

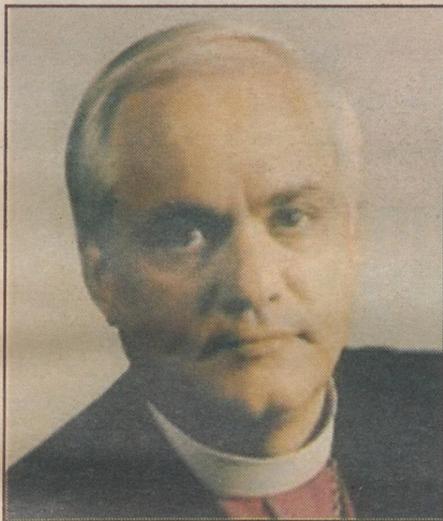


Sing out

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston celebrates silver anniversary, new director, fresh season.

Page 15

Episcopal same-sex unions not allowed in Texas



The Dallas Diocese made an executive decision to give individual churches in the diocese the authority to withhold money from the national Episcopal Church after two favorable decisions for gays were made at General Convention, said Dallas Bishop James Stanton. (Photo courtesy Episcopal Diocese of Dallas)

Bishop says gay couples should not have right to unions

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

Weeks after a historic Episcopal General Convention, local churches remain divided over homosexuality, and the bishop of Texas says tells his congregates that will not grant same-sex unions.

The resolution on same-sex unions passed by vocal consent two days after 62 of 107 Episcopal bishops voted in early August at General Convention to confirm Gene Robinson as the first-ever openly gay bishop in the church. Robinson will preside over New Hampshire's diocese.

Priests and bishops disagree on how to interpret the resolution. Some say it paves the way for individual dioceses to create a liturgy blessing same-sex unions, and

some say a uniform ceremony must be created on the national level before same-sex unions will be permitted at all.

Congregations in Texas and elsewhere in the country protested both Robinson's confirmation and the same-sex union measure, electing to withhold monetary support from the Episcopal Church on both the national and regional level.

Robinson's confirmation continues to be a contentious topic among Episcopalians as some churches take measures to withhold annual contributions to regional dioceses and the national church.

The Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses set up provisions so that member churches can withhold contributions to the national church but still give money to the diocese.

In Columbus, Ga., the lay board of Trinity Episcopal Church voted to suspend its \$7,000 monthly giving to the Greater Atlanta Diocese last week to protest their bishop's vote in favor of confirming the gay bishop.

In Catonsville, Md., Rev. Steven Randall

of St. Timothy's Church said his congregation would no longer send its monthly \$5,000 pledge to the Diocese of Maryland, whose bishop, Robert Iloff, also voted for Robinson, according to the Associated Press.

Bishop Stephen Jecko of Florida, who opposed Robinson, instructed his diocesan treasurer to hold funds from the national office in escrow until the diocese decides how the money should be used, the AP reported. The Florida Diocese had planned to send about \$200,000 to the national office this year in monthly installments, diocesan treasurer Becky Peoples said.

And at least 52 congregations in 20 states, 320 priests and 16 bishops have endorsed a protest petition at www.comunionparishes.org. Another page on the Web site asks Episcopalians to consider withholding contributions from the national denomination and liberal dioceses.

Fort Worth has had its money with-

Please see SAME-SEX UNIONS on Page 3

Foley disputes claim he opposes gay adoption

Lawmaker from Fla. fends off gay questions in Senate campaign

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.), dogged by press reports that he may be gay, is disputing a St. Petersburg Times report saying he told an audience of Republican Party activists in a conservative county that he opposes allowing gays to adopt children.

Foley has a mostly pro-gay voting record in the House of Representatives but emphasizes his conservative positions on other issues while campaigning for the Republican nomination for Florida's U.S. Senate seat.

According to the Times, when asked at an Aug. 4 meeting of Republican Party

activists whether his pro-gay positions are out of step with his party, Foley boasted about his support for the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in 1996 and reportedly said he opposes gay adoptions. The newspaper said Foley made his remarks before the Spirit of '76 Republican Club of Pasco County, which is located north of Tampa.

Kirk Fordham, chief of staff at Foley's congressional office in Washington, said Foley disputes the accuracy of the newspaper's report on his statement about adoption.

"He never said he opposes gay adoption," Fordham said. "He said he supports DOMA, and that's the best way to go on the gay marriage issue."

Fordham said Foley pointed out at the Aug. 4 event that he voted against two proposed House amendments in past years seeking to restrict domestic partner benefits in San Francisco and calling for banning gay adoptions in D.C.

"We stand by our story," said Mike Moscardini, city editor at the St. Petersburg Times' Pasco County bureau.

Questions about Foley's sexual orientation surfaced earlier this year when the New Times, a weekly newspaper in West Palm Beach, which is part of Foley's district, published a front-page story saying Foley is gay. Foley refused to confirm or deny the paper's report, saying his private life should not be part of the public discourse surrounding his candidacy for public office.

Foley said at the time that his political enemies, including Democratic Party activists, were attempting to spread rumors about his personal life by "dragging him through the gutter." It was later reported that a Republican official spread the story via email.

Fred Ulmer, president of the Tampa Log Cabin Republicans, said Foley's views

Please see FOLEY on Page 3



A newspaper recently reported that U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) said he opposes gay adoptions. Foley's spokesperson said the story is untrue. Foley held a news conference earlier this year to denounce attempts to claim he is gay, but refused to discuss his sexual orientation. (Photo by AP)

LONGHORN PRIDE: Gay freshman at UT included in new Showtime series. Page 16

HOLY FURY: Former priest John Geoghan killed in prison while serving time for molestation. Page 4



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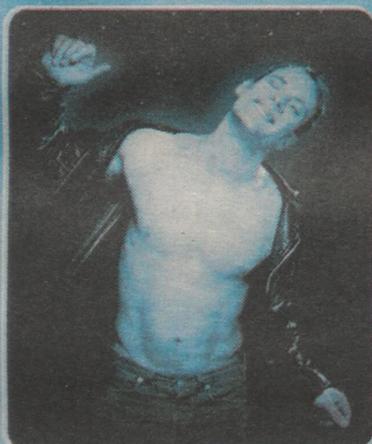


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obituaries

Walter 'Wally' Blood, 49

Pioneering AIDS activist Walter "Wally" Blood, born Aug. 3, 1954, died Aug. 14 after a 20-year struggle with the disease.

Blood was a pioneer member of the Thomas Street Clinic's Citizen's Council, a founding board member of the AIDS Housing Coalition Houston, an alumni of the first graduating class of Project L.E.A.P.-Ryan White training and a long-time fund-raiser for the National Leather Association and other charitable leather organizations. Blood also made it a habit to participate in gay rights actions and protests throughout his adult life.

"One of the wonderful things about Wally is that he found in his sufferings the motivation to help better our community," said Jim Barrett, a longtime friend.

Blood welcomed visitors to the downtown Venture-N bar as the doorman for

many years. He practiced Buddhism with the Soka Gakkai International Value Creation Society.



He is survived by his parents, Anna Lee and Bernerd Blood, his brother Alvan Blood and his sister Mary Buckmaster, all of Springfield, Mo.

A Sept. 5 memorial service is planned. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the AIDS Housing Coalition Houston to provide shelter for homeless people living with HIV and AIDS.

Walter 'Wally' Blood Memorial Service

Sept. 5, 7 p.m.
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713-622-6181

Memorial donations

AIDS Housing Coalition Houston
502 W. 24th St.
Houston, TX 77008
713-864-1795

Texas bishop denounces national decision

SAME-SEX UNIONS, continued from Page 1

holding policy in place for 12 years, and only a dozen of 56 congregations donate to the national church, said Suzanne Gill, spokesperson for Fort Worth Bishop Jack Iker.

The Dallas Diocese, with 76 congregations, made the policy in response to "a number of requests and questions from parishes and internal parishioners," said Dallas Bishop James Stanton.

Since the policy took effect two weeks ago, four churches in the Dallas diocese decided to stop sending money to the national church, Stanton said.

"I thought it was an appropriate action," Stanton said.

Stanton's diocese will host a national meeting of the American Anglican Council in Plano, Texas, Oct. 7-9, a week before Anglican Communion leaders from around the world convene in London for a special meeting addressing concerns raised by the U.S. General Convention decisions.

The Plano meeting is not to establish a new branch of the U.S. Episcopal Church, Stanton said.

"The conveners have described it as a time to pray together for worship to

declare commitment to Anglican Communion," he said. "It is not a venue for taking a kind of dramatic action."

The Diocese of Texas, which includes Houston, reports no church wanting to withhold funds, and does not plan to send delegates to the American Anglican Council meeting in October, said Carol Barnwell, communication director for the diocese.

"I would be cautious about the extremes," Barnwell said. "Most of our congregations are committed to being about what the church is about and it doesn't have a lot to do with this issue."

Texas Bishop Don Wimberly voted against Robinson and doesn't plan to permit same-sex blessings, Barnwell said.

Wimberly sent a letter to all registered Episcopalians in his diocese denouncing Robinson's nomination as well as same-sex marriage and publicly asked Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams for guidance.

Members of Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays-Houston are leading a letter writing campaign to Wimberly to express opposition to his views.

In the final draft of the same-sex union resolution, the national church recognized "that local faith communities are operating within the bounds of our common life

as they explore and experience liturgies celebrating and blessing same-sex unions."

Bishops revised the original resolution after Robinson's embattled election to remove language permitting the creation of a committee to draft a standard same-sex ceremony for all churches to incorporate into the official church book of ceremonial rites.

The ambiguous wording in the document resulted in several different conclusions that created a sense of "pastoral urgency" within the church.

Some priests across the country already perform same-sex unions in their parishes.

"The national church recognizes that we do it and that it is okay to do even if there is not a national rite," said Rev. Michael Hopkins, president of Integrity, a national gay Episcopal group. Hopkins confirmed that he has performed same-sex unions in his church.

Gays haven't always had such favorable outcomes in the Episcopal Church or the worldwide Anglican Communion, which encompasses the Episcopal Church.

In 1998, top leaders in the Anglican Communion approved a resolution calling gay sex "incompatible with scripture."

Congressman denies opposition to gay unions

FOLEY, continued from Page 1

on gay rights surfaced at another Republican Party event in Ocala, Fla., a short time after the Pasco County event.

In response to a question, Foley told the Ocala event he supports legislation giving the federal government authority to prosecute anti-gay hate crimes, Ulmer said.

Andy Eddy, an official with Log Cabin Republicans in Ft. Lauderdale, said Foley enjoys strong support among gay Republicans in Florida.

"I may not agree with him on all issues,"

Eddy said. "But he is running in areas of the state where people are not similar to Ft. Lauderdale," which is known as one of the state's most gay-supportive areas.

"We have to ask ourselves, who else do we want in that office," said Eddy, who noted that Foley's GOP rivals in the primary are less supportive than Foley on gay issues.

Eddy said the state's three Log Cabin clubs — his own in the Ft. Lauderdale area and clubs in Tampa and Orlando — are officially recognized affiliates of the Florida Republican Party and must remain neutral in the GOP primary.

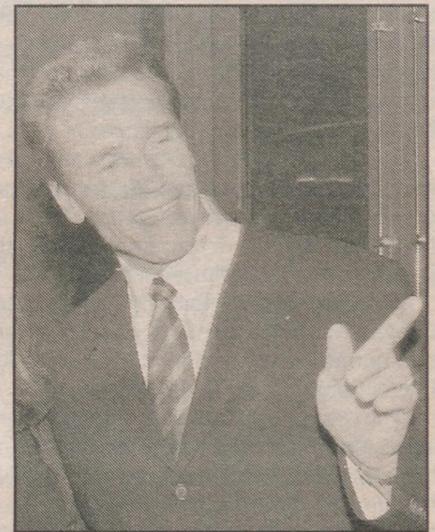
Last year, Foley received a rating of 83 out of a possible 100 on gay issues from the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group. But since that time, Foley has withdrawn his position as a "lead" sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill that would ban employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Foley said he would remain a co-sponsor of the bill, but his withdrawal as one of three chief sponsors highlights his dilemma as a gay-supportive politician campaigning in a primary dominated by mostly conservative GOP voters.

inside

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CALIFORNIA DREAMING: The push for a governor like Arnold Schwarzenegger includes gay voices in the state. Page 7



MARCH ON: Thousands of gays joined Martin Luther King III at 40th anniversary civil rights event. Page 9

CORRECTION: A news story in the Aug. 22 issue of Houston Voice incorrectly stated that Log Cabin Republicans Houston endorses Republican candidate Bert Keller for the Houston City Council At-Large, Position 4 seat. Log Cabin does not issue endorsements in citywide elections. Houston Voice regrets the error.

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Jailed former priest killed by anti-gay inmate

John Geoghan's attacker also murdered gay bus driver

By JOE CREA

SHIRLEY, Mass. — The murderer of defrocked priest John Geoghan — one of the principal child molesters in the Catholic Church's sexual abuse scandal — reportedly told prison officials he was motivated to kill Geoghan last Saturday because of a longstanding hatred of gays.

The inmate, Joseph L. Druce, is already serving a life sentence for killing a gay bus driver 15 years ago. Investigators say that Druce attacked the driver after he allegedly made a sexual advance towards Druce.

Authorities said that Druce planned Geoghan's death a month in advance at the maximum security Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center in Shirley, Mass.

