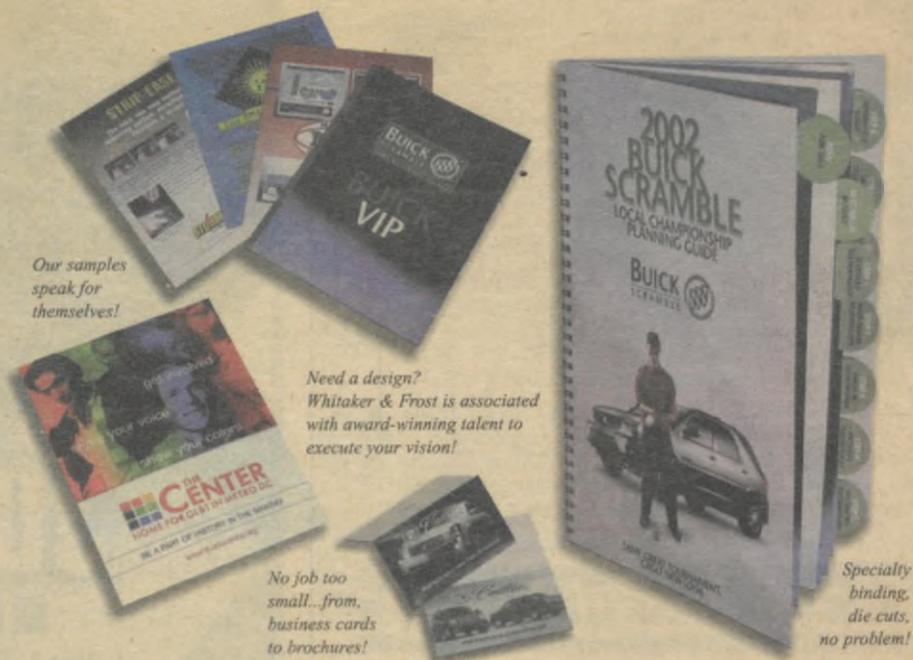
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Whether you need simple one-color business cards or an exotic corporate identity brochure, Whitaker and Frost Brokers bring a wealth of practical experience to every project. Working with our network of over 2000 of the nation's best printing companies, we'll quickly find the printer with the capability, capacity and the competitive pricing to fit your particular needs.

Whitaker and Frost handles all negotiations, as well. Using our experience and knowledge of the current printing market, we'll leverage the best possible deal out there, saving you time and money ... and relieving the stress.

So relax and call us. We'll find the perfect fit for highest quality, lowest price. *Guaranteed.*

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