

# houston VOICE

## in this week's eclipse

First settled by a pirate, Galveston Island is now a gay-friendly beach mecca

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THE PROM: Same-Sex slow dancing allowed here. Page 3



GAY TV AT LAST: New Viacom gay channel not in Houston. Page 4



SAN FRAN MARRIAGE: Calif. high court considering marriage. Page 5



## A new magazine for gay moms and dads

Long before Mass. marriage, Michelle Darne conceived a magazine for gay parents

By BINNIE FISHER

Michelle Darne admits that when she set out to publish a magazine for gay and lesbian parents, she had no idea that a few years later, wedding bells would be ringing for them in Massachusetts.

She had a notion, though, that at least three million children were living with two mommies or two daddies. Even though there were no statistics to back up her hunch, she decided to run with intuition.

Darne and partner, Kathleen Weiss, threw caution to the wind and invested their savings, all \$250,000 of it, in the first ever parenting magazine for gay men and lesbians.

Some days, Darne looks back and wonders, "What were we thinking? It was such a risk-taking proposition."

But, in 2004, the risk has proven to be worth the taking. The magazine has received several honors in its short history, and on June 10, Darne will accept yet another award, this one from the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

Just as the magazine has come a long way in a few short years, so has Darne come miles from her beginnings.

The youngest of 11 children growing up in the Bay Area, Darne was fortunate enough to have a mother who recognized early that this child was different from the others.

Darne was free to be different. At 16, she worked



'And Baby,' a magazine for gay and lesbian parents, was conceived before gay marriage but kids raised by gays in the news.

on the loading dock of a newspaper, the only girl in a crew of 17.

With no money for college, Darne said, "I managed to get myself into a sales position."

From there, she worked her way into a senior management position with Diablo Publishing and

Please see **AND BABY** on Page 16



John Sullivan (left) and his partner Christopher McCary, both of Anniston, Ala., were the first to file their intentions to get married last week in Provincetown, Mass. The gay-friendly beach town has since stopped issuing licenses to out-of-state gay couples. (Photo by Bizuayehu Tesfaye/AP)

## Mass. cities stop marrying non-residents

Ambiguity over 1913 statute persists as two small towns still defy governor

By JOE CREA

BOSTON — Attleboro and Fall River remain the only Massachusetts cities continuing to issue marriage licenses to out-of-state gay couples despite orders from the governor and attorney general for town clerks to obey a law that forbids the state from granting marriage licenses to couples who cannot

Please see **1913 LAW** on Page 6



**local life**  
Raising money for AIDS charities has made **C.C. Ryder** a drag queen legend on Galveston island.  
**PAGE 8**

**dish**  
Their hit single hinted of a lesbian relationship, but now half of **Tatu** is pregnant not by insemination.  
**PAGE 21**



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## houston news

# A 'Queery Night' and a prom experience for everyone

At the prom that never was, boys in drag, girls in tuxedos are applauded and accepted

By JOSEF MOLNAR

Every party craves a theme, and Van Gogh's "Starry Night" will be accent the upcoming "Queery Night" Alternative Prom that gives the newest generation of gay and lesbian youth a prom night not offered in their high schools.

The yearly promenade put on by the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals started as an alternative prom for high school students, but this prom is no longer just for young people.

"Everybody is invited to the prom," said Sally Huffer, Development and Marketing Manager for the Montrose Counseling Center, which funds and supports the HATCH program. "You don't have to be a HATCH youth."

The prom, this year at the historic Magnolia Ballroom in downtown Houston, has given teens and adults alike the chance to enjoy the prom experience they missed out on in high school.

Prom-goers 20 years old and younger can attend the fund-raiser with their dates for

free; older attendees, however, will be asked to provide a donation of \$25 at the door.

Money raised by the prom helps continue services provided by HATCH, an organization that gives young people ages 13 to 20 a supportive environment and educational opportunities, such as in HIV and AIDS awareness.

A HATCH committee decided this year's theme, including the decorations and entertainment. The Houston Tennis Club is funding the live DJ, local restaurants are providing the food and beverages, and Gingiss Formal Wear in the Galleria III has also pitched in to help HATCH prom attendees by offering a discount on tuxedo rentals for men and women.