The 68-year-old Geoghan, who has been accused of molesting nearly 150 boys over three decades and who became the "poster boy" for the clergy sexual abuse crisis, was serving a sentence of nine to 10 years for assault and battery on a 10-year-old boy.

The state's district attorney said that Druce tied Geoghan's hands together with a T-shirt and strangled Geoghan with stretched socks, using a shoe as a garrote. He then jumped off the cell's bed, breaking Geoghan's ribs and puncturing his lungs. An autopsy concluded that Geoghan died of "ligature strangulation and blunt chest trauma."

Geoghan had been in protective custody since being transferred to Souza-Baranowski in April from the MCI-Concord prison.

The superintendent at MCI-Concord had dismissed a prison board's recommendation to keep Geoghan in "protective custody" at that particular facility, the Boston Herald reported.

Jim Pingeon, litigation director for the Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services, said that the violent death of Geoghan has underscored problems that prisoner rights groups say have been around for years: understaffed prisons and a pervasive culture of indifference to the safety of vulnerable prisoners serving sentences alongside those with a marauding history and established pattern of extreme violence.

"It is a serious problem in the prison system," Pingeon said. "But I doubt much reform will come of this death. Typically, what happens is that the institutions say they will take the matter very seriously, conduct an investigation and determine which reforms are necessary. A few months will go by and a report will be issued that will recommend a few changes, but nothing significant."

Pingeon questioned why a "quiet prisoner like Geoghan" was placed in a maximum-security prison designed to house the most violent prisoners.

"That's simply not a category that Mr. Geoghan falls into," Pingeon said. "A prisoner like Geoghan who poses no security threat should not be exposed to predatory individuals who can take advantage of their weakness."

A spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Department of Correction, Kelly Nantel, said that the superintendent ordered Geoghan to be transferred because of behavioral problems.

Pingeon said that Geoghan contacted him last year to complain about the treatment he received at MCI-Concord, including "daily mistreatment by guards," who allegedly called him names like "Satan" and "Lucifer," Pingeon said. In one instance that Pingeon said Geoghan reported to him, a guard had defecated in Geoghan's cell. He added that Geoghan had told him guards encouraged other prisoners to harass Geoghan by posting news clippings about his alleged crimes.

Pingeon acknowledged there were "behavior reports" about Geoghan but noted that they were "trivial" infractions that were likely "trumped up."

Pedophile vs. gay

Geoghan's alleged killer, Druce, 37, was a member of the neo-Nazi group Aryan Nation. Authorities say he murdered Geoghan because he thought he was gay.

Patrick McAron, the national president for Dignity/USA, a gay Catholic group, said no one knows if Geoghan identified as homosexual and added that comparisons between gays and pedophiles was akin to comparing "oranges and apples."

"One doesn't have to be gay to be a pedophile," he said.

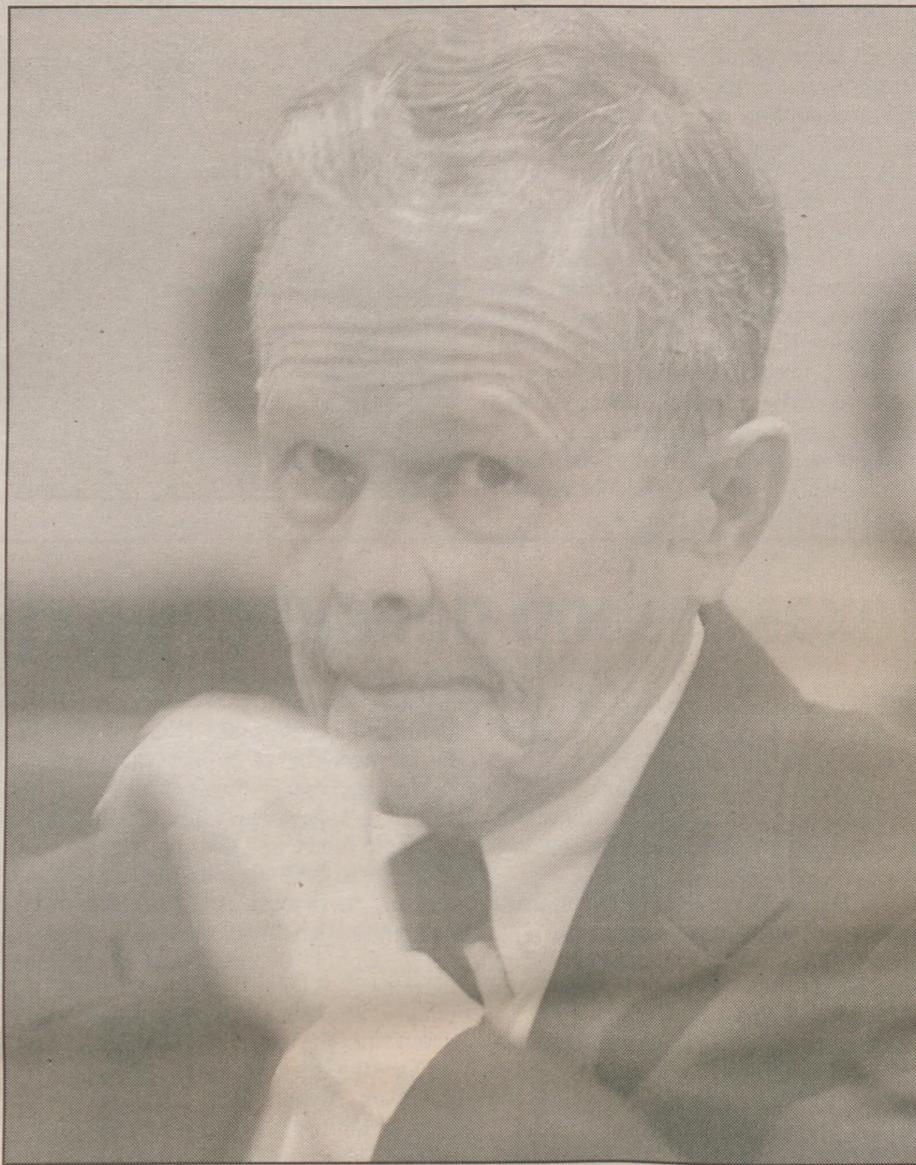
McAron said that Geoghan's death "was the ultimate responsibility of the bishops' inaction" after many years of ignoring the burgeoning sex abuse scandal.

"The pedophiles needed help and they didn't get it," McAron said. "Instead of removing these priests from harm's way and providing them with the counseling that they needed to determine their psychological condition, the bishops turned a blind eye and simply shuffled priests around. Pedophilia is not just the pedophile's problem; it becomes everyone else's problem and that issue was not being dealt with [by the bishops]."

Handwritten notes from Druce's psychiatrist in May 1989 show that Druce was an "angry, frustrated, blaming, remorseless, intense determined man, believes in Satan, unafraid, laughing as he declares his intent to kill himself." The notes also state that Druce expected "to go to Satan and await the arrival of his enemies."

Druce convicted of killing gay man

Druce was prosecuted at the age of 22 after being picked up hitchhiking by George Rollo, a 51-year-old gay man. Druce beat Rollo after the bus driver allegedly



Former priest John Geoghan, who was convicted of molesting a 10-year-old boy, was strangled and beaten while in prison by a man already jailed for killing a gay man he says propositioned him.

touched Druce's groin. Rollo's hands and feet were tied and he was thrown into Druce's trunk of his car.

Rollo was driven to an abandoned parking lot at a theater in Beverly, Mass., where Druce strangled Rollo to death, despite the bus driver's pleas for mercy, prosecutors said.

"I would say he's the spawn of the devil," Lt. Joseph Aiello, the Gloucester policeman who investigated the case, told Associated Press. "He's a very evil person, one of the most vicious I've ever seen."

Druce's defense argued that he wasn't criminally responsible for Rollo's death, since he had a mental disease that prevented him from thinking lucidly.

Druce was convicted in December 1989 of first-degree murder by reason of "extreme atrocity and cruelty." He is presently serving a life sentence without parole for the crime.

Authorities said that Druce had a history of violent behavior and mischief within prison walls. In May, he was convicted of sending fake anthrax to lawyers with "Jewish-sounding names" and allegedly mailed his own feces to the

Massachusetts attorney general.

Geoghan's victims react

Many of Geoghan's victims said they were disappointed with the death of their abuser. Most say he should not have been killed in prison. Many had hoped he would use his sentencing to reflect on his crimes, said David Clohessy, executive director of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests.

Clohessy said that Geoghan was likely to stand trial on possibly two criminal accounts and a civil one. He said that because of a loophole in Massachusetts law, Geoghan's name is likely to be cleared in death.

"There are two problems with that," Clohessy said. "First, it rubs even more salt into the already deep wounds these victims and their families feel. Secondly, the death may well add to the already deep mistrust that some victims have of the justice system. Many will say, 'These guys always get off. Why should I bother to report future abuses? These victims are being denied a chance for these molesters to stand trial and allow the truth to come out.'"



national news

RAVE Act II, 'Clean Up' Act worry civil liberties advocates

WASHINGTON — Four months ago, Congress passed the so-called RAVE Act, which would hold event promoters and club owners liable for “knowingly” allowing drug use or sales on their premises by patrons of RAVE parties or other events. Now, the House is considering two more bills that go further than the RAVE Act in cracking down on promoters of similar events. Gay circuit parties could be ensnared in a possible enforcement crackdown under each of the bills, according to event promoters. The latest bill, the Ecstasy Awareness Act, H.R. 2962, would make it a federal crime to profit “monetarily from a RAVE or similar electronic dance event knowingly or having reason to know that the unlawful use or distribution of a controlled substance occurs at the RAVE or similar event.” Rep. William Pascrell (D-N.J.) introduced the bill July 25. Pascrell’s bill, which calls for a maximum prison term of 20 years, so far has only three co-sponsors and is not expected to pass any time soon. But Capitol Hill observers say another House bill introduced last year by Rep. Doug Ose (R-Calif.), the Clean, Learn, Educate, Abolish, Neutralize & Undermine Production of Methamphetamines Act, has 113 co-sponsors and could be approved as a rider to another bill. The bill calls for a maximum prison term of 9 years.



U.S. Rep. Doug Ose (R-Calif.) introduced a bill that targets methamphetamines use at parties and clubs. The maximum sentence for convictions would be nine years.

Retired admiral: Military better off if gay ban lifted

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — A former Naval officer wrote an opinion piece for the National Law Journal calling for the end of the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy toward gay men and lesbians, according to the National Law Journal’s Web site. Rear Admiral John D. Hutson, who was a judge advocate general while serving with the Navy, called the restriction that prevents gays from serving openly in the military “odious” and called the gay ban “virtually unworkable in the military.” Hutson retired in 2000 and currently is the dean and president of the Franklin Pierce Law Center. Hutson said he was not convinced in 1993, when the policy was adopted after President Clinton failed to lift the ban entirely, that gays serving openly in the military was a good idea. “That was then and this is now,” he said. “I am now convinced, as I was not then, that the military could survive.” Hutson became JAG in 1997 and it was his duty to enforce the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy. He said that since retiring, he changed his mind about the policy and believes it has very little support.

N.Y. songwriter sues former employee who sued her

NEW YORK — Socialite and songwriter Denise Rich has filed suit against a former employee who accused her, among other things, of firing him because he’s HIV-positive and gay, according to media reports. Rich filed suit in Manhattan Supreme Court for a court order to force James Hester to honor a confidentiality agreement he signed when he was in Rich’s employ. Hester filed a \$30 million lawsuit against Rich earlier this year, charging that she fired him because of his sexual orientation and illness, according to media reports. Rich’s suit, however, said he was let go “because of his abusive treatment of various employees,” including one who had filed a complaint against Hester and Rich’s company, IGD, for sexual harassment. Rich, the ex-wife of disgraced

financier Marc Rich who was pardoned in the last days in office of President Bill Clinton, seeks to recover \$360,000 from Hester. She alleges that Hester broke the confidentiality agreement when he and his lawyer took his suit “to the tabloid press.”

Mich. lawmaker balks at course on 'how to be gay'

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A state lawmaker is working on a bill that would give the Michigan Legislature oversight of classes at public universities in the state. Rep. Jack Hoogendyk (R-Portage) said he’s concerned about some courses being offered by universities, including an English class at the University of Michigan called “How to be Gay: Male Homosexuality and Initiation.” Hoogendyk said his legislation is “an effort to regulate how tax dollars are spent in a public classroom.” Hoogendyk said he expects to formally introduce the legislation when lawmakers reconvene next month. Paul Courant, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Michigan, said the course pointed out by Hoogendyk is similar to literature courses taught at other colleges.

Wis. lawmakers battle over same-sex marriages

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A gay state lawmaker ripped Republican bills that would define marriage in Wisconsin as a contract only between a man and woman, calling the measure bigoted and hypocritical during a combative public hearing. The bills would treat gay couples like second-class citizens, Sen. Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) said at the hearing before a joint meeting of Senate and Assembly committees. The panels did not vote on the bills. Divorce causes more damage to marriage as an institution, he said. “It’s about hypocrisy. It’s about bigotry. It’s about hatred. It’s about prejudice. This bill should not be before us at all,” Carpenter said.

