

# houston VOICE



hot tunes

Latin diva Pilar Montenegro knows the importance of catering to her gay fans.

Page 13

THIRTY YEARS OF NEWS FOR YOUR LIFE AND YOUR STYLE

www.houstonvoice.com

MARCH 31, 2006

## Equality Riders reach Texas

Soulforce hopes positive dialogue stops anti-gay policies

By NANCY FORD

Jacob Reitan, co-director of the Equality Ride, said he knew his experience at Abilene Christian University would be different from other stops along the route of the Soulforce-sponsored tour when ACU officials met him with a nametag.

"The schools we have visited so far have not given us that kind of institutional welcome," he said.

Reitan is co-director of the Equality Ride, a 20-stop bus tour to promote greater understanding of issues relating to individuals who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender. About 35 riders are participating in the tour.

The cross-country bus trip by gay rights activists visiting colleges and universities with anti-gay policies began March 10. The tour has resulted in numerous arrests and incidents, most notably the spray painting of "Fags-Mobile" across the bus at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn.

Nothing so hateful occurred in Abilene. The university there is affiliated with the Church of Christ, with about 4000 undergraduate and 800 graduate students studying liberal arts and professional programs. So far, ACU has been the first school to allow the Riders full access to campus.

On Monday Equality Riders completed a full day of presentations and discussions with ACU students. The meetings and presentations



Soulforce Equality Rider Jake Reitan started a speech on March 10 that others were forced to finish after he and 20 others were arrested by campus police at Liberty University, the Lynchburg, Va., school founded and presided over by anti-gay televangelist Rev. Jerry Falwell. (Photo by Jill Nance/AP)

focused on the history of religion-based violence and portrayals of sexuality in the media, with the film "Brokeback Mountain" as the starting point. The riders also had numerous informal conversations at receptions and meals held with students and faculty throughout the campus and conducted a theological conversation with students in training for ministry with the School of Theological Studies.

Upon arriving in Abilene the night before, Equality Riders worshipped at the University Church of Christ just off the ACU campus, taking communion, singing and praying with about 800 stu-

dents. "They have allowed us to present in small classes and big auditoriums, fed us and let us worship with them," Reitan said. "We are truly grateful for the dialogue we have had here with students, faculty and administration." "The students were thrilled to be having this conversation," said Rebecca Solomon, a rider on the tour. "For lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students here it's like their school has said, 'Yes, you do exist.'"

Heather Alkire, junior elementary education major from Abilene, said in a statement that many hours were spent



Sharon Stone returns as an ice pick-wielding bisexual murderess in 'Basic Instinct 2,' but this time no gay protesters will greet her.

## Basically ignored

Return of 'Basic Instinct's' bisexual killer is met with a shrug from activists

By GREG MARZULLO

SHE'S BACK, EVERYONE'S FAVORITE SUSPECTED bisexual psycho killer: "Basic Instinct's" Catherine Tramell.

"Basic Instinct 2" arrives in theaters on Friday, March 31, and unlike 14 years ago when gay rights groups protested the original film's opening, activists haven't said a peep about the movie's famous femme fatale this time around.

Please see RIDE on Page 4

Please see BASIC INSTINCT on Page 19



Enron did her wrong, but Deb Gebhardt has moved on, out of the closet. Local Life, Page 8

It's tax time. Do you know where your gay and lesbian deductions are? News, Page 7

Randy Quaid may not be broke, but he wants some 'Mountain' money back. Dish, Page 18



**A LOVE THAT WILL NEVER GROW OLD**



HEATH LEDGER  
JAKE GYLLENHAAL  
ANNE HATHAWAY  
MICHELLE WILLIAMS

**BROKEBACK  
MOUNTAIN**

**ON SALE**  
**April 4th**

**\$14.<sup>95</sup>**

**GASLIGHT VIDEO**  
3519 Bellaire BLVD  
Houston, Texas  
713.661.4105

**BIG CITY VIDEO**  
10105 Gulf Freeway  
Houston, Texas  
713.943.0799

**WHY PAY MORE!**

## houston news



Barbara Ann Radnofsky, endorsed by the Houston GLBT Caucus' Political Action Committee, hopes opponent Gene Kelly's familiar name won't lead him to victory in the runoff election.

# 3 tapped for runoff

## GLBT Political Caucus PAC makes endorsements for April 11 election

By NANCY FORD

The Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC membership has announced its endorsement of three candidates in the 2006 primary election runoff, scheduled Tuesday, April 11.

In the race for Texas State Legislature - District 146, the caucus has endorsed Borris L. Miles. Miles will face Rep. Al Edwards (D-Houston) in the race for the seat. Edwards received 48 percent of the March 7 primary. Miles, a Houston businessman, received 33 percent of the vote in the primary.

Barbara Ann Radnofsky has received the caucus' support for her U.S. Senate race. Radnofsky faces Gene Kelly, a retired military lawyer who is a frequent candidate for U.S. Senate, in the runoff.

The caucus also endorsed Ted Ankrum who will face fellow Democrat Paul Foreman in the April 11 runoff for Texas' 10th Congressional District. Ankrum

received 37 percent of the vote in the primary, compared to Foreman who received 36 percent. The winner will face Republican Michael T. McCaul in the Nov. 7 election.

"The HGLBTPC PAC is extremely proud to endorse these candidates. These are candidates that will stand up and do the right thing for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. It is critical that our community vote in this runoff election because our vote can make a difference," said Maria Gonzalez, HGLBTPC PAC President.

Gonzalez pointed to Miles as a prime example of a candidate she believes will support Houston's GLBT community.

"Borris Miles is a pro-equality candidate who will fight against discrimination and ensure that all Texans are treated equally," Gonzalez said. "This is quite contradictory from the current incumbent, Rep. Al Edwards, who has voted against the GLBT community time and time again. He has supported anti-gay bills related to adoption and foster care and the anti-family marriage amendment. The GLBT community can single-handedly make a difference in this runoff. We are imploring the community to get to the polls as soon as early voting starts and support these pro-GLBT candidates."

Early voting starts Monday, April 3 and ends Friday, April 7. Early voting locations can be found at [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com).

The HGLBTPC meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m., with a community workday held the second Saturday of every month. Gonzalez encouraged visitors to attend both activities to learn more about the caucus.



Ted Ankrum



Borris Miles

### **i** MORE INFO

Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC  
P.O. Box 66664  
Houston, TX 77266-6664  
713-521-1000  
[www.hglbtpc.org](http://www.hglbtpc.org)

## newsbriefs



Human Rights Campaign-Houston steering committee members Alex Martinez (bottom row, left), Mike Holloman, Krystal Gilliam, Jani Lopez and Michael Delaney. Pictured in the top row, from left to right, are Tom Downing, Alton LaDay and Joe Fields.

### HRC-Houston receives multiple honors at national convention

Human Rights Campaign-Houston's steering committee was the recipient of four awards at the 2006 HRC National Convention held March 9 through 12 in Washington, D.C. The group received the Diversity Events and Outreach, Dinner Committee of the Year and Dinner of the Year awards.

"We had a series of diversity events in 2005 that reached out to all segments of the Houston community," said HRC-Houston gala dinner co-chair Alton LaDay. LaDay said the group's 2005 diversity events included a Black History Month event, participation in transgender events and a Cinco De Mayo celebration.

An award recognizing work on a state legislative issue was shared by Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio HRC chapters for the joint effort put forth to stop Proposition 2. The measure, a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, was approved by Texas voters on Nov. 8 by a 76 percent margin.

Other highlights of the convention included a fundraiser at the home of Louisiana senator Mary Landrieu's home and a luncheon with openly gay actor George Takei, who played Mr. Sulu on the classic science fiction television series, "Star Trek".

HRC-Houston's 2006 dinner gala, the Roaring 20s Ball is scheduled for April 29 at Hilton Americas Hotel. For more information, log on to [www.hrchouston.org](http://www.hrchouston.org).

### PFLAG Houston meeting to address outreach and support for GLBT seniors

PFLAG -Houston's April meeting will welcome Bryant Johnson, an educator from the Montrose Counseling Center. Johnson will discuss issues specific to GLBT seniors and the center's Seniors Preparing for Rainbow Years program, which provides outreach and case management to GLBT seniors. The presentation will include suggestions on what people can do as advocates for the care of GLBT seniors who may need assistance now or in the future.

The meeting begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 2 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 S. Main St. in the museum district.

Also on April 2, PFLAG-Houston's "small group meeting" following Johnson's program will discuss QPR or Question, Persuade, Refer, a suicide prevention model that involves providing training to "citizen gatekeepers," or people who are in a position to see the warning signs of an impending suicidal crisis. The model is similar to CPR in the sense that citizen gatekeepers are frequently in a better position to see the signs of the crisis than health professionals because of their proximity to the person who is in crisis, and provides early intervention and a bridge to health professionals, organizers said.

Enrollment is limited to 25 persons per training. The QPR instructors would

request \$3 per person to pay for training materials that will be given to you. For more information, e-mail or call Sarah Berel-Harrop at [sbh930@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbh930@sbcglobal.net) or 281-813-0660.

### School administrator resigns after park arrest in sting operation

A Tomball Independent School District administrator has resigned after he was arrested on March 14 for allegedly soliciting sex from an undercover officer at a local park.

Michael McWhirter, 57, was arrested after he allegedly initiated a conversation with a male undercover officer at Theis Attaway Park.

Tomball Police Sgt. Gary Hammond said McWhirter asked for sexual favors in exchange for money.

McWhirter was charged with solicitation of prostitution and has been released from jail on \$500 bond, said Tomball Police Sgt. Gary Hammond.

Tomball police said they set up a sting operation after receiving information about lewd activity taking place at the park.

McWhirter worked as the director of instructional resources, had worked for the district for 23 years. Kit Pfeiffer, the director of employee and community relations for the district, said McWhirter resigned on March 21.

From staff and wire reports

## texas news

# Equality Ride stops at Abilene Christian, A&M

RIDE, continued from Page 1

in "prayer and discussion" over this issue.

"I think that as a university, we extended Christ-like love to the members of Soulforce without compromising our scriptural beliefs," she said.

Michelle Morris, ACU vice president for university relations, said that members of Soulforce, though strongly disagreeing with ACU on key issues, listened and responded respectfully.

"Although both Soulforce and the ACU community recognized that we would leave the day with continuing disagreements on issues, we listened to one another's hearts," she said.

Despite the warm greeting extended to Soulforce Equality Riders, Abilene Christian University continues to hold a student conduct policy forbidding "homosexual behavior," which has led to students being expelled from the school.

"The fact remains that students can still be kicked out of ACU because they are gay. As long as that can happen, this campus is not a safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students," Reitan said.

"There are still a lot of issues to talk about here. We hope our visit is only the beginning of this discussion."

### Next stop, Aggieland

As the Houston Voice went to press, the Equality Ride was scheduled to stop next at Texas A & M University in College Station, Texas on March 29 for a rally on ending discrimination towards GLBT students in the ROTC.

Tom Urban is an attorney practicing in Washington, D.C., who has represented Window Media publications, the Houston Voice and the Washington Blade, in litigation.

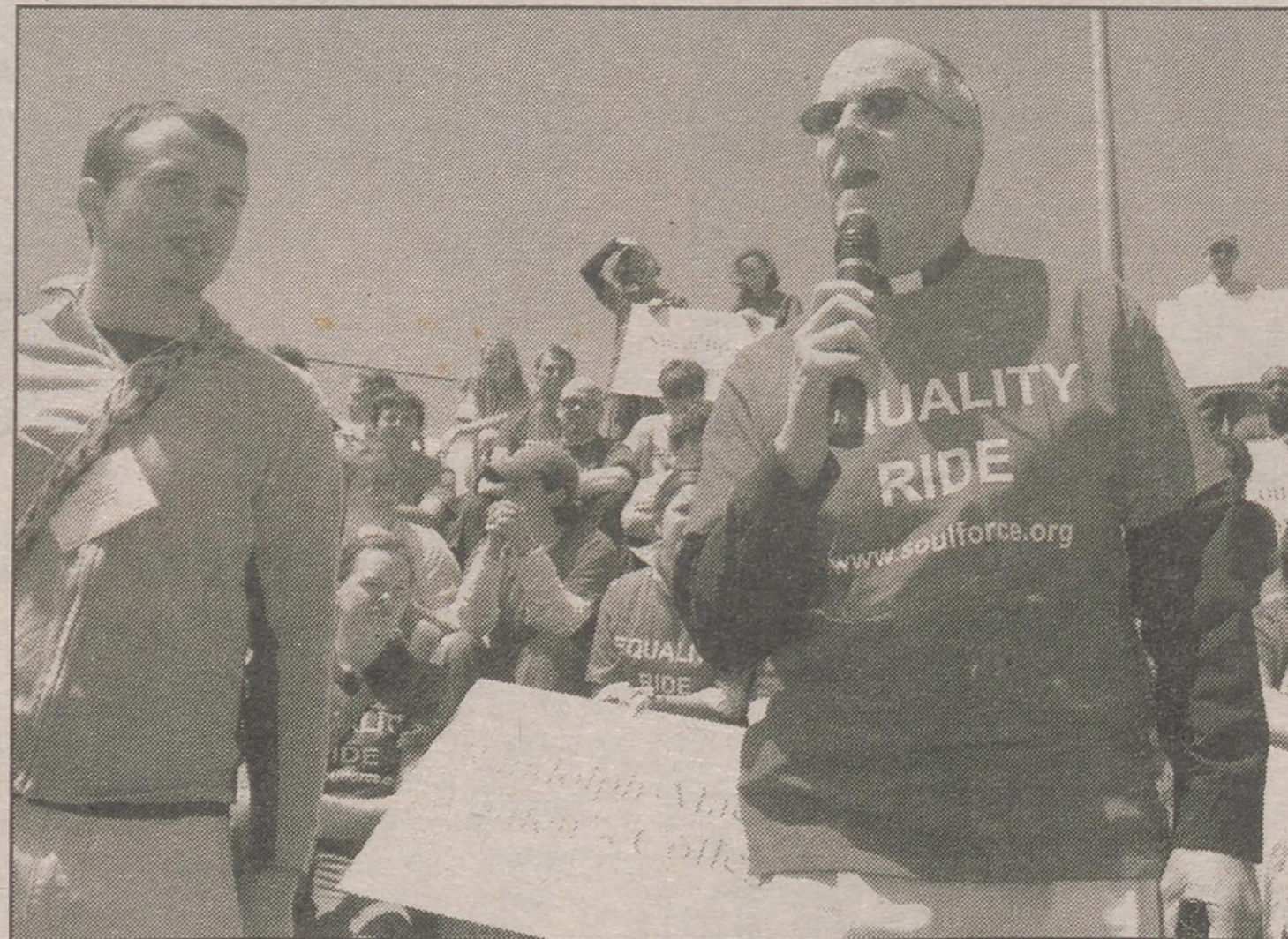
Before graduating from TAMU in 1985, he served as vice-president of student government academic affairs in 1984, the year students fought to have sexual orientation added to the school's non-discrimination policy.

Born and raised in College Station, Urban did not anticipate that riders would be greeted with resistance from individuals like those who vandalized the tour bus in Tennessee.

"Aggies have passionate views, but I would honestly say that I would not expect any Aggie to become violent," Urban said. "There have been some things done at A&M over the years, but they tend to be people who believe in a code of conduct and a code of professionalism, especially in the Corps."

Though he categorized TAMU as a "very conservative school," Urban believes a spirit of understanding is pervasive on the campus.

"I think there has been a bit of a change since 1985, just in what I've read," he said. "There has been more access provided gay groups. There will be people who won't be happy about this, but I would imagine over-



Mel White, cofounder of Soulforce, right, addresses the media outside Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. announcing Soulforce's Equality Ride, a nationwide bus tour to promote gay rights at conservative Christian colleges. (Photo by R. David Duncan III/AP)

all that they will probably more than anything else ignore it."

Urban suggested that riders on the tour became familiar with the university's "do's and don'ts" while they visited the campus. Any kind of perceived disrespect shown, even out of ignorance, would probably be a pretext to causing problems, he said.

"I would encourage the riders to be very careful to respect the traditions of Texas A&M that apply to everyone," Urban said. "Things like, don't walk on the grass at the student center. And you don't wear a hat in the Memorial Student Center because it's a memorial to those Aggies who have died in wartime. Things like that."

Urban said he believes there are a lot of open-minded Aggies who come from conservative families whose eyes are opening

for the first time they're away from a very conservative background.