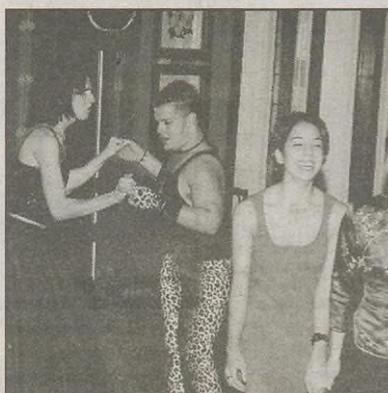
The store is offering a \$59.95 rental special to anyone — youth or adult, male or female — who would like to wear a tuxedo to the prom.

"We are so thrilled to be working closely with Gingiss," said Deb Murphy, Youth Services Worker with HATCH. Anyone planning to rent a tuxedo need only mention that he or she is attending the HATCH prom.

Although tuxedos are affordable, Huffer said formal wear is not mandatory. In fact, she said, many people enjoy the freedom the event offers to dress as flamboyantly as they wish.

"It's an open dress code," she said, "but in many cases people will show up in drag and costumes, so pretty much anything goes. It will be fun."

Increasing public attention to gay and lesbian issues has forced many school districts to be more inclusive, but some still restrict



Anything goes at the H.A.T.C.H. Alternative prom, from girls in tuxedos to boys in leopard-print pants. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

prom goes to a male-female combination.

In Lago Vista, near Austin, a mother recently threatened to sue the school district for denying her daughter, who is straight, the opportunity to bring her best friend to the prom. The school backed down, and the two girls attended the prom together.

### Adults re-do prom

Too often, activists said, many gay seniors decide to go alone or not at all, denying them the experience that many straight adults remember fondly. Huffer said the HATCH prom gives adults the chance to experience the prom as they would have liked when they

### **i** MORE INFO

HATCH Alternative Prom  
Friday, June 4  
Magnolia Ballroom  
715 Franklin St.  
713-529-3590

were in high school. The adults serve as role models for youth, she said.

"When adults show up with dates, they become a role model for the kids," she said. "But this is not just what youth consider a rite of passage; it also gives adults something to go back to, to experience it the way they wanted."

It's an experience not everyone has had. Michael Magura, a HATCH facilitator, was not openly gay at Dulles High in Sugar Land. His experience reflects the reality of many past prom attendees, when being out guaranteed persecution.

"I was not really out in high school, and so I had a girlfriend I went with," he said. "If I had been out, I might have wanted to take a boyfriend with me; there would have been lots of boys I would like to have asked."

Magura now enjoys the yearly prom experience as often as possible, and he said, the event is a prom where being gay is the norm.

"For the most part the kids try to act cool," he said with a laugh. "Once they get there and get going, though, they have fun. I don't recall anyone saying, 'My God, we're having a gay prom!'"

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### In Memory of Christopher Goad

On April 15, 2004, Christopher Allan Goad peacefully passed away. He was 35. Chris is survived by his life partner, parents and two sisters and brother. Chris was extremely active in the Houston community prior to moving to San Francisco in 1994. Whether it was involving fund raising for various charities or catering of parties involving fund raising, Chris was very active.

Born February 5, 1969, Chris spent most of his childhood and his adult life until his mid-twenties in the Houston area before moving to San Francisco. There he worked as a personal trainer, achieving many certifications, and was instrumental in developing the IMPACT program which focuses on the relationship between cancer and exercise.

Because of Chris' great passion with IMPACT, for which he completed a manual just prior to his passing, a fund has been set up to realize his goal of publishing that manual. His family and friends ask that a contribution be sent to: The Private Bank of the Peninsula, c/o Christopher Allan Goad • 505 Hamilton Ave., Suite 110, Palo Alto, CA 94301

It is with great sorrow that his numerous friends in Houston and San Francisco assist his family with his final rest. We all lost a highly intelligent and greatly loyal friend, one who was at the center of so many of our lives. Chris' life was celebrated with a memorial service in San Francisco on May 22, 2004. His family and friends in Houston will have a remembrance here on Saturday, June 5th beginning at 7 P.M. For location, contact forchriscgoad@hotmail.com or call 713-622-3351 and leave a request.