From staff and wire reports

August 31 •

“The Wheat and the Chaff”

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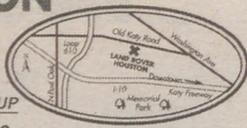
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international news

Germans rally around mayor after official 'outs' him



Ole von Beust, mayor of Hamburg, Germany, fired the city's top law enforcement official after he allegedly threatened to 'out' von Beust on national television.

HAMBURG, Germany — Mayor Ole von Beust is being applauded throughout this stolid Hanseatic port city for summarily firing the city's top law enforcement official who threatened to "out" him. The first-term mayor has only indirectly acknowledged his sexual orientation, insisting it shouldn't matter. But his decisive handling of a right-wing populist who he said threatened to out him has sent von Beust's popularity skyrocketing in this city known both for its tolerance and patrician airs. Von Beust, of the conservative Christian Democratic Union, stunned the nation when he announced at a press conference last week that Interior Minister Ronald Schill allegedly threatened to claim the mayor had given the post of justice minister to a romantic partner. Schill, who also appeared at the press conference, denied making a threat, saying he only drew a comparison between conflict of interest allegations against Schill's deputy and the mayor's alleged mixing of public and private lives. Von Beust, who ended the Social Democrats' 44-year hold on the Hamburg Rathaus, has avoided answering the question raised by Schill's antics — whether or not he is gay.

Canadian leader: Same-sex marriage is reality, like it or not

NORTH BAY, Ontario (AP) — After an emotional debate that sliced his Liberal caucus in two, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien rose, looked down on his fractious MPs and delivered a blunt message: Same-sex marriage is a fact, like it or not. The final outcome was etched in stone by recent court rulings in Ontario and British Columbia, Chretien said. "Even if the bill is defeated, the law stands," Chretien said of his government's controversial draft legislation. "That's the reality." The understated tone was in stark contrast with the passionate interventions from Liberal MPs who spent a three-day retreat grappling with the issue. Meanwhile, thousands of people rallied against same-sex marriage on Parliament Hill last week, the Ottawa Citizen reported. "We have one message here today and that is: Don't mess with the definition of marriage," said event organizer Tim Dooling, of the Ottawa-based group Canadians Against Same Sex Marriage. Supporters of same-sex marriage also rallied.

China eases marriage blocks but bans gay unions

BEIJING (AP) — China is lifting its demand that couples obtain approval from their employers before being married but will continue to ban same-sex unions, state media reported. Civil Affairs Ministry official Zhang Mingliang said China's 2001 marriage law forbids gay marriages and officials won't process paperwork for any such unions, the official Xinhua News Agency and newspapers reported. "According to relevant rules, couples of the same sex are forbidden to marry each other," Zhang was quoted saying in the Beijing Times newspaper. Zhang, head of the ministry's Community Development Department, made his comments in response to "a controversy in society over the issue of whether homosexuals should be allowed to marry." Xinhua quoted Zhang saying the old rule "violated to some extent principled policy of the freedom of marriage."

Netherlands to address anti-gay bias in schools

AMSTERDAM — The national school inspectorate announced plans last week to tackle the growing problem of discrimination against gay pupils and teachers in the classroom, Expatica.com reported. The increasing numbers of Muslim pupils, who are taught that homosexuality is unacceptable, has caused part of the problem. "The Koran has a clear point of view (in relation to homosexuality) and you notice this in the schools," the inspector general of schools, Kete Kervezee, told newspaper Algemeen Dagblad. "But we are only fooling ourselves if we think that it is only an immigrant issue. Not all native Dutch people are open-minded and liberal either." Kervezee said intolerant behavior towards gay teachers and pupils is a growing problem in Dutch schools and the solution is to bring the issue out into the open.

Tasmanian gay adoption law expected to fail after debate

TASMANIA, Australia — Laws allowing same-sex couples to adopt children likely will fail in Tasmania's Upper House, the Mercury reported last week. Legislative Council members are debating the measure, but it appears unlikely the two proposals before them will be passed in their entirety. Most of the 14 lawmakers are not opposed to sections of the legislation, which firm up the rights of same-sex partners to access estates and have a say in their partner's medical treatment. But two major sticking points remain: allowing same-sex couples to adopt children and the automatic presumption of parenthood for women whose female partners conceive a child through artificial insemination, the Mercury reported. The government already watered the legislation down, with Attorney-General Judy Jackson thwarted in her push for same-sex couples to have the same rights as heterosexual couples to adopt unknown children through general placement.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Calif. activists testing candidates for gov.

Schwarzenegger, Bustamante avoid specifics on gay issues

By JOE CREA

SACRAMENTO — California gubernatorial candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger's vague positions on gay issues has left those on both ends of the political spectrum wondering how supportive the actor actually would be on gay rights.

The former bodybuilder's reluctance to answer specific questions about policy has left many gay voters leaning toward support for the Democrat Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, a candidate they consider to be friendly to their issues.

Gay activists say gay voters are "overwhelmingly" against the recall effort to remove Gov. Gray Davis (D) from office but are being told to vote no on the recall but yes to Bustamante. According to California's recall law, voters will be asked two questions on Oct. 7: Whether Davis should be ousted and who should succeed him if a majority (50 percent or above) approve of the recall.

Gay activists say that unlike Bustamante, Schwarzenegger has not said publicly if he would sign AB 205, which will expand the rights and protections of same-sex couples who register as domestic partners with the state. The bill passed the California Assembly this session and on Monday the California Senate Appropriations Committee voted 7-4 to send AB 205 to the Senate for a vote. If it passes the Senate, the bill will head back to the Assembly for a concurrent vote.

Davis, who rarely comments publicly on pending legislation, has announced that he fully intends to sign the bill when it reaches his desk.

Two weeks ago, Davis signed the Gender Identity Non-Discrimination bill, making California the fourth state to protect transgender people from housing and job discrimination.

Gay activists say that the governor is actively courting the gay vote to shore up one of his bases for the recall election.

"A lot of lobbying groups, official sponsors of legislation are pushing him [Davis] now to take stands," said Geoffrey Kors, executive director for Equality California.

Schwarzenegger, who was a guest Wednesday on the Fox News Channel's "Hannity & Colmes," said he is against gay marriage but supports domestic partnerships. He didn't comment specifically on AB 205.

Gay Republicans warn against Bustamante

But while some gay voters will gravitate toward Bustamante, gay Republicans say that he has not had the friendliest voting record while serving as a representative in the California Assembly.



Gay voters in California are unsure what to make of the two leading contenders should Gov. Gray Davis be recalled. Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger appears to be gay-friendly, but many activists want more information. (AP Photo)

"You have to look at his [Bustamante] voting record in the Assembly," said Jeff Bissiri, chairman of the statewide Log Cabin Republicans. "As late as 1998 he voted against Sen. Sheila Kuehl's amendment that had to do with safety for gay school children," he said, referring to the Democratic state senator from Santa Monica, who was the state's first gay assemblywoman.

"[Bustamante's] voting record in the Assembly is not supportive at all. It is possible that he has changed his position, but if he was a Republican the story would be what his voting record was. [Bustamante] does not have a solid record."

Jess Durfee, president of the San Diego Democratic Club, said his group has been following Lt. Gov. Bustamante since he was speaker in the California Assembly, when he nominated then assemblywoman Kuehl, speaker pro-tem.

Durfee said that many gays are angry with the media for immediately labeling Schwarzenegger as a proponent of gay rights since he has yet to articulate any real position.

"How did he vote on Prop 22? Would he sign AB 205? He is not answering these questions," Durfee said, referring to Proposition 22, also known as the Knight Initiative, which successfully banned gay marriage.

Durfee said that the media honeymoon for Schwarzenegger is "already waning" and that they will soon "hound him until he starts saying things."

Bissiri agreed, saying that it is important for Schwarzenegger to start talking specifics.

Arnold's colorful gay record

One of the reasons gay activists are pressuring Schwarzenegger to comment on policy is because many of the candidate's documented pro-gay comments are too old to withstand muster. When answering a question about gay issues in 1976, Schwarzenegger told the New York Times, "When it comes to sex, I don't give a [exple-

tive] what anyone's trip is."

Shortly afterwards he told Cosmopolitan, "I have no sexual standards in my head that say this is good or this is bad," Schwarzenegger said. "Homosexual" — that only means to me that he enjoys sex with a man and I enjoy sex with a woman; ... it's all legitimate to me."

Schwarzenegger made comments more recently in an interview with Talk magazine in 1999 that many interpreted as being pro-gay.

"I think about [running for governor of California] many times," he said. "The possibility is there, because I feel it inside. I feel there are a lot of people in politics that are standing still and not doing enough. ... You're going to lose until you become a party of inclusion, [until you show] that you love the foreigner that comes in with no money as much as a gay person, as a lesbian, ... someone who's from the inner city."

But despite Schwarzenegger's apparent comfort level with homosexuality, gay activists are also concerned with his decision to hire Rob Stutzman, the former campaign manager for Prop 22, as his spokesman.

Stutzman has said that Schwarzenegger is a fiscal conservative and social moderate and would elaborate on his positions when he chooses.

"I think people are becoming frustrated [with Schwarzenegger's reluctance to address gay issues]," said Kors, the Equality California director.

"What does he do and what does he stand for?" Kors said. "The fact that he brought in [former] Gov. Pete Wilson [for support], who vetoed the employment non-discrimination act, and hired the former campaign manager of the Knight initiative [Prop. 22] leaves many wondering what will happen."

"But we certainly hope he supports full equality for our community," he added.

Schwarzenegger was once the target of a campaign by the group Queer Nation, which accused him of homophobia in 1992 after he said at a campaign rally for then-

president George H. W. Bush that the Democrat presidential candidates "looked like a bunch of girlie men" during a debate.

Queer Nation accused Schwarzenegger of being a "bigot" and a "blatant homophobe."

"Once again, Bush's henchmen divide the nation by promoting hatred of a minority — the queer community," Queer Nation spokesman Tim McCarthy said at the time.

According to a report just released on the Web site SmokingGun.com, the actor said in a 1977 interview for the now defunct adult magazine, "Oui," published by Playboy, that he participated in an orgy with other bodybuilders and added that not everyone participated in the event, "just the guys who can fuck in front of other guys. Not everybody can do that. Some think that they don't have a big-enough cock, so they can't get a hard-on."

When the interviewer asked him if he was "freaked out" by having close contact with guys at the gym, Schwarzenegger said, "Men shouldn't feel like fags just because they want to have nice-looking bodies. ... Gay people are fighting the same kind of stereotyping that bodybuilders are: People have certain misconceptions about them just as they do about us. Well, I have absolutely no hang-ups about the fag business."

He also posed for the cover of "After Dark," which was a Broadway magazine that was the first gay-related magazine to go into mainstream bookstores.

Kors said that under the two Republican former governors, not a single gay person was appointed to the bench and domestic partner registry was vetoed.

"Our community was closed out of the process as far as being a part of the California Assembly," Kors said. "Gov. Davis, on the other hand, has made appointments to the bench, signed bill after bill of our rights and has moved our community closer to equality."

Kors said that his group has sent a questionnaire to both the Bustamante and Schwarzenegger campaigns, asking the candidates to answer questions relating to gay issues. Kors said while neither candidate has responded, Bustamante has "always participated in the past."

Kors said that his group has opposed the recall, arguing it is "horrendous public policy to put on the ballot a recall of someone who was sworn into office of January of this year."

MORE INFO

Equality California
1127 11th St., Suite 208
Sacramento, CA 95812
916-554-7681
www.calcape.org

Log Cabin Republicans
1607 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
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Thursday • September 4 Potluck 7pm <i>The Cenikor Foundation,</i> guest speaker	Friday • September 12 Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "The Transporter"
Friday • September 5 Morning Prayer 10am	Saturday • September 13 Breakfast 9:30am

police beat

Jury convicts St. Louis gay activist of sex with teen

CLAYTON, Mo. (AP) — The former president of a St. Louis gay group was convicted last week of improper sexual encounters with a teenager. A St. Louis County jury deliberated three hours before convicting Rolf Rathmann, 38, of eight counts of second-degree statutory sodomy related to involvement with the teenager, then 14, last year at a park in Ellisville, a St. Louis suburb. Rathmann, former president of Pride St. Louis, faces up to 56 years in prison, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Jurors were to make the decision on punishment in a separate penalty phase of the trial after hearing testimony and arguments by prosecutor J.B. Lasater and defense attorney Brad Kessler. Rathmann, after his arrest last December, resigned from Pride St. Louis, which advocates tolerance for gays and sponsors the yearly Pride Festival. Though the sex at the park was consensual, the key instruction before jurors was whether Rathmann reasonably believed, as he testified, that the youth was at least 17 years old. Kessler told jurors the alleged victim was a lying manipulator who told Rathmann he was a high school graduate.



St. Louis gay activist Rolf Rathmann was convicted of improper sexual encounters with a teenager. Rathmann admitted he had consensual sex with a 14-year-old, but said he believed the teen was 17.

R.I. porn star pleads to stomping school leader

WOONSOCKET, R.I. (AP) — A man pleaded no contest to assaulting the chair of the Woonsocket school committee by stomping on his face. Theodore Cox was sentenced to two years in prison, in a plea agreement with prosecutors, the Call of Woonsocket reported. The 35-year-old drifter and reported gay adult film star could be eligible for parole in October, according to the spokesperson for the state prison system. Cox allegedly kicked Edward Boucher in the head repeatedly while wearing a pair of heavy boots last January. The 65-year-old Boucher was found in his home with severe facial injuries. He required surgery for a blood clot in his brain, and spent weeks recuperating in the hospital. Police said Cox lived with Boucher for about a week before the attack.