"They're starting to see different things and different perspectives in the world," he said.

That spirit of understanding did not present itself in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina evacuees were being housed at the school.

New Orleans evacuee Sharli'e Vicks, a preoperative transsexual, was arrested Sept. 4 by police at Texas A&M University in College Station after using the women's shower at Reed Arena, a temporary relief shelter for storm victims.

When campus security arrived to arrest Vicks for criminal trespass, she said she thought it was a joke until police handcuffed and booked her under her legal name of Arpollo Vicks.

## Okla. state school board repeals gay bias ban, blames Soulforce

OKLAHOMA CITY — The state board of education repealed a sexual orientation anti-discrimination policy March 23, and blamed the Soulforce Equality Ride for the policy change. Soulforce is protesting the anti-gay policies of 19 religious schools across the country. State Rep. Kevin Calvey (R-Del City) said he sought the new board policy because he thought Soulforce meetings in schools were inappropriate, the Tulsa World reported.

"The board's new rule will protect public schools from having to allow homosexual rights organizations to hold meetings

on school grounds," said Calvey, who is running for Congress, in a statement. He specifically noted recent Equality Ride protests at Oral Roberts University and Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, the paper reported. Equality Ride's Jacob Reitan rejected Calvey's claims.

"This change in policy by the Oklahoma school board has nothing to do with our actions in Oklahoma," Reitan said in a news release. "This is a cowardly act of election-year pandering from Representative Calvey" and the state's school superintendent.

### MORE INFO

Equality Ride  
www.equalityride.com

Soulforce  
P.O. Box 3195  
Lynchburg, VA 24503-0195  
www.soulforce.org

John Van Alstyne, corps of cadets commander for Texas A&M, was in charge of the shelter and declined to comment on the arrest.

"All decisions were mine and I have no comment," he stated via e-mail at the time.

Following intervention by Human Rights Campaign and National Center for Transgender Equality, the university dropped the charges against Vicks.

### Rolling on

The Equality Ride is scheduled to pull into Dallas on March 31 to meet with members of the Council for Christian Colleges. Founded in 1976, the council's 105 members in North America and 71 affiliate institutions in 24 countries seek "to advance the cause of Christ-centered higher education and to help our institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth," according to the group's mission statement.

In a statement released March 28, the CCCU said that, as a membership association, it does not endorse Equality Ride.

"Our first priority is to inform, serve and honor each individual campus as the school officials determine how to exercise their freedoms as private institutions when Equality Ride visits 14 of the 130 member and affiliate schools in the CCCU," the statement read.

Though council administrators have met with Equality Ride leaders during the past several months, they said they did not want these meetings to imply endorsement of all of the ride's goals.

"We do not want to compromise on what Scripture teaches about sexual sin," the statement read, "but we should hold to our beliefs in ways that earn respect from those with whom we disagree."

"There is no law that prevents any private college or organization from deciding not to employ a person or retain a student intent on living a lifestyle that is in conflict with the religious mission, values and policies of an institution," the statement continued.

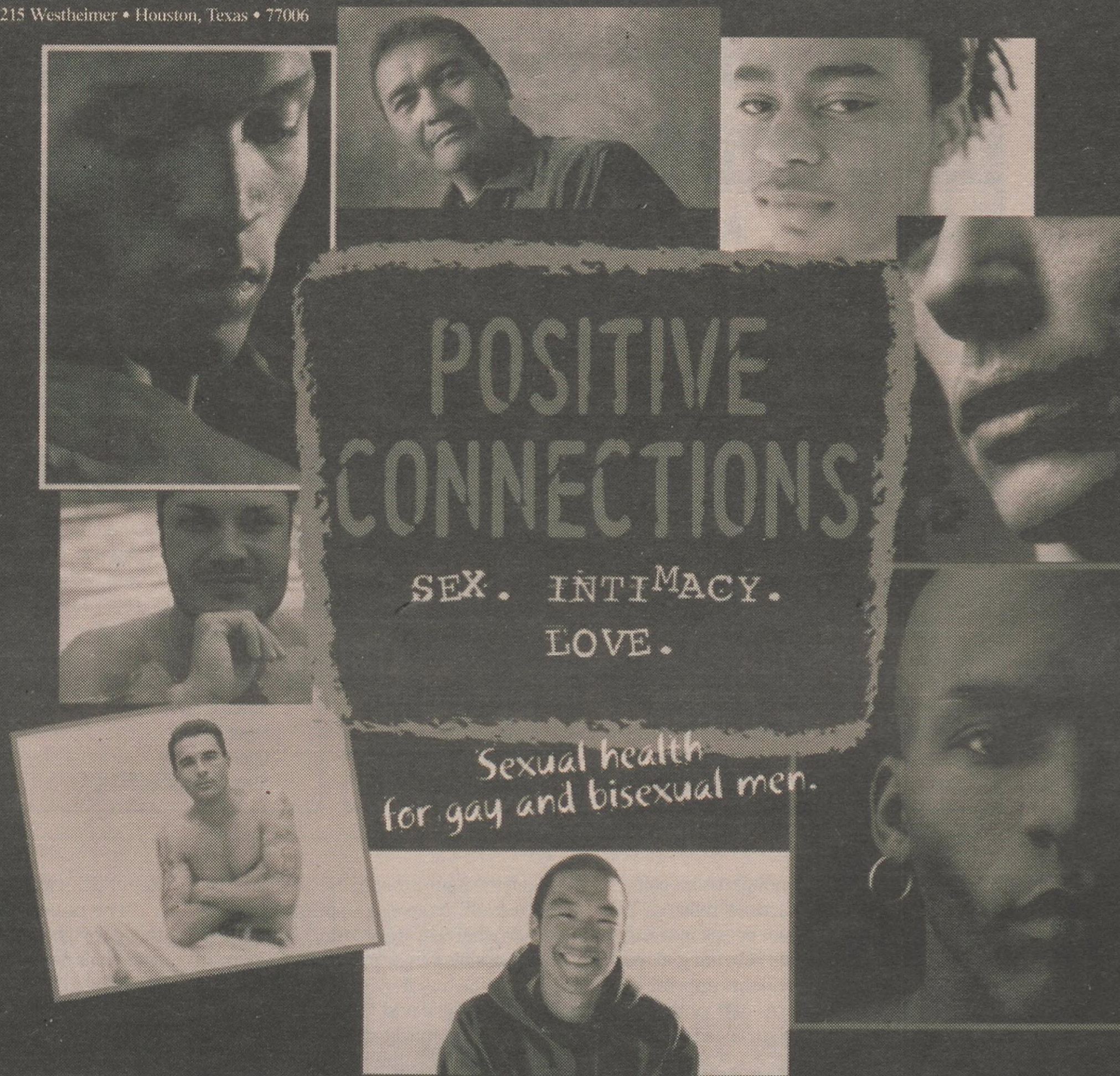
"These standards are well-known and shared by students and employees when they voluntarily associate with a particular campus."

The statement concluded with a pledge from members to continue to pray for the riders "and for our campuses that through greater understanding of each other we will learn from one another."

The Equality Ride is scheduled to make 11 more stops after leaving Texas, concluding with an April 26 visit to the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

Legacy presents...

Community Health Services  
215 Westheimer • Houston, Texas • 77006



- A weekend seminar for HIV + and HIV - gay and bisexual men
- Help your community by participating in a study that evaluates new sexual health seminars
  - Earn up to \$200 for your contribution to the study\*
  - Confidentiality and discretion assured

Weekend Seminar  
**April 22 & 23, 2006**

For questions & registration please call:  
**713-830-3004**

A partnership between  
**Legacy Community Health Services & UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

HIV/STI Intervention and Prevention Studies (HIPS) Center Program in Human Sexuality Department of Family Practices and Community Health Medical School.  
\*Financial compensation offered to eligible participants-\$100 for attending the seminar plus an additional \$100 for completing three follow-up surveys.

## national news

# More Americans support gay marriage rights

New poll also shows shrinking opposition to adoption by gays

By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

Marcia Hams and Susan Shepherd tied the knot on May 17, 2004, in Cambridge, Mass., following a protracted court fight that ended with the legalization of same-sex marriage in that state.

The couple was not involved in the Massachusetts case for equal marriage rights that went all the way to the state's Supreme Judicial Court. But once the court ruled and Massachusetts became the only state to offer equal marriage rights, Hams and Shepherd were the first in line for a marriage license — literally.

The couple, who have now been together for 28 years, waited outside Cambridge City Hall for 24 hours until it opened at midnight.

"To have the highest court of your state stand up for you is not theoretical," Hams said. "It's a big change."

The "big change" of gay marriage generated protests by religious conservatives and catapulted the divisive issue into the 2004 presidential election campaign.

Now, just two short years later, new research suggests that U.S. public opinion on gay rights issues is evolving quickly and that opposition to same-sex marriage is shrinking.

Opposition to equal marriage rights for gays has declined significantly and more people support adoption by gay couples and allowing gays to serve openly in the military, according to the new poll released by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Pew polled a randomly selected sample of 1,405 adults from March 8-12.

"I'm very glad to see the numbers of people supporting equal marriage rights increasing," said Judith Schaeffer, deputy legal director of People for the American Way. "[Americans] are seeing that the boogeyman the religious right created doesn't exist. The sky hasn't fallen."

Opposition to gay marriage was measured at 63 percent in February 2004, during a presidential election year when the issue dominated headlines after the Massachusetts high court ruling. But in 2006, barely half of those polled — 51 percent — say they oppose gay marriage.

There also was a significant decline among those "strongly opposed" to equal marriage rights: from 42 percent in 2004 to 28 percent in March 2006.

A separate survey of Californians, con-

## A breakdown on U.S. thinking on gay marriage

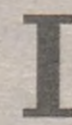
### Party Affiliation



**REPUBLICANS**  
Strongly favor: 3.2%  
Favor: 17.2%  
Oppose: 30.3%  
Strongly oppose: 40.7%



**DEMOCRATS**  
Strongly favor: 14%  
Favor: 34.7%  
Oppose: 21.9%  
Strongly oppose: 21.2%



**INDEPENDENT**  
Strongly favor: 12.3%  
Favor: 32.7%  
Oppose: 21.7%  
Strongly Oppose: 24.6%

### Gender



**MALE**  
Strongly favor: 6.8%  
Favor: 30%  
Oppose: 24.7%  
Strongly oppose: 28.3%

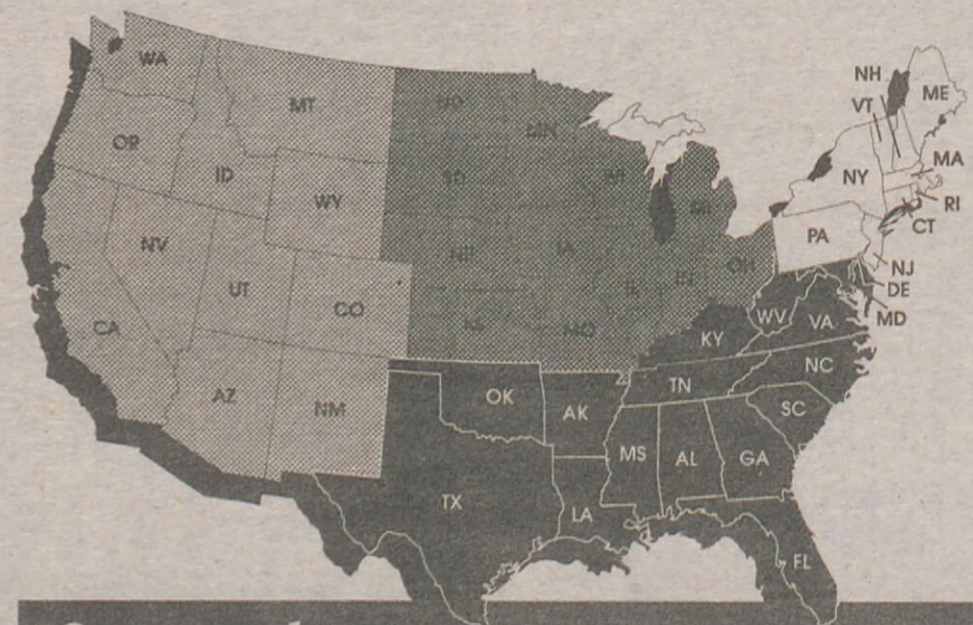


**FEMALE**  
Strongly favor: 12.9%  
Favor: 27.8%  
Oppose: 22.6%  
Strongly oppose: 27.1%

### Race

**WHITE**  
Strongly favor: 10.9%  
Favor: 28.6%  
Oppose: 25%  
Strongly oppose: 28.1%

**BLACK**  
Strongly Favor: 6.5%  
Favor: 24.6%  
Oppose: 19.3%  
Strongly oppose: 34.8%



### Geography

**SOUTH**  
Strongly favor: 9.2%  
Favor: 18.8%  
Oppose: 27.7%  
Strongly oppose: 35.1%

**WEST**  
Strongly Favor: 12.4%  
Favor: 33.8%  
Oppose: 15.8%  
Strongly oppose: 21.7%

**MIDWEST**  
Strongly favor: 9.5%  
Favor: 32.8%  
Oppose: 22.2%  
Strongly oppose: 27.2%

**NORTHEAST**  
Strongly favor: 8.8%  
Favor: 37.4%  
Oppose: 27.1%  
Strongly oppose: 21.2%

ducted by Field Poll, a nonpartisan polling organization, released March 22 reflected the same increase in acceptance of gay marriage.

The poll found that in February, 43 percent of California respondents approved of equal marriage rights. A 1997 poll found that 38 percent of those surveyed supported same-sex marriage.

The Pew poll also showed a growing majority favor overturning the ban on gays serving openly in the military.

In a 1994 poll, 52 percent of respondents opposed the ban. This year, 60 percent of those polled favored lifting the military ban.

"In virtually every community, constituents are sending a clear message to their elected leaders that the time has come to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "Congressional leaders should heed their constituents and lift the ban."

### End of backlash or real progress?

While gay rights groups applauded the poll results, the cause of the changing poll numbers was difficult to determine, but some experts said the Massachusetts court decision created a backlash against gay rights, which is beginning to recede with time.

"With the heat of the 2004 election behind people, and the drama surrounding the Massachusetts Supreme Court decision, it sort of faded from the public's attention," said Michael Dimock, associate director at Pew. "A lot of people don't feel particularly strongly about this issue."

When the issue is not in the headlines, people's "default" response appears to be "let people do what they want to do," said Dimock.

"Is it possible for gay marriage to be a politicized issue the way it may have been in 2004?" said Dimock. "The next time a politician tries to use that issue, maybe it doesn't resonate."

John Samples, a public-opinion analyst for the conservative think tank Cato Institute, said that polling data from the upcoming midterm elections in November will help determine how an election year impacts opinions on gay rights issues. During recent election campaigns, politicians have framed gay marriage as a threat to heterosexual marriage, he said.

"Without an election, people may think of it in personal terms or they might not think about it," said Samples.

The issue is likely to land back in the headlines in June, when Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), a likely 2008 presidential candidate, has scheduled a vote on a constitutional amendment to ban states from marrying gay couples.

### GOP opinions change

The Pew poll also showed a decline in strong opposition to equal marriage rights among Republicans surveyed. In July 2003, 43 percent of Republicans strongly opposed same-sex marriage. That number jumped to 59 percent in 2004, but declined back down to 41 percent in Pew's most recent survey.

The numbers show that Republicans in Washington, D.C., do not reflect the views of GOP voters, said Patrick Guerriero, president of Log Cabin Republicans, a gay

Republican group.

"The radical right has claimed somehow that gay rights are out of step with America," said Guerriero. "It's the extreme right that's out of step with America. The LGBT movement is no longer a creature of just the left."

But this apparent growing acceptance of gay marriage is not reflected among Democratic or Republican politicians, as the overwhelming majority of elected officials do not support equal marriage rights.

It's a position that is not limited to gay marriage, said Schaeffer of People for the American Way.

Even though most Americans support employment nondiscrimination laws, the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act is still stalled in Congress, Schaeffer pointed out.

### Blacks oppose adoption: poll

African Americans polled by Pew remained as opposed to gay adoption in the recent poll as they were in a 1999 survey. On the question of allowing gays to adopt, 58 percent of African-American respondents were opposed, the same percentage as in 1999. Fifty-eight percent of African-Americans who identified as evangelical Protestants also opposed gay adoption.