## national news

# Viacom announces launch of gay TV channel

Logo comes to cable in February but so far not in Houston

By BRIAN MOYLAN

Logo, an all-gay basic cable television channel backed by MTV, will hit the airwaves on Feb. 17, 2005, Viacom officials announced this week.

"What has been missing is a home, a home on television [the gay] audience can call their own," said Tom Freston, chair and CEO of MTV Networks. "We believe, with this new network, we'll be providing that home."

Officials at MTV Networks, which is owned by Viacom, said when the new cable channel launches, it will feature 25 percent original programming and 75 percent acquired programming, including previously aired shows and movies.

Judy McGrath, president of MTV Networks Group — which also includes VH1, Comedy Central, Country Music Television, Spike TV, Nickelodeon and TV Land — said that Logo has 40 specials or programs in the development phase and about 20 in the pilot phase.

No specific programming announcements were made this week.

"It's so important that we roll out a slate of programming that represents the diversity of the gay and lesbian audience," said Matt Farber, a consultant who proposed the channel and has been spearheading its development. "We want to have that ready

and unveil it at a separate time."

That time may come at the Television Critics Association conference in mid July.

McGrath said that Logo would co-produce shows and specials with other MTV networks and other Viacom-owned properties like Showtime and CBS. She said those behind Logo are working with CBS News to create everything from a monthly gay newsmagazine to regular MTV News-style newsbreaks.

Under current arrangements, Logo will initially be available in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and San Francisco. More cities may be added by the 2005 launch date.

MTV aims to have Logo in 14 million homes by the end of 2005.

As an advertising-based basic cable channel, Logo will be subject to the same standards for programming as any other basic cable channel, which means limited profanity and intense adult situations.

"We're not using profanity; we're not using sex," MTV's Freston said. "This is going to be mainstream programming that you see everywhere else, except for the fact that it's targeted to the gay and lesbian community."

Howard Buford, CEO of Prime Access, Inc., an advertising agency that represents Fortune 500 companies in gay markets, says that Logo has a better chance with advertisers since it's backed by Viacom.

"[Logo] will be the quality of an MTV or



a Comedy Central if Viacom is behind it, and that is going to put at ease any advertisers who might be concerned about content," he said.

"Research indicates the tremendous loyalty that the GLBT community has toward advertisers that support their values and support their communities," he said.

## Boycott threatened

MTV officials said they expected no backlash over the channel, but hours after Logo was unveiled, the Traditional Values Coalition announced it plans to boycott Logo advertisers.

"It doesn't improve television," TVC Chair Rev. Louis Sheldon told the Associated Press. "It only continues to offer moral anarchy for a very seriously dysfunctional lifestyle."

Buford, who is gay, said a boycott of Logo is ill-advised.

"If [Logo] is following the same standards [as other cable channels], a boycott becomes not about content, it comes down to hate," he said.

Viacom has said for years it planned on launching a gay channel, but those plans never panned out. The idea was bandied about by the company as early as 1994.

In 2002, Showtime and MTV announced the companies were researching the viability of a gay subscription channel, supposedly to be named Outlet. The plan was dropped, but supposedly resurrected in December 2003.

In March, Viacom Chair and Chief Executive Sumner Redstone told the Wall Street Journal that he ordered Freston to come up with a business plan for a gay channel.

## Stiff competition?

Logo will join two other gay cable channels, here!TV, which launched on satellite providers DirectTV in August 2003 and the Dish Network in March 2004, and Q Television Network, which announced this week plans to launch in July.

PridevisionTV, Canada's gay channel, which started in 2001 and is now in 25,000 homes, said in April that it was still looking for funding to launch on U.S. cable outlets this fall.

Here!TV is an on-demand service, where customers can order gay movies and original programming. It will launch as a 24-hour subscription service, similar to HBO or Showtime, with RCN Cable in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco in August.

Q Television, also a 24-hour subscription service, is scheduled to announce its cable providers and availability in the next few weeks.

