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Sarah Buschardt as May and Arnold Richie as William Gillette appear in 'Postmortem,' a thriller now playing at The Company OnStage.

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## Gay Enron executive under investigation



Former Enron executive Michael J. Kopper of Houston invoked the Fifth Amendment in response to all questions at a congressional hearing Thursday.

Months before company's collapse, gay Houstonian and his domestic partner received \$10.5 million windfall

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

A gay former executive with Enron Corp. invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination at a congressional hearing on Thursday following a report that he recruited his domestic partner to conceal his role in an off-the-books partnership deal that helped lead to Enron's financial collapse.

Michael J. Kopper, director of the Enron Global Finance division in 1997, played a principle role in the formation of Chewco Investments LP, one of several partnership firms that Enron executives created to hide the giant energy corporation's mounting debt, according to a report prepared for Enron's board of directors.

The House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and

Investigations issued a subpoena ordering Kopper to appear before the panel to answer questions about Enron on Feb. 7. Kopper told the committee that, on the advice of his attorneys, he would decline to answer any questions before the panel by invoking the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits the government from forcing a witness to provide information that would incriminate him.

Although the Constitution protects Kopper from having to testify against himself, it does not protect his domestic partner, former Continental Airlines employee William D. Dodson, from being compelled to testify against him, according to gay activists.

"The issue at play is that if they were legally married, they could not be required to testify against each other," said David Smith, spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group. "But as domestic partners, they could be required to testify against each other."

Both Kopper and Dodson are known to be avid supporters of many organizations that work on behalf of gay Houstonians, including local AIDS charities.

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## Olympics open with anti-gay Mormons as backdrop

by LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

As the Winter Olympics open in Salt Lake City, home to the conservative Mormon church, condemnation of homosexuality continues

*Editor's note: This week, the Houston Voice begins a two-part series on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and gay issues, examining Mormon influence on the Olympics and where the church stands on homosexuality. Next week, the far-reaching impact of the Mormon church on gay political battles will be explored.*

The last time the Olympics came to the U.S., Atlanta's 1996 Summer Games, gay activists fought successfully to keep the games and even the torch run out of a local county with an anti-gay resolution on the books.

This time, the Olympics are coming to a city founded by what is arguably one of the most hardline anti-gay Christian denominations, but some gays are actually praising organizers in Salt Lake City, where the 2002 Winter Olympics open Feb. 8.

Salt Lake City was settled 150 years ago, when Mormon leader Brigham Young led a small group of pioneers to the Utah wilderness hoping to avoid religious persecution.

> Continued on Page 12



'There is no justification to redefine what marriage is. Such is not our right, and those who try will find themselves answerable to God.' — Gordon B. Hinckley, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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# Pediatricians' group backs gay 'second-parent' adoptions

Children of gays 'deserve the security of two legally recognized parents,' AAP says

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

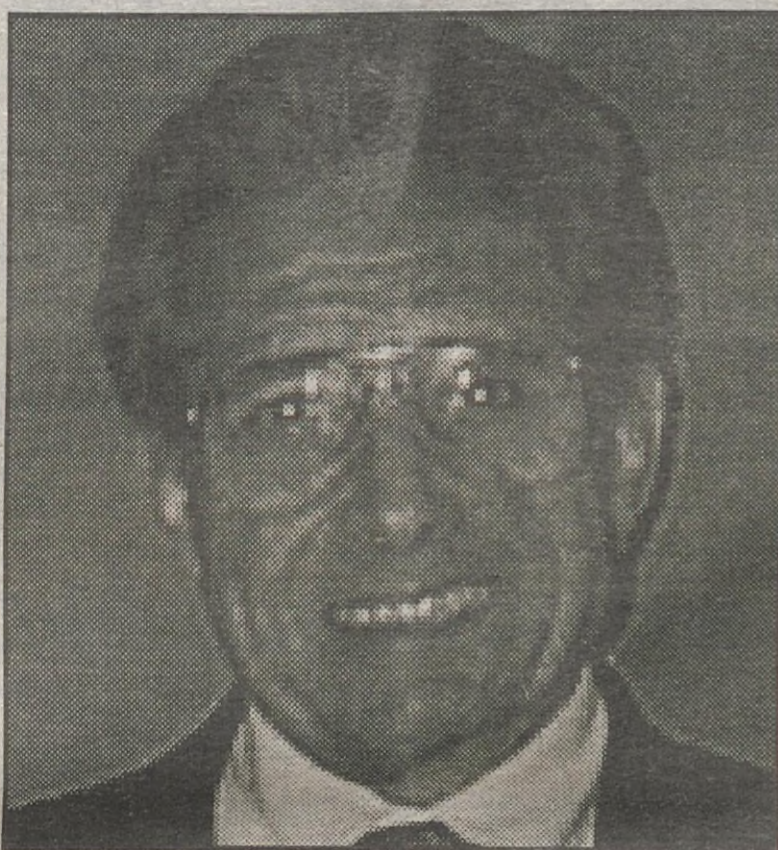
In an action considered to have far-reaching implications, the American Academy of Pediatrics on Feb. 4 issued a policy statement calling on the nation's courts and lawmakers to allow same-sex couples to jointly adopt children.

The policy statement, which appears in the current issue of the academy's scientific journal *Pediatrics*, declares that "children who are born to or adopted by one member of a same-sex couple deserve the security of two legally recognized parents."

"It is important that a broad ethical mandate exist nationally that will guide the courts in providing the necessary protection for children through co-parent adoption," the statement says.

The AAP is the organization of 55,000 primary care pediatricians and pediatric medical and surgical specialists who care for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults in the United States, according to the group's literature.

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director



**A statement by the 55,000-member American Academy of Pediatrics, led by Dr. Louis Z. Cooper, says doctors should support adoptions by gay co-parents to ensure children of gays have the same legal rights as those in heterosexual families.**

of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, hailed the AAP announcement.

"It's a great, sound study, and it will provide so many of us with some good information to either fend off the bad bills or maybe push for the good ones," she said. "We can't live in fear and lack of knowledge. The reality is, the extreme right wing has identified family issues as a target for

several years. This study is a blessing."

The statement appearing in the *Pediatrics* journal notes that only a few states have approved the concept of "second-parent" or "co-parent" adoptions by the domestic partners of lesbians and gay men who have a biological or adopted child. Citing research data in psychological journals, the statement says children raised by gay parents appear to develop and adjust in a manner similar to children with heterosexual parents.

But unlike heterosexual households, the statement says, children with gay parents living with domestic partners do not enjoy protections or benefits such as a health insurance plan from the second parent or the legal right of the second parent to approve medical treatment in case of an emergency. These and other protections and benefits can only be realized if the co-parent is allowed to adopt his or her partner's child, the statement says.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a gay litigation group, called the AAP policy statement an "important landmark" that will likely have an impact on family court judges, who decide gay adoption cases, and state legislatures, which traditionally have written the nation's adoption laws.

"These medical doctors based their opinion that adoption by lesbian and gay couples is good for children on a large, consistent body of research," said Patricia Logue,

Lambda's senior counsel who specializes in family law. "The truth is that lesbian and gay parents are as good at raising children as anyone else. And their children have the same need for security that all children have."

The AAP statement follows policy statements calling for the legalization of adoptions by single gays and gay couples by such organizations as the Child Welfare League of America, the North American Council on Adoptable Children, and the American Psychological Association.

In its policy statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics said second-parent or co-parent adoption among same-sex couples would provide these legal benefits to children of same-sex couples:

- A guarantee that the second parent would retain custody rights to the child if the first parent becomes ill or dies.
- Protection of the second parent's custody and visitation rights if the couple separates.
- Establishment of a requirement that both parents must provide child support in the event the parents separate.
- Assurance of the child's eligibility for health benefits from both parents.
- Establishment of legal authority that enables both parents to give consent for medical care and other important decisions regarding the child's health and welfare.
- Creation of the basis for financial secu-

➤ Continued on Page 12

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## Non-profit groups can still apply to receive benefit funds

Organizers of "Bunnies on the Bayou" are planning the group's annual Easter party and benefit for numerous Houston community organizations. Expenses of the event are completely underwritten in advance by hosts and sponsors so that all donations received at the party are distributed directly to Houston-based non-profit community organizations. Bunnies on the Bayou, Inc. seeks organizations to benefit from the 2002 event, scheduled for March 31. Groups are invited to apply for funding and must do so by Feb. 8. Bunnies on the Bayou leaders will make selections and notify all candidates by mid March. All selected beneficiaries will be required to provide a brief follow-up report six months after receipt of funding summarizing the expenditures made with the monies received, according to Bunnies organizers.

INFO

To apply for funding:

### Bunnies on the Bayou, Inc.

P.O. Box 66832  
Houston, TX 77266  
Attn: Charities Committee  
Or call Jim Taylor: 713-313-1671 day-time,  
713-526-9213 evenings

## LUEY Weekend extends Mardi Gras party across Bayou City

Mardi Gras this week brings with it Houston's traditional "Let Us Entertain You" (LUEY) Weekend, hosted by the Houston Council of Clubs. The HCC includes 12 levi/leather clubs in the area and was formed to bring LUEY to party-goers across the nation. LUEY originally was created by the Texas Riders to entertain people returning from Mardi Gras festivities in New Orleans. The weekend's roster now includes almost a dozen clubs and hundreds of registered guests from 27 states and five foreign countries. Advance registration is required and limited to the first 800 people. Interim LUEY Chairman is Bob Bouton. "If all goes as planned, this will be the biggest one ever," Bouton said. "LUEY is Texas' biggest party."



Officers for LUEY Weekend 2001 were (from left) Jim Nixon, Web master; Chris Paterson, treasurer/secretary; and the late Creath Robinson, chairman. This year's event is in remembrance of Robinson, who died Oct. 16, 2001.

INFO

### LUEY Weekend

Feb. 14-17

No fee for out-of-town guests  
\$15 fee for Harris County residents  
8p Pre-registration at The Outpost on Feb. 14  
8p Full registration at Mary's on Feb. 15  
[www.lueyweekend.com](http://www.lueyweekend.com)

## Student conference in Austin to address discrimination in schools

Students throughout Texas are preparing for the next Students, Teachers, and Allies Making Progress (STAMP) Conference to be held Feb. 22-23 in Austin. The conference will bring in students and concerned adults around the state together at the Texas Capitol to address the problems of homophobia and discrimination in schools. Much of the focus of the conference will be working on the Non-Discrimination in Education Bill, which would protect students from discrimination "on account of ethnicity, color, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or national origin." Currently, Texas has no state law protecting students from such discrimination, and no school districts have discrimination policies inclusive of sexual orientation or gender identity. At the conference,

Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas Executive Director Dianne Hardy-Garcia will share her experiences organizing at the Capitol and discuss how to motivate people to create political change. Keynote speaker will be state Rep. Glenn Maxey. Registration for the conference is free, and everyone interested in promoting discrimination-free schools is invited.

INFO

### STAMP Conference

To register, contact:  
Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas  
512-474-5475  
e-mail: [info@lgrl.org](mailto:info@lgrl.org)

## Humane society gears up for biggest fund-raiser of year

The 21st annual Houston Humane Society K-9 Fun Run 2002: "Leader of the Pack" is set for March 24, and anyone interested in participating can pre-register now. The run is one of the largest canine/human races in the country and include a one-mile competitive run, a non-competitive one-mile jog and a one-mile walk. The post-race party immediately following the races includes a canine costume contest and the announcement of the "2002 HHS SpokesDog" and "SpokesCat," plus pet-related booths, awards prizes and giveaways. Entry fees are \$20 for pre-registration, which must be postmarked by March 11; \$25 for late registration after March 11; and \$30 for race day registration. The HHS is a non-profit animal shelter dedicated to eliminating cruelty, abuse, and the overpopulation of animals. The group receives no federal, state or local funds and relies solely on donations and special events.