Fifty-seven percent of white Americans who were polled said they opposed gay adoption in 1999, but by 2006 that number dropped to 48 percent opposed. Among white Americans who identified themselves as evangelical Protestants, opposition was much higher: About 75 percent opposed it in both 1999 and 2006.

### MORE INFO

Pew Research Center  
1615 L St., NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-419-4350  
<http://people-press.org>

## national news

## Some gay couples 'married' and 'single' at tax time

Mass., Vt. only states to allow joint returns

By ANDREW KEEGAN

It wasn't a complicated state tax form that led Boston resident Michelle Forney to make a mistake this year. Rather, it was forgetting to select the box marked "married" for the first time.

"Even though I've had a partner for eight years, I'm used to checking that 'single' box," Forney laughed. "It's a good thing I picked up extra tax forms."

Forney and her partner were legally married in Massachusetts last year and recently filed their first joint state tax return.

But unlike a married straight couple, who would submit one state and one federal return, the lesbian couple filled out a total of four returns: a joint state return, two separate federal returns and one fictitious federal tax return.

The "make-believe" joint federal return was needed to determine the couple's state taxes, which are based on federal figures.

The federal Internal Revenue Service uses marriage to determine your tax filing status, the basis on which the income tax you owe is calculated, and the Defense of Marriage Act prohibits the federal government from recognizing state-issued gay marriage licenses.

"A marriage means only a legal union between a man and a woman as husband and wife," the IRS explains in Publication 501, "Exemptions, Standard Deduction & Filing Information."

The process of filling out multiple returns was far more challenging than Forney expected. "If we didn't have a friend who is a whiz with numbers, we never would have gotten through this," she said.

## Single or married?

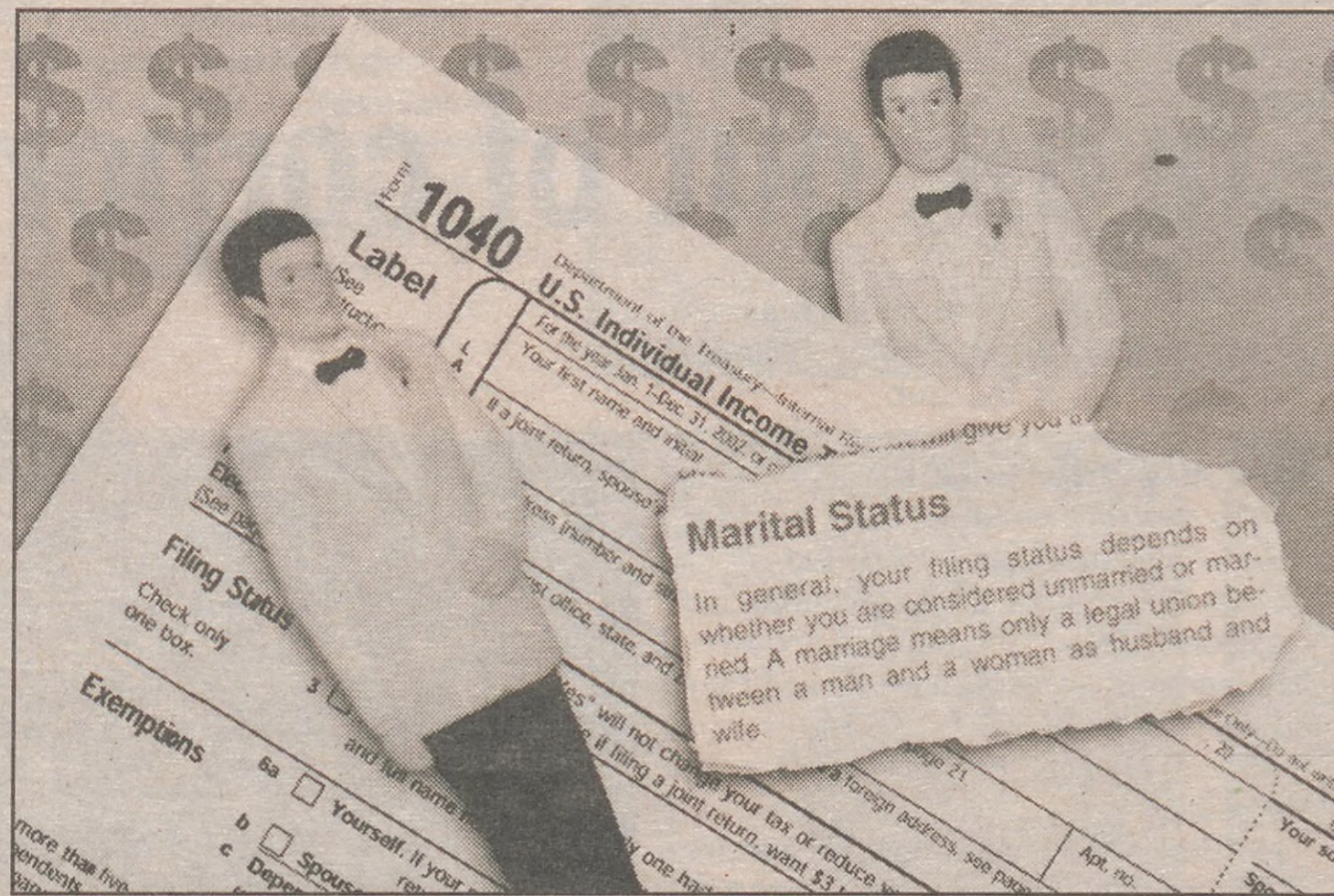
While most gay couples around the country will have to file state income taxes this year under the "single" status, two states — Massachusetts, the only state where gays can marry, and Vermont, which offers same-sex civil unions — currently allow gay partners to file together.

In both states, individual partners cannot file as "single" on state tax returns but must always select "single" on federal income tax returns.

And gay couples in Massachusetts need to do careful research before deciding whether to file their married state returns jointly or separately, according to the founder of PridePlanners, a national association that educates financial professionals on financial changes affecting gays.

"By filing jointly, some couples pay more in taxes and others less. It all depends on their income," Debra Neiman said. "Massachusetts has certain deductions that actually penalize married joint filers."

Neiman said she has numerous gay



Gay couples in two states are enjoying the privilege, and headache, of filing joint state income tax returns. But they still must file federal taxes separately. (Photo illustration by John Nail)

clients who opt for married filing separately.

While the approach of April 15, the last day taxes can be filed without a penalty, is nerve-racking enough, the process of filing jointly can be even more stressful for gay couples. Because the IRS will not accept married tax filings from same-sex couples, gay married couples must spend more time and money doing their taxes.

"From [an accountant's] standpoint, the process of preparing tax returns for married same-sex couples is quite cumbersome," Neiman said. "It involves creating

several copies of the returns and manually adjusting the returns to reflect the correct filing status. It is more labor intensive to prepare these returns than returns for non-gay married couples."

Next year, gay couples in Connecticut will also have the opportunity to file joint returns. Last April, Gov. Jodi Rell signed a law allowing civil unions for gay couples.

The state will allow joint tax returns for gay couples beginning with the 2006 filing year, according to Jane Griffith, a financial adviser in New Haven. The filing statuses on the state

forms will be "civil union filing jointly" and "civil union filing separately," according to Griffith. It will be illegal for someone in a registered civil union to file single.

But in California, where a wide-ranging domestic partner law went into effect Jan. 1, 2005, registered domestic partners still must file their state taxes as "single."

## Federal filing

Alphonso David, a staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Network, said it is critical for all legally married gay couples, regardless of where they reside, to submit an addendum with their federal tax forms.

Lambda advises each partner to check the "single" filing status box on the federal tax form but place an asterisk next to the box.

Included with the form should be a cover letter indicating the taxpayer is married to a same-sex partner and is filing single in light of the Defense of Marriage Act, passed in 1996, which defines marriage as a union between a man and woman.

David said the additional step is necessary to prevent the single status from being used against married partners, such as in applying for a joint mortgage or spousal insurance benefits.

And all gay couples — regardless of whether they are legally married — must deal with a variety of questions on their federal tax returns that married heterosexuals don't face.

Gay couples who receive domestic partner benefits will find themselves paying more taxes than if they were married, and must decide if the benefits outweigh the costs. With most health benefits, the employee pays part of the cost and the employer pays part of the cost.

Unlike with spouse benefits, the employer's contribution towards D.P. benefits is taxable income for the employee.

Couples who own a home together must decide who gets to deduct the interest paid on their mortgage, couples who are both legal parents to their children must figure out who should claim the kids as their dependents, and there are myriad other issues.

But filing as single on federal tax returns does create some potential perks for gay couples, according to Marta Shen, a financial consultant with the Atlanta-based firm Spring Street Financial.

The key to saving money is to look at the couple's taxes as a whole, so that the total paid by both partners is less.

The person who earns the most should take most deductions, and the partner making less money should claim as much of the income as possible, Shen said.

Gay couples can also find ways to lower their taxes when claiming dependents, Shen said.

In gay families where only one partner is legal parent to their children — because second-parent or joint gay adoption isn't allowed in their area — there is no choice in who can claim the child as a dependent.

## Common tax questions for gay couples

**Editors' note:** This is a general guide. Each gay couple's circumstances are different. Consult with your tax adviser to see how these issues will impact your situation.

• **I receive health insurance through my partner's domestic partner benefits. Do I have to pay taxes on the benefits, or does my partner?**

Your partner will have to pay taxes on imputed income for the D.P. benefits that her company provides.

• **My partner and I own our home jointly. Who can deduct the mortgage interest? Do we have to split it, or can one of us take the whole deduction?**

If the mortgage is held jointly, technically the person who pays is the person who gets to deduct. However, there is a taxpayer I.D. where the mortgage interest is reported on form 1098 and that person is the "primary" person on the mortgage and person the IRS "connects" with the mortgage.

If the person that is not the primary takes it, it's best to have an attachment to both returns explaining it.

Oftentimes, CPAs will look at it both ways to see the ramification if one partner (usually the one that makes more) takes it or if they split it, and

what percent each should take to make it the most beneficial.

• **My partner and I have a joint savings account that earns taxable interest. Who claims the interest as income on our taxes?**

Again, there is a "primary" person who the IRS connects the interest to who gets the 1099-INT. Usually, it's best to have the partner earning less to report since it'll be in a lower tax bracket.

• **I work outside of the home, and my partner is a stay-at-home parent. Can I claim my partner as a dependent on my taxes?**

Most accountants will be OK with this as long as the five dependency tests above are met.

• **I work outside of the home, and my partner, who has HIV, receives disability checks. Can I claim him as my dependent?**

It depends. If the five tests above are met, then usually you can claim him as a dependent. However, the big question is if it will jeopardize any benefits, like Medicare, Medicaid and or SSI. That's a question that is best left to an attorney specializing in this field.

Source: Marta Shen, JD, CPA, CFP, financial consultant with the Atlanta-based firm of Spring Street Financial, a branch of Commonwealth Financial Network.

## Life after Enron, out of corporate closet

After losing it all, Deb Gebhardt looks to the future with hope

By DEBORAH MONCRIEF BELL

It is hard to imagine that Deb Gebhardt, bright and vivacious in a way that might even be described as "bubbly," is a woman coping with having lost everything as well as dealing with a life-threatening illness. One of the thousands of former Enron employees who were caught in the aftermath of the now-infamous corporate scandal, she is struggling to rebuild her life.

Gebhardt got started with the company in August 1998 via connections made through her former husband, an Enron employee who left before the company's downfall. Her role was as a community relations specialist, handling volunteer coordination for employees and doing fundraising for Jeff Skilling, Enron's chief executive officer, now on trial for his part in the scandal.

Gebhardt says despite everything she has high respect for Skilling, considering him and his wife Rebecca, "wonderful people."

"There was a very philanthropic atmosphere within the company. Jeff helped to raise money for causes A to Z," Gebhardt says. "It is a real shame that greed got in the way of that."

An animal rights advocate, Gebhardt was largely responsible for bringing Enron's support to the Spay and Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP), being one of the group's original board members. She

put together the program for the Diabetes Association the year they honored Skilling as Man of the Year.

### The corporate closet

The environment at Enron was one of homophobia, in Gebhardt's opinion.

"No one was out there, including my immediate boss," she says. There were gay men and lesbians, but like her, they all were very closeted.

"Even Michael Kopper wasn't out," she said.

Michael Kopper worked for former chief financial officer Andrew Fastow as managing director of Enron Global Finance. Quitting the company months before its collapse, Kopper was the first executive associated with the scandal to face indictment. He had run an illegal Enron subsidiary, Chewco, and later turned it over to his domestic partner, William D. Dodson.

By listing his partner, Dodson, as an investor, he was able to fly under the regulatory radar which would not have been the case had they been legal spouses. Although not officially "out" within the company this arrangement apparently was made with the knowledge of and may even have been crafted by one of his supervisors.

The consensus from most accounts is that Enron employed a good percentage of gays who were closeted because it was a conservative workplace. Sexual orientation was part of Enron's equal opportunity statement, and it had non-discrimination and same-sex partner health-care policies. But Enron didn't have a GLBT employees' organization, unusual for a corporation of its size.

But being out in the workplace "wasn't a big issue," another gay ex-Enron employee, Brandon Rigney, says. "There just wasn't any talk of it officially."

Deb Rogers was a paralegal at Enron from 1998 to 2000, and says that her experience was totally opposite that of Gebhardt. Rogers says she came out of the closet at Enron.

"Everyone lumps all of Enron into one culture, and it just wasn't that way," she said. "I was in legal, and I saw and heard quite a lot. I don't think anyone could say, factually, that all of Enron was like that."

Rogers think a good comparison, in terms of acceptance and support of GLBT employees, would be Shell Oil.

"Shell is very GLBT-friendly on paper and in certain divisions," Rogers says. "But there are still going to be some divisions, supervisors, environment where it isn't OK to be out, despite the corporate line from above."



Still as active as she can be while waiting for disability benefits and an operation to repair her heart valve, Deb Gebhardt volunteers with the Diana Foundation, Saving Animals Across Borders, A Christmas Songfest, the Kindred Spirits Reunion Celebration and Gordon Setter Rescue.

### Life goes on

Returning to work after being out on short-term disability due to her diagnosis of myocardial disease, Gebhardt soon was caught up in the cycle of layoffs as the story of the company's dirty dealings unraveled, leaving in August of 2001.

Not being in the upper management echelon at Enron, she hardly faced the loss of millions. She did, however, lose her house, car, 401K and had to file for bankruptcy. But it was the loss of the most basic of benefits that dealt her the worst blow. No longer having health insurance and faced with what is considered a terminal illness, along with the complication of a leaky heart valve, Gebhardt could not secure other insurance.

Gebhardt turned to her family in western Massachusetts to come to her aid. She has only recently returned to Houston after being hospitalized, and is recuperating. When she left Houston her friends helped her sell most of her belongings while she was gone, she says, but is thankful she still has one of her most precious possessions, Charlie, her rescued pet, a Gordon Setter.

Amazingly, she says she holds no ill will against anyone connected to the company and has moved on. She is, at the age of 55, a single woman starting over.

"I can't run my life by agonizing over what happened," she says. "At this point I'm just happy to be alive."

### MORE INFO

**Diana Awards Dinner & Cabaret**  
Saturday, April 1, 7-11 p.m.  
Bella Terrazza  
2840 Chimney Rock Rd.  
Houston  
\$150 tickets  
713-639-2000

**Kindred Spirits Reunion Celebration**  
Saturday, April 29, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.  
Edwin Hornberger Center  
2151 W. Holcombe Blvd.  
Houston  
\$20 advance tickets; \$25 at the door  
713-523-2521  
[www.KindredSpiritsHouston.org](http://www.KindredSpiritsHouston.org)

# out in houston



## Kind Krewe checks

The PFLAG/HATCH Scholarship Fund, Lesbian Health Initiative, Legacy Community Health Services (formerly the Assistance Fund and Montrose Clinic) and PWA Holiday Charities each received a check for \$4,200 from the Krewe of Olympus at a March 26 ceremony.



## 'Brokeback' Bingo

Texas Gay Rodeo Association members **Martha Hilton**, left, **Jim Soefje**, **Scottie Scott**, **Greg Griffin** and **Jess Yeary** enjoy a 'Brokeback' version of Queer Bingo at Club 1415, benefiting Houston's GLBT Community Center.



## Out at Tuts

Cast members of Theatre Under the Stars' 'Beauty & The Beast' pose with audience members for OUT at TUTS night at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts.