Paul Colichman, president and founder of here!TV, doesn't see Logo as competition.

"Here!TV is a pay channel, and Logo is basic cable, so we're on different tiers, we're not competitors," Colichman said. "I'm pleased because, as a pay channel, we need a place to sell our programming when we're done with it. Now we have a place, so I'm rooting for them."

The original programming for Here!TV includes "Dante's Cove," a gay series that just completed filming, and "The Complex," a lesbian soap opera.

# Conservative leader blames gays for Iraqi prison abuse

Knight decries 'decadence' of gay weddings

By ADRIAN BRUNE

A conservative leader has pinned blame for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib and the subsequent beheading of businessman Nick Berg on gays getting married and serving in the military, among other acts of American "decadence."

Writing for WorldNetDaily.com, a site for religious conservatives, Robert Knight of the Culture & Family Institute said the United States has arrived at the "perfect storm" of cultural depravity, which has come to a "deadly nexus in Iraq."

He specifically targeted the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, the recent enactment of gay marriage and the promotion of homosexuality in schools as policies that are putting Americans all over the world at risk for terrorism, along with the presence of women in combat roles in the military.

The comments by Knight, a longtime foe of gay rights, hearken back to the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11, when Rev. Jerry Falwell ascribed the terrorist attacks on

the World Trade Center to "the pagans, the abortionists, and the feminists and the gays and lesbians."

Knight also blamed increasing tolerance toward gays in his column about the Iraqi prison abuse and Muslim hatred of the U.S.

"We were told homosexuality is harmless and normal, and the military should live with a 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy that allows homosexuals to stay in the barracks. We were told that men 'marrying' men and women 'marrying' women is inevitable not only for America, but for the world," wrote Knight, whose Culture & Family Institute is part of Phyllis Schlafly's Concerned Women for America.

"Imagine how those images of men kissing men outside San Francisco City Hall after being 'married' play in the Muslim world. We couldn't offer the mullahs a more perfect picture of American decadence. Businessman Nick Berg, who was beheaded by a group claiming revenge over the prison abuses, is the first victim, and we can only pray he will be the last," Knight wrote.



Robert Knight wrote a column for a Christian Web site laying the blame for the Iraqi prisoner torture scandal in part on gays and women serving in the military.

## White House mum

"Robert Knight is way off base," said Steve Ralls, a spokesperson for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a litigation group that assists personnel under investigation for being gay. "This is not about gays, integration of women or pornography. This is about a few soldiers in Iraq who committed deplorable abuse toward the prisoners entrusted to their care."

President Bush acted swiftly to criticize

## MORE INFO

Culture & Family Institute  
c/o Concerned Women for America  
1015 15th St., NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-488-7000  
[www.cultureandfamily.org/cfi](http://www.cultureandfamily.org/cfi)

Falwell's post-9/11 remarks on Rev. Pat Robertson's "700 Club" remarks in 2001, calling them "inappropriate" and saying the president did not share Falwell's views. However, at press time, the White House had not returned repeated calls for comment on Knight's editorial, which also addressed at length Americans' duty to ask God for forgiveness and guidance in how to restore moral order.

In addition to encouraging "normal Americans to get on their knees and asking for God's forgiveness for letting it get this bad," Knight recommended they demand governments enforce the military's ban on homosexuality and withdraw female personnel from combat areas.



## national news

### Calif. high court hears arguments on S.F. gay marriages

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California's Supreme Court justices fired a barrage of skeptical questions Tuesday at a city of San Francisco lawyer who argued the city had a right to issue same-sex marriage licenses. The court heard two hours of arguments on whether Mayor Gavin Newsom exceeded his authority in issuing about 4,000 marriage licenses to gay couples. The city's argument is based on a belief that state law defining marriage as being only between a man and a woman is unconstitutional. The court was not asked to decide the merits of the law, but only whether San Francisco could ignore it. The state argued that city officials had no right to defy the law. Several justices indicated the city should have waited until the law itself had been ruled on. The court is expected to issue its ruling on the case within 90 days.