Ky. suspect allegedly said killing was hate crime

ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky. — The suspect in the June killing of Guinn Richard "Richie" Phillips said he killed Phillips because he was gay, according to documents filed in Breckinridge County Circuit, the News-Enterprise reported. Family members said despite Josh Cottrell's confession, they didn't immediately contact authorities because they assumed Cottrell was lying, something they told police he had been known to do. Cottrell's aunt and at least two other relatives interviewed by police said Cottrell admitted killing Phillips because he made a sexual advance on him in an Elizabethtown motel room. All three said Phillips was strangled to death with a strap taken off the same suitcase found floating June 25 in Rough River Lake that contained Phillips' body. Cottrell, 21, was arrested June 27. One witness told police that Cottrell does not like gay people and that he'd "cold-cock" any gay man who made advances toward him.

FBI arrests three Ky. men accused of blackmail ring

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Federal agents have arrested three men in Lexington after the trio allegedly enticed a wealthy, married man into a same-sex affair and then attempted to blackmail him for \$75,000, Gay.com reported. Russell Erickson is charged with attempted extortion and sending threatening e-mail. Damian Thomas Jennings is charged with concealing the crime, and Abraham Scott faces a criminal complaint of attempted extortion by e-mail. Scott has not yet been indicted. The incident, which started on July 14, involved one of the three men inviting the married man to have sex at a local hotel. Later, the victim received an e-mail with a photo of the pair's tryst and a note threatening to send the picture to the man's family if he didn't come up with the money, according to a sworn statement by FBI agent Gary Ludwick, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported.

Trial begins for Calif. judge accused of threats

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — Prosecutors called a judge accused of waving a gun at her domestic partner a "nasty drunk," while defense lawyers argued in opening statements the judge was never violent. Superior Court Judge Diana R. Hall faces two felony counts and four misdemeanor charges stemming from a December incident that her lawyer called a deliberate "outing" by her vengeful former lover. Deidra Dykeman, Hall's partner for four years, testified in a preliminary hearing in April that after she found Hall drunk at home, the judge pulled her hair, waved a gun and attempted to block her from using a phone to call 911. Hall was arrested that night near the couple's home on suspicion of drunk driving. Prosecutors say Hall tried to keep her same-sex relationship secret to win re-election in the conservative north Santa Barbara County area where she worked.

From staff and wire reports



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national news

March on Washington anniversary includes gays

Gays join in organizing, speaking, marching in civil rights demonstration

By LAUREL FAUST

WASHINGTON — Gay participants had a visible presence at the 40th anniversary celebration of the 1963 March on Washington this past weekend. The life of openly gay African-American Bayard Rustin, the chief organizer of the March, was celebrated at many of the weekend's activities.

Martin Luther King III, the elder son of Martin Luther King Jr. and the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, cited anti-gay discrimination in his address to the crowd assembled at the Lincoln Memorial.

"Homophobia is hate, and hate has no place in the beloved community," King told the crowd outside the Lincoln Memorial on Saturday.

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force estimated 15,000 people attended the weekend's events, including at least 1,500 gays.

The 1963 March on Washington drew an estimated 250,000 people. There were no official estimates this year; the U.S. Park Service no longer makes crowd estimates.

Matt Foreman, the Task Force's executive director, and Mandy Carter, co-founder of Southerners on New Ground, a gay social justice group, spoke at rallies on the National Mall and at the Lincoln Memorial. NGLTF and SONG coordinated efforts to bring gays to witness and participate in the historic celebration. NGLTF also made a \$10,000 donation to the event.

"On behalf of an incredibly diverse gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, I thank you for inviting us to be here today and, in the words of Dr. King, to walk with you on the road to jobs, peace and freedom. It is an extraordinary privilege and honor to stand here," Foreman told the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial.

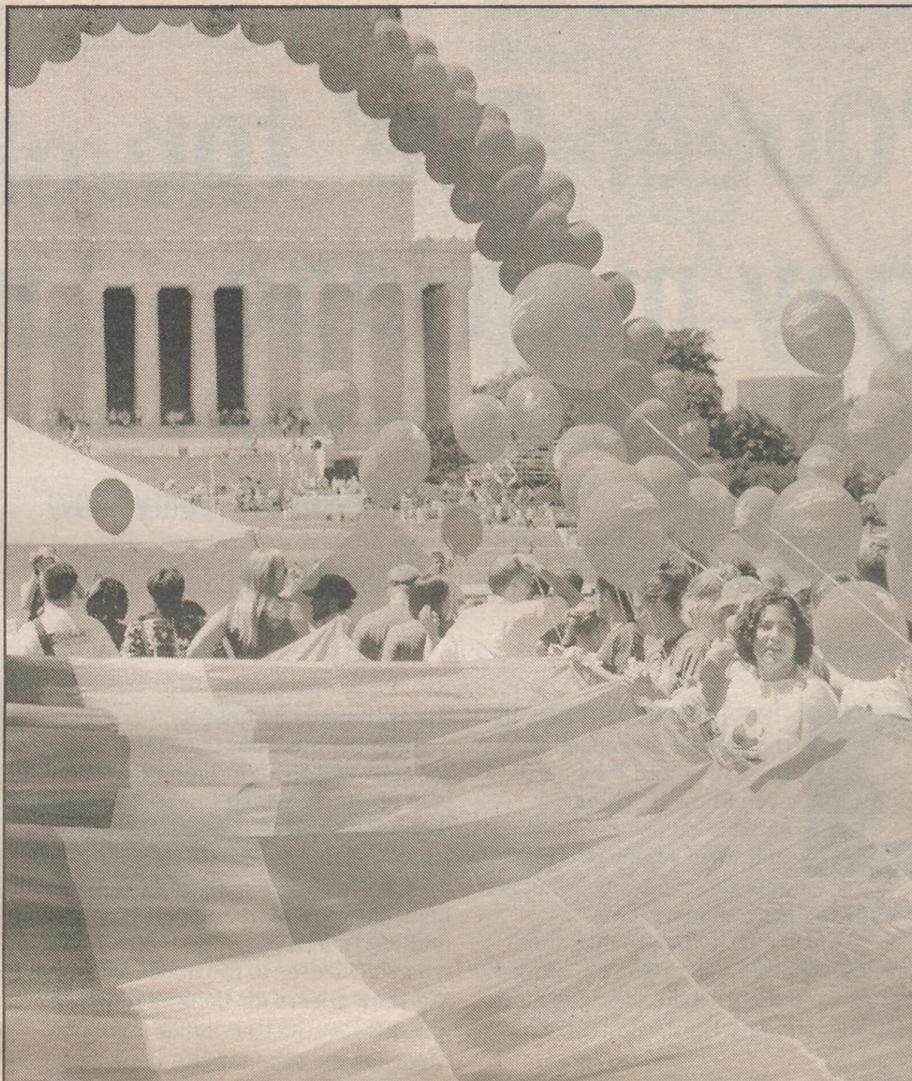
"I'd like to start by lifting up, along with Dr. King, the life and memory of Bayard Rustin — an unsung hero, a dear friend of Dr. King, the prime architect of the 1963 march, and a gay African American man," Foreman said.

John D'Emilio, author of "Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin," discussed his book at the Lambda Rising bookstore on Saturday evening after the rally.

"He seemed so invisible. Nobody knows who Bayard Rustin is," D'Emilio told an audience of about 55 people.

America's Gandhi

Rustin, a Quaker, grew up in Pennsylvania in a time of segregated schools, when he couldn't go to a downtown restaurant or join the YMCA because of his color. Rustin was an agitator for



Supporters of gay rights marched with a 100-foot rainbow banner during the 40th anniversary celebration of the March on Washington on Aug. 23. (Photo by Michael Wise)

social justice who wore the chains of a gay man, D'Emilio said.

Rustin was jailed dozens of times for his protest activity and for "sex crimes," in a time when the words "sexual pervert" and "homosexual" were synonymous.

"He wasn't able to live his full measure of power and influence. He should have become our American Gandhi, but he didn't because of homophobia and gay oppression," D'Emilio said.

NGLTF and SONG sponsored the Bayard Rustin rally on the National Mall.

Carter, who was selected as a speaker only a day before the events were held, said she was pleased that the inclusion of the gay participants and issues was "no big deal" to March organizers.

"It's a sign of the times that people get it about equality and justice," Carter said.

Lynn Cothren, a longtime gay rights activists who led street protests against anti-gay discrimination at Cracker Barrel restaurants in the early 1990s, was responsible for anniversary March program. Cothren has worked for a number of years as an assistant to Coretta Scott King, the civil rights leader's widow.

Carter said the difference between now and previous '63 March anniversaries was that this time around, the invitation was universal, instead of everyone

"except you gay people."

"There's been a significant change since 20 years ago, when there was a big fight to have Audre Lorde even speak," said Donna Payne, constituent field organizer for the Human Rights Campaign. Lorde, who died in 1992, was an African-American lesbian writer and activist.

Payne said HRC was contacted early on in this year's organizational process for the anniversary events.

Phil Pannell, a local activist, also spoke about the change that has taken place over the past 40 years.

"Twenty years ago, I had to go to jail," Pannell said.

Pannell said he was arrested along with Ray Melrose, Gary Walker and Melvin Boozer when they tried to pressure the 20-year March anniversary organizers to let Lorde speak at the event, Pannell said.

But even with the changed attitude, he admitted to some cynicism about the level of activism among black gays.

"There will probably be more black gays in the bar tonight than there will be in the Mall on the next two days," he told the Blade Friday afternoon.

Robert Dingle, who came from the Eastern Shore to attend the weekend's festivities, also attended the rally in 1983.

"I felt like I was left out as an open gay

homosexual," Dingle said of the 1983 events.

Dingle came to hear D'Emilio directly after attending the rally. He told D'Emilio that he thought Rustin had been deliberately written out of history.

D'Emilio noted the heft of his book — it contains more than 500 pages — and said he hopes Rustin's time of reckoning has come.

On Friday, a screening was held at the Kennedy Center of "Brother Outsider — The Life of Bayard Rustin."

Gays accused of 'hijacking'

Some participants complained about the rushed nature of organization for the commemorative activities. Payne said that normally the events take a year to plan, but that this year the organizers didn't get going until several months ago.

"It was planned late, but the intent of inclusion was so welcoming that I felt that our community should come and should participate. Because that's a huge step. Once that door is open, you should not close it because of what happened 20 years ago," Payne said.

Gay participants in the rally on Saturday Aug. 23, carried a 100-foot long rainbow and a banner saying, "We Walk with You" from the reflecting pool to the Bayard rally near the Lincoln Memorial.

"Teach-ins" were conducted about gay issues in tents on the Mall. Gay participants were bussed in from other cities.

An issues document for the rally endorsed two pro-gay bills: the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, which would give the federal government authority to prosecute anti-gay hate crimes. Both bills are pending in Congress.

The Family Research Council, a conservative Christian group, accused gay activists of "highjacking" the celebration marking the 40th anniversary of the March on Washington.

"Time and again, pro-homosexual activists have attempted to forward their political agenda by associating themselves with the civil rights movement, much to the dismay of many African Americans, who fought long and hard for their rights," said Peter Sprigg, director of the Center for Marriage & Family Studies at FRC.

Democratic presidential candidates Howard Dean, Al Sharpton and Carol Moseley Braun also attended the rally.

MORE INFO

Southerners on New Ground
P.O. Box 268
Durham, NC 27702
919-667-1362
www.southnewground.org

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
1325 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 600
Washington D.C. 20005
202-393-5177
www.nglft.org

EDITORIAL & PRODUCTION

Executive Editor CHRIS CRAIN

Interim Editor MIKE FLEMING
editor@houstonvoice.com

Production JOEY CAROLINO

Correspondents: LOU CHIBBARO JR., JOE CREA, LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN, LAUREL FAUST, MIKE FLEMING, MATTHEW HENNIE, RYAN LEE, BRIAN MOYLAN, KEVIN NAFF, KEN SAIN, CHRISTOPHER SEELY, STEVE WEINSTEIN

Contributors JUAN BATTLE, J.A. CHAPMAN, KAY DAYUS, JILL DEARMAN, KEVIN RIORDAN, ARJAN TIMMERMANS

Photographers DALTON DEHART, KIMBERLY THOMPSON

Webmaster ARAM VARTIAN

SALES & ADMINISTRATION

General Manager DANIEL EMERICH
denemich@houstonvoice.com

Account Executives
BRETT CULLUM - bcullum@houstonvoice.com
BRIAN MARTIN - bmartin@houstonvoice.com

Administrative Assistant
LISA GALLARDO - lgallardo@houstonvoice.com

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media
212-242-6863

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Issue 1192

Forum

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guest editorial

'Queer Eye' for gay marriage

The Fab Five prove gay men don't ruin marriages; we help support them. The only difference between the reality show and reality is that it's the bride who usually takes our advice.

By MICHAEL ALVEAR

tHE FAB FIVE ARE DOING the biggest makeover of their lives and they don't even know it. Their test subject isn't some unknown schlep or some superstar like Jay Leno. It's a whole institution: marriage.

Like one of their "before and after" classics, "Queer Eye" is transforming the drab and dour debate over gay marriage into a creative and colorful conversation.