## Club Touch

Owners **Johnathan Weisman** (second from left) and **Josh Weisman** are surrounded by dancers from Grupo Cafu Capoeira at the grand opening of Club Touch.



## Softball Sue

Houston City Councilmember At Large Position 2 **Sue Lovell** toss the first ball at Montrose Softball League's opening day in Memorial Park.

**Your Agent. Your Advocate.**

**Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency**

6575 West Loop South, Suite 185  
Bellaire, Texas 77401  
713.661.7700  
www.schmerleragency.com

**Jason Garcia**  
10 Years Experience

**FARMERS**

**Auto Home Renters Life Health Business And much more!**

Resurrection MCC's Sanctuary Choir  
presents John Rutter's

# REQUIEM

**Good Friday Service**  
**April 14, 2006**  
**7 PM**

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**HOLLYWOOD**  
*Bistro*

**NOW LATE NIGHT BREAKFAST!**  
• Available 10pm Until Close •

**Bistro Open**  
9am - 2am • Weekdays  
9am - 3am • Weekends  
Breakfast 10pm Until Close

**BREAKFAST MENU INCLUDES:**

- Pancakes
- Eggs & Bacon
- Omelettes
- Country Breakfast
- Biscuits & Gravy
- Quiche
- Fresh Fruit
- ...and more!!

**IN THE HEART OF MONTROSE BEHIND SOUTH BEACH**  
2409 GRANT ST. 713-523-8859

## EDITORIAL & PRODUCTION

Executive Editor CHRIS CRAIN

Editor NANCY FORD

Art Director ROB BOEGER

Production Manager ERIC GOINES

Graphic Designer SPENCER TOMCZAK

Graphic Designer LISA HENDERSON

Correspondents ERIC ERVIN, DYANA BAGBY, KELLY CARSON, LOU CHIBBARO, JR., MUBARAK DAHIR, MIKE FLEMING, JOHNNY HOOKS, PHIL LAPADULA, RYAN LEE, BRIAN MOYLAN, KEVIN NAFF, ANDY ZEFFER

Contributors DON MAINES, DAWN RORIE, ELLA TYLER, J.A. CHAPMAN AND RICH ARENSCHIEDT

Photographers DALTON DEHART,

KIMBERLY THOMPSON

Webmaster ARAM VARTIAN

Assistant Webmaster STEVE RYAN

## SALES & ADMINISTRATION

Sales Manager

ED ALVAREZ

ealvarez@houstonvoice.com

Classified Sales / Office Administrator

JOHNNY HOOKS

jhooks@houstonvoice.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media • 212-242-6863

## A Window Media Publication

PUBLISHER Window Media LLC

PRESIDENT Peter Polimino

EXEC. V.P. EDITORIAL Chris Crain

ART DIRECTOR Rob Boeger

C.O.O. Mike Kitchens

C.F.O. Steve Myers

EXEC. V.P. SALES Steven Guerrini



**the chamber**  
the greater houston gbit chamber of commerce

CHARTER MEMBER

Established 1974 as the *Montrose Star*.

500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200  
Houston, Texas 77006  
(713) 529-8490  
Fax: (713) 529-9531  
www.houstonvoice.com

Office hours: 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays

### To submit a letter

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

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

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

# Forum

## editorial

# A tale of three Talibans

As Bush and conservatives cry foul over Abdul Rahman, their main ally in Iraq is calling for the murder of gays, who they would imprison here in the U.S. just for having sex.

By CHRIS CRAIN

**T**HE CASE OF ABDUL Rahman, the Afghan who faced the death penalty for converting from Islam to Christianity, has become a cause celebre among U.S. conservatives. Because of their

influence over the White House, it's also become a liability for President Bush among the one group of Americans still solidly behind him despite sagging poll numbers.

Rahman was ultimately released over the weekend on a legal technicality that did nothing to resolve the broader issue: The Afghan government's willingness to impose Shariah, or orthodox Islamic law, which requires death for apostasy, the sin of converting to any other faith.

Bush and his conservative allies cast Rahman's plight as a matter of religious freedom, with the president promising last week that he would pressure the Afghan government to "make sure that people are protected in their capacity to worship." But Bush's version of that "universal human right," as he put it, is only half the loaf envisioned by the framers of the U.S. Constitution.

THE PRESIDENT AND HIS EVANGELICAL Christian backers are huge fans of the "free exercise of religion," guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and its export as a "universal human right."

"Free exercise" is central to efforts by evangelicals to spread the word of Christ, at least as they interpret it, and win converts. It's unfathomable to them that their favorite son, President Bush, would have taken our country to war in Afghanistan to install a government that doesn't share their respect for it.

But the U.S. framers understood that the freedom to worship is meaningless if a religion favored by the majority is enshrined as the nation's official faith. That's why the First Amendment's "free exercise" of religion was inexorably tied to what's called "the establishment clause": "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

All the rhetoric in the world promising "freedom of worship" means nothing if

laws can be enacted to limit individual freedom based on nothing more than the religious beliefs of the majority. Even if Afghanistan and other U.S. allies weren't prosecuting Christian converts, there is no religious freedom so long as the Koran is enshrined in a country's constitution and the judiciary is filled with Islamic clerics, as it is in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

IF THE STAKES WEREN'T SO HUGE, AT home and abroad, it would be amusing to watch Bush and his conservative allies act like school pupils, learning the importance of "separation of church and state" — a principle they abhor domestically. The difference between the U.S. and Afghanistan, of course, is that it's a mosque instead of a church that is using the state to impose its rules.

A prime example is Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, which regularly demands U.S. law conform to "Judeo-Christian morals" — as defined by conservative Christians. He was virtually apoplectic at Rahman's plight.

"That there should even be such a trial is an outrage," he said. "How can we congratulate ourselves for liberating Afghanistan from the rule of jihadists only to be ruled by radical Islamists who kill Christians?"

How are Perkins, the FRC and the "American Taliban" any different, except in degree, when they would jail gays in this country for violating their view of biblical morality for the crime/sin of engaging in private consensual sex?

President Bush said he was likewise "deeply troubled" by the prosecution of Rahman, adding, "That's not the universal application of the values that I talked about."

Surprise Mr. President — "family values" in Afghanistan are markedly different than they are for you and your conservative U.S. allies.

So long as Bush and his conservative allies campaign to legislate a particular brand of Christianity into U.S. law, how can they complain when Afghan Muslims do the same?

That's the genius of the framers in tying the "free exercise" of religion to the prohibition against "establishing" an official faith. Not only is the freedom to worship guaranteed, but the variation

HOUSTON VOICE

MARCH 31, 2006

PAGE 10

in teachings among faiths are not imposed by law upon those who do not believe them.

ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, INCLUDING our allies, regularly prosecute gays for the crime of homosexuality, including imprisonment and execution in Saudi Arabia, Iran and under the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Just this month, we learned that the Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the key Shiite religious leader in Iraq, would impose on lesbian and gay Iraqis the same sentence Rahman faced in Afghanistan.

Asked the proper punishment for "sodomy and lesbianism," Sistani issued a fatwa, or religious order, that should spark every bit the outrage of the Rahman case.

"Forbidden," he wrote. "Punished, in fact, killed. The people involved should be killed in the worst, most severe way of killing."

This from the "moderate" religious leader that the White House is counting on to preserve a secular state in Iraq? Whose "wisdom and authority" is praised by Fareed Zakaria, the *Newseek* editor, and other Bush apologists, as evidence of Iraq's responsible leadership?

Sistani's fatwa against gays has been met by silence from the State Department, the president and his conservative allies supposedly concerned about "freedom of religion." Of course, the official murder and imprisonment of gays abroad has never raised the ire of conservative Christians in the U.S., or merited comment from their ally in the White House.

Maybe it will take another high profile case with a Christian victim, facing death or imprisonment not for conversion from Islam or for Christian worship per se, but for living a life according to the principles of the Bible rather than the Koran.

Then perhaps Bush and his allies will finally master the lesson the U.S. framers taught us more than 200 years ago: There is no freedom of religion so long as one faith can be written into law.

The "Taliban" of Afghanistan and Iraq — just like their kinder, gentler counterparts in the U.S. — must be satisfied with making the case for their faith without the use of the state to impose their will.

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



## viewpoint WAYNE BESEN



Even in the 21st century, there are some professions that out gay men and lesbians have more trouble breaking into than others.

# Breaking out of the sports closet

IN HIGH SCHOOL, JASON PAGE PLAYED baseball, basketball and tennis while dating the captain of the cheerleading squad. He dreamt of becoming a sports broadcaster and following graduation, he began his career announcing minor league baseball games in far-flung places such as North Dakota and rural Maryland.

"In this business, you have to pay your dues, and I was willing to go anywhere to pursue my passion," said Page.

There was only one sacrifice Page wasn't willing to make: Staying in the closet.

At the age of 22, he came out publicly in the macho sports world, where homosexuality is still taboo. Indeed, not a single male athlete participating in a team sport has acknowledged he is gay while still actively playing. Page says the mentality in the broadcast booth is similar to that on the playing field.

"It is like a locker room without the uniforms," Page explained. "I am working every day with young people who come from all different parts of America. Maybe they never met someone who is openly gay. Just by existing I'm educating people and hopefully changing minds."

Like the movie "Brokeback Mountain" which challenged the absurd notion that cowboys can't be gay, homosexual athletes and broadcasters also run up against irrational people unwilling to let go of cultural myths.

ONE JUST HAS TO LOOK AT THE bizarre opposition faced by organizers of the Gay Games, an Olympic-style competition for gay and lesbian athletes that will be held in Chicago, beginning July 15.

On March 6, a suburban Chicago park commission voted 2-2 to ban the Gay Games from hosting a rowing competition at Crystal Lake. The event needed three votes in favor to be approved and one of the commissioners was on vacation.

Peter LaBarbera of the Illinois Family Institute, a man best known for playing dress-up at gay leather parties under the auspices of "research," helped fan the flames of intolerance. He pressured the commissioners, calling the sporting event the "homosexuality games" and warned that it would lead to nudity and promiscuous behavior. Although, I still can't figure out how one would be lewd or lascivious with both hands firmly attached to rowing paddles? Perhaps, LaBarbera's time "undercover" in S&M porn palaces has fueled an imagination that could conjure up such physical contortions.

"I do not believe the Crystal Lake Park District should be a vehicle for the promotion of an agenda," said Commissioner David Phelps, apparently swayed by LaBarbera. He was seconded by resident Larry Reyer who told the Chicago Sun-Times, "I do not want these queers coming to my hometown."

Fortunately, the third commissioner



It was difficult for Jason Page to be out in high school, especially since he was a sports star. It didn't get much easier after graduation when he decided to pursue a career in sports broadcasting.

came back and overturned the ridiculous and insulting vote. How spectacular a bigot does one have to be, after all, to virulently oppose a gay athletic event? What next, the Illinois Family Institute will propose separate swimming pools?

WHILE THE RIGHT IS GETTING MORE fringe and shrill, corporate America is on-board and paying the bills. The Gay Games has 179 sponsors, compared to a mere 50 during the last Gay Games in Sydney, Australia. This includes corporate heavyweights such as Kraft, Walgreen's and Harris Bank.

"Times have changed in corporate America since 1994, the last time the Gay Games were in The United States," said Gay Games Vice Co-Chair Kevin Boyer.

What threatens the right wing most, however, is the 12,000 athletes that are expected at the opening ceremonies in Soldier Field. Their entire anti-gay industrial complex is fueled by stereotypes and lies about gay men and lesbians. Indeed, a central tenant to their "cure" for homosexuality is, you guessed it, playing sports. A sea of serious, committed and talented gay athletes not only challenges erroneous assumptions, but it also makes the theories of the far right look every bit as ridiculous as they truly are.

Still, Jason Page looks at his own story and says we have a long way to go before we overcome prejudice in the sports world.

"I'll never forget it," he wistfully recalls. "I walked into the locker room of a minor league team I worked for and one of the athletes screamed, 'fag in the locker room.' I still deal with people who tell stupid jokes or say inappropriate things, and I often challenge them on it."

Today, Page, 28, hosts "The Desk" an interview sports show on Sirius Sports 123, a station on the satellite radio network. He struggles with the unglamorous overnight shift and he often thinks about what his life would have been like if he had remained closeted.

"Look, there is no substitute for being open and honest. Yet, there is also no substitute for doing something you love. I hope I can remain out of the closet and also be successful in this business. Some days I still have my doubts. I just do my best and try to remain positive. But I'd be lying if I said it were easy."

@ Wayne Besen's most recent book, "Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth" has been nominated for two Lambda Literary Awards.

## THE

Looking at your own personal social circle, is it comprised more of men or women? Are they predominantly gay/lesbian or straight?



My circle of friends is comprised of mostly gay men.

MIKEY RAMIREZ, 30  
Houston  
Manager



My social circle is comprised more of gay men and women.

JOSE SAUCEDO, 34  
Houston  
Designer



My personal circle is mainly lesbian women. We just have more to talk about.

CHRISTEN CRAWFORD, 28  
Houston  
Retail Manager



Most of my friends are composed of lesbians because it makes me feel comfortable.

JEANNETTE EDELSTEIN, 21  
Houston  
Retail manager



Predominantly lesbian women, because they are pretty and easy to get along with.

JOHNNY GANT, 31  
Houston  
Engineer

Sound off about what's happening in your world at [www.houstonvoice.com/soundoff](http://www.houstonvoice.com/soundoff).

Interviews and photos by Dalton DeHart

Blue Ball Philadelphia 2006

**FUSION**

New Month. All New Experience.  
MAY 5, 6, 7 2006

Blue Ball now taking place the weekend of Equality Forum. For more information, log on to [www.blueballphilly.com](http://www.blueballphilly.com)

GENRE, Washington Blade, FINLANDIA, CHIPPY, Instinct, CONTACT, PASSPORT

## on the record



"What kind of father would take his own daughter's rights away? And what kind of father might hate his own daughter if she were gay? I can only imagine what the first lady has to say. You've come a long way from whiskey and cocaine."

Lyrics from "Dear Mr. President," a song from Pink's new album "I'm Not Dead"

"Finally, an award that actually means something. ... Some of these are very meaningful to me. OK, there was that one that got away, but that's OK."

"Brokeback Mountain" director Ang Lee, accepting the best picture award at the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's Media Awards in New York; Lee said it was the last "Brokeback" award he would accept personally (Reuters, March 27)

"From day one, defendants fully intended the film would not be made on a low budget, would be given a worldwide release and would be supported as the studio picture it always was secretly intended to be."

From a lawsuit filed by actor Randy Quaid against producers of "Brokeback Mountain," who Quaid claims tricked him into working for far less than his usual seven-figure fee by falsely claiming they were making a small art house film (Reuters, March 24)

"Let's face it. In our lifetimes, we've seen our country go from 'Leave It to Beaver' to 'Beavis & Butt-head,' from Barney Fife to Barney Frank, from 'Father Knows Best' to television shows where father knows nothing."

Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a likely candidate for the 2008 Republican nomination for president, to an audience of Christian conservatives in Iowa, home of the first primary (Los Angeles Times, March 25)



"I am not convinced that just because our foster children desperately need loving homes that we should just place them in homes that are available when research also shows that most homosexual couples have numerous emotional dysfunctions and psychological issues that may not be healthy for children."

Tennessee state Rep. Debra Young Maggart (R-Hendersonville), on her support for a bill to ban gays from adopting foster children in their care (Out & About Nashville, March 25)

"I was most intrigued in the debate by the absurd ideology advocated by the Christian Democrats, ... who argue that family should have advantages since, unlike homosexual couples, it brings children to life. This is the concept of family as a sort of calf shed in which bulls can inseminate cows so that calves are born."

Former Czech president Vaclav Havel, on a vote overriding a presidential veto enacting registered partnerships for gay couples (Prague Monitor, March 25)

"The Bible says that God punishes depravity first through plagues against animals and then in people."

Rabbi David Basri, a prominent Jerusalem advocate of Kabbalah, on his hope that the deaths of hundreds of thousands of turkeys and chickens from bird flu would atone for growing Israeli support for gay marriage; Kabbalah is a form of Jewish mysticism favored by many celebrities, including Madonna (Reuters, March 21)

"Maybe I'm a gay man trapped in a woman's body?"

Madonna, asked why she is an icon for so many gay men ("BBC America," to be aired April 15)



# ARE YOU A JOCK?

ARE YOU PARTICIPATING IN GAY GAMES CHICAGO AND/OR OUT GAMES MONTREAL?