The California Supreme Court listened to arguments this week concerning whether or not San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom had the authority to issue gay marriage licenses. A ruling is expected within 90 days. (AP photo)

### Former Ariz. Rep. Steve May considers another campaign

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — Former state Rep. Steve May (R-Paradise Valley) is trying to regain his seat. He has yet to formally announce his intention for the state House of Representatives, but he has asked supporters to help collect 600 signatures on petitions by the June 9 deadline for filing. May first won office in 1998, but lost to fellow Republicans Deb Gullett and Steve Tully in District 11 in 2002.



Steve May

He gained national recognition when he waged a successful two-year battle to stay in the Army after he revealed his homosexuality in violation of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" rule. He noted in an e-mail to supporters that after losing the last primary by 58 votes, he promised himself that he would never again run for the Legislature. "As politicians have done since time immemorial, I'd like to break that promise!" he wrote in the e-mail.

### KKK protests 'Gay Day' at Tenn. theme park

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. (AP) — About a half-dozen protesters identifying themselves as Ku Klux Klan members gathered last week near the Dollywood theme park to protest a "Gay Day" at the park. The protesters were not allowed on park property, but they stood on a street near the entrance holding signs with Bible verses and derogatory remarks on them. Police reported no arrests or disruptions. One of the protesters, Ken Gregg, who identified himself as pastor of the True Israel Identity Mission in Knoxville, told the Mountain Press newspaper that people should be thanking them for their actions. "They are living a degenerative lifestyle," Gregg said of gays. "These degenerates don't need to be spreading their message around our children." The Gay Day event was organized by the Knoxville-based gay, lesbian and transgender group Tri-Cities Pride with no involvement from Dollywood. More than a thousand people were expected to attend.

### Ariz. Supreme Court rejects gay marriage case

PHOENIX (AP) — A gay couple's challenge to Arizona's ban on same-sex marriages has been turned away by the state Supreme Court. Without comment Tuesday, the state's highest court let stand an appeals court ruling that upheld the 1996 state law. Phoenix couple Don Standhardt and Tod Keltner in December asked the high court to review the Court of Appeals decision, arguing the statute discriminates against gay couples and their children by violating the state Constitution's privacy and equal treatment clauses. The Court of Appeals had held in October that there is no fundamental constitutional right to same-sex marriage. It found that the state has a rational basis for prohibiting same-sex marriage because of goals related to procreation and child-rearing. Standhardt and Keltner were denied a marriage license in Maricopa County, according to their original lawsuit, filed July 7. "With it being a pressing civil rights issue here, we thought they would see the injustice in the law being what it is," Standhardt said after hearing decision. The Attorney General's Office urged the Supreme Court to reject the appeal, contending the ban was based on legislative policies and not discrimination.

### Wash. decision to grant benefits to married same-sex couples upheld

SEATTLE (AP) — A King County Superior Court judge has affirmed the city's right to determine employee benefits for married same-sex couples. Judge Bruce Hilyer last week dismissed a lawsuit against Mayor Greg Nickels over his recognition of same-sex marriages from other states. Hilyer ruled that the executive order Nickels signed in March, directing city departments to extend benefits to employees in gay marriages, isn't in conflict with state law and doesn't violate the city charter. "The court's decision is a great contribution to equality and family values," Nickels said in a statement. The two out-of-state legal organizations that sued on behalf of 12 local residents said they will likely appeal. The mayor's action defied state law, said Randy Leskovar, a West Seattle pastor and one of the plaintiffs. "This is a very classic example of an activist judge making law rather than interpreting it," Leskovar said.