To the untrained eye, "Queer Eye" is about transforming straight slobs into heartthrobs. But the show is really about gay men helping straight men connect more deeply with the women they love. And that strikes at the core of a fundamental argument against gay marriage: That gays will destroy heterosexual unions.

A perfect example: The recent episode in which a straight man wanted to ask his girlfriend to marry him. Only, he didn't know how to do it in a way that would reflect the profound love he had for her. Enter the Fab Five. Exit the doubt.

By the end of the show, the straight man cried in front of the gay men for their help in making the most important night of his life a smashing success; his girlfriend said yes.

The take-away was inescapable: Gay men don't ruin straight marriages; they help support them. Of course, gay men have always helped straight couples head to the altar. The only difference between the reality show and reality is that it's usually women we give advice to because the groom won't have anything to do with us.

CAN A TV show really influence the acceptance of gay marriage? Yes, by subverting the stereotypes that support

the arguments against it.

Like the one about gay men wanting to "convert" straight men into their way of life, reducing the pool of suitors for women and thus, reducing the number of marriages.

The truth: When it comes to straight men, gays are more interested in matchmaking than recruiting. Every friend who comes over to my house to watch the show cheers for the guy to win the girl. It's like the Gay Super Bowl. We cheer for the straight guy, hope he scrambles for yardage, and pump our fists in victory when he wins the game. Or rather, the girl. Gay men don't want to kick heterosexual unions in the pants; we want to kick them through the goalposts.

Or how about the stereotype that total acceptance of gay men will lead to the "feminization" of straight men, diminishing the traditional male role in marriage, therefore destabilizing it?

The truth: No matter how many manicures, pedicures and facials you can throw at straight men, they'll still want to shoot guns, drink beer, marry women and join the military. It's just that they'll do it with more style.

AND THE FINAL stereotype: If gay men are allowed to marry it'll make it easier for them to adopt, compromising the well-being of their children and ultimately strike at the foundations of marriage.

"Queer Eye" skewers that thought with its basic structure. Look closely and you'll see that the model for the show's relationships isn't friendship; it's fatherhood.

The show starts with five gay men "adopting" a wayward son. They socialize him like any good father would: "Sit



Television's pink posse, the Fab Five from Bravo's 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,' is transforming drab and dour heterosexual marriages, not threatening the institution. (Photo courtesy Bravo)

up straight, open doors for women, mind your manners, chew with your mouth shut."

The greatest example of the show's gay parenting theme came in a recent episode when Kyan, the stylist, watched the straight guy cleaving rather than shaving his face. Kyan said, "Didn't anybody teach you how to shave?"

"Uhm, no, not really," the straight guy said.

The Fab Fathers even teach their adopted sons not to cuss. A hilarious example: When Carson, the fashionista, holds up a ghastly shirt and asks the straight guy where he bought it, the guy says "Kmart." Carson puts his fingers on the guy's lips and says, "Hey! Don't you use that kind of language with me!"

At the end of each episode the Fab Five get together and watch, via closed circuit TV, the fruits of their labor. Like fathers watching their sons ride the bike for the first time without training wheels, you can't help but be struck by the depth to which these men care about helping their "son" win the girl of his dreams.

Politics, religion and morality will ultimately settle the question of gay marriage. But television's pink posse will add an invaluable perspective as America watches the Fab Five's SUV ride into the sunset, having saved — not ruined — yet another heterosexual relationship.

@ Michael Alvear is the author of 'Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon' and can be reached at michael@menpigs.cc.



viewpoint **JUAN BATTLE**



A reporter for the Times tried to infiltrate black men who have sex with men but proved how little he understood that world.

The lowdown on the 'DL'

FROM THE SUCCESS OF GAY-THEMED television to the recent Supreme Court decision overturning Lawrence v. Texas, the public has been increasingly interested in the private lives of homosexuals. So I was not surprised to see "Living (and Dying) on the Down Low: Double lives, AIDS and the Black homosexual underground" on the cover of the New York Times Magazine's Aug. 3 issue.

Benoit Denizet-Lewis, a white reporter, attempted to understand black men "on the down low" who have, in his own words, "created a community of their own, a cultural 'party' where whites aren't invited."

Given that this reporter only spent "six months" researching the story in "Cleveland, Atlanta, Florida, New York and Boston," I wondered who he would speak with. Were they really on the D.L.? Would these men really open up?

Readers learn from Denizet-Lewis that "the majority of those having sex with men lead secret lives, products of a black culture that deems masculinity and fatherhood as black man's primary responsibility." Such overgeneralizations, imprecision and sensationalistic statements plague this story.

The one attempt to provide concrete numbers presents a deeply flawed study: "According to the Centers for Disease Control, one-third of young urban black men who have sex with men in this country are HIV positive, and 90 percent of

those are unaware of their infection."

Denizet-Lewis fails to inform his readers — or is unaware — that this study was a convenience sample that took place in select cities, in sexually-charged venues. Denizet-Lewis then extrapolates from his "statistics" to offer his supposed insights on the entire "black world."

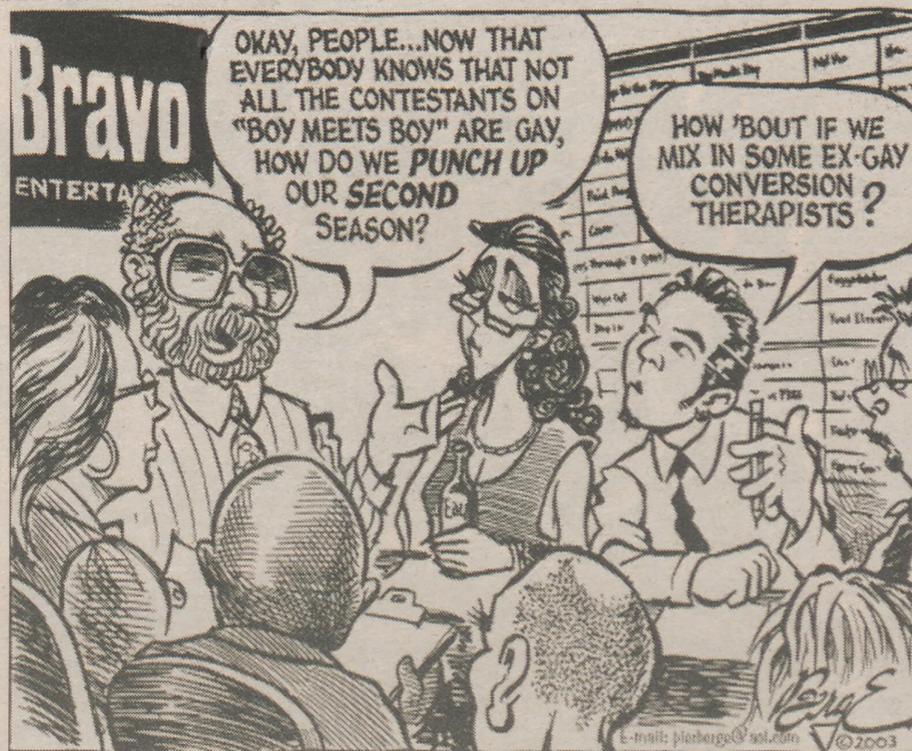
HE GOES FOR THE EASY

generalization: African Americans are "simply too homophobic," while the whites are "more accepting of its sexual minorities, leading to fewer double lives, less shame and less unsafe sex."

Denizet-Lewis seems unaware of research that suggests that, although black men have higher HIV infection rates, they actually engage, in some instances, in less unsafe sex than their white counterparts. If whites were as "accepting of sexual minorities" as Denizet-Lewis implies, then why are there majority-white gay ghettos?

We are asked to believe that men who are "closeted" to their friends, families and sometimes even themselves are cheerfully willing to share intimate details of their lives with a white reporter.

In a bathhouse in Cleveland, Denizet-Lewis is propositioned. Though the man's advances are rejected, a "surprised" Denizet-Lewis interviews him long enough to know that: (1) the man has "a girl," (2) to this anonymous



man, Denizet-Lewis looks like he would have a girl, and (3) this man is a sexually irresponsible predator who "like[s] it raw."

WE LEARN THAT EVEN THE MORE educated in that black world are not very enlightened. D., an 18-year-old college student from Providence, R.I., in a phone interview says, "Gays are the faggots who dress, talk, and act like girls. That's not me."

Denizet-Lewis quotes a publishing executive: "I sleep with men, but I am not bisexual, and I am certainly not gay. ... I am not going to your clinics, I am not going to read your brochures, I am not going to get tested, I assure you that none of the brothers on the Down Low are paying the least bit of attention to what you say."

So who then is the D.L. poster boy? It would have to be Chi, a 32-year-old promoter of an online sex show where black D.L. men have sex with strangers.

Denizet-Lewis tries to distinguish

himself from those who depict men on the DL as the "modern version of the highly sexually dangerous irresponsible black man who doesn't care about anyone and just wants to get off." But Denizet-Lewis, with the imprimatur of the Times, picked up that baton and ran with it.

Let me be clear: Irresponsible behavior should never be excused or condoned and should be challenged at every level, both individual and institutional.

However, concerning these men who choose to dictate their level of "out-ness," if we respect freedom of speech, we should also respect freedom of silence. In short, as an old proverb suggests and this New York Times article confirms, until the lion is allowed to speak, the lion tamer will always be the hero.

@ Juan Battle is a sociology professor at the CUNY Graduate Center and Hunter College; he can be reached through this publication.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



action! alert

Flight Fairy takes off

New Web site for
gay travelers cashing
in on the \$3 bill

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

BOB HOPE'S NEW GAY WEB-BASED travel company is preening itself as a place for savvy gay jet-setters to spend their money, but the site's name might get in the way for some.

Since the site launched in mid-August, response has been "enthusiastic," said Hope, founder of FlightFairy.com and co-owner of Hope-Beckham, an Atlanta public relations firm.

"Not being gay myself, I asked about the name," he said. "I was concerned that there might be some sensitivity to the name. If there was, our intention is to be attentive and open to the market place, and if someone got upset we'd change the name."

But the name could deter potential customers because it attaches gay consumers to the word "fairy," said Robert Wilson, executive director of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association, a member group for gay and gay-friendly travel professionals.

"Of course one assumes that they are deciding on a humorous approach, but my first reaction would be that the traveling members of gay and lesbian communities are not readily impressed by the word 'fairy,'" Wilson said.

FLIGHTFAIRY BLOSSOMED WHEN Worldspan, one of Hope's clients at Hope-Beckham, released information showing that gay travelers tend to put more time and energy than straight travelers into finding unique vacation spots, which could make gays an attractive marketing target, Hope said.

Worldspan provides a network of travel accommodations, like hotels and car rental companies, for online travel businesses to use as links on their Web sites.

Currently, the FlightFairy Web site is up and running, but the word "gay" doesn't appear anywhere on the site.

Unless the cartoon fairy flitting at the top of the Web site's home page and the name itself are intended to imply that the site is for gay travelers, there is no indication online that the site seeks gay travelers.

THE IDEA FOR A GAY TRAVEL SITE IS not new for members of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association. The travel trade networking group boasts a membership of more than 1,000, and as many as 300 members of IGLTA have "dedicated sites" for gay travelers, Wilson said.

Among the largest are Gay.com's travel microsite, and Zoom Vacations, an online gay travel agency.

Several burgeoning sites in search of the proverbial \$3 bill consult IGLTA.

"They want to know how they can clean up and achieve a better bottom line from gay and lesbian travelers," Wilson said. "I would think the dedicated sites are more familiar with what [gay] clients require. The large sites just do the same tours and put a rainbow flag on there."

High profile travel Web sites Travelocity and Orbitz also recently hopped on the gay bandwagon.

Orbitz beefed up its marketing campaign with a micro-site for gays within its larger Web site in June 2002. But FlightFairy will be better attuned to the needs of a gay traveler than Orbitz, Hope said.

"You don't become a customer of a micro-site, but of Orbitz," he said. "We are going to focus exclusively on that marketplace. We want it to be a community online for gay travel."

Travelocity, in a new commercial ad campaign shown in Europe, employs characters that are stereotypically gay to be "edgy and playful," said Charlotte Harper, marketing director for Travelocity in Britain.

The ad features a series of male flight attendants who plug Travelocity services using thinly veiled sexual innuendo.

"I can get you off first thing in the morning," one fey character says.

America Online, which affiliates with Travelocity for travel purchases, also offers extensive information on gay travel options at keyword: Gay Travel.

Hope envisions an empire similar to Martha Stewart's homemaker media monopoly with FlightFairy.

A television travel talk show is in the works for trailblazing gays who have taken "uncommon planned trips" to share the experiences with fellow gays and straight people alike, he said.

"It is our understanding that the gay and lesbian marketplace has the money and plan trips more meticulously than average travelers," Hope said.