— From staff reports

INFO

### Houston Humane Society K-9 Fun Run

8:30 a.m. Sunday, March 24  
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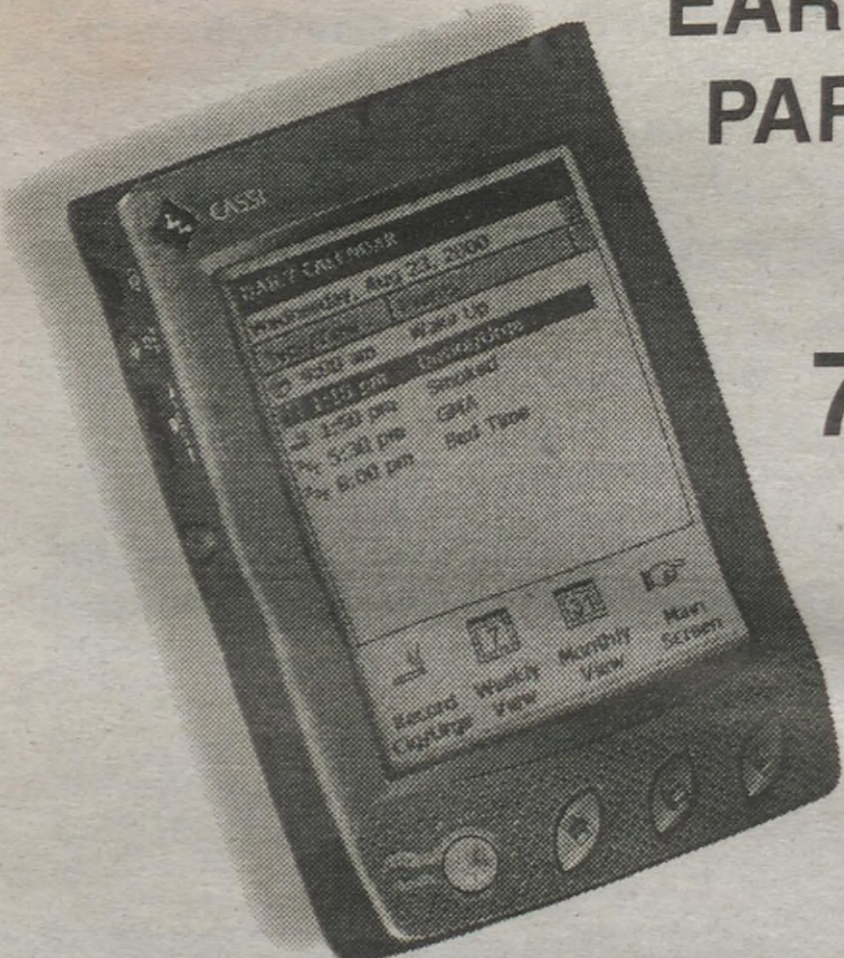
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VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit [www.viracept.com](http://www.viracept.com).

  
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## VIRACEPT® (nelfinavir mesylate)

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### Information for Patients about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)

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For the Treatment of Human  
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Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

**Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT.** Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

#### WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

**VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs** such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

#### DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

#### WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

**Allergies:** If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

**If you are pregnant:** The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**If you are breast-feeding:** You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

**Children:** VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

**If you have liver disease:** VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**Other medical problems:** Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

#### CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

#### Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cardarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)
- Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®  
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

**Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:** Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

**A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:**

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

#### Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. **Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines.** These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

**Nucleoside analogues:** No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

**If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:**

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

#### Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

#### Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

#### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

#### HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

**Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor.** Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

#### Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

#### Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight		Number of	Number of	Number of
Kg	Lb	Level Scoops*	Level Teaspoons†	Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

\* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

#### How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

**Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.**

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. **Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.**

**Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.**

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

**Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need.** Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

#### Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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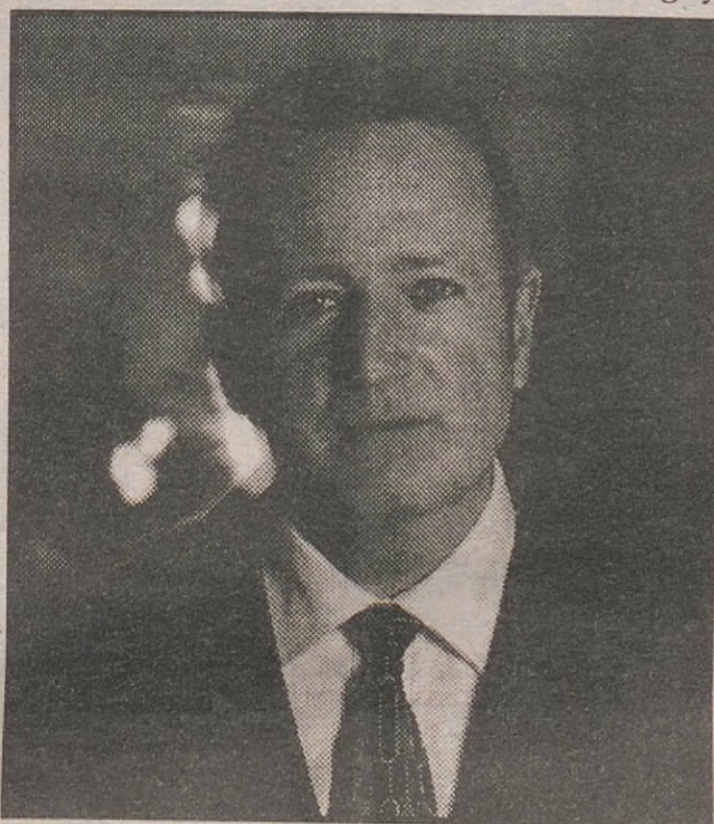


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## Evertz backs San Francisco safe-sex program

SAN FRANCISCO — Three months after the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services criticized the sexually explicit HIV prevention workshops of a federally funded San Francisco organization, President Bush's AIDS czar said it appears the program is working and should be left alone, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. Scott Evertz, a gay man appointed by Bush as director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, defended the Stop AIDS Project in a session with researchers at the University of California's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies. "We're not going to roll back the clock on any good work that occurred in the past," Evertz said during a West Coast tour of AIDS organizations. Last year HHS Inspector General Janet Rehnquist released a report that found Stop AIDS' "booty call" and "great sex" workshops as "encouraging directly ... sexual activity," in violation of guidelines for federally funded programs.



MORRY GASH/AP

Federal AIDS czar Scott Evertz said a controversial AIDS education program in San Francisco is working and should be left alone.

## Gays sue over ban from 'Dr. Laura' event

LOS ANGELES — A gay organization whose members were denied access to a speech by radio talk show host "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger filed a lawsuit on Jan. 29 against the three Southern California counties that sponsored the event, the Los Angeles Times reported. Seven members of Gay & Lesbian Adolescent Social Services said police were called to escort them from the event because they were wearing "StopDrLaura.com" T-shirts. According to the Associated Press, the seven workers are seeking monetary damages, along with an injunction that would ban the defendants from suppressing future protests. Schlessinger was the keynote speaker at the Southern Counties Placement Committee conference in Palm Springs last September. "The government can choose anyone they want to speak," said Martha Matthews, an attorney for the ACLU, which is representing the workers. "But they can't then suppress the critics of those they choose as keynote speakers."

## Gay Web site settles legal dispute in Ky.

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A lesbian who manages a gay-friendly Web site about spirituality has removed ordering information and a picture of the book "The Prayer of Jabez" from her site to avoid a lawsuit. The Washington Post reported that Dotti Berry, owner of Phoenix Communications, in Lexington, Ky., said she launched "The Jabez Foundation" Web site two years ago, before she learned of Bruce Wilkinson's best-selling book, published in April 2000 by Multnomah Publishers. In a recent statement on her Web site, www.EmpoweringDiversity.com, Berry said a lawyer representing Multnomah told her "the origin of Wilkinson's and the publisher's distress was that Berry ... and the Jabez Foundation Board of Directors chose to include 'gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and allied persons' in the category of 'God's children.'" Multnomah and Wilkinson told the Post their interactions with Berry "were not directed at her personal beliefs and preferences, but at the protection of ... intellectual property rights."

## G&L Bank loses bid to dismiss founder's lawsuit

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — A money-losing bank created to cater to the needs of gays via the Internet has lost a bid to dismiss a lawsuit by its ousted founder. G&L Bank founder Steven Dunlap said last week the ruling gave him renewed hope of reclaiming the concept and name, if not the bank itself, from owners and officers who forced him out nearly two years ago. U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson's decision Jan. 28 not to dismiss the suit paves the way for a trial and "sets them up for damages," Dunlap said. The suit accuses the bank of breaching Dunlap's employment agreement and ownership of its trademark, misappropriation and conversion of a banking concept, unfair and deceptive trade practices and civil conspiracy. Bank president G. Kay Griffith, who ousted Dunlap a year after he hired her, said the ruling doesn't mean anything is proven and that the bank is sound although not profitable. The bank's board last year voted to liquidate unless it could be sold.

## Gay lawmaker drops out of R.I. race

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Openly gay state Rep. Michael S. Pisaturo has dropped plans to run for secretary of state, the Providence Journal reported. Pisaturo said he will see reelection to the Rhode Island House. He cited increasing responsibilities in his professional and personal lives as affecting his decision not to run; he works as housing director for AIDS Care Ocean State, and will be responsible for developing a new program stemming from a large grant the organization recently received. Pisaturo said he does hope to run for higher office some day, the Journal reported, but is focused on his House race. "I'm not running on gay issues, I'm running on my government reform record," he said.

— From staff and wire reports



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### CALENDAR

<p><b>Friday • Feb 8</b> Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "The Execution of Justice"</p> <p><b>Saturday • Feb 9</b> Breakfast 9:30am</p> <p><b>Sunday • Feb 10</b> Volunteer &amp; Benefactor Appreciation 3-5pm</p> <p><b>Monday • Feb 11</b> Eucharist 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>Wednesday • Feb 13</b> Ash Wednesday Day of Prayer 10am-4pm "The Desert a Holy Place Too"</p> <p><b>Friday • Feb 15</b> Morning Prayer 10am</p> <p><b>Monday • Feb 18</b> Eucharist 7:30pm</p> <p><b>Friday • Feb 22</b> Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "Memorito"</p>
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Research on the long-term effects of the drug **ECSTASY**

The University of Texas Houston Health Science Center is seeking volunteers age 15 to 30 who use the drug ecstasy to take part in a research study on the effects of ecstasy on memory and brain function. Taking part will involve answering questions about your mood, taking some computer tests, and some tests of brain function. Volunteers who do not use ecstasy are also needed for studies on mood and attention. Payment is available for your time. **CONFIDENTIALITY IS ASSURED.**

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## Pa. killer says he beat 'thousands' thought to be gay

WASHINGTON, Pa. — A Pennsylvania man pleaded guilty to first-degree murder on Feb. 1 for the 1999 shooting death of Ira Swearingen, a medical consultant from Ohio, according to the Observer-Reporter. Alexander Joseph Martos II confessed to robbing and assaulting "thousands" of men he met at an adult bookstore before Swearingen's murder. "Martos was preying on people he thought were gay," Washington County District Attorney John C. Pettit said. Martos will accept a sentence of life in jail with no parole and testify against his co-conspirators, according to the Observer-Reporter. Martos and Gregory Stephen Modery, 31, of McMurray, were arrested Dec. 17, 1999, five days after Swearingen disappeared on his way to Uniontown Hospital, where he was scheduled to assist in an orthopedic surgery.

## Kan. court rejects challenge to underage sex laws

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The state Court of Appeals has rejected a challenge to a Kansas law punishing young adults who have sex with underage partners more harshly if those partners are of the same gender. A three-judge panel ruled against Matthew R. Limon, who was seeking to overturn his sentence of 17 years and two months in prison for having sex with an underage boy in February 2000, when Limon was 18. Had either Limon or the other boy been female, the maximum sentence would have been 15 months in prison. The case attracted the attention of the ACLU, which argued the law discriminates against gays. In an unsigned opinion, Appeals Judges Henry W. Green Jr., David S. Knudson and G. Joseph Pierron Jr. said the U.S. Supreme Court has held that states may treat same-sex acts differently than heterosexual ones. Limon may appeal the decision to the Kansas Supreme Court.



Judge Henry W. Green Jr. and two colleagues argued that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that states may treat homosexual and heterosexual acts differently in a case concerning an underage sex law in Kansas.

## Six men booked with hate crime in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — Six men accused of verbally and physically attacking two others in the Bourbon Street area last week have been booked with a hate crime in what police are characterizing as a gay-bashing incident, according to the Times-Picayune. One victim was treated for a cut on his nose; neither victim required hospitalization, police told the Times-Picayune. The six men arrested were booked under a hate crime statute, allegedly for committing a simple battery against victims selected because of "actual or perceived" sexual orientation. Police told the Times-Picayune that the six men approached the two victims, calling them "fags" and "queers." A fight broke out, with the suspects allegedly beating and kicking the victims, police said.

## Alleged killer uses 'gay panic' defense in Nev. trial

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A defense lawyer told jurors during a trial last week that an unwanted gay advance enraged Gregory Amato into beating Jimmie Ingle in the desert outside Laughlin last year. But Deputy Public Defender Tom Ericsson denied that Amato meant to kill Ingle. A prosecutor said Amato, 37, of Bullhead City, Ariz., met Ingle, 57, of Needles, Calif., at a gay bar. He said the fatal beating could have been a robbery or a hate crime. Ingle's bludgeoned body was found April 28 near the Laughlin water tower. Amato is charged with murder, as well as burglary, robbery, auto theft, fraudulent use of credit cards and possession of a stolen vehicle. Deputy Clark County District Attorney Marc DiGiacomo told the jury that after the slaying, Amato used Ingle's credit cards to book a hotel room, buy gas, cigarettes and beer, and sold Ingle's pickup truck to a prostitute for \$300.

**police beat**

## Jury selection begins for Wis. murder

PORTAGE, Wis. (AP) — A jury will hear the murder trial of a Waterloo man in Jefferson County in the trial of Darrin Grosskopf, 33. The defendant, who is accused of stabbing to death Keith W. Ward, 21, in the victim's Waterloo apartment, has contended he acted in self-defense. Grosskopf claims that he and Ward had been drinking the night before the March 31 murder. He says he fell asleep only to be awakened by Ward, and that Ward was allegedly trying to sexually assault him. Investigators found Ward's naked body in Grosskopf's apartment. He had been stabbed in the chest, according to a coroner's report. Investigators also found a hunting knife near Ward's body with apparent blood stains, according to court documents. Grosskopf allegedly told acquaintances he thought Ward was gay. His comments to police about Ward led prosecutors to seek a hate-crime enhancer, which would add up to 20 additional years to any sentence.