From staff and wire reports

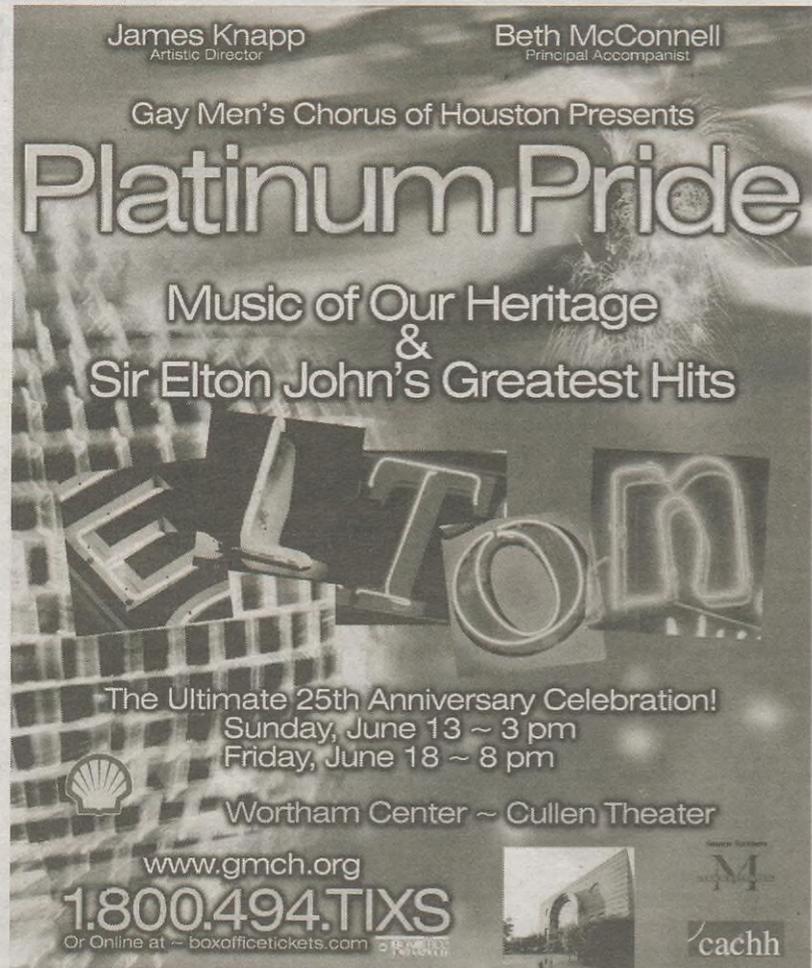
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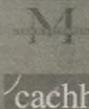
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## national news

## Top Mass. lawyer says out-of-state licenses are void

1913 LAW, continued from Page 1

legally marry in their home state.

Provincetown, the gay-friendly beach town, officially ceased issuing marriage licenses to out-of-state couples this week but vowed to continue fighting the statute they say is "unlawful and unconstitutional."

Other cities that have issued licenses to out-of-state same-sex couples, including Worcester, Somerville and Springfield, ended their protests last week. The mayor of Somerville, Joseph A. Curtatone, left open the possibility that he may challenge Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly's orders to end the practice.

"We are looking at all our legal options," said Mark Horan, a spokesperson for Curtatone.

At the center of the issue is a rarely enforced 1913 law known as the "reverse evasion" law that prohibits Massachusetts from granting licenses to out-of-state couples whose marriages are not legal in their home state.

Last week, Reilly, a Democrat and likely gubernatorial challenger to Romney, said marriage licenses issued to out-of-state couples would not be registered by the state and will be declared void.

Reilly's understanding of the law contradicts a comment he made during an April news conference when he said out-of-state gay couples who live in one of the 12 states and the District of Columbia that do not have laws on their books expressly prohibiting same-sex marriage would be able to marry in Massachusetts.

Corey Welford, a spokesperson for Reilly, said that the attorney general had not changed his opinion.

But Reilly's contrasting statements have brought more confusion than resolution to several town clerks.

Fall River City Clerk Carol Valcourt said with the guidance of her legal department,

the city is following Reilly's original interpretation of the 1913 statute and will continue to issue licenses to any gay couple, so long as they attest that they know of no legal impediment to their marriage back home.

"We are verifying that [marriage license applications are] coming from a non-DOMA state," Valcourt said, referring to the 12 states and D.C. that have not passed a so-called Defense of Marriage Act, "and that there are no specific laws in the state preventing the marriages from being recognized."

She added that of the 19 marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples since last Monday, one was issued to an out-of-state couple. The couple resides in New Mexico and the state has no law preventing it from recognizing same-sex marriages, Valcourt said.