THEN YOU WOULD BE A PERFECT FIT TO BE OUR MAY 2006 GENRE MAN FOR YOUR CITY.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT MIKE KOKELL AT [MKOKELL@GENREMAGAZINE.COM](mailto:MKOKELL@GENREMAGAZINE.COM) OR 212-594-8181 X107



## Pillar of the community

Gay fans love Latin diva's reggaeton beats and suggestive lyrics

By JOEY GUERRA

"COME WITH ME AND LIVE IN SOUTH BEACH," coos Mexican diva Pilar Montenegro on the lush title track of her fifth album. "It's a place with bright sun and without prejudices."

It's a call that should resonate strongly with gay fans of the sexy singer and actress, whose reggaeton-fueled "South Beach" disc was released late last year.

Montenegro is supporting the project with a gay club tour sponsored by Club Papi and the Granda Group of Companies, who have produced similar events with Latin divas Lucia Mendez, Fey, La India and Mariana Seoane. The recent Gloria Trevi gay club tour played to sold-out houses all over the country and attracted widespread media attention.

"The gay community is a super-loyal audience, super-affectionate. When they have an artist that they like, they follow her and support her until the end," Montenegro says during a recent phone chat. She lives in Mexico but spends much time working in Miami.

"I feel like I am a much-loved artist in for the gay community. I feel very happy to do this tour and share this new album with the public," she adds. "It's such an important audience. It's a large audience. The fans are true. They support you, they buy your album, and they sing your songs."

Gay fans will likely warm to the urban grooves and suggestive lyrics of "South Beach". The album is filled with hip-swiveling reggaeton rhythms, anchored by slinky vocals and a host of guest vocalists, including Voltio, Maestro, Machito Ponce, GQ, Joselito and Big Mann.

Its first single, Noche de Adrenalina, features genre superstar Don Omar and is also included in pop and cumbia versions.

For the uninitiated, reggaeton is a hybrid of reggae, dancehall, tropical music and American hip-hop. The genre's most consistent feature is a driving drum-machine beat that is nearly identical in every song.

Juan Gabriel's Hasta Que te Conoci becomes a tick-tock soul treat, sprinkled with tropical flavor; and Como te Extrano blends slick vocal effects with a beat reminiscent of Missy Elliott's biggest hits. Even the synth-heavy Adicta is a pleasing pop treat.

The disc was recorded in Miami and produced by Adrian Posse (and Montenegro's ex-husband, Jorge Reynoso), whose high-wattage credits include projects with Celine Dion, Luis Miguel, Christina Aguilera, Thalia and Paulina Rubio.

South Beach is Montenegro's second disc of reggaeton tunes, following 2004's EuroReggaeton, a bilingual collaboration with singer Gizelle D'Cole.

"I really like reggaeton. It's based in a very sensual rhythm," Montenegro says. "South Beach (the city) is very associated with music — reggaeton — and with many nationalities. That's why we called the album 'South Beach'."

Not surprisingly, there have been grumblings in the reggaeton world about Montenegro's genuine interest in the genre. The singer first made her mark as an interpreter of ballads and norteno music, so some see this as a calculated career move.

Still, Montenegro is hardly the first artist to incorporate reggaeton into her music. Shakira, Ricky Martin, Rubio and Thalia have all incorporated it into their



Actress and singer Pilar Montenegro says she recognizes the impact a 'gay following' can have on an artist's success.

### **i** MORE INFO

Club Papi presents Pilar Montenegro

March 31, 9 p.m.

Rich's Houston

2401 San Jacinto St.

Houston

\$15 general admission

\$60 VIP tickets include a meet-and-greet with Montenegro

713-759-9606

www.richs-houston.com

Please see **PILAR MONTENEGRO** on Page 14

**NIGHTLIFE:** There's no fool like an April Fool, and Houston proves it with fun and funny events. **Page 15**

**DINING:** Be smart, go Tart. Montrose's newest eatery offers treats for breakfast, lunch or leisure. **Page 16**

## eclipse

## Singer knows gays can make or break career

PILAR MONTENEGRO, continued from Page 13

sounds. English-language artists Jasmine Trias and the Black Eyed Pease have dabbled in the genre, and reggaeton king Daddy Yankee has crossed over to heavy MTV play.

"YOU ALWAYS BEGIN BY THINKING THAT it's going to go well and you're positive, but you don't know where you're going to end up," Montenegro says. "You never know if you're going to have much success or not. You never imagine."

Success has come frequently for Montenegro, who began her career as a member of the short-lived group, Fresas Con Crema (Strawberries With Cream). She went on to greater exposure as a member of co-ed pop group Garibaldi, who scored a slew of radio hits.

Montenegro also honed her acting chops on novellas — those wildly popular Mexican soap operas — including *Volver a Empezar*, *Marisol*, *Gotita de Amor* and *Te Amare en Silencio*.

The pinnacle of success, however, came in 2002, when Montenegro released the inescapable single, *Quitame Ese Hombre*. The song —

which benefited from norteno, ballad and dance versions — stayed atop Billboard magazine's Hot Latin Tracks chart for more than three months and pushed sales of accompanying album "Desahogo" past the 200,000 mark.

"That was a time in my life where, thanks to God, I had much success, but you don't realize it in that moment. You're so busy, and you're in everything. You don't have the moment to enjoy the success until after. Now I see it, and I say, 'Wow!'"

These days, the schedule remains equally busy. Montenegro recently competed on "Bailando Por un Sueno", Mexico's answer to "Dancing with the Stars", and she is debating the sound of her next disc.


It's a hectic juggling act, but one the talented beauty seems to relish, despite its drawbacks.

"It's a great satisfaction to be able to be working in what you like, but you have to pay a price," Montenegro says. "There's a sacrifice to make — a costly one, because your personal life stops being private. You don't see your family. You're traveling all the time. You have to pay a price, but the reward is worth it."



'The gay community is a super-loyal audience, super-affectionate. When they have an artist that they like, they follow her and support her until the end.'

TOYS FOR MEN



## Rated Houston's Best Novelty Store

# Σrōs

1207 Proudly Gay Owned & Operated

gifts clothing books toys music novelties...

713-944-6010 • 1207 Spencer Hwy • S. Houston • I-45 to College Exit, right 2 miles • OPEN DAILY!

## HEMORRHOIDS?



**Why Suffer Needlessly?**  
 Non-Surgical "Lunch-Hour" Procedure  
 Virtually Painless • Affordable  
**PARK PLAZA GASTROENTEROLGY & ASSOCIATES**  
 Experienced Board Certified M.D.  
 Plaza Medical Center • Museum District

1200 Binz Street • Suite 1198  
 713.522.1788  
 www.FredWorthMD.com



**ALL DAY  
 EVERY DAY**

**ALL THE NEWS  
 FOR YOUR Life  
 AND YOUR Style  
 AT YOUR Speed**

**houston  
 VOICE**

# nightlife JOHNNY HOOKS

## It's April, you dancing fool

With the time change, you may lose an hour of sleep, but you'll gain a bunch of good fun

HOVO ON THE GO-GO RETURNS FOR the first week of April. The week ahead sees a lot of fun-filled activities for Houston gay men and lesbians, like the return of Austin D.J. Chris Allen to Guava Lamp, the Diana Awards, the IBP Super Gala 2006 and a benefit for the Colt 45's AIDS Trouble Fund.

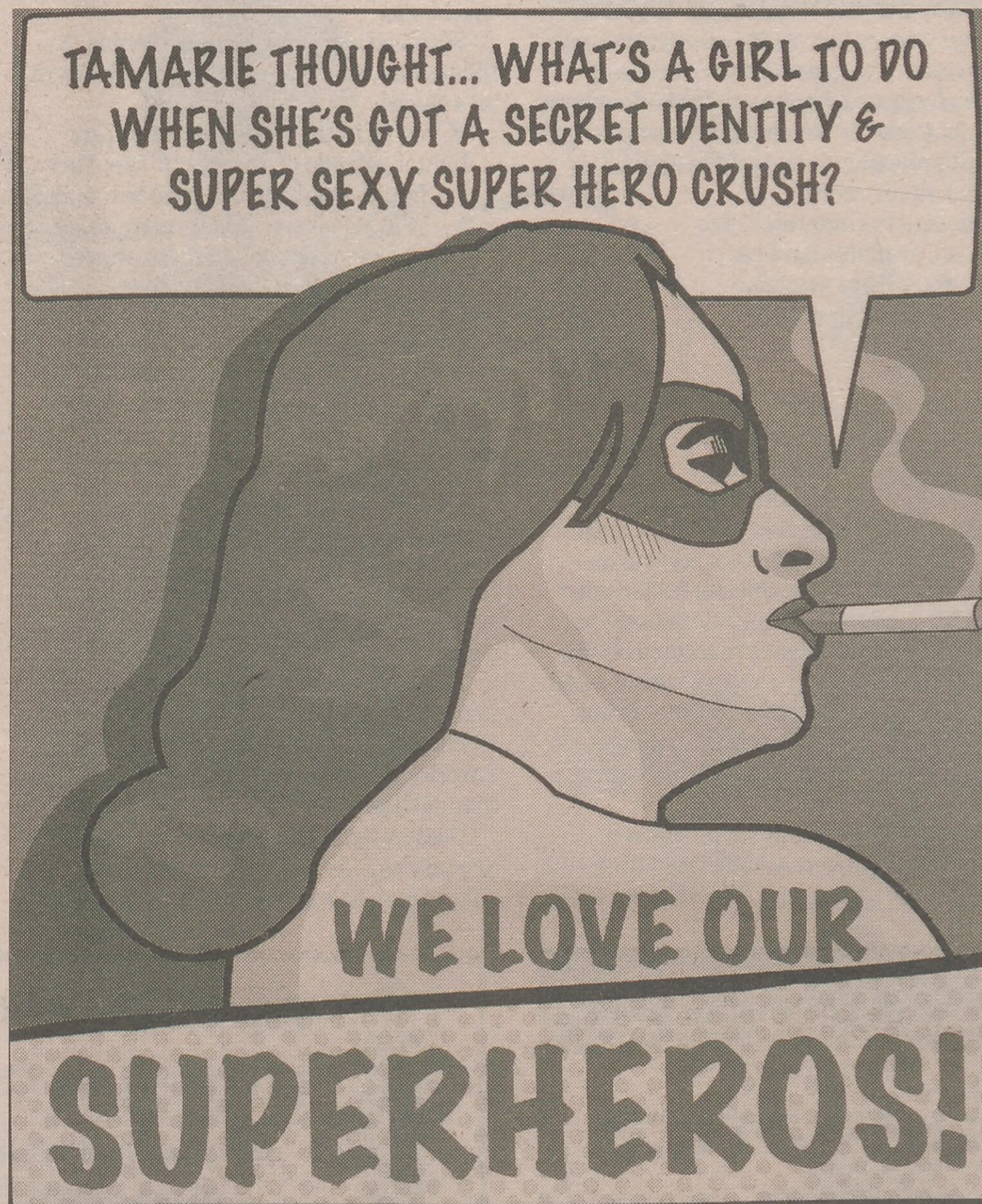
WHY IS IT THAT SOME NIGHTS ARE packed with events and others are completely empty? Both Friday, March 31 and Saturday April 1, you'll have to pick and choose where you'll be and where you'll end up. Don't forget, you lose an hour on Saturday, so if you are out at 2 a.m. it's really 3 a.m. No fooling!

ON FRIDAY, MARCH 31, AUSTIN D.J. **Chris Allen** — whose motto is "Life may not be the party we had hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance" — returns to the **Guava Lamp** stage for a special one night only engagement you won't want to miss! Make your plans to come hang out with friends, drink, and party on while D.J. Allen provides the hits to make the memories complete. It's gonna be absolutely delicious, kids. Guava Lamp is located at 570 Waugh Dr. and D'Amico St. Call them at 713-524-3359.

ALSO ON MARCH 31, **THE ALLEY Theatre** begins previews of **Austin Pendleton's** recent Off-Broadway hit, "**Orson's Shadow**" a backstage comedy about Orson Welles, Vivien Leigh, and Laurence Olivier. Pendleton is perhaps best known for his hilarious portrayal of Frederick Larrabee, of the "Larrabee Foundation" in the Barbra Streisand comedy "What's Up Doc?" The play is a clever re-imagining of a moment in 1960 when the- atrical titans Orson Welles, Sir Laurence Olivier, Joan Plowright, Vivien Leigh and critic Kenneth Tynan came together for a production of Ionesco's "Rhinoceros."

The cast of "Orson's Shadow" features Alley Theatre's resident company actors James Black as Laurence Olivier, Jeffrey Bean as Kenneth Tynan and Elizabeth Heflin as Vivien Leigh. Elizabeth Bunch is Joan Plowright and Chris Hutchison is Sean. Wilbur Edwin Henry makes his Alley debut as Orson Welles.

"Orson's Shadow" opens its regular run on Wednesday, April 5 and plays through Sunday, April 30. Tickets to "Orson's Shadow" can be purchased at [www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org), or at the Alley Theatre box office, 615 Texas Ave., or by calling 713/228-8421. Tickets to preview



Slap on powerpacks and protective bracelets for Infernal Bridegroom Productions' 'Superpowered Gala'.

performances are \$29; tickets to performances after the Wednesday, April 5 opening range from \$41-\$46.

SATURDAY, APRIL, 1 THE DIANA Foundation presents the **53rd Annual Diana Awards Dinner & Cabaret** at Bella Terrazza, 2840 Chimney Rock. This black tie event, called "The South Will be Haute Again!" runs from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. and has the fabulous **C.C. Ryder** as emcee, a high cotton silent auction, with entertainment provided by **Jerry Atwood** and **Rick Comeaux** as well as **Terry Pierce** and **Glynda McGinnis**. This year's Diana's benefits **AssistHers** and tickets will run you \$150 per person. Contact the wonderful **Marion Coleman** at 713-523-2521 for tix and info.

IF THE DIANA'S AREN'T ON YOUR agenda, how about the **Infernal Bridegroom Productions 2006 gala**? This superhero themed evening is called the "**Superpowered Gala**," and will play out at David Adickes studio at 2500 Summer St. from 8 p.m. until midnight. Dinner and drinks will be provided by the haute cuisine hot spot, bistro moderne,

and Last Concert Café, Shade, Treebeards and New Belgium Brewing, among others and the night features a silent auction as large as the bulge in Superman's tights!

The IBP Band performs, or you can battle super villains to the sounds of DJ Kevin Bakos. Superhero costumes, either ripped from the pages of your fave comic book or your own twisted imagination are encouraged. Individual tickets are only \$75, about the cost of Spiderman's weekly dry cleaning bill.

FINALLY, ON SUNDAY, APRIL 2 AT 8 p.m. grab your partner and dos-a-dos (yes, that's how it is spelled) on over to the **BRB** for the Honkey Tonk Heros & Angels "**Redneck Revenge**." This evening of good ol' down home fun will feature your two favorite kinds of music, country and western, a barn full of performers and guest hosts, hee-haw humor and special prize give-a-ways. All this southern comfort benefits the **Colt 45's** Trouble Fund, a rent and utility assistance program for people with AIDS. The BRB is located at 2400 Brazos St. and can be reached at 713-528-9192.

# appts.

## FRIDAY MARCH 31

Join **EPAH** (the Executive and Professional Association of Houston) tonight for its networking happy hour at the Contemporary Arts Museum's "Steel Lounge." EPAH was formed in April 1978 in Houston to provide a non-political forum for discussion of business and community affairs, foster social and business relationships, and to support educational and/or charitable causes. Find out about their monthly dinner meetings and two major fundraisers, "Leather and Lace" and "The Military Ball." The "Steel Lounge" runs from 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. at 5216 Montrose Blvd. Call EPAH at 281-587-6066 for more info.

## SATURDAY APRIL 1

**Team Houston** is hosting an informational Gay Games promotional event at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church in the Activities Building, 2025 W. 11 St., from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Sanford Smith, Gay Games Key Cities Manager for Houston, will be answering questions and get those interested signed up for the Gay Games. Please feel free to send representatives who can answer questions about your team, league, organization, club or sport. This is a no-cost-to-you opportunity to promote your organization to the active Houston GLBT sports community. You can also register for the Gay Games, look for roommates to share a hotel room in Chicago, meet other Team Houston athletes, fans and spectators as well as join Team Houston (with a paid membership). Joining gets you the Team Houston uniform and event package for the Gay Games and Outgames this summer. Call 713-861-9149 for complete details.