— From staff and wire reports



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# Case spotlights rights of domestic partners

> Continued from Page 1

## Gay exec facilitated deal

The report prepared for the Enron board of directors says Kopper became involved in Chewco's formation in 1997, at the request of his immediate superior, Andrew Fastow, Enron's then-chief financial officer. The report says Enron lawyers advised Fastow that his high-ranking status in the company would require that he publicly disclose his role in Chewco if he became its head, a development that Enron officials wanted to avoid. So Fastow assigned that role to Kopper, whose lower rank made him legally eligible to head the new firm without having to publicly disclose his involvement, the report says.

The report says officials created two more entities to further insulate Kopper from Chewco — Big River Funding, which became a controlling partner of Chewco, and Little River Funding, which became the owner of Big River. Kopper was put in control of both entities. The report says that in December 1997, Kopper transferred his ownership in Big River and Little River to William D. Dodson, an employee with Continental Airlines.

"It is presently common knowledge among Enron Finance employees that Kopper and Dodson are domestic partners," the report says. "We do not have any information concerning their relationship in December 1997 or what, if anything, Enron Finance employees knew about it at that time," says the report.

The report was prepared under the direction of William Powers Jr., dean of the University of Texas School of Law. The Enron board hired Powers to head a team of investigators to look into Enron's finances last October after information surfaced that Enron was encountering serious financial problems.

Kopper was a mid-level executive who did not wield the authority of high-level officials such as Kenneth L. Lay, Enron's former CEO. But the report says that Kopper and at least two other Enron executives played a key role in a series of transactions and hidden deals related to Chewco that led to Enron's unraveling last December, when the corporation declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The Powers report also states that Kopper and Dodson, who share a home near Rice University in Houston, where Enron headquarters are located, made an enormous profit when Enron decided to purchase Chewco in March 2001.

According to the report, Kopper invested \$115,000 in Chewco in 1997, with Dodson investing \$10,000. The report says Enron officials initially offered to buy out Kopper and Dodson's interests for \$1 million.

The report says that Fastow, Kopper's former boss and the man who first pushed the gay executive's involvement, intervened saying \$1 million was insufficient. When the deal was completed in March 2001, the report says, Kopper and Dodson received \$10.5 million — a windfall yield from their joint investment of \$125,000.

"We were unable to locate any direct evi-



Gay Houstonian and former Enron executive Michael J. Kopper (center) and his domestic partner, William Dodson, allegedly profited in a portion of a deal that may have helped lead to the company's collapse.

dence about who made the ultimate decision on the buyout amount," the report says.

Kopper departed the House hearing room on Feb. 7 without taking questions from the press. He and Dodson could not be reached for comment by *Blade* deadline.

Kopper, 37, a native of Long Island, N.Y., began working at Enron in 1994, according to a report in the *Houston Chronicle*. He graduated from Duke University in 1986, according to the report, and attended the London School of Economics before launching his business career in New York with the financial institution TD Canada Trust, which was then called Toronto Dominion Bank.

"In the wake of his windfall," the *Chronicle* reported in its Feb. 7 edition, "he and Dodson, 44, are putting the finishing touches on a 5,269-square-foot house — complete with glass staircase, interior balcony, pool and three-car garage."

## A giant shell game

Congressional investigators have said Enron executives — often acting without the knowledge of the corporation's board of directors and shareholders — created partnership entities such as Chewco to keep millions of dollars in energy related projects as well as debt off of its books. The investigators said the executives appear to have made enormous profits for themselves through these entities.

Sen. Peter Fitzgerald (R-Ill.) described the use of the partnership firms as a "giant pyramid scheme, a giant shell game." Congressional investigators and officials with the U.S. Justice Department, which is also looking into Enron, have said they would consider whether Enron executives violated federal securities laws by engaging in fraud.

Enron's press office in Houston did not return calls seeking information about Kopper's job duties and work-related background, including the length of his tenure at Enron.

President Bush's presidential election campaign in 1999.

FEC records also show that Kopper and Dodson contributed \$750 and \$800 respectively to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund in 2001. The Victory Fund, based in Washington, D.C., provides financial support for openly gay candidates running for public office. Victory Fund official Joshua Siegel said the organization does not release information about individual donors.

The annual report for the Human Rights Campaign lists Kopper and Dodson as members of an HRC donors club, which requires annual donations of between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

HRC's Smith said that while the involvement of Kopper and Dodson in the Enron affair raises concern about the exposure faced by domestic partners forced to testify against each other in a possible legal proceeding, their relationship would have "no legal consequence" for the Enron investigation.

Openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) called the Kopper case a non-issue for the gay rights movement.

"You have a gay person who may have done something wrong," said Frank. "Is that news any more than if a straight person did something wrong?"

Public records filed with the Federal Elections Commission show that Kopper and Dodson contributed \$1,000 each to

## Opponents dispute study

> Continued from Page 5

time seeking comment on the AAP statement. According to the FRC press release, the AAP's conclusion was based on studies that "suffer from severe methodological defects, rendering them invalid in scientific terms." The press release cited data appearing in other literature that show, according to the FRC, that "children of lesbians are less likely to fit traditional gender roles and more likely to engage in homoerotic relations."

The group said the literature also show that daughters of lesbians are "more sexually adventurous and less chaste" and lesbian co-parent relationships "are more likely to break up." A seven-page document called "Technical Report: Co-Parent or Second-Parent Adoption by Same-Sex Parents," which accompanies the AAP's policy statement, addresses the organization's concerns about the size and scope of the data in question.

"The small and non-representative samples studied and the relatively young age of most of the children suggest some reserve," the document says. "However, the weight of evidence gathered during several decades using diverse samples and methodologies is persuasive in demonstrating that there is no systematic difference between gay and non-gay parents in emotional health, parenting skills, and attitudes toward parenting."

The FRP statement said the group's own review of the data showed that AAP could not support its claim that "no data have pointed to any risk to children as a result of growing up in a family with one or more gay parents."

FRC director Ken Connor and an FRC spokesperson did not return calls by press

# Salt Lake City brings clash of gays, Mormons

➤ Continued from Page 1

A century and a half later, the headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — better known as the Mormons — dominates the city.

While some evidence suggests the city is trying to tone down the visibility of LDS Church members — at least for a few weeks — to avoid being known for the "Mormon Games," the church will be still be an integral part of the Olympics.

The head of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee is a Mormon bishop, and the church loaned 10 acres in front of its mammoth tabernacle and temple to be used for nightly medals presentations, which will put the Mormon landmarks on television screens around the world.

But gay activists, including the national Human Rights Campaign, are also praising another landmark for the Salt Lake City: The games mark the first time, they say, that an Olympic Organizing Committee has officially included gays planning the games.

"It's ironic. Here is the great Olympic movement embracing the gay community, while the American city sponsoring it turns its back on us and prosecutes us," said Laura Milliken Gray, one of two local gay leaders invited by SLOC to serve on the official Volunteer Work Group.

For Michael Marriott, the other openly gay member of SLOC's volunteer work group, the achievement is even more personal: At age 17, Marriott, who was raised Mormon, found himself in psychotherapy after a boyfriend, a fellow Mormon, decided he wanted to change and told his parents of his gay relationship.

The boy's parents "wanted to save our souls" and called Marriott's parents, who called his Mormon bishop. Marriott said he was fortunate because he ended up seeing a secular therapist who advocated accepting his sexual orientation, not one of the untrained church counselors who frequently recommend reparative therapies and "ex-gay" ministries aimed at changing gays.

"I know of people who had to go through shock therapies and had terrible experiences with their families and all kinds of trouble with the church," Marriott said.

Last year Marriott, now 35, had his name officially removed from the Mormon church membership.

"I was tired of the Mormon church touting six million members worldwide and a majority of the population in Salt Lake," he said. "At least one less is one less."

## No room for debate

The LDS Church has no official opinion on SLOC's outreach to gays, according to the church public affairs department. But church leaders have been outspoken in their belief that gays should try



A former Mormon, Michael Marriott is one of two gay activists serving on an official Salt Lake Olympic organizing committee.

to change their sexual orientation to be "consistent with the teachings and the standards" of the church.

While Methodists and Presbyterians argue over whether to ordain gays or allow clergy to bless gay unions, gay members of the LDS Church face almost certain excommunication if they refuse to either denounce their sexual orientation or renounce their church membership.

Perhaps even more than gay Baptists and gay Catholics, gay Mormons measure progress in the smallest of increments, like last year, when the wording of an official LDS youth pamphlet was changed so that homosexuality was called a "serious sin," instead of the former language of a "sex perversion" and "an abomination of the Lord."

But gay Mormons find few victories in a church that remains rigidly controlled by its Salt Lake City headquarters, and by a "president and prophet" whose word is believed to be the unquestionable, authoritative revelation of God.

"When the prophet has spoken, the thinking has been done" — I heard that spoken from the pulpit ad nauseum," recalled Ben Jarvis, now an outreach coordinator with Affirmation, a group for gay Mormons with chapters around the country.

"You can't lobby the church, because the church doesn't talk to certain communities," said Jarvis, who no longer believes in Mormon theology and like Marriott, has had his name removed from the LDS Church's official membership rolls.

## Married for eternity

Part of the problem for gay Mormons is the unique structure of the LDS Church, and the central role of heterosexual relationships in LDS theology. In addition to the Bible, LDS members follow the Book of Mormon, believed to be the revelations of later prophets in North America.

The faith was started in New York in the early 1800s by Joseph Smith, who said God revealed to him the location of golden plates containing the Book of Mormon, which he then translated into English.

From Smith to Salt Lake City founder Brigham Young down through the decades to Gordon B. Hinckley, the 91-year-old current president of the LDS Church, Mormons believe their leader to be a "living prophet," able to pronounce the divine will of God, which leaves little room for debate or interpretation.

Known for their extensive genealogical libraries and strong focus on families — including the polygamy practiced in the past but officially shunned now — Mormons also believe that men and women marry not just "for this part," but forever: Families continue intact into heaven.

"We believe that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God. We believe that marriage may be eternal through exercise of the power of the everlasting priesthood in the house of the Lord," Hinckley said in 1998.

That heterosexual focus can prove particularly painful for gay Mormons and their families, as one young Salt Lake resident found out during his relationship with a gay Mormon.

David, 22, asked that his last name not be used for fear of revealing the identity of his former partner, who remains deeply closeted after years of struggling to reconcile his sexual orientation and his Mormon faith.

"If the Church casts you out, the belief is that you don't get into Heaven to be with your family. He truly believes, and his family truly believes, that by his being gay, they can't spend eternity together," said David, whose more than year-long relationship ended in January when both men realized his Mormon partner wasn't yet ready to live openly with another man.

According to Hinckley's 1998 statements, distributed by church officials in response to questions about homosexuality, the LDS Church also loves gays "as sons and daughters of God," although "they may have certain inclinations which are powerful and which may be difficult to control."

"If they do not act upon these inclinations, then they can go forward as do all other members of the Church. If they violate the law of chastity and the moral standards of the Church, then they are subject to the discipline of the Church, just as others are," Hinckley said.

## An ironic oasis

Mormon headquarters, Salt Lake is also region's gay mecca

Salt Lake City, host of the 2002 Winter Olympics and also headquarters of the conservative Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, also serves as somewhat of a liberal oasis in the midst of the rest of Utah and the surrounding region.

"Make no mistake about it, Utah is a theocracy," said Paula Wolfe, executive director of the Salt Lake-based Gay & Lesbian Center of Utah.

But in addition to the center, Salt Lake is also home to an annual Gay Pride parade, a gay rodeo, other gay organizations and businesses, several gay bars and state Rep. Jackie Biskupski, Utah's first openly gay state legislator.

When Olympic athletes and tourists hit the city's streets, they will be met by another Olympic first: gay-inclusive safer sex kits handed out by volunteers in a program that reaches far beyond simply the free condoms that are being given out in the Olympic village and that have already drawn some conservative criticism.

Volunteers with SafeGames 2002 plan to hand out 250,000 of the kits, which include a card with phone numbers for transit services, health agencies, the Red Cross, and a variety of community organizations, including the gay center and the Utah AIDS Foundation.

That such activities will take place in downtown Salt Lake, literally in the shadow of the Mormon temple, is just the latest example of how the city differs from the surrounding state:

- Mormons make up more than 70 percent of Utah's population, but less than 50 percent in Salt Lake City.

- Mormons hold all statewide elected offices in Utah, including governor, members of the state's delegation to Congress, and all state Supreme Court justices, according to the Los Angeles Times. Mormons also make up 90 percent of the state legislature and are 85 percent of the state's mayors and county officials.

Still, Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson is a progressive Democrat who campaigned at Gay Pride and defeated a Mormon city council member to take office in January 2000.

- In 1995, Utah became one of the first states to ban gay marriage. Gay sex is banned by the state's sodomy law, which also applies to heterosexuals, and the state does not include sexual orientation in non-discrimination laws.

But Salt Lake City does ban job discrimination against gay city employees, thanks to an executive order issued by Anderson four months after he took office, fulfilling a campaign promise to gays.