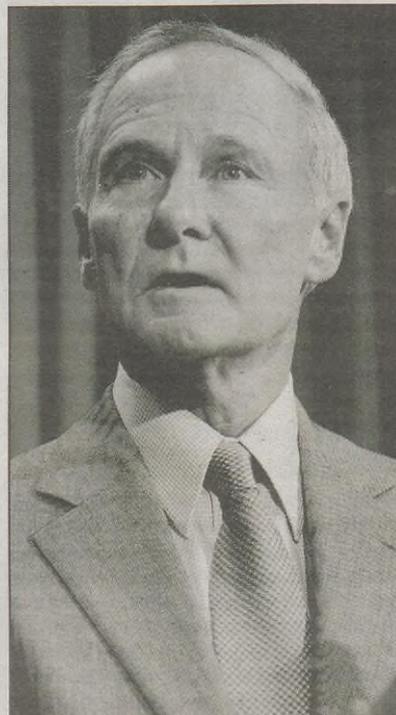
Attleboro City Clerk Susan Flood told the Associated Press that the city solicitor authorized her to issue licenses to gay couples from the 12 states that have not adopted DOMA laws banning such marriages. According to Flood, the city has issued licenses to about eight couples, most of them from Rhode Island.

## 1913 law debated

Ambiguity over the 1913 statute persists. Last week, Norfolk County District Attorney William R. Keating said he would not prosecute town clerks for defying the 1913 statute because the law was enacted in part to prevent interracial marriages and has since been nullified by the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Loving vs. Virginia*, which struck down interracial marriage bans.

"This 1913 law does not have the force of law," said Dave Traub, a spokesperson for the Norfolk district attorney's office. "It specifically refers to intermarrying, the joining of people across races. That statute was passed explicitly as a racial statute and it has since been nullified by *Loving vs. Virginia* when the high court struck down the law as being 'repugnant' of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution."

Chapter 207, Sections 11, 12, 13 of the General Laws of Massachusetts state, "No marriage shall be contracted in this com-



Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly said that out-of-state gay couples cannot legally get married in Massachusetts. (Photo by AP)

monwealth by a party residing and intending to continue to reside in another jurisdiction if such marriage would be void if contracted in such other jurisdiction."

But Section 12 adds that whomever has the authority to issue the license, "shall satisfy himself, by requiring affidavits or otherwise, that such person is not prohibited from intermarrying by the laws of the jurisdiction where he or she resides."

Opponents of the 1913 law, like Norfolk District Attorney Keating, have seized on Section 12 — particularly the term "intermarrying" — as proof that the law had racist origins.

But according to Reilly, the statute — while rarely enforced — is still the law and was not created out of animus toward interracial couples.

In a May 21 letter to clerks in Provincetown, Springfield, Worcester and Somerville, Reilly argued, "There is not the slightest evidence that this purpose [preventing interracial marriages] actually motivated the Massachusetts Legislature, which had repealed the commonwealth's ban on interracial marriage in 1843."

The letter added that the law was created by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, a body of judges, professors, lawyers and scholars who originally proposed the statute in 1912 to create equal statutes from state to state and also to prohibit a variety of marriages.

Such prohibitions included, "Marriages with particeps criminis [i.e., with an accomplice, a prohibition created by the divorce laws of some states in cases of adultery], or with a minor without parental consent, or

## i MORE INFO

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www.ago.state.ma.us

within a specified time after entry of final decree in divorce, or between a white and a colored person," Reilly wrote.

Reilly added that the term "intermarry" in Section 12 of Chapter 207 of Massachusetts law was not a reference to interracial marriages but rather was "used in a much broader sense in statutes dating back to the 18th century," noting St. 1785, Chapter 69, "no man or woman shall intermarry within specified degrees of relationship."

To buttress his position, Reilly cited Associate Supreme Judicial Court Justice John M. Greaney's concurring opinion in *Goodridge vs. the Department of Health* — the case that legalized gay marriage in Massachusetts — in which Greaney wrote that the 1913 statute remains valid.

"The argument, made by some in the case, that legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts will be used by persons in other states as a tool to obtain recognition of a marriage in their state that is otherwise unlawful, is precluded by the provision of G.L. c. 207, 11, 12, and 13," wrote Justice Greaney, who voted with the narrow 4-3 majority in the case.