ACTION! INFO

FlightFairy
www.flightfairy.com

America Online
Keyword: Gay Travel

Orbitz
www.orbitz.com/gaytravel

Travelocity UK
www.travelocity.co.uk

Zoom Vacations
www.zoomvacations.com

Gay.com
www.gay.com/travel

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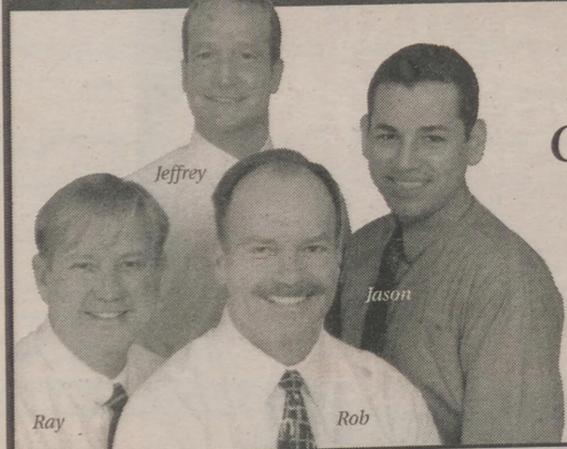
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on the record

"Homophobia is hate, and hate has no place in the beloved community."

Martin Luther King III, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, during ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, which were led by his father Martin Luther King Jr. (Aug. 23)



"[Gay men in the black church] took on that posture or their spirit because they never saw a man in church worship God. They only saw women praise God. So, they began to clap like their mamas, shout like their grandmothers and took on an effeminate spirit."

Rev. Jamal-Harrison Bryant, founder and pastor of Empowerment Temple AME in Baltimore, on gay men in the church (New Orleans Times-Picayune, July 4)

"Pedophilia is no different than homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, S/M, or whatever floats your boat — it's another preference, just as honorable and beautiful and deserving of support as any other."

Keith Willis, a 47-year-old Chicago man, who has pleaded not guilty to possessing child pornography (Associated Press, July 8)



"Perhaps it says that the child can sometimes teach the parent."

Rev. **Gene Robinson**, asked what message the U.S. Episcopal Church sent to the mother Church of England by confirming him as the first openly elected gay bishop (Associated Press, Aug. 4)

"I believe that we must take care to do whatever it takes to ensure that the principles defined in the Defense of Marriage Act remain the law of land."

Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), who will lead Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearings after Labor Day on whether the existing ban on federal recognition of gay marriage should be expanded (Aug. 1)

"[The issue of civil unions is] a very complex question that I'm not going to make a recommendation on. We're doing research on that now. Whether or not it affects the legal standing of such unions federally, or whether or not it would affect it in state settings and the like, provides a variety of jurisdictions with those cross-currents."

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, on civil unions for same-sex couples as an alternative to gay marriage, which he and the president oppose ("Fox News Sunday," Aug. 3)

"You don't want to call it marriage? If that makes you feel better, you can call it whatever you want. I object to the denial of benefits to people who pay taxes on an equal basis."

Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass), on whether to legalize "civil unions" as an alternative to opening up marriage to same-sex couples (MSNBC's "Hardball with Chris Matthews," July 31)

"President Bush. He wears far too many dark suits with red ties. You've got to look good when you're addressing the nation, for god's sake. You've got the No. 1 audience in the country."

Carson Kressley, the fashion guru of the "Fab 5" on Bravo's "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," when asked what straight man he would most like to makeover on the show (Newsweek, Aug. 4)



"So along with the Supreme Court's landmark Lawrence vs. Texas ruling, the return of Elle Woods, and the emancipation of Ms. Liza Minnelli, it seems the nation may finally be ready to appreciate the finer delights of foie-gras mousse and pre-shave oil. Yes, it's been a very good summer for the gays."

TV critic Nicholas Fonseca on "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" in an article entitled, "They're Here! They're Queer! And They Don't Like Your Endtables" (Entertainment Weekly, Aug. 8)



Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE
AUGUST 29, 2003
PAGE 15

Silver & going strong

25th season of local gay chorus shows continued commitment to diversity, no signs of slowing

By KAY DAYUS

HEADING INTO ITS 25TH SEASON WITH AN all-time high membership, a large following, and for the first time, a new paid executive director, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston comes of age for its silver anniversary.

And all signs point to the group growing into a bigger and better organization that gay Houstonians can be proud of. The silver season begins next month at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.

From meager beginnings, the Chorus grew from a small group of gay guys with no budget getting together in 1979 as the Montrose Singers, to a huge membership of 165 singers and another 45 who perform other necessary tasks — and an annual budget of around \$400,000.

And for all you women out there, the Chorus is not only for men. As well as executive director Mary Jean Tiernan, there are six other women involved with the Chorus (see sidebar on Page XX). The men of GMCH enjoy having women work with them in many capacities and would like to have more, says Randy Reddeman, president of the board of directors.

In fact, this gay chorus is open to anyone who has something to offer — regardless of sexual orientation and singing ability. There are many other non-singing roles to be filled.

Once, the group even had a straight president of the board and a “delightful woman and her husband,” as members says Robert Parker, membership chair and singer.

“We don’t discriminate,” he says.

One look at the faces on the stage at any GMCH concert shows the diversity in age and race. Members also come from different socio-economic and professional backgrounds as well, Parker says. But they all have at least one thing in common: a love for singing.

SOME GMCH MEMBERS LIKE REDDEMAN AND Gary Workman, director of production, joined the Chorus to sing. But eventually, they settled into other duties with the group.

“I went to one of their concerts, and I was completely blown away,” Workman says. “I thought it was a very professional group of men that were very diverse, and I liked the way they presented themselves to the community.”

Workman is a self-confessed shy man who says he immediately felt at home when he joined the Chorus.



Members of the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston practice last week in preparation of their new fall concert. (Photos by Kimberly Thompson)

“The first time I walked in, I was amazed that there were about a hundred guys there, and I didn’t know any of them, and I live in the community,” he says. “That intrigued me — where did these guys come from, and what’s their story?”

Workman didn’t have to worry about his shyness because the men present welcomed him, he says. They approached him to introduce themselves, and it wasn’t long before he knew all the members by first name.

Workman likens the group to having a huge family — a sentiment echoed by Parker and others.

“There is a camaraderie in the group that is different from anything I’ve ever been involved with,” says Parker, a five-year Chorus member. “I like to think that we are unique to the community. The Chorus is like a family partly fostered by the camaraderie of a common project, but it makes for a unique and very warming experience for many people.”

Parker calls the atmosphere “an attitude free zone.”

“A safe haven,” chimes in Workman.

Whatever, it is, it obviously works for many people on different levels.

Warren Morales, a singing member of the Chorus for seven years, says GMCH was a savior for him when his partner passed away.

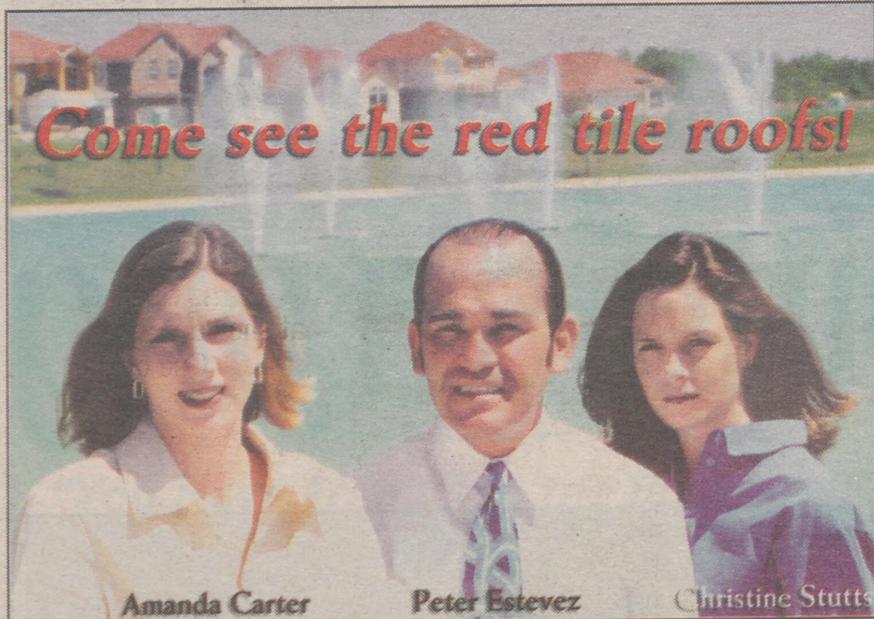
“When my partner died, the people in the Chorus held me together,” Morales says. “My family in Louisiana turned away, and the Chorus became my family. ... They were my lifeline.”

AT A GMCH CONCERT, IT’S EASY TO SEE THE diversity on stage and then look at the audience to see diversity there as well. By far, most of the audience is gay, but there are plenty of straight family and friends of the singers.

Workman says his sister and her husband came to a concert and were thrilled. Workman found their praise, “hugely empowering.”

“Some of these people have never been involved with

Please see MEN'S CHORUS on Page 21



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television BRIAN MOYLAN



New Showtime documentary looks at intimate, often messy lives of UT freshmen, including two gay Longhorns.



Showtime's new documentary series 'Freshman Diaries' includes gay freshmen Neil McGurk and Luis Rocha, who become a couple on the show. (Photos courtesy of Showtime)

The Blunder Years

AH, COLLEGE — THE TIME WHEN young adults are supposed to find a vocation, themselves or possibly true love.

For those lucky enough to go to college, the experience might provide some of the best times of life and great memories. Regardless, college years are definitely filled with some embarrassing moments, outfits and friends you never want to think about again.

For those who didn't go to college, living an academic life vicariously on Showtime's new "Freshman Diaries," premiering this week, might be enough.

The documentary series is directed and executive produced by R.J. Cutler, who won an Emmy for his gay-inclusive documentary "American High," which aired briefly on Fox in 2000 and on PBS in 2001.

"Freshman Diaries" gives 12 of the 10,000 freshman at University of Texas at Austin a camera to record a video diary each day. The cameras also follow the students and their friends to get their first year at school — and at their parents' homes during breaks — onto small screens across the country.

THE CAST INCLUDES TWO GAY MEN, Neil McGurk, who is from a small town in the Lone Star State and a high school graduating class of 20 people, and Luis Rocha, a flamboyant "Mexican fag," as he calls himself.

For some reason, several of the cast members hang out with each other: Whether this is a ploy by the producers of the show, or just a coincidence is never explained.

And great for gay fans, Luis and Neil eventually begin a relationship.

Each 30-minute episode is precisely edited and filled with the universal questions that every young person asks: Who am I? Where do I belong? What am I going to do with my life?

"Diaries" is like "The Real World," but with existential import.

The experiences of McGurk and Rocha are also typical of gay youths. McGurk says that everyone in his high school hated him because he was gay, and he is excited to be attending college. But as soon as he arrives and goes to an event for gay youth, he is uncomfortable.

"I don't know how to be gay," he laments at the event.

It doesn't help that he is confused by a crush directed at him by his straight female friend Hannah.

ROCHA SEEMS MORE COMFORTABLE with his sexual orientation.

"Sometimes I look at myself and my highlights and my hand movements and my clothes — which I happen to like a lot — and I think, 'I'm so gay.' And then I think, 'So what?'" he says in the show's second episode.

Also in the second episode, Rocha, the consummate drama queen, makes a mistake trying to cut his own hair, with disastrous but hysterical results.

"I wanted to have sex, and now no one's going to have sex with me looking like this," he says after the incident.

The haircut incident is one of those shallow, embarrassing moments that most every viewer experiences, especially in those sensitive college years. And ultimately, that is the appeal of this show.

Whether viewers are close in age to the cast members or it has been several years since they were in these students' shoes, watching the cast on "Diaries" is like reliving the awkward adjustment to college all over again.

Thankfully, for most of us, our horrible moments weren't caught on tape.

MORE INFO

'Freshman Diaries'
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books KEVIN RIORDAN



Novelist found success as a man, but writer says **real-life memoir** about becoming a woman shows her true voice.

Storyteller with a mission

PEOPLE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND transgendered folks don't necessarily offend Jennifer Finney Boylan.

"I don't really understand it either," says the author, who describes her transition from male to female with eloquence, grace and bracing wit in "She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders."

"I don't have ambitions of re-inventing the world," says Boylan in a recent telephone interview from her home in Maine, where she co-chairs the English department at Colby College.

"I'm not an activist of any kind. I'm just a storyteller," she says.

Apparently, Boylan is a storyteller with quite a tale to tell, as "She's Not There" makes clear.

Born in 1958 and named James by his middle-class parents, Boylan grew up in suburban Philadelphia. Childhood found James struggling with a sense of femaleness that had him making up a game called "Girl Planet" at an early age, and later finding secret comfort in wearing women's attire.

After falling in love with a woman named Grace Finney in the mid-1980s, James decided to try to live as a man once and for all, going so far as to toss his clandestine wardrobe in the trash. They married and had two children.

But James couldn't deny his female identity, and ultimately, he told his wife who he really was.

"That conversation — as horrible and amazing and painful as it was — can probably be imagined," Boylan says, explaining why, in a memoir otherwise characterized by unsparing candor, she does not recount their talk.

Similarly, "She's Not There" offers a powerful account of the hospital stay that concluded Boylan's transition, but the book says nothing about the impact of the surgical removal of the author's male genitals.

"It's very important people understand that the surgery is not the most important thing," Boylan says. "I want people to understand that the surgery was not what made me a woman."

AS JAMES FINNEY BOYLAN, THE author wrote three well-received novels, including "The Planets" and "The Constellations." So it's no surprise Boylan's memoir is written with an accomplished novelist's command of structure and style, as well as a certain distance that serves to deepen the resonance of her story.

And beautiful writing is not the only thing that sets "She's Not There" apart from other works about personal transformation. Boylan's book has no melodrama, self-pity or preaching.