—Laura Douglas-Brown

## Priest in Spain disappears after saying he is gay

MADRID, Spain (AP) — A Roman Catholic priest who acknowledged in a magazine last week that he is gay has disappeared, prompting Church officials to say he would likely be suspended. Rev. Jose Mantero Garcia, 39, said in an interview published Feb. 1 in the gay magazine "Zero" that he came out "because the Church has committed a grave sin in closing itself to a very important part of God's people." Church officials said Monday they would probably ban Garcia from celebrating Mass and administering sacraments after he did not show up Sunday at Our Lady of Rest church in the southern town of Valverde del Camino. Catholic Church leaders have described homosexuality as a moral disorder and sexual intimacy between two people of the same gender as sinful. But some lower-ranking Church representatives and Mantero's parishioners said they support him. "He preaches well and people are as God created them," said parishioner Dolores Lorca.



Father Jose Mantero Garcia vanished after coming out in a front-page article in the gay magazine 'Zero.'

## Charges dropped in Canadian case over lesbian bathhouse

TORONTO, Canada (AP) — Charges against two women who helped organize an all-night lesbian bathhouse were dismissed and the behavior of the plainclothes police officers who raided the gathering came under harsh criticism. Several dozen gay activists applauded as Justice Peter Hryn threw out all the evidence five male police officers obtained at the five-story building where the event was held two years ago. Gay leaders said the male officers humiliated the women — the majority of them naked or topless — by lingering at the party for more than an hour, saying they were only looking for alcohol violations. Hryn said organizers and the 350 partygoers had the right to expect female officers would search the premises since it was a woman-only party. The two women's lawyer cited Canada's Charter of Rights and its protections against unreasonable searches, which by law includes physical searches by opposite sex guards.

## Gay U.S. lawmaker declines Egyptian invite

WASHINGTON (AP) — Openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) denounced Egypt's treatment of gays this week in declining an invitation to an Egyptian government-sponsored forum on improving cross-cultural understanding. In a letter Frank released Monday that was sent to Abderahman S. Abderahman, minister for political and congressional affairs at the Embassy of Egypt, he wrote: "Enjoying the hospitality of those who have so harshly mistreated people because of a basic characteristic of personality which they share with me is not something I wish to do." Among the events Frank is referring to is the trial of the "Cairo 52," in which 52 men were tried on charges of immoral behavior and contempt of religion after Egyptian police raided a known gay gathering place on the Nile. Frank went on to write in the letter: "Indeed, I would feel it a betrayal of men very much like me who have recently been brutally arrested and imprisoned by your government." There was no immediate comment from the Egyptian embassy.

## Mugabe aims anti-gay rants toward U.K.'s Blair

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Anti-gay Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has threatened gay groups in the country, citing Britain's frustration toward his anti-gay beliefs, according to Agence France-Presse. President Mugabe made the comments during a weekend campaign rally for his re-election. According to ZIANA news agency, Mugabe said British Prime Minister Tony Blair should "expose" his cabinet as full of gays before denouncing Zimbabwe. "I have people who are married in my cabinet. He has homosexuals and they make John marry Joseph and let Mary get married to Rosemary," Mugabe said in front of a crowd of thousands. "We are saying they do not know biology because even dogs and pigs know biology. We can form clubs, but we will never have homosexual clubs. In fact, we will punish them," he said. Mugabe has ruled Zimbabwe since 1980, when the country gained independence from Britain, and is currently being challenged by labor leader Morgan Tsvangirai in the upcoming election.

## Gay rights sees setback in Slovakia

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — Lawmakers ended gay activists' hopes that same-sex couples would be granted some rights when they stopped debating a proposal allowing same-sex couples to register their partnerships. The proposal would have allowed same-sex couples to get married at municipal offices, to share the same last name and oblige the partners to support each other financially. It did not permit church weddings or adoptions. Lawmakers voted 53 to 15 on a request that debate on the subject stop. The discussion in parliament, with parties ranging from the radical left to groups advocating conservative Christian views, was heated with some lawmakers arguing that gays should be pushed to the edge of society since they can't reproduce. But gay activist Ivan Pozgai said it was a good sign of progress. "We are not thrilled with the result, but we have not lost," he said. "We have managed to open a discussion on this subject at parliament's level."

— From staff and wire reports



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Issue 1111



## VIEWPOINT

# Gimme that old gay religion

By LISA KEEN

Is it too late for us to identify our movement as religious instead of one defined by sexual orientation?

If being gay were considered an exercise of religious belief, we wouldn't need laws banning workplace discrimination. We would have legal protection already, under the U.S. Constitution.

I don't understand why being gay is not considered a religious expression. Homosexuality was labeled "sin" hundreds of years ago by religious clerics who thought doing so might ward off a precipitous drop in the population caused by plague.

Homosexuality is labeled "sin" today by many people who cannot separate their own anxieties from other people's sex lives. Too often, their insistence on discriminating against gays is given legitimacy as a "religious belief" protected by the constitution.

Well, if the Constitution protects the right of an anti-gay person to express and act on the basis of religious beliefs that homosexuality is a sin, shouldn't it protect, as a religious expression, my belief that homosexuality is not a sin?

As a movement, we long ago accepted the notion that we are just like other people except that we have sex or sexual attraction to the same gender. Occasionally, amongst ourselves, we discuss other things that distinguish us — cultural differences mostly. But almost never does anyone consider being gay an expression of a religious nature.

Why not? What makes something religious in nature?

I was prompted to revisit the question this month when I read that Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson had decided to sell off his oil refineries. Robertson has always been considered part of the "religious" camp.

Through his 700 Club cable television show, he utters the words "Jesus" and "God" with great emphasis, tells viewers whom "God" is punishing with hurricanes, and he prays on the air to heal the sick. These are apparently the staples of "religion," for it doesn't seem to matter that Robertson also implores viewers to send in money to support his programming or to buy his "age-defying protein shakes."

The refineries struck me as a whole new level of creative thinking when it comes to religious activity. But if Pat Robertson could pass the giggle test by claiming that he was operating oil refineries in the name of religion — he said he was raising money for his religious charities — who knows? Maybe his refineries would have been eligible for federal funding under President Bush's proposed charitable choice legislation.

And if the operation of oil refineries

can be considered a religious activity, why not the operation of gay bars? Some gay bars make donations to charitable organizations; some make donations to religious charitable organizations.

So, what makes something religious? It's not just a connection to a belief in a higher power. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are based on belief in one omnipotent god, but other religions are based on belief in many gods. Atheism and agnosticism are religious beliefs — that there is no god or that the existence of god cannot be known or proven.

## Conscientious objection

Do we even need to prove that being gay is a religious expression to gain Constitutional protection?

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that a number of non-religious activities are protected by the Constitution's guarantee of religious freedom, including conscientious objection from military service. In 1970, the court ruled that "moral, ethical, or religious beliefs about what is right and wrong ... held with the

Being gay is more than having or wanting to have sex with a person of the same gender. Same-gender sexual behavior doesn't make someone "gay." What makes us "gay" is our willingness to overcome societal pressure to deny our true selves when conformity dictates that we not love someone of the same gender.

Unfortunately, it is more likely that the high court would conclude that the gay community's "rejection of the contemporary secular values accepted by the majority" is not religious but "philosophical." That's how the court termed Henry David Thoreau's decision to retreat to Walden Pond.

I do not know whether gays could gain legal protection from discrimination by finding a Biblical passage to explain our refusal to conform, but I do believe we need to define ourselves on the basis of more than just that sexual difference, or "sexual orientation."

The Shakers did. They were a community of people who were considered odd for their sexual difference: They maintained celibacy. But the United

If the Constitution protects the rights of some to act on their religious belief that homosexuality is a sin, shouldn't it protect, as a religious expression, my belief to the contrary?

strength of traditional religious convictions" would suffice, under the First Amendment's Establishment Clause, to excuse an inductee who objected to serving in the military.

Is not our faith in self-determination and the inherent goodness of love an expression of our belief about "right and wrong" — beliefs that are "held with the strength of traditional religious convictions"?

In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Amish communities could be exempt from laws requiring that children attend school. In doing so, the court noted that the Amish people "are characterized by a fundamental belief that salvation requires life in a church community separate and apart from the world and worldly influence." In particular the court recognized Amish opposition to pressure "to conform to the styles, manners, and ways of the peer group."

Is that not the environment that exists for gay youth in schools today? Is it not a hostile environment that pressures them "to conform to the styles, manners, and ways of the peer group"?

The Supreme Court did state in the Amish case that it would not consider any particular "way of life" to be protected by the Constitution, not if that "way of life" was based on "purely secular considerations." The way of life, said the court, must "be rooted in religious belief."

I think an argument can be made that being gay is "rooted in religious belief."

Society of Believers was considered a religious group.

Interestingly, the Shakers were known for some characteristics we associate with the gay community. Women lived with women and men with men. They were well known for their contributions to architecture and design. Shakers believe that "God is Love" and "we fulfill ourselves best by being nothing more nor less than ourselves."

Could gays gain greater acceptance by defining ourselves in religious terms?

The answer is probably "no." Society's desire to maintain order compels it to constantly move toward and encourage conformity. Minorities of any kind are perceived, however subconsciously, as a threat. Minority religious groups are quickly denigrated to the status of "cults."

To some extent, then, gay strategists have stumbled somewhere along the line by allowing our movement to be defined so narrowly as a "way of life" distinguished by the gender of our sex partners.

What we really are, I think, are people with a shared fundamental belief that the virtues of love and honesty and the rewards of being true to our selves are greater than the security of conformity and the desire to be accepted. That's my religion.

Lisa Keen is senior political correspondent for the *Houston Voice* and the former executive editor of the *Washington Blade*. She can be reached at lkeen@washblade.com.

# LETTER

## A case of mistaken trans identity

To the Editor:

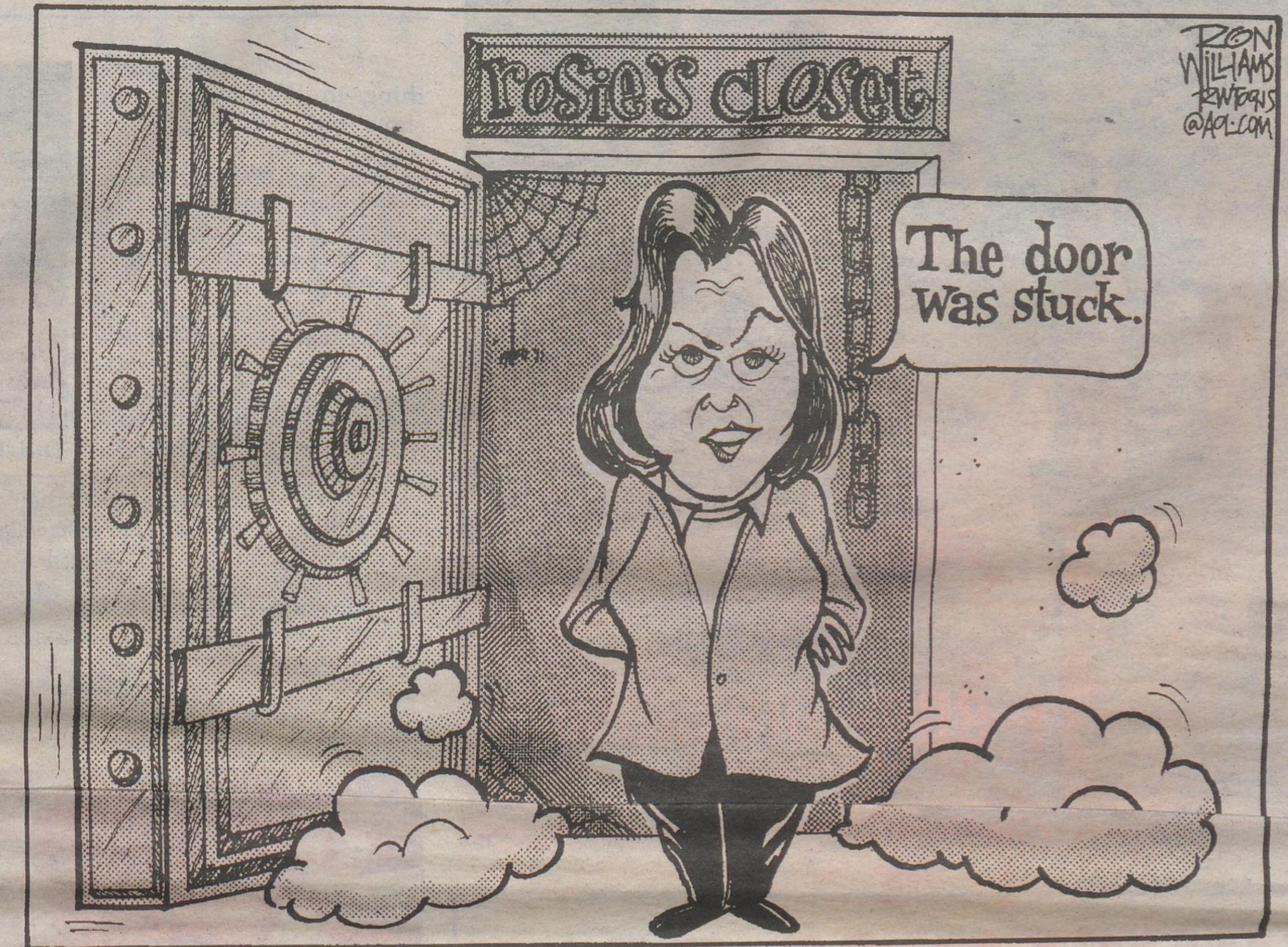
What's going on with the *Houston Voice* lately? Last week it was Robin Blumner's divisive opinion column practically excusing employers from discriminating against transgenders. Now, I read a headline about a "transgendered man" found shot to death. ("Transgendered man found murdered," news, Feb. 1).