Houston Voice Editor Nancy Ford is the special guest emcee for the concert by the **Houston Pride Band** at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11 St. beginning at 7 p.m. This April Fool's Day concert, called "Music and Laughter: The Universal Languages" highlights comedy in music, from the slightly funny to the absurdly ridiculous. On the program are Malcolm Arnold's Grand, Grand Overture for Three Vacuum Cleaners, One Floor Polisher, and Concert Band, a selection by PDQ Bach, and more. For tickets and information call 832-265-3346.

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 5

The **Houston Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Political Caucus** meets tonight at 7 p.m. at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd, Suite 207. Parking is free for community center visitors and everyone is encouraged to attend. For more information call 713-521-1000.



Houston Pride Band gets funny for April 1 show. (Photo courtesy of [www.houstonprideband.org](http://www.houstonprideband.org))

# dining J.A. CHAPMAN

## Arts fartsy Tartsy

Tart Café is friendly, fun, reasonably priced, and it respects its family

**CHARMINGLY ARTSY — THAT'S THE new Tart Café.**

Located on the ground floor of the stark grey concrete Houston Art Building, which houses a collection of upscale art galleries, the Tart Café is predictably artsy.

Grey concrete tables echo the design of the building itself, while sleek white walls and chairs and a black banquette running around the edges of the room support the minimalist style.

Tart Café may look cool, but the warm welcome from the staff, especially owner John Ray, immediately dispels any notions of art-snob reserve. This is a friendly place.

The menu is simple, with a not surprising emphasis on tarts. Offering breakfast and lunch, plus "leisure plates" for lazy afternoons, it's a relaxing place to while away some time.

The breakfast menu consists mainly of savory egg tarts. Try the asparagus prosciutto tart (\$5.50), a light mixture of fresh asparagus, prosciutto and parmesan all baked in an herb crust. The tarts are single serving size

and are filling without being heavy.

Customers on the go might want to try the very berry tart (\$4.50), which turns out to be more of a granola cup than a tart. Crunchy granola makes up the bottom layer, low fat yogurt is next and fresh berries top it off. It's all ready to go in a tall plastic cup in the cooler.

Starbucks coffee and Tazo teas are available for a caffeine fix. All are available in mugs for dining in, or to-go cups.

**THE MENU IS A BIT broader at lunch, with tarts joined by sandwiches, salads and soups. The chicken pesto tart (\$8.50) is made with shredded white meat chicken tossed with garlicky pesto in an herb crust. Or try the chicken poblano tart (\$8.50), a slightly spicy mix of chicken, red bell and poblano peppers in a cumin crust.**

All lunch tarts are served with a salad. The chicken pesto comes with a mixed green salad, while the chicken poblano is accompanied by an avocado and cherry tomato mix.

The tarts occasionally suffer from being slightly overcooked. The filling ends up a bit too crispy, and the crust becomes

tough. When they're good, they're really good, but the quality can be variable.

If a tart isn't to your liking, try a sandwich, like the simple but elegant P.M.S. — prosciutto, mozzarella, and spinach (\$9). It's served on fresh ciabatta, with tomatoes and a buttermilk ranch sauce.

Seasoned pita chips come on the side. It's filling without being heavy, and is a nice twist on a classic.

If you're in the mood for something lighter, try one of the salads. The Tart house salad (\$6) is a good bet, updating the basic mixed green salad with artichoke hearts, shaved parmesan and almonds.

The accompanying walnut vinaigrette, made with red wine vinegar and chunks of red onion and walnut, is a real keeper.



**NO VISIT TO A CAFÉ SERVING TARTS would be complete without dessert. Don't miss the coconut almond cream cheese tart (\$7). The light crust contains a rich, almond and coconut flavored cream cheese filling topped with dark chocolate sauce.**

Less successful is the pistachio peach tart (\$7). With a dense pistachio crust and a heavy filling topped with a surprisingly flavorless canned peach half, it looks better than it tastes.

Dessert tarts are served cold, from the display case next to the cash register. Allow them to warm to room temperature



### Tart Café

4411 Montrose Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77006  
713-526-8278  
www.tartcafe.com

Food: 10 | 10 | 10 | 10

Service: 10 | 10 | 10 | 10

Value: 10 | 10 | 10 | 10

Scene: 10 | 10 | 10 | 10

☛ = Stay home and eat cereal

10 | 10 = Well, if you really must

10 | 10 | 10 = Fine for all but the finicky

10 | 10 | 10 | 10 = Worth more than a

20-minute drive

10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 = As good as you'll find in this city

for maximum enjoyment.

If a tart is a bit too much for dessert, try a sisie (\$1.50) — an iced sugar cookie from Ray's Aunt Sisie's recipe. Crisp with a hint of almond flavoring, they vanish quickly.

Tart Café offers a small selection of wines and a "bubble bar" serving champagne and fruit drinks.

With a small magazine collection and wireless internet, it's easy to settle in and feel comfortable.

And that's the intent. Order a tart and a beverage. Sit back and enjoy your meal.

And when you're done dining, feel free to check out the galleries in the rest of the building.

It's artsy. It's charming. It's Tart Café.

Start Now! Look **FABULOUS** for the Summer!  
Package Discounts—Save \$100's

## SKIN Renaissance LASER CENTER

Give Yourself the Gift of Beauty...  
**5 or 10 Years Younger  
Is More Affordable  
Than You Think!**

Skin Rejuvenation for  
Wrinkles • Rosacea • Melasma  
Brown Spots/Blemishes  
Facial Sagging • Face Veins

Also:  
Hair Removal • Acne (active & scars)  
Laser Peel/Resurfacing  
Botox® • Restylane® • Radiesse™  
Sculptra™

**GLBT Friendly  
Gay owned and operated!**

Call for your **FREE** consultation

713.942.SKIN (7546)

106 Westheimer at Bagby

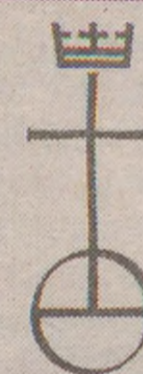
See before and after pictures at  
www.skinrenaissance.net

**Octavio Barrios, M.D.**



## BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (UCC)

An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ



### Celebrate Holy Week at Bethel Church!

April 9	Palm/Passion Sunday Worship	10:30 AM
April 13	Maundy Thursday Worship	7:00 PM
April 14	Good Friday Stations of the Cross	7:00 PM
April 15	Easter Egg Dying for Kids	10:00 AM
April 16	Easter Breakfast	9:00 AM
	Easter Egg Hunt	9:30 AM
	Easter Sunday Worship	10:30 AM

No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you're welcome here!

1107 Shepherd Drive @ Center Street  
Houston, TX 77007 • 713-861-6670  
www.bethelhouston.org

The Rev. Walter L. McFadden, Pastor

Saturday Noche de Oracion 7:00 PM  
Sunday Christian Education 9:00 AM  
Sunday Worship and Communion 10:30 AM

The Rev. Ralph C. Lasher, Assistant Pastor

# television BRIAN MOYLAN

## The show must go on

### Liza Minnelli and Rosie O'Donnell finally return to television

WHILE SOME CELEBRITIES START with a burning popularity and end with a slow extinguishing of fame, others have an ebb and flow, repeatedly dropping out of the public eye and returning with much excitement. Both gay icon Liza Minnelli and lesbian comedian Rosie O'Donnell have had the latter type of career, and both are returning to television after a long hiatus.

For Minnelli, her return isn't with a new project, but the rebirth of an old (and definitive) one. On Saturday, April 1, at 8 p.m. Showtime will re-air "Liza with a 'Z': A Concert for Television," her 1972 NBC special. For all you theater queens who don't pony up for Showtime, the channel is having a "free preview weekend" so anyone with basic or digital cable will be able to watch the special.

Choreographed and directed by Bob Fosse with original music by John Kander and Fred Ebb (the creative team behind "Cabaret") and costumes by gay designer Halston, the show was a huge success, garnering massive ratings and Emmys for Minnelli, Fosse, Kander and Ebb. The soundtrack became a best-selling album and the show was repeated twice in 1973. Since then, no one has seen it.

Thank gay production duo Craig Zadan and Neil Meron ("Chicago") for not only resurrecting it, but having both the picture and the soundtrack digitally restored. The concert was filmed on eight cameras and only performed once before a live audience. Though cleaned up, parts of the show still look a big grainy and fuzzy for the high-definition, digital age.

TECHNOLOGY AND TASTE HAVE certainly changed since the early 1970s. Sure, some of Beyoncé's skirts are as perilously short as some worn by Minnelli, but the Destiny's Child singer wouldn't be caught dead in red sequins.

What hasn't changed is that a quality performance is a quality performance. Watching the special reveals why Minnelli has been a legend most of her life. With stunning renditions of songs like "Yes," "Son of a Preacher Man," "Bye, Bye Blackbird," and "Ring Them



Liza Minnelli shakes her stuff and belts out the tunes in her infamous "Liza with a 'Z'" special, which finally returns to television. (Photo courtesy of Showtime)

Bells," Minnelli proves herself able to command the stage whether singing by herself or as part of a large production number.

In the final medley of songs from "Cabaret," if Minnelli's "Maybe This Time" doesn't make the hair on the back of your neck stand up, you need to get your ears checked.

ROSIE O'DONNELL IS RETURNING TO television with a new documentary "All Aboard! Rosie's Family Cruise" about a cruise for families headed by gay men and lesbians organized by her partner, Kelli, in 2004.

The film, which debuts on HBO Thursday, April 6, at 8 p.m., follows some of the 1,500 on board. It's a bit like watching footage from someone else's vacation. Everyone is shown having fun, parents are laughing while watching gay comedians, young kids are being cute, teens who live with gay parents are goofing off and everyone is happy.

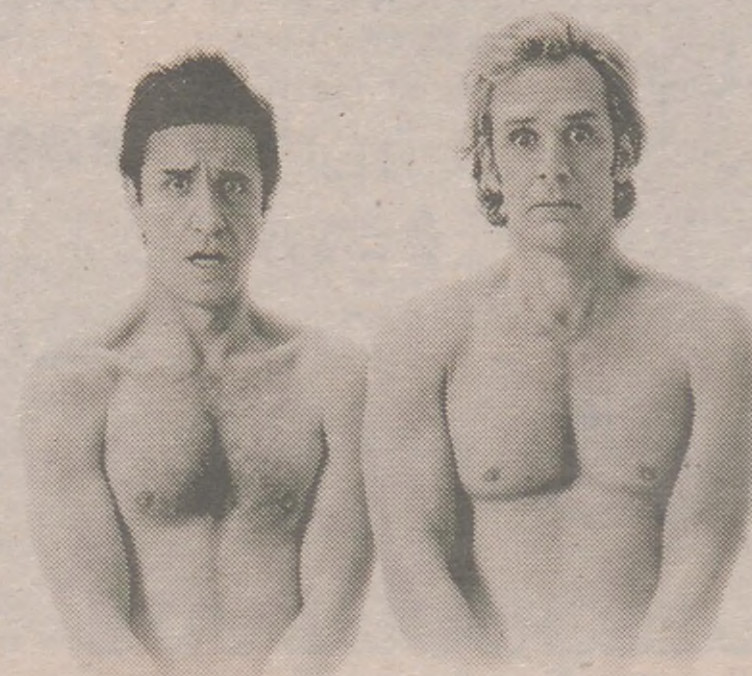
However, that's as deep as the movie gets. Seeing how normal and happy gay families can be is great and hearing the problems they face from both a kid's and parent's perspective is informative, but nothing a gay audience hasn't seen before. There's some great footage of a group that protests the ship's docking in the Bahamas, but, again, the gay viewer is no stranger to biased vitriol.

While the O'Donnells should be commended for providing a safe space for gay families to relax and interact, it would have been better to send a postcard rather than this documentary.

"A wise, hilarious gay-marital romp... the entire cast is perfection."

— Michael Musto, THE VILLAGE VOICE

CRAIG CHESTER MALCOLM GETS PARKER POSEY CHRIS KATTAN



## adam & steve



the tempting new comedy  
from the producers of 'Latter Days'

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



© 2006 AGM MOVIE PRODUCTION, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

**EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT!**



**NOW  
PLAYING**

### **i** MORE INFO

"Liza with a 'Z': A Concert for Television"  
Saturday, April 1, 8 p.m.  
Showtime

'All Aboard! Rosie's Family Cruise'  
Thursday, April 6, 8 p.m.  
HBO

## JOSE MCDONALD MORTGAGE CORPORATION

5444 WESTHEIMER RD #1560 HOUSTON TX 77056 TXMB 49346



**JASON BACA**  
MANAGING LOAN OFFICER  
TXLO 55934

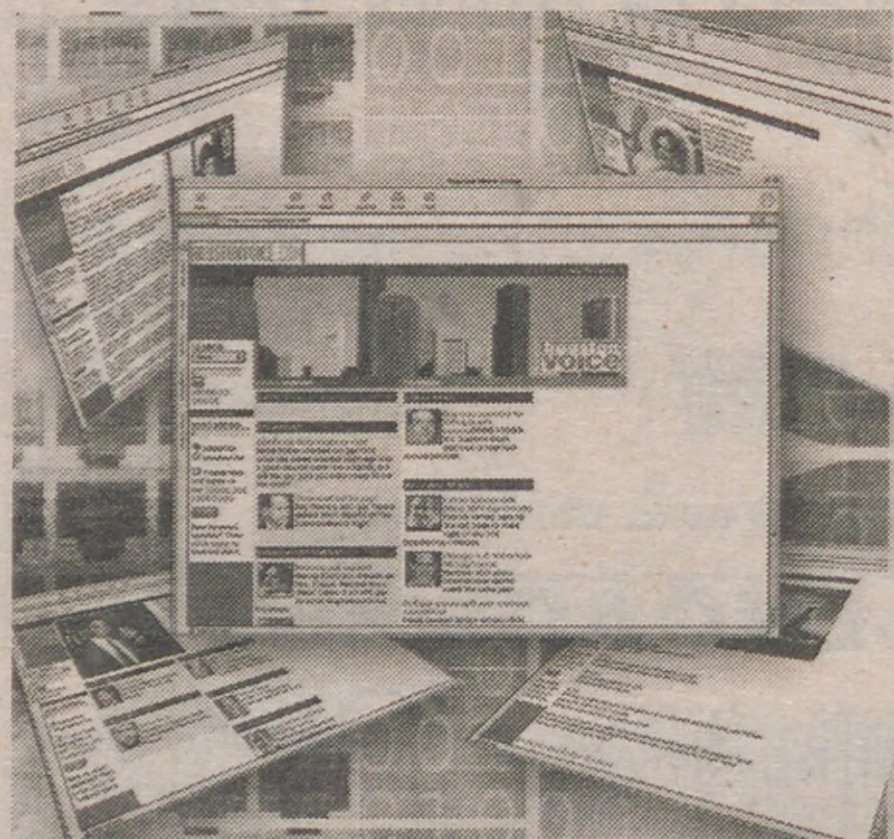
- **MANY "NO MONEY DOWN" PROGRAMS**
- **ZERO DOWN ON RENTAL/INVESTMENT PROPERTY**
- **HOME LOANS DOWN TO A 500 CREDIT SCORE**
- **NO INCOME VERIFICATION LOANS**
- **CALL US ABOUT OUR \$1000 MOVE IN**
- **BANKRUPTCY, REPO, COLLECTIONS. WE CAN HELP**

STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY

ENDLESS FINANCIAL OPTIONS

CALL & GET APPROVED IN 20 MINUTES FREE

# 281-658-7220



**ALL DAY  
EVERY DAY**

**ALL THE NEWS  
FOR YOUR Life  
AND YOUR Style  
AT YOUR Speed**

**houston  
voice**

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

## Fiddling with politics

Ashley MacIsaac plays liberally, Randy Quaid seeks revenge, and Judy gets a stamp

If only Dish lived in Canada, she'd cast her sacred vote for major gay cutie **ASHLEY MACISAAC**, the fiddling sensation who could drag his bow across Dish's fiddle any day.

MacIsaac told the press that he wants to run for the leading position in the federal Liberal Party of Canada, according to the Associated Press. The party is known for its progressive social outlook and a moderate economic approach. Since 1896, every party leader has gone on to become prime minister of the country.

MacIsaac is well known for his ability to blend traditional fiddling sounds with a modern twist, and he broke into the popular music world with his 1995 release, "Hi, How Are You Today."