"I wanted to avoid an air of self-congratulation or tragedy," the author said. "I didn't want to write a book all about how wonderful I was."

Transitioning went "very well" for Boylan, including positive support from her sons, who are now 9 and 7 years old and call her "Maddy."

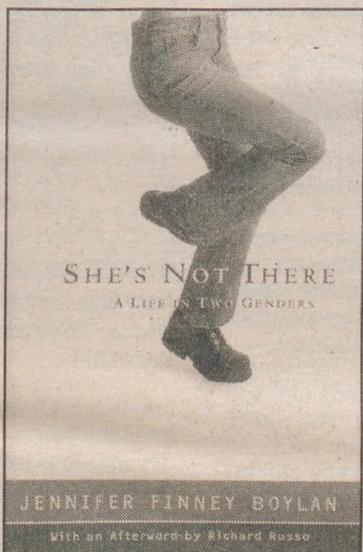
Boylan remains close to the children's mother, but their marriage did end over her being transgendered.

"The secret of any good relationship is compromise, and the hardest thing about this was, there really was no middle ground," Boylan says. "It's PC to say that bodies don't matter, but bodies do matter."

Among those to whom Boylan's male persona mattered most was the writer Richard Russo, Boylan's best friend who won a Pulitzer prize for "Empire Falls" and ultimately wrote the afterward to Boylan's book.

"If somebody like Russo can come around, anybody can," Boylan says.

Boylan's physical voice changed with the rest of her, but she doesn't anticipate a shift in her literary voice. The difference between Jim Boylan the novelist and Jenny Boylan the memoirist, she says, "is the difference between someone who has a secret, and someone who lives in the world."



Jennifer Finney Boylan says her memoir 'She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders' offers the author's skills as a well received novelist along with a distinct lack of self-pity.

i MORE INFO

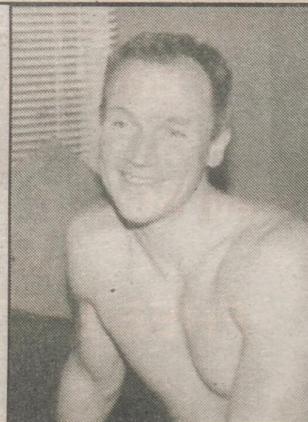
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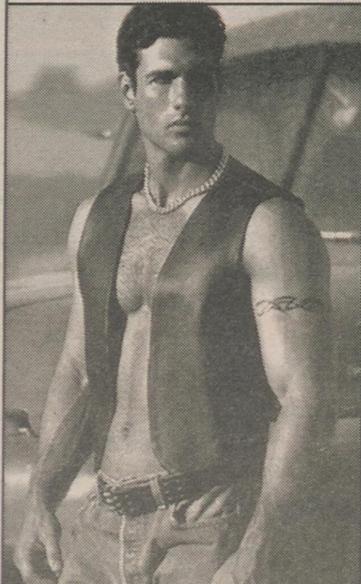
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music ARJAN TIMMERMANS



Quality songs and production talent overshadowed by singer's wacky vocals and cartoon-like character.

The trouble with Macy Gray

MACY GRAY TOOK THE POP SCENE by storm when she was nominated for two Grammy Awards and her song “I Try” became a radio favorite in the spring of 2000. Her accompanying debut record “On How Life Is” eventually reached triple platinum status.

Hailed as the savior of funk, Gray's persona was hard to resist. Her wacky lyrics, unique voice and potent soul-funk combination were a fresh addition to CD shelves that were dominated by saccharine teen pop, Latin crossover hopefuls and that persistent, big-voiced gal from Canada.

Gray, whose real name is Natalie McIntyre, was born in 1970 and influenced by Prince, Sly Stone, James Brown and other soul greats. When she moved to Los Angeles to study screenwriting, she started to write lyrics and recorded a demo tape.

Gray was invited to front a pop jazz band that played the L.A. hotel circuit, a lucrative gig that taught Gray the ropes of performing in front of a live audience.

She also organized a Hollywood after-hours club, called the “We Hours,” with open-mike nights, DJ sets and performances of her own band. The weekly gatherings allowed her to jam with other starting musicians as she quickly developed an interest in rock and hip-hop in addition to her strong passion for soul and funk.

Sony's Epic Records offered her a record deal in 1998, which led to her debut release the next year.

“On How Life Is” highlighted Gray's unique vocal skills and infectious bursts of energy. The record is a collection of autobiographical tales that were best represented by the album's hit single “I Try.”

With the release of her follow-up album “The Id” in 2001, Gray fell victim to disappointing record sales, which is often the case with post-breakout second albums. “The Id” failed to impress critics and audiences with its bombastic productions that merely appeared to serve as a platform for Gray's idiosyncrasies.

Listeners were left to wonder if Gray was just another one-hit wonder fueled by her much-hyped outlandish appearance.

ON HER LATEST RECORD “THE TROUBLE Of Being Me,” Gray attempts to reconnect with her pop audience that brought her to fame in 2000. The stakes are high. Gray knows that if this album fails to be a commercial success, her chances of being funk's newest diva are greatly diminished.

Together with Atlanta-based producer Dallas Austin (TLC, Madonna, Pink), Gray put together a sound that again features her raspy vocals, but which is supported by Austin's gentler funk-pop orchestration and fine sense of hit potential.

The album kicks off with the first



Macy Gray needs a hit record to disprove critics who say she's a one-hit wonder. (Photo by Jim Cooper/AP)

single track “When I See You,” a happy-go-lucky pop song that brings to mind her previous hits “I Try” and “Sweet Baby.” Gray's meaningless lyrics are wrapped around an infectious musical arrangement with cheery background vocals, bouncy organ chords and funky guitar riffs.

On the Beck co-penned “It Ain't The Money,” the singer fuses her signature vibe with a vintage hip-hop groove that features Beck's background vocals and rapper Pharoa's fragmented rhymes.

THE SINGER RETURNS TO HER SOUL roots on “Come Together,” “Jesus For A Day” and “Happiness” with its laid-back percussion, swirling strings and swelling horns.

On the autobiographical “Things That Made Me Change” and “My Fondest Childhood Memories,” Gray shows lyrical sincerity that is a rarity on the album.

Her gratuitous eccentricity reaches a distressing low-point with her child-like banter on “Screamin.”

The title “The Trouble of Being Me” says it all. The trouble with Macy Gray is that her wacky vocals, cartoonish character and weak lyrics often overshadow the distinct quality of her songs and their production.

MORE INFO

Macy Gray
“The Trouble of Being Me”
Epic Records, 2003
www.macygray.com

dining J.A. CHAPMAN

Regulars welcome strangers into lush atmosphere of old world hookahs and delicious Middle Eastern fare.

Relax in the garden

HAVE YOU HAD A TOUGH WEEK AND need to unwind? Then head over to Ranosh Shish Kabob Café for one of the most relaxing restaurant experiences you can have in Houston.

Located on a stretch of strip-center-plagued Fondren, this garden oasis is an unexpected joy. From the moment greet the valet attendant and wander into this vast, lush patio, stress levels begin to drop.

The huge garden is the primary seating area. Pebbled pathways curve around fountains, latticed booths provide privacy, and landscaped beds surround the trees dotting the property. Tables scattered randomly provide plenty of seating options.

On a recent August night, a cool breeze blew and Middle Eastern music drifted across the garden. The occasional whiff of sweet smoke from the hookahs wafted our way, adding an authentic cultural touch.

Yes, hookahs — those ornate are available at Ranosh. Shisha, which is tobacco mixed with molasses and fruit, is offered on the menu for \$5.99. Order the desired flavor, and a friendly man brings a three-foot hookah to the table and provides charcoal so you can puff away for hours.

BUT IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT SHISHA AT Ranosh. It's primarily a restaurant, and the food is excellent. Try starting with a bowl of hummus (\$1.99). Impressively thick with a strong nutty flavor and drizzled with fruity olive oil, it won't rave.

The accompanying huge pita bread, served warm from the oven, was the perfect blend of crispy and doughy and disappeared quickly. A bowl of mixed pickles and olives (\$1.99) was addictively salty and sour, providing an excellent complement.

The Kafta Kabob (\$5.49) was rich and flavorsome. Ground lamb combined with finely chopped parsley, onions and spices makes up this Middle Eastern standard.

It's often left too long and becomes dry and tough, but at Ranosh it's succulent, tender and bursting with flavor.

The Ranosh Chicken (\$5.99) was a lesson in how good chicken can be. Marinated chicken thighs roasted on a spit resulted in breathtakingly tender meat with crispy skin providing a striking contrast.

All main dishes come with grilled vegetables and either rice or french fries. The rice's rich, buttery flavor is a perfect

complement to the meats. The grilled onions, peppers and tomatoes again had that irresistible charred flavor and were perfectly tender-crisp.

THE CLIENTELE AT RANOSH IS ALMOST exclusively Middle Eastern. Entire families arrive late into the evening to eat kabobs, drink coffee, smoke hookahs and chat. It's common to see groups while away an entire evening.

For an authentic experience, try the Turkish coffee (\$2.00). Served in tiny cups, it's extremely strong and boiled with sugar. There's a bit of froth on the top, and the grounds are in the cup. It packs a real caffeine wallop.

The only slight disappointment of the evening was the dessert. It's not listed on the menu, so I ventured inside to see what might be available.

There are a few American-style selections like chocolate cake and apple pie, as well as ice cream bars in a freezer. Somehow those offerings seemed out of place in such a Middle Eastern atmosphere.

I chose a mixed box of baklava and other goodies (\$2.00) that boasted nothing particularly notable. A far better idea would be to offer a bowl of dates and figs to finish the meal.

After three hours, I had no idea so much time was spent over dinner. But I wasn't surprised.

The staff doesn't rush diners, and lingering is part of the plan at Ranosh. From the pleasant breeze to the hypnotic music to the sweet hookah smoke, it's easy to slow down and really unwind.

With top notch Middle Eastern food in an authentic atmosphere, Ranosh Shish Kabob Cafe is a real find. The next time you need to relax, grab a table in the garden and stay awhile.



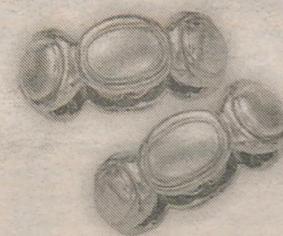
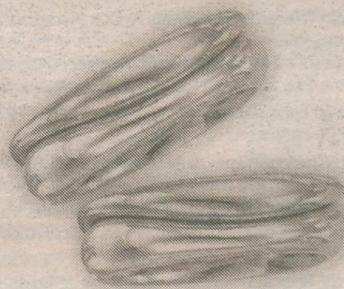
Ranosh Shish Kabob Café
3402 Fondren
832-242-5200
www.ranosh.com

Food: 10110110110110
Service: 10110110110110
Value: 10110110110110
Scene: 10110110110110

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

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For Anna and Eve



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community calendar

SATURDAY AUG. 30

All-Spanish Worship Service/Noche Espiritual 7 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-861-9149.
After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 1-4 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in, noon-5 p.m. • CATS (Community Awareness for Transgender Support) board meeting, 2 p.m. • TATS (Texas Association for Transsexual Support) meeting, 6 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

SUNDAY AUG. 31

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. E-mail: global@bayou.uh.edu.

Grace Assembly Church. Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 11 a.m. service. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leo1@easttexas.net.

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

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

Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club. Practice from 4-6 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Women's Group. Meeting and discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571. Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Adult discussion, 9 a.m. Service, 11:15 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

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

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum, 10 a.m. Service,

11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

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

MONDAY SEPT. 1

American Veterans for Equal Rights. AVER is an advocacy and support group for gay veterans that meets 7-9 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grace Assembly Church. Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 7 p.m. aerobics class. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leo1@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.

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY SEPT. 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 3

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. Monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

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

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: leo1@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.

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

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

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

www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

THURSDAY SEPT. 4

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston 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: leo1@easttexas.net.

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

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

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

Recovery from Food Addiction (RFA). Meeting for 12-step program open to all. Noon-1 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama St. RFA: 713-673-2848.

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

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

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

FRIDAY AUG. 29

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: leo1@easttexas.net.

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

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

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

Mishpachat Alizim. GLBT Jewish congregation. Sabbath services at 8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Baby Barnabys, 602 Fairview. Monthly study groups with Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood.

Mishpachat Alizim. P.O. Box 980136, Houston, TX 77098. 866-841-9139, ext. 1834.

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

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818.

www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

appts

SATURDAY AUG. 30

Rev. Ralph Lasher hosts the weekly **All-Spanish Worship Service/Noche Espiritual** at 7 p.m. at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-861-9149.

MONDAY SEPT. 1

Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents, a social and support group for gay parents and their kids, gathers up the whole family for a **Labor Day beach outing** to Galveston. 713-284-4939, www.hgplp.org

TUESDAY SEPT. 2

The **Rainbow Ranglers** offer free C&W dance lessons in beginner Two-step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing with no partner needed at 8:30 p.m. at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos St. 713-528-9192

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 3



Longtime lesbian gossip columnist, author and celebrity hobnobber **Liz Smith** appears to discuss how a young woman from Fort Worth became one of the most recognized columnists in the country at 7:30 p.m. at the Hobby Center for the Arts, 800 Bagby St. 713-629-3700

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus holds its monthly meeting to discuss upcoming **anti-gay amendments** to the state Constitution at 7 p.m. at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. 713-524-3818

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

Chorus silver anniversary season highlights diversity

MEN'S CHORUS, continued from Page 15

gays before, so we try to be the ambassadors for the community," he says.