At first, I thought we had yet another murder I hadn't heard of, until I read on and realized this was a trans woman who was shot — the one I'd already heard about. A more accurate and sensitive description would have been "transgendered male-to-female" or simply "transgendered." Especially with the latter choice, why add more verbiage if you know it's going to be read as insensitive?

Perhaps we need to develop a style-book for the Voice, similar to what exists for Associated Press. For future reference (understanding you may not be aware of this), the murder victim did have a female name — Bibi. Please try to incorporate that into any future article.

This is one more shining example of why we need hate crimes protections, if we can only get the legislators to listen. But then again, I guess it was just another expendable transsexual hooker, right?

Vanessa Edwards Foster  
Vice Chair, National Transgender  
Advocacy Coalition  
Houston



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Editor's Note: The Houston Voice style manual explicitly follows Associated Press style: "Use the pronoun preferred by the individuals, whether or not they have completed sex change surgery. Where that pref-

erence is not known, use the gender that the individual lived publicly. When that isn't known, use the individual's genetic gender (i.e., the gender the individual was born with)."


In this case, the Voice could not determine, from available evidence, which gender the victim identified with, and so the biological gender was used.

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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# on the record

"I'm never in awe of anything in Washington. But show me a great director, and I'll swoon."

Elizabeth Birch, the Human Rights Campaign executive director, to the Washington Post after meeting director Ron Howard at a screening of "A Beautiful Mind" on Jan. 30. Howard and the film have been criticized for excising any information about the lead character's bisexuality and arrest for public sex with another man.



Elizabeth Birch and Ron Howard

"Sisters were tired of giving their money to Europeans."

S. Bryant, to the Cincinnati Post, on the reasons she co-founded a black lesbian film company called Prodigy Productions

"For the first time in 45 years, I am free from being a gay man in the closet. I no longer have to live a double life and although I am incarcerated, I am a free man."

Former Boca Raton Rabbi Jerrold Levy, 59, after being sentenced to more than six years in prison for having sex with a 14-year-old boy he met online



Melissa Etheridge and Julie Cypher

"What we had in common is that we felt we had to hide our light because our partners weren't as successful and we couldn't bring that home. We spent so much time making ourselves smaller, we just faded away."

Lesbian Rocker Melissa Etheridge, comparing her problems with former lover Julie Cypher, an independent film maker, with the troubles Ellen DeGeneres experienced with her ex, Anne Heche, in an interview with the Weekend Australian

"It's unfortunate that it happened at the same time, both falling apart in very dark ways. It was certainly bad for the image of gay relationships, but I do not live my life for the public."

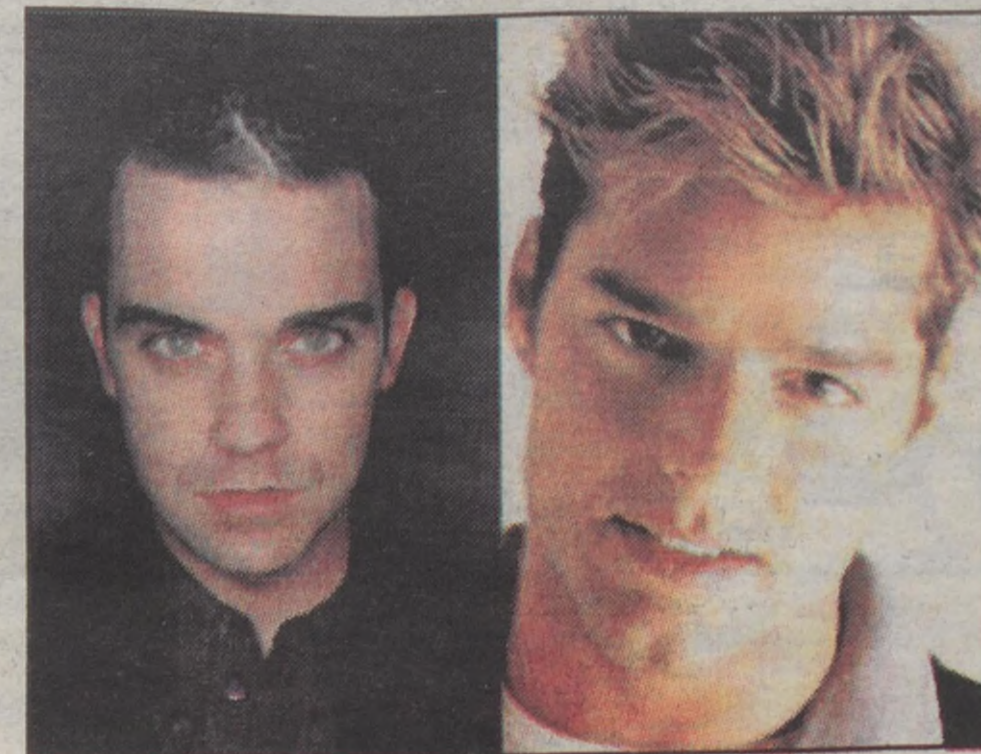
Melissa Etheridge to the Weekend Australian, about the impact of her breakup with longtime partner Julie Cypher, within weeks of the split between Ellen DeGeneres and her partner, Anne Heche

"Sometimes missionary style with me on top, sometimes she was on top. The size of my penis may have been small, but there was penetration. And we both achieved sexual satisfaction."

Michael Kantaras, a female-to-male transsexual, under court questioning Jan. 30 from his ex-wife's attorney in a custody suit between them

"[We're] closer than Ricky to confessing he's gay."

British pop singer Robbie Williams, ad-libbing a reference to Ricky Martin in a cover of "Me and My Shadow" on a forthcoming CD



Robbie Williams and Ricky Martin

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# Out on the Bayou

## Double your pleasure

The two gay participants in Chicago's 'Real World' found that it's hard to date on camera

by BRIAN MOYLAN

Courtney Love and her band Hole once sang a song about gaining "Credit in the Straight World." Though the former Mrs. Cobain wasn't talking about sexual politics in the song, it is a phrase that has referred to one of seven strangers almost every year for more than ten years running.

Of course, those strangers are the seven people chose by MTV to occupy a luxurious house and have all their exploits, dirty laundry, and most intimate feelings filmed for the world to see on its show "The Real World," airing Tuesdays at 10 p.m.

> Continued on Page 18



The cast of this year's 'Real World' includes two gay people. Chris (second from left) and Aneesa (third from right) both said it was comforting to know that there was at least one other gay person around.

RUDY AR. TULETA



houston voice • february 8, 2002

## appts

### ongoing

"Every person must be free to be" is the theme of "Androcles and The Lion," now playing at Company OnStage Theatre. The children's play, adapted by Aurand Harris, is a version of the popular Aesop fable. The cast of strolling players includes Pantalone, a miser; a bragging Captain, the friendly Androcles and an endearing and funny Lion. 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturdays through March 2. Tickets: \$6. Company OnStage, 536 Westbusy Square. 713-726-1219. [www.companionstage.org](http://www.companionstage.org).



Keith Lindloff (left) and Mark Carrier play the title roles for Company OnStage's 'Androcles and The Lion.'

### ongoing

Archway Gallery presents a new show by Sandra Colley, "New Abstract Works" in acrylics. An opening reception for the artist will be 5:30-8 p.m. Feb. 16. The show runs Feb. 10-March 23. Archway Gallery, 2013 West Gray. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday. 713-522-2409. [www.archwaygallery.com](http://www.archwaygallery.com).

### saturday, feb 9

The "Lucky 7 Gal-Pal Social," a speed-dating event for lesbians, will be held this weekend. Organizers with the non-profit Athena Art Project — also creators of the Houston Women's Festival — are powering the event. In addition to the speed-dating portion of the evening, a social that is open to the public at no cost also will be held. 6 p.m. Saturday. \$20 to register. Club Meteor, 2306 Genesse. 713-861-3316. [www.hwfestival.org/events.htm](http://www.hwfestival.org/events.htm)

### upcoming

A sneak preview benefit performance of the "Sing-Along Sound of Music" is set later this month. Proceeds benefit the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. This interactive cinematic and stage experience includes costume contests, door prizes, singing, dancing and fun packs with props for every member of the audience. Special host is Charmian Carr, who played Liesl in the film (at the time, 16 going on 17). Preview is 7 p.m. Feb. 18. Tickets: \$30. Landmark River Oaks Theatre, 2009-West Gray. 713-524-2175



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# Gays set 'Real' example

➤ Continued from Page 17

Nearly every season there has been a gay cast member who had to gain credit for him- or herself in the "straight world" of the house and among the "straight world" of the viewing public.

Most of the gay cast mates have had no problem gaining that credit, being as witty, charming, and attractive as all the other twenty-somethings on the show, but this season, when the show rented a house out in Chicago, that credit was a lot easier to come by. This season, we get a double-helping of "the gay one" on the show, which features both Chris, a gay artist, and Aneesa, a lesbian of mixed race, among the cast.

Both said that it was easier adjusting to live in the house with another gay person around. "It was comforting to have someone else who understood me," Chris said. "She just understood everything."

"At first we hung out together more, going out wise, than we did with the rest of the housemates," Aneesa says, adding that their closeness developed into a greater friendship. "I could talk to him about a lot of stuff, not just who I'm dating. There was more to our relationship than who we're attracted to."

Since the two of them were together, MTV may have avoided the usual charges of tokenism, and neither of the gay housemates felt that was the case. "I hate to say that [I was a gay token]," says Aneesa. "Of course, I was told that I was not, and I know that's not all there is to me. If I was a boring lesbian I wouldn't be on the show, but I'm sure [my being gay] adds more to the show."

Chris was even more adamant about being chosen for his own attributes. "I don't have worries about [being a token] at all. There's more to me than just my sexuality and I think that will shine through," he says. "I have my own identity and that's how I differ from everyone."

And coming into the house, both had to deal with their own unique issues; Chris is a recovering addict and Aneesa had to handle Theo, one of the other housemates who had a crush on her even though he knew she is a lesbian.

"My first couple months [being sober], it was very difficult," Chris says, "but as I was on the show, I worked at Crowbar [a gay bar in Chicago] bartending. It's different I feel out of place, but all in all it's the same."

Though he worked in a gay bar, Chris feels that too much of the gay social scene revolves around drugs and alcohol. "A big part of the community and meeting people is centered around bars and clubs and it's just kind of like, 'Where's the elegance? Where are the other outlets to meet people?'"

Chris says that in the gay community, "I think it's more prevalent [to become an addict]. Each person, depending on the person, may be predisposed to it, but

there are some people who can stay in control and others who aren't."

As Chris was washing away his addiction, Aneesa, in the first episode, was washing in the shower with Theo. "When I saw that scene, I thought 'Wow, that was me six and a half months ago, that's not me now,' but I wasn't looking at his body, so it wasn't a big thing," she says. "[At the time], I doubted myself because I had nothing to do and nowhere to go and the only people who were hitting on me were men. But I have no attraction [to men] so nothing was going to happen."

After her initial liaison with Theo, Aneesa says that they become "just friends."

"We're young and we flirt a little, because we're really good friends. It's flattering, I think, for anyone."

Aneesa inability to meet people is understandable — with the cameras always on, it was hard for both to get close to people. "When I went to predominantly black clubs, people would hide from the cameras. At white clubs, people would be all up in your face, trying to get on camera," Aneesa said, adding that the cameras made both her and other people uncomfortable. "When you're black, you're a woman, and a lesbian, that's hard. People have jobs, kids, families, people who respect them, and I don't want anyone to feel uncomfortable being around me and around the cameras."

"It made dating really difficult," Chris said, "I felt invaded. It was so hard to meet someone. It was so hard to be on the first date with a guy and the camera's there."

Chris said that a moment you can't judge by watching the show is during his first date with Kurt, the man he dates in Chicago. As the two were at dinner in a small, fancy restaurant, he felt uncomfortable with two men he didn't know — one sitting across the table from him on the date and the other a cameraman standing on a chair with a bright light and a boom mic focused on the two. But now that the cameras are off, it's a whole different story.

"I came out to LA [after the show started airing] and a group of people in West Hollywood came up to me," Chris says. "Instead of introducing themselves, they just threw themselves at me."

Even with all the attention, neither feels like their behavior, on or off the show, should be held up as exemplary. "I never thought, 'I have to be a role model.' It was more, 'I have to live, I have to be me,'" Aneesa says. "But people are going to see my experience and might think 'I just went through that last weekend, maybe I'll try what she did.'"

"I'm a human being, I make mistakes, if people can benefit from what I've been through and apply something to their life," Chris says. "Being a role model is putting a lot of pressure on me. I'm still just human."