The Nova Scotia native is also becoming notorious for his many controversial statements and public appearances. In a 1995 stint on "Late Night With Conan O'Brien," MacIsaac wore a kilt, thereby exposing all God gave him during a particularly high-stepping number. Dish taped the event and compulsively rewinds and replays the clip on cold, Canadian-esque winter nights.

MacIsaac acknowledged his bad-boy image and the possible conflict with the world of politics.

"I have for many years relied upon the 'sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll' image to sell tickets," MacIsaac told the AP. "That's not what I plan on doing to sell my particular platform of what I think the Liberals need to do to move forward."

How sad! He almost sounds like any other contrite politico.

### Back to the 'Mountain'

**RANDY QUAID** has gotten his ranch-hand panties in a bunch over his "Brokeback Mountain" fee, according to the Associated Press.

Quaid played the nasty ranch foreman in the film, and he's taking that meanness to the producers, David Linde and James Schamus, claiming they falsely told him the gay flick was going to be a low-budget film. He's filed a lawsuit with the Los Angeles Superior Court seeking \$10 million in damages.

"Defendants fully intended that the film would not be made on a low budget, would be given a worldwide release and would be supported as the studio picture it always was secretly intended to be," states the law-



Randy Quaid



Gay fiddler **Ashley MacIsaac** announced that he's expanding his reach and running for the leader of Canada's federal Liberal Party. Get out the vote, Canadians!

suit in a frenzy of celluloid paranoia.

Yes, Dish is sure the producers expected a movie about cowboys playing hide-the-cattle-prod to rake in \$82 million in North America and become a darling of the critics. That kind of thing happens everyday to gay-themed movies.

The budget for "Brokeback" was \$13.9 million (the average Hollywood movie budget last year was \$60 million) and, because of its small scale, Quaid skipped his usual seven-figure fee in exchange for some much-needed exposure.

### Licking the rainbow

For all you queens who would have happily licked **JUDY GARLAND'S** backside just to hear her sing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," your fervent prayers have been answered.

Just in time for Gay Pride, the United States Postal Service will be releasing its Garland commemorative stamp in June as part of its "Legends of Hollywood" series. Each year, the collection issues a new celebrity stamp. Past entrants include gay faves like **MARILYN MONROE**, **JAMES DEAN** and **AUDREY HEPBURN**.

The artist rendering of Garland, done by Tim O'Brien, is based on a studio portrait from Garland's Academy Award-nominated 1954 performance in "A Star Is Born." Awash in hideous browns and mustards, the stamp does little to play up the singer's zany sense of glam, but it manages to capture the gin-induced, far-away look in her eyes.



Judy Garland stamp

@ Send comments, suggestions to  
Dish@houstonvoice.com

## arts cover story

## Stone's bi killer elicits collective yawn from activists

BASIC INSTINCT, continued from Page 1

In 1992, the release of "Basic Instinct," written by Joe Eszterhas and directed by Paul Verhoeven, caused a storm of controversy for its flagrant depictions of sexuality of all stripes and an infamous scene involving actress Sharon Stone's uncrossed legs sans panties. Some say the controversy is what helped the film become the highest-grossing movie of the year.

Gay rights advocates fueled the controversy surrounding the film, with the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation leading the charge, denouncing "Basic Instinct" as a negative depiction of bisexuals and lesbians.

Today, bisexual activists and GLAAD seem uninterested in the release of the sequel. GLAAD representatives said they were too busy planning their media awards gala to talk to the Blade about it, and they weren't even planning to screen the film until just before its opening. Bisexual activists also seemed wholly unconcerned about the movie.

"Just because someone's a serial killer whether they're gay, straight, transgender, bi — that just becomes part of the character," says Wendy Curry, vice president of BiNet USA, a national bisexual rights advocacy group.

That take on the film represents a major turnaround from the reigning opinion in 1992.

IN THE FIRST "BASIC INSTINCT," SHARON Stone played Catherine Tramell, a novelist who gets wrapped up in the murder of her latest male play toy. Michael Douglas played Nick Curran, the detective who tries to capture Tramell before she lures him into her sexual web with her killer bod and smoldering devil-may-care attitude. Thrown into the sordid tale was Tramell's bisexuality (including a sultry on-screen kiss with actress Leilani Sarelle), which is part of what sent the gay activists into a frenzy.

Protesters around the country stationed themselves outside of movie theaters showing the film — including in Washington, D.C. — holding signs that read, "Catherine Did It," hoping that people wouldn't see the film after they knew the ending. Incidentally, the protesters were right — Catherine did do it, though Nick's bisexual ex-girlfriend (Jeanne Tripplehorn) is suspected of the crime as well.

On April 11, 1992, protesters were arrested for heckling Stone's appearance on NBC's "Saturday Night Live." When the actress walked on stage, the audience greeted her with the expected catcalls of excitement, but there were some boos coming from the wings. Shortly thereafter, a chant of "Fight AIDS" broke out from backstage, and security was called in. Six protesters from Queer Nation and other gay civil rights protest groups were arrested.

Ironically, since then, Stone has become something of a gay icon. She received San Francisco's Spirit Award in 2004 from the



Almost two decades after her first 'Basic Instinct' outing, Sharon Stone went from anti-gay pariah to Out Magazine's 'Straight Ally of the Year' in 2005.

National Center for Lesbian Rights. The Center honored her continuing financial and public service support for gay rights and AIDS activism. In 2005, Out magazine named her the straight ally of the year.

Since 1995, Stone has served as the chair of the campaign for AIDS research with the American Foundation for AIDS Research, a national non-profit dedicated to research and prevention of HIV/AIDS. For her work with amfAR, she received the Harvard University Foundation's humanitarian award in 2005.

During the controversy, GLAAD issued a report card, grading Tinseltown's gay and lesbian creations.

"Our denunciation of 'Basic Instinct' had to do with the fact that there is no balance in Hollywood's depictions of lesbians and gay men," said Chris Fowler, then-executive director of GLAAD, in a statement issued to the press by the organization in 1992.

GLAAD's D.C. chapter issued a call-to-action in the Washington Blade in March of 1992.

"Besides alerting local media outlets to the background and history of the film, we are attempting to educate the press about the harmful effects of movies like this, how they contribute to stereotypes and gay-bashings and perpetuate myths about gay men, lesbians and bisexuals," wrote Cathy Renna, co-chair of the National Capitol Area chapter of GLAAD.

"[Basic Instinct] was a tipping point," Renna said in an interview with the Blade this week. "That was the seminal moment for GLAAD and a lot of other organizations."

Sheela Lambert, a bisexual activist with a 15-year history of advocating for bisexuals' rights among straight and gay people, says she remembers well the feelings of trepidation and concern surrounding "Basic Instinct."

"There had been so few representations of bi people or female attraction in the movies or on TV," Lambert says. "To have it

be an ice pick murderer was very scary."

Historically, gay characters in Hollywood films fell into certain categories. Along with dysfunctional sissies and suicidal depressives, another classification was the gay murderer. In 1980, "Cruising," starring Al Pacino as an undercover cop searching for a gay pick-up killer in New York's leather scene, became infamous for its graphic violence and kinky gay sex.

One year before "Basic Instinct" was released, "The Silence of the Lambs" featured a gay serial killer who stripped skin from his female victims to make a female suit for himself. Given this history, it's no surprise that activists were appalled by Catherine Tramell's ice-pick wielding madness.

"I do think that film really did link bisexuality and criminality together," says Basil Tsiokos, executive director of New Fest, New York's gay and lesbian film festival.

IN "BASIC INSTINCT 2," DIRECTED BY Michael Caton-Jones and written by Leora Barish and Henry Bean, there's only a hint of girl-on-girl action, and all the same-sex titillating eroticism so memorable in the first film is nowhere to be found.

The new film opens with Tramell driving a car with a drugged up stud du jour in the passenger seat. After some really heavy petting, she drives the car off a bridge and into a river, leaving him trapped in a watery grave while she swims to freedom. In a court inquiry, a psychiatrist is called in to evaluate the novelist's intentions, and as with the earlier film's male hero, he's quickly drawn into a mind-boggling plot of sexual gratification and violent murders.

Like GLAAD, bisexual activists have been almost mum on the new film.

"I wrote a bunch of people," says BiNet's Curry. "I have not heard a word from anyone."

Lambert says the wide array of bisexual characters seen in films since 1992 has helped to subdue the reactions from activists.

"Now there's more representations," Lambert says. "There's a writer, and a hairdresser — all different kinds of people who are bi. And OK, you've got an ice-pick murderer," she laughs.

Renna, now heading her own PR firm Renna Communications, agrees that the culture has changed significantly since 1992.

"In a funny way, the first film and our response to it did exactly what we wanted it to," Renna says. "We educated individuals involved as to what our concerns were."

Both Lambert and Curry said they can't wait to see the new movie, because — although the original one was bad PR for gay folks — Stone's performance was totally hot.

"Although I hated 'Basic Instinct' for putting that image out to other people, I could sit there rewinding Sharon Stone dirty dancing with a woman for an hour," says Lambert. "There's a difference between how we feel watching alone in the dark, and how we feel about other people seeing it and having it confirm their negative stereotypes."

While the public release may have almost no bisexual action, PinkNews, a gay British internet news site, reports that steamy lesbian sex scenes were cut in order to achieve an R rating from the Motion Picture Association of America.

"We shot the menage a trois and the girl was really beautiful," Stone reportedly told the news outlet. "The ratings board made us take it out. I guess it was too hot."

With a noticeable dearth of bisexual depictions, "Basic Instinct 2" won't have the activists up in arms. In fact, with a sense of camp equal to Bette Davis' "Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte" or Joan Crawford's "Straight Jacket," it just might become a gay favorite.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### THE TIME IS RIGHT... ADVERTISE NOW!!

Advertise with the **HOUSTON VOICE CLASSIFIEDS!**  
Call to place your ad! 1 (877) 863-1885.

## services

TELL THEM  
YOU FOUND THEM IN  
**THE  
DIRECTORY**

**STAND OUT FROM THE  
CROWD** Bold or box your ad  
for added attraction. Contact  
our customer service reps for  
more details. (877) 863-1885.

The Tire Man

**Alignments  
Brakes**

**2314 Washington  
713-880-4747**

## CLASSIFIEDS

Visit [houstonvoice.com](http://houstonvoice.com) to place your ad. Up to 25 words only \$12.50 per week. 50¢ each additional word. Fax toll-free 1.888.409.6768, or call toll-free 1.877.863.1885. Deadline for online ads: 8am Wednesday. For other submissions: 5:30pm Tuesday.

### REAL ESTATE SERVICES

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

**I WILL PAY TOP DOLLAR w/ no hassle for your Houston home!!** (281) 217-3425

### SALE / HOUSTON

**THE TIME IS RIGHT...  
ADVERTISE NOW!!**  
Advertise with the **HOUSTON VOICE CLASSIFIEDS!**  
Call to place your ad! 1 (877) 863-1885.

### SALE / ACERAGE

**SUNCREEKESTATES.COM**  
ACREAGE homesites near  
Pearland at bargain  
prices. [www.suncreekestates.com](http://www.suncreekestates.com)

**BRAZORIA CO. WATERFRONT**  
WOW! \$59,900 for waterfront  
in prime location. Huge oaks.  
All amenities. **MUST SEE!**  
Easy financing. Call (800) 511-2430 x295.

**BED & BREAKFAST** West Palm Beach, Established 17 yrs, located in Historic Old Northwood, 6 BR, 8 BA Home plus 2 BR, 2 BA Cottage, Pool, Tropical Landscaping on Corner Lot. Strong & steady client base located near downtown and airport. Rare opportunity in South Florida \$1,295,000. Ctc Darrell Naquin at Coldwell Banker (561) 358-9893.

### SALE / COMMERCIAL

**TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY BLDG** Galveston for sale. Cast iron facade, 3 stories, storefront, excellent location. Great investment, condo conversion. \$450,000. [www.2415marketst.com](http://www.2415marketst.com)

### RENT / HOUSTON

**MONTROSE AREA** Garage apt. Bills PAID. Fee negotiable. Call (713) 522-2263.

**NEAR DOWNTOWN AWESOME** Large 1 BR, 1 BA in lower unit in restored vintage home close to downtown. 11ft. ceilings, pocket doors, beautiful woodwork. Refrigerator, inside util, Off street parking, Bills PAID, except electric. \$800/mo. (281) 782-2340.

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

**SKYLANE APARTMENTS NOW leasing 3 great locations, affordable living in the heart of Montrose. 15 min approval process \$99 move in special, phone- (713) 524-3659**

### RENT FURNISHED HOUSING

**TRUXILLO HOUSE AN** inclusive sober living environment for MEN in recovery. \$80/week, bills paid with other amenities. For more info call Kristen (713) 410-0002.

### ROOMMATE SERVICES

**3 BR HOME** next to a park near hwy 6 & I-10. Carport & garage, 2 extra BR, 3 BA, updated kit. I like to cook, play outside, enjoy a beach house at surfside, 2 cars, pilot & Honda S-200. Into cars & racing around Texas hill country, B & B's. Costs are extra low. Farm background preferred, like to go to a lot of places. Unorthodox for my upper age. Want male roommate--maybe. Think \$500/mo with lots of extras.

### SHARE / HOUSTON

**MALE TO SHARE** 3 BR, 3.5 BA, new 4 story townhouse, Direct TV furnished, 1/3 gas, elec & water, \$850/mo. Great location in Montrose. Call Tony for appointment (713) 807-8820. Serious inquiries only.

**MONTROSE / FAIRVIEW**, seeks roommate \$425/mo. + utils. 2 BR, 1 BA home. WD. NS/pets. Avail Immed. (713) 523-8197.

**SGM TO SHARE** 2/1 home, WD, cable, priv yard, no smoking or drugs! One block from Heights Transit Station. \$450/mo furnished, (713) 862-5123 (jbaker3@houston.rr.com).

### COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

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

### EMPLOYMENT

**HEIGHTS DELI HELP.** Fast paced deli looking for sandwich maker, counter help. Great daytime hrs. Food experience preferred. Call Doug (713) 864-3354.

**WEBCAM MODELS WANTED / ESCORTS WANTED**  
ARE you good looking? Do you need money?  
Go LIVE on Webcam! No computer needed.  
Provide Escort Service to High End Business Clientele.  
Apply online: [camboys.boysboysboys.net](http://camboys.boysboysboys.net) (713) 726-6241.

### DOMESTIC HELP

**CAREGIVER AVAILABLE GWM** for home healthcare. Faithful, personable, & compassionate care. 7 yrs experience. Excellent references. Randy (281) 650-2200 [randyntex@sbcglobal.net](mailto:randyntex@sbcglobal.net)

### GROUPS

**ON THE NORTH Side? Feeling OUTSIDE OF THE LOOP?!** Join The North Houston GLBT Social Group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NhouGLBTSocialgroup> Meet other GLBT folk in your part of town! Sign up today!

### TRAVEL / INTERNATIONAL

**GAYRIBBEAN HALLOWEEN CRUISE** October 29 - November 5, 2006. Join our Gay & Lesbian group this Halloween aboard the Conquest sailing from Galveston to Jamaica, Grand Cayman & Cozumel. Rates from \$566 ppdo [www.GayribbeanCruises.com](http://www.GayribbeanCruises.com) (214) 303-1924

### NEARBY GETAWAYS

**RENT BEACH CABIN** - \$200/wknd, great view, Bolivar Peninsula. (409) 286-5348. For more info & pics visit [www.gilchristbythesea.com/index.html](http://www.gilchristbythesea.com/index.html)

### VEHICLES



**RUN IT 'TILL YOU SELL IT.** Take advantage of our new "Run it 'till you sell it" promotional. Place an ad to sell your car and email a photo of the car and run the ad until it sells. It's only \$39.99. Call our friendly staff toll free today! (877) 863-1885.