Of course, not every singing member is involved with every concert, because the grueling rehearsal schedule alone is daunting. At the big events, close to 100 singers are on stage. But they play more modest venues where "small ensembles" perform.

"For instance, fourteen of our strongest singers sang the national anthem at a Comets game," Parker says. "To my knowledge, that's the first time a gay group has been invited to do that."

The Chorus boasts performances at the Grand Opera House in Galveston, in Vancouver, Canada, San Jose, Calif., Denver, Colo., Rice and St. Thomas Universities, the Alley Theater and Jones Hall.

Last season, the Chorus entertained over 6,000 theatergoers. They also count collaborations with the Houston Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Dallas' Turtle Creek Chorale, the Lone Star Symphonic Band and the Alamo City Men's Chorus, among others.

The group released its first CD to celebrate its 15th anniversary, and has a holiday CD in the works to release in September.



Gay Men's Chorus Houston celebrates its silver anniversary with a new concert next month. (Photo courtesy Gay Men's Chorus Houston)

Another CD is scheduled for March 2004.

The Chorus performs at least one benefit a season. Last year, the Montrose Counseling Center, Bering Omega and the Montrose Clinic were recipients of the Chorus' largesse.

SO AFTER 25 YEARS, WHAT DOES THE future hold for this group that so ably represents Houston's diversity?

Reddeman says the group seeks to perform at other venues like the Miller Outdoor Theater to reach a broader audience. Also in the works is collaboration with Opera in the Heights this fall and "mainstream groups such as the Houston Ballet and the Houston Symphony," Reddeman says.

More paid staff is part of the plan as well, and GMCH is investigating joining women's groups to add even more diversity.

Diversity and outreach seem to be the main thrusts of the Chorus. And of course none of it would be possible without the love of singing and that special camaraderie the singers find nowhere else.

GMCH welcomes women, including new director

THE GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF HOUSTON is not solely for gay men. The board of directors and the membership welcome and encourage women to join them — at least for non-singing roles at present. Their desire to include women was eminently clear when the group hired Mary Jean Tiernan as its executive director in December.

Tiernan, a native New Yorker and a 20-year Houston resident, previously worked for a local architectural firm. But in her "spare" time she was involved with gay non-profits, most notably AssistHers and the Songfest.

In fact, she was president of AssistHers but stepped down when she went to work for GMCH. She "couldn't serve two masters," she says.

Tiernan left her job with the architectural firm in April 2002 and decided to live on her savings for a while and figure out what she really wanted to do with her life — and to "fine tune her fund-raising skills for non-profits."

She was one of several candidates — male and female — who applied for the GMCH position and found out she was

selected just before Christmas 2002.

"It was the best Christmas gift I'd ever received," Tiernan says.

She says she was getting low on funds and thought she might be working as a waitress by January if she couldn't find work.



Mary Jean Tiernan

TIERNAN AND GMCH seem to be a perfect match. The have nothing but praise for her. She loves music and has found a place to use her skills.

She also loves being with all those guys, she says.

"I've never had so many men in my life, and they

have made me feel so welcome," Tiernan says.

Outsiders ask what a gay woman is doing as the director of a gay chorus, but Tiernan has nothing but support from GMCH members, she says.

She does have to share them with several other women, though. Sallie Huffer of the Montrose Counseling Center is a board member, Barb Easterly is the librarian, Beth McConnell holds the accompanist spot, Nancy Busch is the sign interpreter, Lou Anderson coordinates associate members and volunteers and Margie Babbidge is a committee member and usher.

MORE INFO

Gay Men's Chorus in concert
Oct. 25

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church
1440 Harold St.
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www.gmch.org



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Answers to this week's Q puzzle on Page 23

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"Olive Drab and Pink"

Across

- Navratilova, for one
- Eminem's "___ Mile"
- Pascal of "Rent"
- Isherwood's "___ Camera"
- Come to terms
- "Let It ___" (Everly Brothers hit)
- Gaze, in the military
- Cruising
- Kind of man, in Oz
- Word on a drag queen's battle
- Direction from Stephen Pyles
- "The Living ___"
- Shakespeare's dusk
- With 37-Across, gaze, in the military?
- Makes an uncowardly lion sound
- Sculptor Nancy
- Sgt. Perry Watkins, e.g.
- Roseanne's pair
- Loc. of "Saving Ryan's Privates"
- Scott of "Beautiful Thing"
- See 25-Across
- Bone, to Lidia Bastianich
- Gay comedian of "Unhappily Ever After"
- Mo. of Mardi-Gras, often
- What one becomes after kneeling before a queen
- Favorite fruit dessert of Quentin?
- Batman's budding bud

- With 60-Across, gays in the military?
- Part of a kids' clothing name
- Follower of Jim Buchanan
- Precious stones
- His grandmother had a Woody
- Concern of Rev. Spahr
- Prefix with tubbies
- See 51-Across
- "La Traviata" solo
- Tattooed
- Muse to George Chauncey and John Boswell
- R. Nureyev's land, once
- Holly's family
- Cary's fourth wife

Down

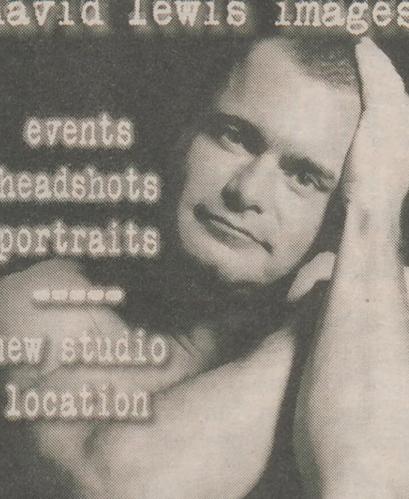
- Goldberg or Najimy, in a movie
- Male member, at LLEGO
- Bearse of "Married...with Children"
- It connects Dick to Dyke
- Name of many a gay bar
- Williams' nocturnal reptile
- Gov. Davis
- Cukor's "A Life of ___ Own"
- Bill's partner
- Go down
- Mizrahi, once
- Miller's "In Search of Gay ___"
- "Peel ___ grape"

- "Alec Baldwin ___ Love Me"
- Patty Hearst's former org.
- Scout's recitation
- One who handles your horse
- Bernstein's fifth
- Janet or niece Hunter
- Fruit flavorings
- Homonym for Chastity's mom
- Charles Laughton played this emperor
- A guy named Sharon and others
- Feminist poet Dame
- Campbell's Soup can painter
- Coll. of Phil Andros
- Boy George and the Indigo Girls
- Restraints (abbr.)
- "You're the Top" composer
- How a male stripper makes a living?
- Peninsula where the rain falls mainly on the plain
- Basketball's Mariah Burton
- ___
- Accuse gays of pedophilia, e.g.
- You ride them during gay ski weekends
- "Diana" singer
- T, to a "Homer-ophile"
- Anais who went both ways
- Elton John song of 1992, with "The"
- Medium for artist Jenny Holzer

Answers on Page 22

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Taureans take bull by the horns,
Leos are making good choices
and Scorpio has eyes for Pisces.

Butch up, Taurus

♈ Aries (March 21 to April 20):
You should get in touch with your latent ambition and move forward with your plans to take over the world. You have every reason to believe in yourself, and this week you may receive encouraging news from a mentor or authority figure. When it comes to sex in particular, you should listen to a higher authority who was born under the sign of Virgo.

♉ Taurus (April 21 to May 20):
You've got so much going for you right now, and you may not even realize it. Listen to others when they tell you how in demand you are. Make some assertive moves in your career. Don't let life "just happen" to you. Butch up! That same energy serves you well in your love life. A Pisces is floored by your roughness.

♊ Gemini (May 21 to June 21):
Mars conjunct Uranus at the top of your chart puts you in a real power position career-wise, but you need to decide what career to pursue. Think about how you can make a difference. An Aquarius tunes in to the altruist and the eroticist in you.

♋ Cancer (June 22 to July 22):
The moon in your house of love on Sept. 4 and 5 makes you extra-delicious to all. You don't have to pick and choose just yet. Make this month a low-level flirt-a-thon. See who's still standing by the time autumn officially arrives. A Leo might have staying power.

♌ Leo (July 23 to Aug. 22): You are able to see life as it really is this week. You have a certain objectivity that allows you to make good decisions for yourself and for your loved ones. A Scorpio could slip into your life and change it for the better. Accept all forms of support and affection. A friendship could turn into a sleazy sex-capade.

♍ Virgo (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The Sun, Venus, Jupiter and your ruler Mercury will all transit your sign in September. You are in a position to make your life into exactly what you want it to be. The key is precision, so don't be vague about your goals. Write 'em down and prod yourself to help make 'em come true. A Cancer will help.

♎ Libra (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Past loves could come back into your life as several planets transit your house

of endings and new beginnings. Say your official goodbyes, and then close those doors for good. Open up to the sincere overtures of a Taurus, who's different from anyone you've met.

♏ Scorpio (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):
Mars and Uranus are both retrograde and traveling together in your house of creativity. Dig up an old project that once meant a lot to you. Do some revamping. You could find gold. And do some vamping with a Pisces while you're at it.

♐ Sagittarius (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):
Don't even try to be objective about your relationships this week. You may want to make a permanent decision, but you're too emotional to do so. Instead, let the object of your desire make the first move. Be receptive to love and to hot sex. A Cancer understands your body's needs better than you do.

♑ Capricorn (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):
This is an intensely fun time for you, if you can let go and think about your love life as much as you obsess about your career. Let your sweetheart wine and dine you, and stop resisting adulation. Let a Virgo chase you.

♒ Aquarius (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):
It's a wonderful time for you to strike out on your own and pursue a dream or to lure in a Leo with your charm and sexiness. Later in the week, you could get an opportunity to make a lot of money. Take a chance, but make sure there's a method to your madness.

♓ Pisces (Feb. 19 to March 20):
Uranus is still stirring you up. You may want to take a trip or just a vacation from your tedious routines. Experimenting is favored now, both in your career and your love life. Don't think; just say and do. An Aquarius may want you, but you may worry about complications. Take your chances, and make some marvelous memories.

@ 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.



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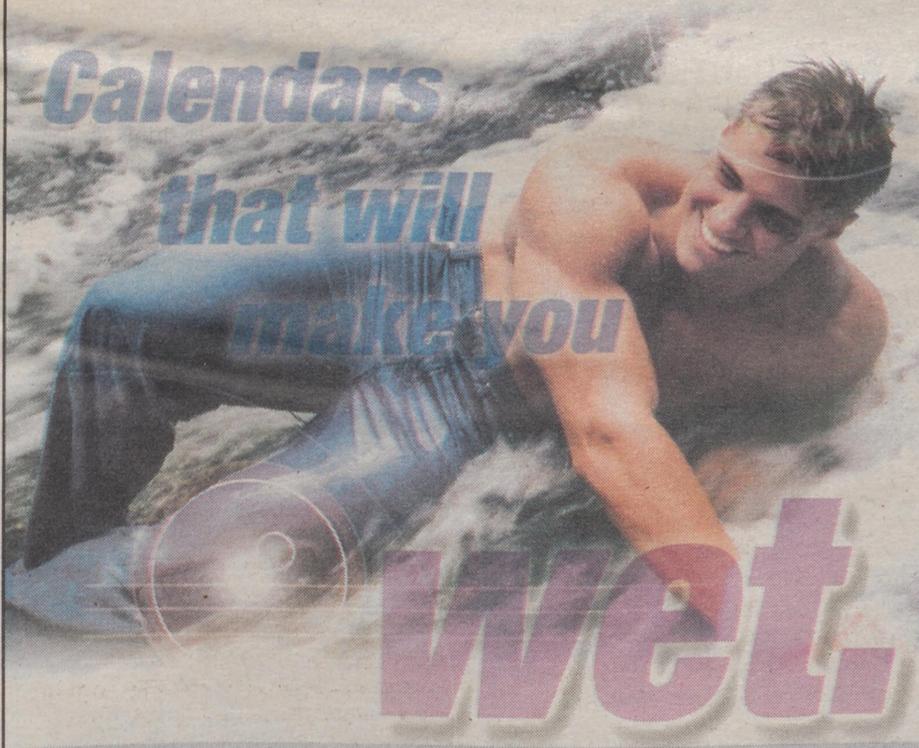
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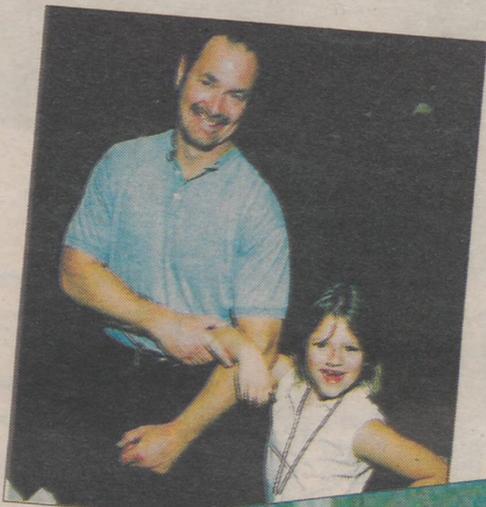
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