# homefront

## Parties galore set this week

Home decorations can help Houstonians get in the spirit of annual celebrations

by ELLA TYLER

I recently spent two very pleasant days in Lake Charles. I needed a getaway, and it is close enough that the entire trip isn't spent driving. Since the casinos don't interest me, two days is plenty of time to see most of the tourist attractions and still get some work done.

I took a walking/ driving tour through the Charpentier District, a 20 square block area of Victorian homes. "Charpentier" is French for carpenter. It is a pleasant area blending into downtown. Lake Charles did not have a resident architect when it began to expand, so many homes were built by local carpenters from their own plans.

I enjoy seeing historic architecture when I travel, but it is not always easy to find. The Lake Charles Visitor Center keeps the walking tour maps under the desk, so I had to ask for one. If I hadn't known there was such an area, I wouldn't have found out there. Fodor's city guidebooks usually include a well-narrated walking tour. The Web site, [www.preservenet.cornell.edu](http://www.preservenet.cornell.edu), has a fabulous set of links to historic landmarks and preservation organizations. Check it out when you plan your trip.

Lake Charles celebrates Mardi Gras in a big way, with more than 30 Krewes presenting a variety of events from Twelfth Night, Jan. 6, until this Tuesday, Feb. 12. Some houses displayed banners for their Krewe and a lot of houses and businesses had Mardi Gras wreaths hanging on their doors.

There's not a lot of time left before Mardi Gras, but a wreath is a quick and festive way to decorate. Find a Christmas wreath in need of recycling and dig out those beads and tokens you've been collecting. The key elements are green, purple and gold, plus glitter, feathers or both. Get out your hot glue gun and spray-paint and remember that "tasteful" and "Mardi Gras" are words that do not go together.

A celebration that begins Tuesday and will continue until March is the Houston Live Stock Show and Rodeo. It is the quintessential Houston event and is in the Dome for the last time.

This is the perfect excuse for a party. In its simplest incarnation, you'd buy tickets and deliver them in advance so everyone can meet in the seats when the show begins. This allows the livestock lovers to admire champion sheep, others to go watch the pig races, and lets the picky eaters choose from a wide variety of food vendors. It saves you a lot of work, anxiety and housecleaning.

If you wanted to get fancy, you could have dinner at home then rent an oversized limo to take everyone to the Dome in style. For decoration, get bales of hay from the feed store (use it for mulch after the party). Check out the feed store for other decorating ideas, too. Bandanas are cheap at craft stores.

If your sweetie gives you chocolate for Valentine's Day (Thursday), it's not polite to say you gave it up for Lent. Consider doing a good deed every day instead. By Valentine's Day, cut flowers are expensive. Instead of a bouquet of roses, how about a rose bush? There is a rose bush to fit any sunny spot.

Valentine's Day is day on which tradition dictates for pruning roses in my household. This is not because we don't have dates; it is because that is generally after the last freeze date. I am going to watch the weather and may delay my pruning. New growth appears soon after pruning and is very tender, and I'm not sure the bad weather is over yet.

If you want to know how to prune your roses, the Rose Society meeting at the Herman Park Garden Center on Feb. 14 at 7:30 is devoted to pruning. You do not need to be a member to attend. You can also drop by the Rose Society Booth and the Lawn and Garden Show, Feb 15-17 at the George R. Brown Convention Center for some tips.

Show admission is \$8, but there are lots of vendors, speakers and demonstrations. This show works hard to recruit members from many of the local plant societies, so there should be plenty of garden experts around. One can spend the entire day here. Dale Rohman will conduct several flower arranging classes on Saturday and Sunday.

This show shares the convention center and admission ticket with the Vacation and Leisure Show. If you haven't gotten enough Mardi Gras beads by then, the casino booths are often giving these away. For details about both shows, check out [www.texashomeandgarden.com](http://www.texashomeandgarden.com).



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# out on the aisle

THEATER REVIEW

## Feb. stages get busy

by PENNY WEAVER

### "In the Under Thunderloo"

Infernal Bridegroom Productions offers up this American play by Jason Nodler starting this weekend. The production includes a new set of rock songs and an all-star cast of IBP regulars. The piece follows post-apocalyptic heroes Jake Steak and Photochick on their search for truth, justice and the mythical Woodman. The audience can expect to meet philosophical cavemen, poison pumpkins, dinosaur cops and more. According to Nodler, "I wrote this play in response to a challenge by a college professor. In my first days at NYU, he asked why it was impossible to get tickets to a U2 concert while day-of-show half-price tickets were available for 'popular' plays. I resolved to write a serious, pop play, which would deal in weighty issues and appeal to a broad audience — a play that would resonate with barflies and academics alike."

### "In the Under Thunderloo"

Starts Feb. 8

Tickets: \$5.99-15

Axiom

2524 McKinney

Infernal Bridegroom Productions

713-522-8443

www.infernalbridegroom.com

### "Postmortem"

The Company OnStage presents this thriller by Ken Ludwig. The famous Sherlock Holmes portrayer and playwright William Gillette invites the cast of his latest play to his pseudo-medieval castle in Connecticut, where a trip is set for a suspected murderer. The piece is loaded with surprises from this author of "Lend Me A Tenor." The London Times called "Postmortem" a "Sherlock Holmes who-done-it kind of mystery packed with suspects and tinged with suspense and laughter."

### "Postmortem"

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

Through March 9

Tickets: \$12 or \$10 for seniors and students

Company OnStage

536 Westbury Square  
713-726-1219

### "A Necessary End"

Two one-act plays comprise this comic production at Theater LaB Houston by writer Douglas Mitchell. Both plays involve an absurd and ambiguous attitude toward death and dying. In "A Surplus of Charity," a husband arrives home one evening to surprise his wife with an announcement regarding funeral plans, although neither is facing imminent demise. In the second portion of the production, "It's Hard to Say," a brother comes to visit his sister, with a coffin in tow. The main title is derived from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar": "death, a necessary end, will come when it will come."

### "A Necessary End"

Opens Feb. 13

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through March 2

8 p.m. Feb. 21 &amp; 28

Theater LaB Houston

1706 Alamo

713-868-7516

www.theaterlabhouston.com

### "Rent"

The Tony Award-winning production will take the stage of Galveston's grand 1894 Opera House for three performances next weekend. The piece examines being young in New York and all the kinds of feelings that can come with youth in the Big Apple. Inspired by Puccini's "La Boheme," "Rent" is a musical that celebrates a community of young artists as they struggle with both soaring hopes and tough realities in today's world.

### "Rent"

Feb. 15-16

8 p.m. Friday, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday

Tickets: \$16.50-65

Grand 1894 Opera House

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Sarah Buschardt as May and Arnold Richie as William Gillette appear in 'Postmortem,' now playing at The Company OnStage.

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# eating out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Mockingbird's delights

Restaurant blends styles well in delicious dishes from the top of the menu on down

by TRAYCE DISKIN

If you think back to that nightmare known as ninth grade English literature, you may remember Harper Lee's caveat that it's a sin to kill a mockingbird, since their only job is to fill the world with song. What you may not know is that mockingbirds actually take on the songs of other birds in their surroundings. Luckily, Mockingbird Bistro's moniker alludes to the diverse accents of its cuisine, rather than any down-home cooking from the novel's setting of Maycomb, Ala.

French, Italian and traditional American styles blend perfectly here to create a menu, and an atmosphere, that is funky and innovative, yet hearty and familiar.

The interior hasn't changed much since the space belonged to the underrated Quasimodo's. Imposing oak chandeliers tower over medieval paneling, gargoyles and wooden wine crates. Minimalist light fixtures hang over the bar and reflect off the sleek garnet walls. Somehow, this fusion of gothic meets art deco meets urban chic works, and diners can enjoy neighborhood intimacy with a touch of romance and whimsy.

Start with the Calamari and Shrimp (\$9), a plate of sizzling battered squid rings with peppers and dipped in a spicy sweet and sour glaze. Although we did wonder about the AWOL shrimp, the crunch of the coating and the tangy glaze kept us happily distracted from the oversight. Delete the shrimp from the name of the dish, and toss on a few more succulent pieces, and we wouldn't miss a thing.

The 1015 Onion Soup (\$5) takes Mockingbird's French influence seriously, and the smoky broth beautifully exudes subtle traces of butter, garlic, and fresh pepper. The garlic croutons soak up the distinct ingredients, while the Gruyere cheese gives the dish a rustic, country finish.

Salads and vegetable dishes are so well executed and meticulously crafted that it'd be a mistake to dismiss items from the menu's "Winter Greenmarket" as mere greens and dressings. The luscious Red and Yellow Roasted Beets, with chevre goat cheese and spicy walnuts (\$7), is an elegant meal in itself, while the more traditional Heirloom tomato, fresh mozzarella, torn basil and aged balsamic vinegar (\$8), demonstrates Mockingbird's loyalty to the staples of the Italian kitchen.

The only reason to settle for comparably pedestrian dinner salad (\$4) is for the irresistible mustard and shallot vinaigrette.

While some items under the "Little Plates and Bowls" heading make ideal appetizers, others, like the Escargot and

Portabella Mushroom Fricassee (\$9) could serve as a light dinner. Unfortunately, this dish languished in an overpoweringly heavy brown sauce that stripped the escargot of their tender texture and flavor. Similarly, the usually smoky, meaty mushrooms become a bit player in the stew, and cling awkwardly to the bottom of the dish.

Rather than offer the standard array of over-exposed pasta dishes, Mockingbird demonstrates its flair for Italian cuisine with a few well-chosen combinations. The angel hair, roasted seafood and shellfish, plum tomato and saffron (\$16) could have used a ladle or two more of sauce, but the herbs, seafood and saffron mingled to create a beautifully fragrant dish.

Entrees tend to reflect more Texan roots, but are no less delicious. The seared Angus Flatiron Steak over cheesy potatoes and green beans (\$23) will satiate any carnivore, and the Pork Chop with warm lentils, ham hocks and Dijon mustard crust (\$17) puts a savory spin on an old country favorite. The Bouillabaisse (\$15) is a gorgeous stew simmering with tender hunks of fish and shellfish.

Mockingbird also makes an ideal venue for wining and dining clients and business folks. The lunch menu offers quite a few items not available for dinner, such as Penne Pasta (\$9) and Red Pepper Linguine (\$10).

Whether you dine afternoon or evening, finish with a cup of coffee or creamy cappuccino, and one of the many decadent desserts. Chances are you'll leave singing the praises of this impressive and delightful newcomer.

Mockingbird's  
www.mockingbirdsrestaurant.com  
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713-523-0200



### FOOD FILE

Food: ●●●●●  
Service: ●●●●●  
Value: ●●●●●  
Scene: ●●●●●

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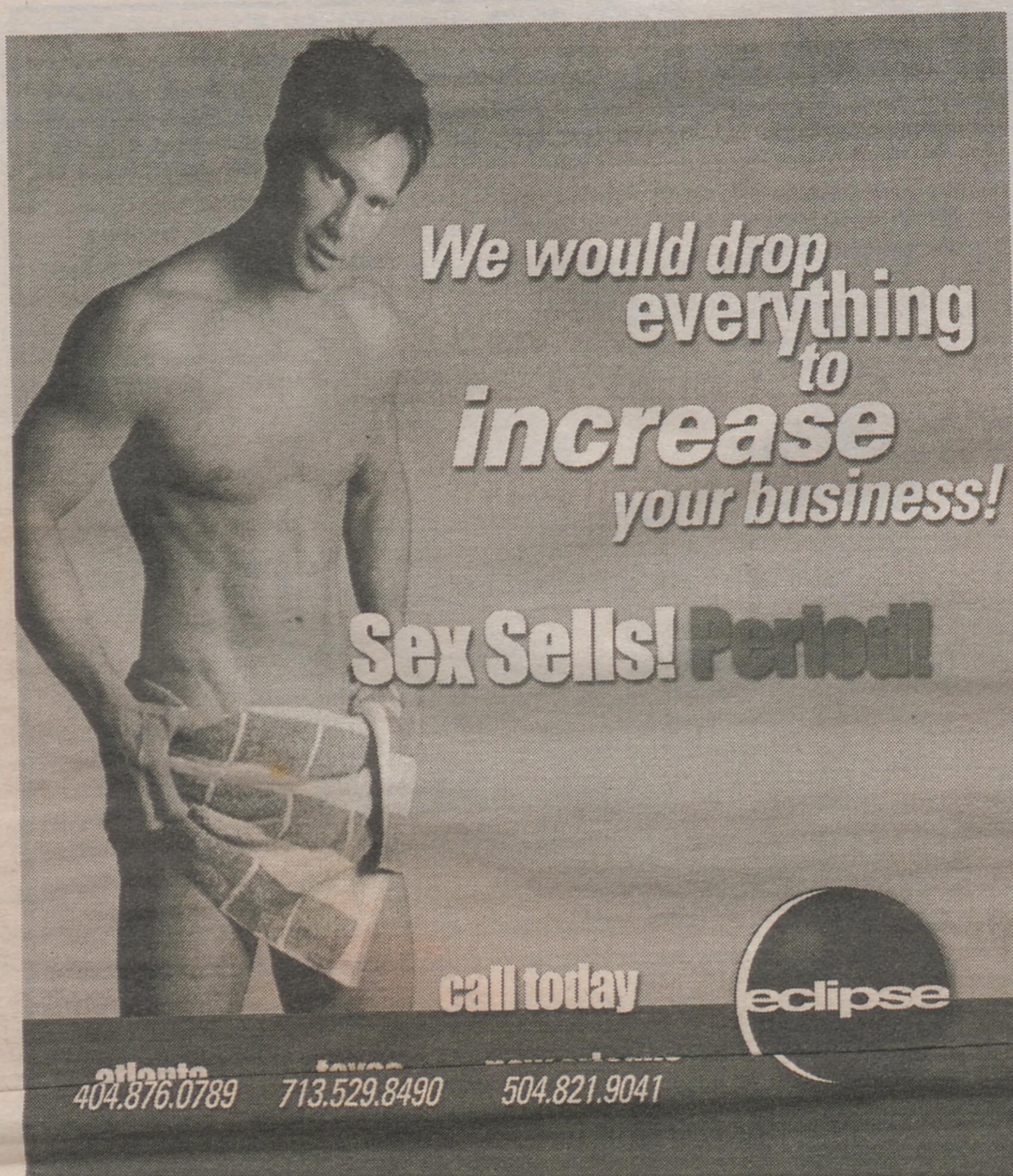
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BOOK REVIEW

### Author to spend week in Texas

Love, above the reach of time: Two stories of The Ladies of Llangollen

From staff reports

Author Anna M. Curren stops by Houston on Valentine's Day as part of a Texas tour to promote her novel, "Love, above the reach of time: Two Stories of The Ladies of Llangollen."