**ryan Fugate**  
R.M.T., N.M.T., REIKI II T.  
[rfugate.com](http://rfugate.com)  
713-269-7926  
Therapeutic Massage

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

# CLASSIFIEDS

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Beautiful Home**  
Home Repair & Remodeling  
Cabinets & Furniture  
Workmanship & Quality  
**GUARANTEED**  
Decades of Experience. Kitchens a specialty. Insured  
Office: 713-880-1666 Cell: 713-291-3395  
Call John!  
BBB Member Greater Houston

## PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEO



**David Lewis**  
IMAGES  
713-240-5508  
davidlewisimages.com

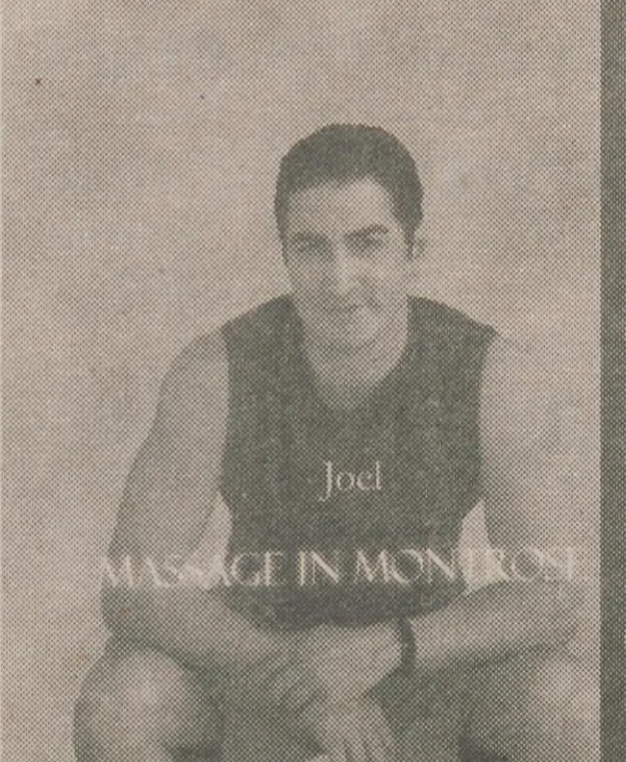


## MASSAGE




**Jason college guy**  
• therapeutic • swedish • sports  
• deep tissue • myotherapy  
• relaxation therapy  
**NEW Steam Room!!!**  
Montrose Studio  
713-524-5400  
www.jasonrmt.com

**THE ART OF GIVING PLEASURE** Tall, masculine, muscular, state licensed, AMTA certified, 12 years exp. Incredible, full body total release! \$75. Inner Loop/SW. Mike, (713) 963-9603.



Joel  
MASSAGE IN MONTROSE  
713-397-8808



Massage Therapy • SWEDISH  
DEEP TISSUE • SWEDESH  
**ROBERT RMT**  
[713] 824-6230  
www.twinpix.com/robert

**SENSUAL MASSAGE IN/OUT** Calls welcome. Studio centrally located in Memorial. 200lbs, 6' Muscular Italian Man. Companion svcs also welcome. You won't be disappointed. Rocky (832) 563-3962.

**A MAN'S TOUCH**  
THE ULTIMATE MASSAGE  
for Today's Businessman  
Body Waxing and Body Cuts Available  
**MALE LOPEZ**  
281-844-7456  
Also in Sugarland



**BRAD**  
Young College Student  
Out Calls 24/7  
Modeling/Massage  
281.658.1199

## COUNSELING / SUPPORT

**THE TIME IS RIGHT...  
ADVERTISE NOW!!**  
Advertise with the HOUSTON VOICE CLASSIFIEDS!  
Call our friendly classifieds staff to place ad!  
1 (877) 863-1885.

## BODY / SOUL

**SPIRIT OF INTIMACY FOR MEN:**  
JUNE 15 TO 22, 2006.  
BIG ISLAND, HAWAII  
(800) 484-6394, x 8466.  
www.kalani.org



REWARD YOURSELF  
A NICE TOUCH/RELAXATION  
OF BODY AND MIND BY  
**LEE**  
832 978-7017  
CENTRALLY LOCATED  
7 DAYS/EVENINGS  
OUTCALLS WELCOME



lifestylemassagetherapist  
LOCATED IN UPPER KIRBY  
**Kenton 713.515.2882**  
4HAND Massage Available



**CHELSEA BOYS**  
BY HANSON & NEUWIRTH

WHILE VISITING HIS MOTHER IN THE NURSING HOME, NATHAN IS TREATED TO SOME VERY OLD "CHEESECAKE"...

Panel 1: Nathan: "UH, OKAAAY..." Bernice: "GIGGLE" Bernice: "SORRY, SIR, BERNICE THINKS IT'S STILL 1943 AND SHE'S A HOSTESS AT THE HOLLYWOOD CANTEN." Nathan: "ALRIGHT, DEAR, LET'S CLOSE THAT ROBE, AND WHY DON'T WE GO WATCH SOME TV..." Nathan: "BUT I HAVEN'T DANCED WITH TYRONE POWER YET..." Nathan: "NATHAN, ARE YOU OKAY?" Nathan: "I THINK SO... BUT LET'S JUST SAY IF I WASN'T ALREADY GAY, I WOULD BE NOW!"

Panel 2: Nathan: "ACTUALLY, LINDA... WE'RE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT OUR MOTHER. WHY IS SHE SO OUT OF IT? AND WHY'S SHE IN A WHEELCHAIR? LAST WEEK SHE WAS WALKING AROUND JUST FINE..." Nathan: "LET'S GO INTO MY OFFICE, AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT." Nathan: "SEVERAL HOURS LATER... MOM, WE HAVE TO GO NOW... BUT WE'LL BE BACK NEXT WEEKEND!" Nathan: "SEE YA SOON. REMEMBER... CHOKE WE LOVE YOU VERY MUCH." Nathan: "SNIFF" UGH... IT'S SO HARD TO LEAVE HER LIKE THAT. Nathan: "YEAH... THE SOCIAL WORKER TOLD ME WHY MOM SEEMS SO NUMBED..."

Panel 3: Nathan: "SHE'S BEEN AGITATED, SO THEY HAD TO UP HER MEDICATION... AND THEY'VE GOT HER IN A WHEELCHAIR CAUSE SHE FELL DOWN A FEW TIMES LAST WEEK." Nathan: "GOD, NATHAN. I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT MOM'S COME TO... SHE USED TO BE SO ENERGETIC, WE COULDN'T GET HER TO SHUT UP, REMEMBER? NOW SHE'S LIKE A ZOMBIE." Nathan: "SIGH" AND IT'S NOT GONNA GET ANY BETTER... Nathan: "NO..."

© 2006 HANSON & NEUWIRTH



Theatre Under The Stars



STANFORD  
PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT  
2006-2007 SEASON SPONSOR

## Really the BIG season

Season Packages Now On Sale



**WEST SIDE STORY**

Oct. 24-Nov. 5, 2006



**RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR**  
THE ROCKETTES

Dec. 19-31, 2006



**Swing!**

Jan. 30-Feb. 11, 2007



**SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS**

March 13-25, 2007



**Monty Python's SPAMALOT**  
A new musical... ripped off from the motion picture  
MONTY PYTHON's Holy Grail


May 22-June 3, 2007



**MOLLY RINGWALD SWEET CHARITY**

June 26-July 8, 2007

Join us for **OUT@TUTS** on the first Thursday performance of each musical. After the show, enjoy live music, mingle with the cast & savor free hors d'oeuvres and drinks at happy hour prices in Artista Restaurant.

**713.558.TUTS WWW.TUTS.COM**  
FOR GROUPS OF 15+ CALL 713.558.8888 

# ADULT CLASSIFIEDS

## ESCORTS

"TRENT" HOT & ATHLETICALLY endowed. Discreet, safe & always ready for some hot action!!! (281) 814-9394.

## BODYWORK

### TEXAS HOSPITALITY!

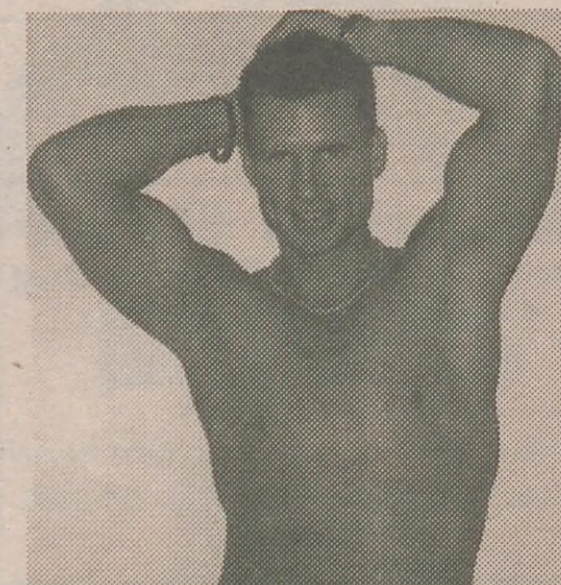


Friendly 6', 235lb  
Blue-eyed Cowboy

Full Body Massage  
And Body Worship

Stripping Available!

Joseph 281-687-3735



TomTom

832-545-4933

## ADULTS ONLY

**100% FREE**

**Party Line**  
Guys  
Gays  
BF's

Never any charges!

**1-775-533-3012**  
Just a regular call to Nevada!

**All New Gay Text Chat**  
Just text the word "BLADE" to 85000

99 - \$1.99 per message rec'd. Pro Chatters 18+

WWW.BOYSBOYSBOYS.NET  
camboys.boysboysboys.net : Hot Boys on webcam!  
escortboys.boysboysboys.net: Hot Boys 2 Hire 4  
Companionship!  
Call for an appointment. (713) 726-6241  
Currently Hiring, All Positions

### HOW TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD:

BY WEB: www.houstonvoice.com By e-mail: classifieds@houstonvoice.com By fax: Fax completed order form and credit card information to Houston Classifieds, 888-409-6768. By phone: Call in with completed order form to 877-863-1885. By mail: Mail completed order form with payment to Houston Voice Classifieds, 500 Lovett Blvd, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77006.

In person: Bring completed order form with payment to the Houston Voice offices (M-F, 9-5 pm)  
500 Lovett Blvd, Suite 200, Houston.

#### DEADLINES:

8am Wednesday for online submissions only.  
5:30pm Tuesday for all other submissions.



**ALL DAY  
EVERY DAY**

**ALL THE NEWS  
FOR YOUR Life  
AND YOUR Style  
AT YOUR Speed**

**houston  
voice**

## Q-VIDEO

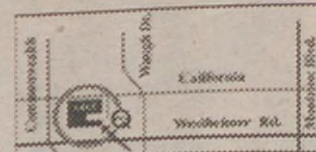
FORMERLY

**WD**

**VIDEO**  
OVER  
6,000 TITLES  
DVD & VHS!

THANK YOU HOUSTON  
FOR 20 YEARS  
AND COUNTING!

**NEW MEMBERS  
1ST RENTAL FREE!**  
**RENT 3 VIDEOS  
GET 1 VIDEO FREE!**



OPEN 7 DAYS 11 AM - MIDNIGHT  
1415 CALIFORNIA • 713.522.4485

## Executive Adult



**Superstore  
& Theatre**

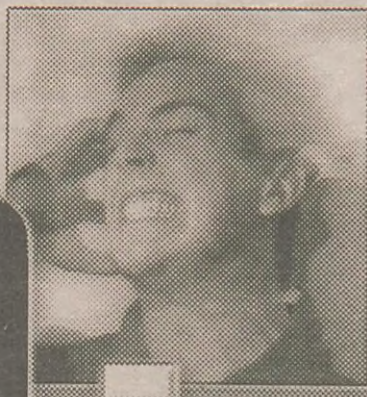
14002 Northwest Frwy  
(Hwy 290) between  
Tidwell & Fairbanks-  
N. Houston

Open 7am til 5 am!

**713-462-5100**

www.executiveXXXvideo.com

# bitch session



If you're gay and think "Brokeback Mountain" "isn't all that," then you don't know how things were back in the '60s and '70s — or still is out West in a red state!

Do you realize how stupid you look walking around with that Bluetooth device sticking out of your ear? Especially at the grocery store when you look like some schizophrenic homeless person talking to evil spirits. **Bitch Boy responds:** Not as stupid as I felt paying \$60 for said device and losing it 48 hours later.

When you see me out this summer, I will go medieval on all who say, "I thought you were dead." I would have bothered to call you bitches if you were worth my time!

I save the bitches that I think could have been written about me. Then I paste

them into my diary. It can be sobering to read, but it helps me to be more honest with myself.

**Glory holes are so '80s. Only closeted Republicans still use them.**

**To my ex who would like to believe I got infected by someone else, go get tested you manipulative, delusional, borderline sociopath.** For all: Beware of anyone who says they are as healthy as a horse, been tested, and so on!

**Yes, I used to be poor, but I no longer am.** I intend to enjoy the life that I have worked so hard for so long to achieve, whether you consider my doing so to be P.C.

If you're a 30-year-old woman, it's time to stop dressing like a 15-year-old boy.

**I'm sick of all these gay film romances and dramas. I want a gay movie where stuff blows up!**

The car in front of me has this Christian bumper sticker that says, "Eternity: Smoking or Non-Smoking?" I say, "Table for 2, Smoking!"

**To the retarded trolls who incessantly whine about what other people do and wear at clubs:** Would you really notice these things if your life wasn't so pathetic and miserable?

**Maybe we weren't at Stonewall personally, missy, but yes you do owe those of us in our 40s and 50s something.** We went out into the world and expected to be treated with respect and dignity, and we fought for comprehensive health care in the 1980s. If it hadn't been for us, you wouldn't be enjoying the life you do now.

**You may have the muscles and the frozen fake blond hairdo of a porn star, but you are still boring.** You drink like a teenage girl, you don't swear, you giggle and you can't have an intelligent conversation.

**To the older gay man in his 60s who gets all the sex he wants and has no money.**

Are you the one they talk about at the gym who works out like he is in his 20s and keeps drugs aplenty for the guys who you take home?

Yeah, I slept with a Republican, and I'm not ashamed!

I didn't realize the CDC changed their definition of "safe sex." Apparently it now means "I'll make the rules convenient to me."

**Guys, if your haircut still looks like the head of a rooster, please, get a new 'do.** I don't know who thought that was hot, but trends end and that was one that should never have started.

**What is the deal with men whose profiles list their age as 45 yet want to meet only men who are 18 to 35?** If you don't want your chronological peers, what makes you think anybody younger wants your old ass, either?

**Why do fat guys get mad when other fat guys are not interested in them?** Just because I'm fat doesn't mean I have to jump in bed with you.

**It's very possible that people who want "discrete sex" instead of "discreet sex" are implying they want something that will end.** Think about it. For you non-math majors, never mind.

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

**MEET MARKET .NET**

**Your HUNT for a MAN is OVER!**

**CHAT CRUISE CONNECT**

JOIN THE MARKET NOW FOR YOUR FREE FULL ACCESS PASS TO THE NEW WAY TO PLAY!

**www.MEETMARKET.NET**

the NEW way to PLAY...

**> THE WORLD'S LARGEST GAY ESCORT SITE!**

**> 100% FREE ACCESS!**

**> MORE THAN 10 MILLION SERVED!**

**ATTENTION ESCORTS AND BODYWORKERS:**

**NEW D.C. USERS GET FIRST MONTH FREE!**

Use promo code: **DC79**

**212-376-6366**  
**admin@rentboy.com**

**rentboy.com**  
VERSION 4.0

**THOUSANDS OF ESCORTS IN HUNDREDS OF CITIES WORLDWIDE**

BAYOU CITY BOYS CLUB PRESENTS

A SPACE ODYSSEY  
APR. 13-16 2006

Jungle 14

All net proceeds from Jungle 14 are donated to Houston-area HIV/AIDS education and service providers.

Beneficiaries: AIDS Foundation Houston-Stone Soup Program | Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service, Inc. | Bering Omega Community Services | Brentwood Community Foundation | Legacy Community Health Services | Montrose Counseling Center | People with AIDS Coalition of Houston

WWW.JUNGLEHOUSTON.COM FOR TICKET INFORMATION  
ALSO VISIT MALE U WEAR AND M2M FASHION FOR TICKET PURCHASES

**THURSDAY APRIL 13 | COUNTDOWN KICKOFF PARTY**  
Meteor | Special Performance by Hedda Layne  
**FRIDAY APRIL 14 | BLAST OFF OPENING PARTY**  
Rich's | DJ Warren Gluck

**SATURDAY APRIL 15 FORBIDDEN PLANET | MAIN EVENT**  
Meridian | DJ Joe Gauthreaux  
Entertainment by RKM Future Boys

**SATURDAY APRIL 15 | LOST IN SPACE AFTERHOURS**  
M Bar | DJ Alyson Calagna  
Performance by DYNASTY  
**SUNDAY APRIL 16 | BEYOND THE STARS CLOSING PARTY**  
South Beach | DJ Roland Belmares