Based on a true story, the book details a passionate and compelling love story with an unusual twist.

"This book is a personal work of passion about one of the overlooked great love stories of the 1700s," Curren said.

The heroines are two Anglo-Irish noblewomen who fell in love at a time when same-sex relationships were considered unthinkable and evil. The women eloped to the Welsh mountains and lived in an undisguised romantic relationship for 50 years, becoming internationally famous for doing so.

Curren's Texas tour begins Saturday in Plano and ends Thursday in Houston. In the meantime, she will stop in Irving on Monday, Austin on Tuesday and San Antonio on Wednesday, meeting with readers at a Barnes & Noble book store in each city.

The novel is published by Ladyepress.

#### Mini-review

A curiosity of a book, "Love, above the reach of time" is part film script, part writer's memoir, and part biography.

You have to respect author Anne Curren's ambition, however: After writing the screenplay and failing to get it produced, she simply took the script, added some appendices and photos, and



Anna Curren, author of 'Love, above the reach of time,' will be in Houston on Valentine's Day.

brought it to publication.

The book's subject, the Ladies of Llangollen, is a fascinating historical topic — two women in the late 1700s who lived together openly, wore men's clothing, referred to each other as "beloved," and somehow became the toast of England's literary and high society.

But it's easy to see why this script was never produced: Wooden characters, stilted dialogue, and many exposition-heavy scenes span 80 years, with characters like Charles Darwin and Lord Byron popping up and then vanishing.

How these lesbian ladies achieved widespread popularity is a mystery, and Curren does them no favors by imagining scenes straight out of any made-for-TV melodrama — saving a local boy from drowning, or having their faithful dog assist in their elopement. The angelic lovers seem never to fight or quarrel, and they move from revulsion at their own feelings to pure acceptance without any pauses in between.

Also included in the book are the brief essay "A Review of the Misbeliefs about Female Sexuality Current in the Ladies' Lifetime," and a series of photos that also reveal how Curren became involved with the ladies' story — either of which, in expanded form, would have made more interesting reading than the screenplay contained within.

—Bill Roundy



Anna Curren

INFO

#### Author Anna M. Curren

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**Houston Outdoor Group.** Monthly breakfast at LePeep, West University Village, 6128 Village Parkway. 9 a.m. 713-523-7337.

## every saturday

**All-Spanish Worship Service/Culto en espanol.** 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-9403 or 713-861-9149.  
**After Hours.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.  
**Dignity mass.** 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.  
**Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club.** 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.  
**Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club.** Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.  
**Houston Outdoor Group.** Memorial Park walk. 9:30 a.m., meet in front of tennis center. Jimmy, 713-864-7299.  
**Houston Wrestling Club.** Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.  
**Q-Patrol** walks the streets 9:30 p.m. Convenes at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com  
**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.** Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.  
**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## sunday, feb 10

**"Got Wood?"** Non-profit RSICSS (Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc.) plans benefit at BRB, 8:30 p.m. Hosted by by Emperor XVIII Sean Carter and benefiting MCAF and Woody Stiner for Deb U Not Ball 2002.

## every sunday

**Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group.** 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103  
**Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.** Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
**Community Gospel.** Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
**Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist.** Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.  
**First Congregational Church (Memorial).** Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education, 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.  
**First Unitarian Universalist Church.** Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available, 10:30 a.m. Panel discussion, 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.  
**Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston.** 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social.

alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930.

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

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

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

**Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church.** Service, 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.

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

**Resurrection MCC. Services.** 9 and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in 2-5 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## monday, feb 11

**Classic Chassis Car Club.** Houston board meeting. 713-797-8615. www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org.

## every monday

**AIDS Mastery.** 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
**Frost Eye Clinic.** Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
**gayDAR.** Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.  
**Gay Fathers/Fathers First.** Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom, 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydadshouston/  
**Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.** Open rehearsals, 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.  
**Grief & Divorce Support Groups.** 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, ext. 208.  
**HIV testing.** STD exams and treatment. Free. AVES. 1-6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.  
**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
**Kolbe Project.** Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.  
**Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show.** 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.  
**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.  
**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## tuesday, feb 12

**PFLAG-Houston.** Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays. Meeting. 713-867-9020.

## Maranatha Fellowship MCC

Maranatha Fellowship MCC is on the Move!

Sunday Morning Services At Our New Location & Time:  
**3333 Fannin, Suite 106, at 10AM**

For more information, call the church office 713.528.6756

Please Join Us For Sunday Morning Service And Experience  
The Love That Maranatha Fellowship MCC Has To Offer!

February 10<sup>th</sup> Rev. Tracye Ruffin, Resurrection MCC guest speaker

February 17<sup>th</sup> "The Covenant of Grace in the New Testament" Rev. Janet Parker

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

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

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

**Maranatha  
Fellowship**  
Metropolitan  
Community Church

"Building Community Through Compassion"



**every tuesday**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**wednesday, feb 13**

**Houston Area Bears.** Dineout and meeting at Biba's on West Gray. 6:30. 713-867-9123.

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

**every wednesday**

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

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

**Free HIV Testing.** Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. 713-793-4026.

**Houston Pride Band.** Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931.

[www.houstonprideband.org](http://www.houstonprideband.org).  
**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com)

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

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

**Spiritual Uplift service.** 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston, 7:30 p.m. • 713-524-3818.

**thursday, feb 14**

**Bi-Net Houston.** Women's mixer. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.

**Lesbian & Gay Immigrations Rights Task Force-Houston.** 8 p.m. meeting. Chris, 713-426-3128.

[lgirtf-houston@egroups.com](mailto:lgirtf-houston@egroups.com).

**every thursday**

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

[www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).  
**Free HIV Testing.** By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

**Freelance Art Classes.** By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m.

Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

**FrontRunners.** Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

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

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

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

**Lambda Skating Club.** 8 p.m.

Tradewinds. Skating Rink. [www.lambdaroll.org](http://www.lambdaroll.org). 713-410-7215.

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

**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

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

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

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

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

**friday, feb. 15****every Friday**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Lesbian & Gay Voices.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

**Q-Patrol.** Walks the streets. 9:30 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

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

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

**volunteer/self-help**

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

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

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

**Volunteers needed.** Trauma volunteers needed at Memorial Hermann Hospital to comfort and support family members in the emergency and trauma departments. 866-666-6772.

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**MONTROSE SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

Invites you to  
**Recruitment Day  
2002**

Sunday, February 10th  
10am until 3pm  
Memorial Park Fields 4 & 5

**Softball • Prizes • Food**

Come play softball, receive information, meet various members, and join the Montrose Softball League for an experience of a lifetime!!

**Beginner • Intermediate • Advanced Levels**

Call 713-867-3913 or visit our website  
[www.montrosesoftballleague.com](http://www.montrosesoftballleague.com) for more  
information

\* Fields located on Picnic Lane in MEMORIAL PARK  
just south of Memorial Drive

\* Rain out day will be held Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

**ON YOUR  
NEXT VISIT  
TO**

**HOUSTON  
Stay with us!  
Montrose Inn**

**A 7-ROOM ALL-GAY B&B**

**We're right IN the neighborhood.**

**And priced right!  
Queen bed, cable TV,  
phone. Walk to 15 gay bars.**

**408 AVONDALE**

**800-357-1228**

**713-520-0206**

**montroseinn.com**

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

# houston classifieds

**Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NIBL 2002

NIGHT IN BLACK LEATHER • March 2, 2002 • Rich's • 7pm

### DAY SHELTER

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

### FLU SHOTS MONTROSE CLINIC

\$20 • Walk-in • Monday-Thursday 9am to 8pm • Friday 9am to 6pm • 215 Westheimer • 713-830-3000

### MR PRIME CHOICE

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

## EMPLOYMENT

### SONOMA IS REOPENING BY POPULAR DEMAND

Now hiring all positions • Apply in person • 1415 California • Mon-Fri • 1-4 pm.

Retail Optical position available • Willowbrook Area • Optical preferred but willing to train • FT • PT • Management • 281-469-2038

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ LOBBYIST

The Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas seeks an Executive Director/Lobbyist to coordinate Texas's LGBT lobbying efforts and manage our statewide organization. Candidate should have demonstrated skills in grassroots organizing; previous lobbying experience preferred, or equivalent experience in government relations or government affairs; experience managing a non-profit organization or other equivalent business a plus; excellent written, verbal, public communications required, media relations experience desired. Bachelor's degree required, with a masters degree preferred. Competitive compensation package including domestic partner benefits. Mail cover letter, resume & salary requirements by March 15 to: LGRL, ED Search, POBox 2340, Austin, TX 78768 or email edsearch@lgrl.org. For info call 512-474-6218

Insurance agency needs a customer service assistant. Must be very proficient with Microsoft Word. Responsibilities include correspondence, filing, and general office clerical duties. We are looking for strong written and verbal communication skills, plus a stable background and good references. Please call Rob Schmerler at 713-661-7700

### MEDICAL BILLING SPECIALIST

Experience in Medicaid and Medicare required • Fax resume to Clinical Director @ 713-830-3023.

### STAGES THEATRE PART-TIME

Ticket Box Office • Flexible hours • Some nights/weekends • Fax resume to 713-527-8669 • Attn: Marketing Director

### SOUTH BEACH JR'S MINE 800 PACIFIC AVE

Taking applications for all positions • High Volume • Gay night club • Group health insurance offered • Apply in person Wednesday thru Friday • 1 to 4 pm. Recent photo is required.

### MONTROSE CLINIC FULL TIME-EOE

Seeking individual to Supervise 6 member team of health educators • knowledge of HIV/STDS • Must be familiar with GLBT community • Fax resume to 713-830-3023. www.montroseclinic.org

### FREE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

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

### LOVETT INN

Houston's Premier gay owned and operated lodging facility is now accepting applications for full and/or part time housekeeper • Evenings and weekends required • Call 713-528-6433 11am to 4pm for more info or fax resume (with photo) to 713-528-6708 or send to LovettInn@aol.com

Earn what you are worth • Experienced grant research and development agent needed to target private foundation funding • AIDS Housing • % commission position • 713-521-1613.

## FOR SALE/RENT

Small 1b apartment on Heights Blvd. • No pets • Available immediately • New carpet and paint • water-paid • \$500/mo. • 713-862-1900

GALVESTON NIGHT CLUB • 2 story • patio • Walk to strand • 25th & Mechanic • Agent 713-862-4684

GALVESTON VICOTIAN • 3b/1.5 bath (jacuzzi) • Formals • Gourmet kitchens • Huge yard • 3 car garage • Carriage House (great rental) • Central AC/Heat • 888-522-4655 • www.cinelandia.com/galveston

Montrose/St.Thomas • 1/1 condo • Hardwoods • Parking garage • W/D • Alarm • Pool & spa • Patio • No pets • Available 4/1 • \$1150/mo. + deposit • Owner/Agent • 713-520-7372

### 1/1 CONDO

Woodland Heights • All new appliances including: Central AC/Heat • W/D in unit • Frig w/ice maker • Dishwasher • Range/Micro • New carpet • Fireplace • Cable paid • Gated access • Covered parking • Patio & Pool • Nonsmoker • Nice unit • Award winning community • Great location • Easy access to Downtown • \$675/mo • 1 month security deposit • 1 year lease • 713-507-3753

### MIDTOWNE MUSEUM AREA

1700 sf • Prairie style duplex • 10 ft ceilings 3/1 1.5 • Carpet • Hardwoods • W/D • No pets • \$1000/mo • 713-526-8634.

Heights updated 2/1 • All appliances included • \$1075/mo. + deposit • 713-868-6154.

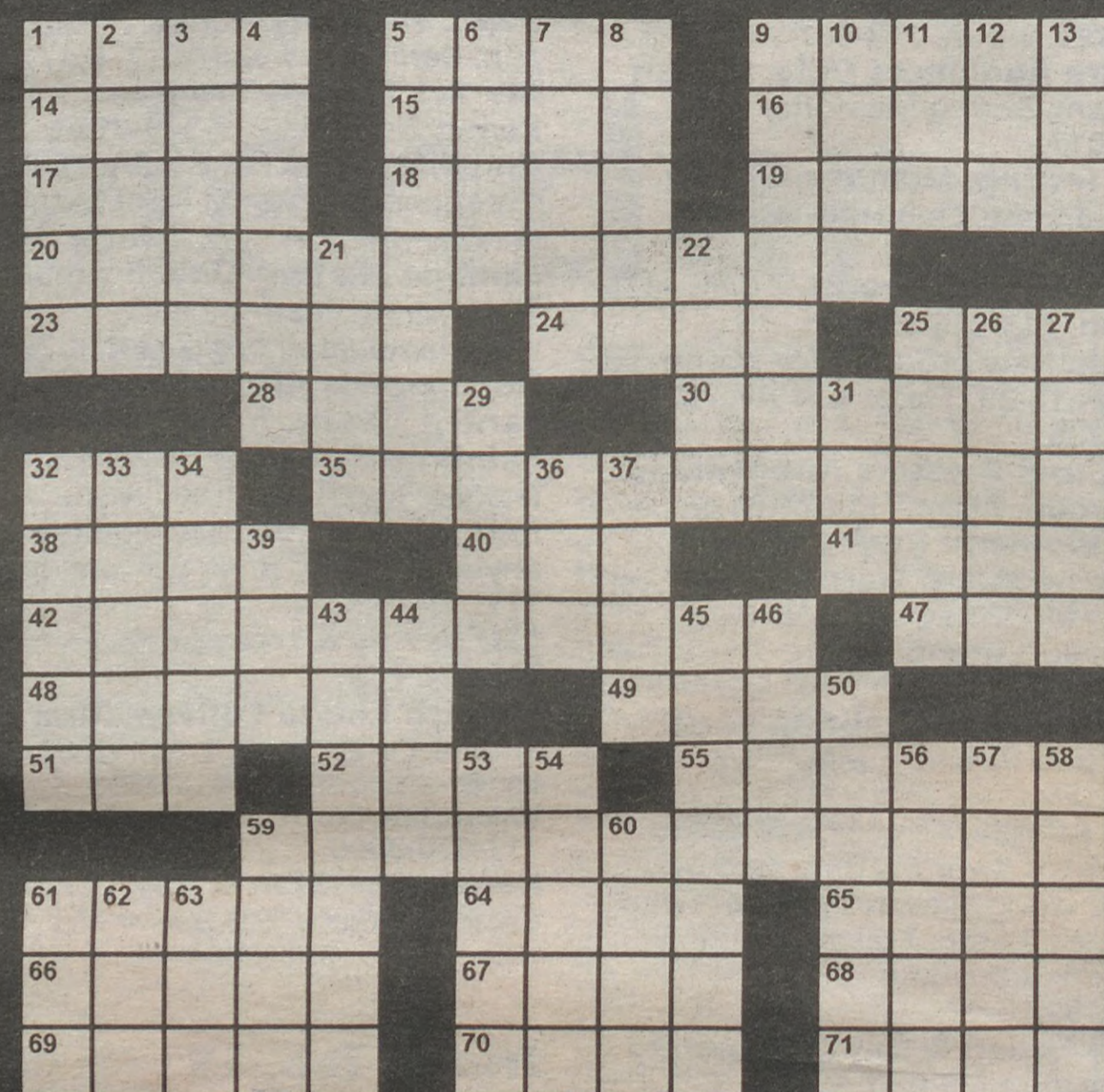
### RIVER OAKS

DRAMATIC 1/1 • San Felipe & Kirby • Floor to ceiling windows • Small complex • \$750 • 2415 Mimosa • 281-580-2762.

### MONTROSE COTTAGES

1/1 Garden Cottage • \$300 and up • Reserved for People Living with AIDS • 90 day MAX • Phone, furnished, AC • Maid paid • No deposit • Sliding scale fee • No drugs or Alcohol on property • AIDS Housing Coalition AHCH • 713-521-1613

## Q Puzzle



## "QUEER PHONE DIRECTORY"

### ACROSS

1. 411
5. "Gay \_\_\_ Sutra"
9. Indigo Girls' song
14. "\_\_\_ Knight" (porno flick)
15. Greek who did in Trojans
16. Pulp author Joan
17. Regressive diva?
18. Bear hunter Boone, briefly
19. "I Never Promised You an \_\_\_ Garden" ("Will and Grace" episode)
20. Wealthy gay poet?
23. Acid neutralizer
24. China's continent
25. Sex orientation determiner, some say
28. Rigging supporter
30. Roman emperor after Nerva
32. Mountain in "The Sound of Music"
35. Caucasian gay novelist?
38. Pansy Division's "Sidewalk \_\_\_"
40. Drop of the head
41. Suffix with depend
42. Candid gay politician?
47. Positive votes (var.)
48. Have a bigger rod than
49. Of a rear entrance
51. Classic auto
52. Noise of the lambs
55. Rains ice
59. Pithy gay writer?
61. Singer Reagon
64. Series of concerts for Etheridge
65. Dancer Tommy
66. One of Whitman's dooryard bloomers
67. "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" singer
68. Fremont community center, with "The"
69. Dean Cain's role with Lois
70. Beatty flick
71. \_\_\_-do-well

### DOWN

1. "Gay Tales of the Samurai" writer Saikaku
2. "On the Beach" novelist Shute
3. Whale output
4. Todd or Kevin
5. Prayer at Beth Chayim Chadashim
6. Open a crack
7. Excessive excitement
8. Rods of drivers
9. Artist Zoe
10. "She" to Cocteau
11. Gin-maker Whitney
12. School that trained Rev. Perry
13. NNW's opposite
21. "Is there \_\_\_ against that?"
22. "Nick at \_\_\_"
25. "Nightwood" author Barnes
26. Walker of "Rhoda"
27. Great range of South America
29. Clothing designer Chow
31. Rosemary Clooney's "Botch-\_\_\_"
32. With respect to
33. Porn producer Chi Chi
34. Philosopher of Athens
36. Rocky peak
37. \_\_\_ St. Vincent Millay
39. Lang. of Shakespeare
43. "Spartacus" director
44. \_\_\_ B'rith
45. Makes certain
46. Jodie Foster's alma mater
50. Of the season before Easter
53. Furrier John Jacob
54. Used the tongue
56. Piece of Schubert
57. Hint of color
58. Snide expression
59. Burn slightly
60. Wilde's pound
61. Mom's specialty, for short
62. Squeaky wheel application
63. Patty Hearst's former org.

Answers on Page 31

**OFFICE FOR RENT**

Second floor office available at Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center • 803 Hawthorne • 14' X 12'6" • Nonprofit GLBT organizations preferred as tenant partners, but all inquiries welcomed. Call Tim Brookover @ 713-524-3818

Furnished rooms in Montrose from \$295/week • For single, quiet person • Free cable tv, breakfast, parking, maid service • With queen bed, kitchen, & laundry access Montrose Inn • 408 Avondale • 713-520-02061

**FOR SALE**

**GORGEOUS NEW WEDDING GOWN!**

Never worn! White, full length, with beads, long train, ruffle, & headpiece. Call 832-597-3249

**GAY NIGHTCLUB**

Large or small gay nightclubs in Reno, NV • 15 owned slots • Building and Land • Best Bus Bkg • 800-208-9021

Formal dining room table • Mahogany colored • Natural leather upholstery • 6 chairs • Email photos available • 713-861-7063

Antique French China Cabinet • Email photos available • 713-861-7063

**PRIDEREALTY.COM SALES/RELOCATION**

**HEALTH**

**FREE YOGA CLASSES**

FREE yoga classes every Friday @6:30 p.m. • 3115 West Loop South #21 • No restrictions • No reservations needed • 713-439-0455

**MASSAGE THERAPY**



**MASSAGE Absolute Let-Go**  
Houston Metro  
**713.942.2399**  
• Montrose Location  
• 7 days/evenings  
• Visa/Mastercard  
• Outcalls welcome



**MASSAGE BY KEN**

Experience stress relief • Convenient Montrose location • By appointment only • 11am to 8pm • RMT#028519 • KEN CLAUDE • 713-524-4759

Escape with the magical hands of an attractive young male. Call 713-529-1109 • RMT#17254

**BODY THERAPY**

Deep tissue at its finest! Centrally located • Private/shower available • Chaz Kolb • 713-712-712-0270

**MASSAGE**

Therapeutic • Swedish • Sports • Deep Tissue • Myotherapy • relaxation therapy • Jason • College Guy • Memorial Park Studio • www.sizzlingmassage.com • 713-863-8888

**FULL BODY RELAXATION**

by Young Athletic Male • RMT#016479 • Tim • 713-876-3811

Massage by David Rangel • Swedish • Neuro Muscular Therapy • Montrose area • MC/VISA/AMEX welcomed • RMT #8069 • Appointments 713-523-0738

**M2M**

Therapeutic • Swedish • Full Body • By fit and toned masseur • 15 years experience • Evenings and weekend appointments available • RMT# 1664 • John • 713-398-3226.

Big • Strong • Muscular • 8 years experience Noon to Midnight • \$60 • Mitchell • 713-521-3359.

**SWEDISH MASSAGE BY PATRICK**

• Relaxation • Myotherapy • Deep tissue • (RMT#024589) 713-807-7109 • 713-501-9852. • 1 1/2 hours for \$50. 1 Hr. \$40.

**MASSAGE**

Treat sore, stiff muscles, tension and stress • Renewed flexibility and wellness • RMT #016479 • Tom • 713-520-6018

**AIKAYOGA MASSAGE**

A two hour interactive Massage blending Thai Massage and Yoga • Eastern style Mat Massage for Upscale Professional • Tim on Richmond • 832-687-5786

**OCCASIONS**



Ron romps in the slop on his birthday Feb 6th. That'll do, pig. That'll do.

**PETS**

**AFGHAN HOUND PUPPIES**

Cyan and Devashunii Kennels • AKC Black • Black & Tan • Cream • Blue • Blue & Cream • White • Hand raised • Championship lines • www.devashunii.com • 202-546-0854

**PET SITTING**

**BOOK FOR YOUR VACATION**

"Pets love their own home even when you can't be there" Established 1995. Book your vacation now • loyal989@aol.com Call Loyal @ 713-942-8816.

**HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY**

NO ANIMAL TURNED AWAY!! The HHS relies solely on donations. They receive NO local, state, or federal government funding. Call 713-434-5555 to find out the many ways YOU can help, or for adoption information.



**PRODUCTS & SERVICES**

www.rainbowprod.com

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# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

## Feb. 8-14

### ARIES (March 21 to April 20)



Feeling free and easy, dear? I hope so. You need to throw away the key to the prison of your mind! You are entering into a phase of greater awareness. It's only taken years. A Capricorn applauds your progress with a kiss.

### TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)



Your career shifts into high gear on Valentine's Day, as Uranus and the Sun hook up at the top of your chart. Tell your honey to keep dinner waiting and aim for some late-night loving. An Aquarius will hold out.

### GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)



You may not be able to change the way someone feels about you. Move away from those who reject you. Move into the arms of the person who gives you the real thing. A Taurus is true blue.

### CANCER (June 22 to July 22)



The new moon on Feb. 11 lands in your house of permanent partnerships. That means that you need to take a chance and commit not just with your mouth, but also with your heart and soul. An Aquarius wants to understand you better.

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



Love is all around you during this season, but you have to reach out and grab it (or let a Taurus know you want to be grabbed!). For once you need to be more obvious!

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



The Sun's progress through your marriage house makes this a serious time in your love life. A Valentine's Day flirtation with a Gemini could get your blood flowing, but you need to dance with a deeper lover.

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



Mars will be transiting your house of love during Cupid's week. Do something impulsive and brash on Valentine's Day. Risk punishment! The crime is worth it. A Virgo will be your accomplice.

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



You are getting sharper and surer of yourself every day, but the world is not ready to hear from you just yet. Hold back a little bit longer, sweetie. Prepare yourself for when your moment comes - in just a couple of weeks. A Cancer will be ready for you.

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



You draw very unusual characters to you this week, darling. Be open to as many types of people as possible. A Leo pushes you to rethink your values - and your desires.

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



Live it up this Valentine's Day. Drop a wad of cash and spread your affection all over your honey, or all over town. A Sag wants to push your limits and blow your mind - for a price. Don't worry, dear. You can afford it.

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



This is an exciting week for you, babe, as several planets transit your sign. Do something really wild and brave. An Aries will join you on your adventure.

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



Use your powers of empathy to help those who need you the most, sweetie. Your gentle spirit is a comfort to many people. A Scorpio acts prickly but is actually in need of some TLC - from you.

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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT  
Sunday, February 24, 2002 • 6:00pm

Featuring the Imani Ensemble  
from Imani MCC, North Carolina



Rev. Wanda Floyd (Pastor of Imani MCC)  
will speak at the 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. services  
on Sunday, February 24, 2002.

Free and open to the community.

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answers to puzzle on page 28

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