Mary Bonauto, the lawyer who successfully argued the *Goodridge* case, said the law did have origins in racism, as made clear by the National Conference of Commissioners final report and added that Justice Greaney's inclusion of the 1913 law in his concurring opinion was not the subject of the *Goodridge* case.

## Future of 1913 law

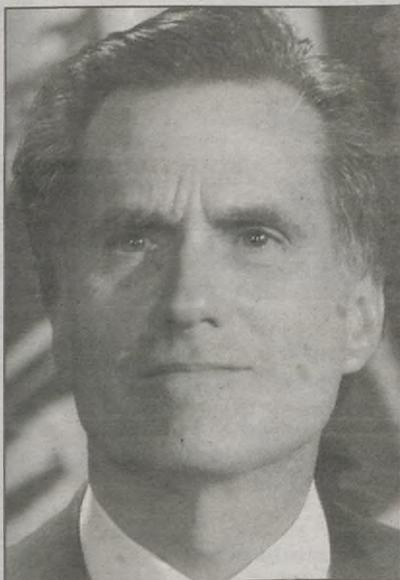
The Massachusetts Senate on May 19 voted 28-3 to repeal the 1913 law. The vote was on an amendment to the state budget the Senate was considering.

Arline Issacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, said the challenge now is to convince the House Conference Committee to include it in the House budget, a move that is unlikely, she said.

"The odds are stacked hugely against us," Issacson said. "We will keep trying, but at the moment it is not looking very good. House Speaker Thomas Finneran told the *Boston Globe* that he did not want it in there and Romney has already announced he would veto such an amendment."

Issacson said that it is possible the statute could be repealed legislatively or judicially before 2006, the earliest date the Massachusetts Constitution could be amended to ban gay marriage.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney has indicated he will veto any attempt by the Legislature to overturn a 1913 law that denies marriage licenses to gay couples living outside the state. (Photo by AP)

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New Hampshire  
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New Mexico  
New York  
Oregon  
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\*Defense of Marriage Acts prohibiting recognition of marriages between people of same gender.



## international news

### French mayor to officiate at nation's first gay marriage



French politician Noel Mamere's announcement last month that he will officiate at the country's first gay marriage ceremony has ignited a national controversy over gay unions.

PARIS — Although the French approved the Civil Solidarity Pact in 1999, giving all adult couples many of the same social and economic rights as those who are formally married, controversy is surfacing over an upcoming gay wedding ceremony, the New York Times reported. Noel Mamere, leader of the small leftist Green Party and a member of the French Parliament, said last month he will officiate at the nation's first gay marriage ceremony, according to the Times. Mamere also is mayor of the town of Begles and will use that title to unite two men in a marriage June 5, the newspaper reported. "France is a hypocritical country," Mamere told the Times. "Marriage here is traditionally considered a Judeo-Christian value, a very strong symbol organized around heterosexuality." The French government opposes Mamere's planned action, and a verbal battle has erupted across the nation over the issue, the Times reported. French Justice Minister Dominique Perben said the upcoming gay marriage will not be legal, according to the Times. "To argue that sexual difference between spouses is not written into the civil code is to lie," Perben told the daily Le Figaro.

### U.S. prisoner killed while awaiting trial in Mexico

NUEVO LAREDO, Mexico (AP) — A gay U.S. citizen awaiting trial on charges of fatally stabbing a newspaper editor in this border city died at the hands of a knife-wielding inmate, leading the U.S. Embassy Friday to protest the killing and demand an investigation. U.S. ambassador Tony Garza said in a press statement he "deplored" the killing of suspect Mario Medina of Laredo, Texas. Garza sent a "strongly worded" diplomatic note to the Mexican government, whose officials had ignored U.S. requests for protection for Medina. "We expect a full investigation into his murder and into the lack of protection he received despite our repeated requests," Garza said. Medina was stabbed more than 30 times Thursday during a prison brawl and died minutes after arriving at a hospital, said Juan Vazquez, a commander with state police in northern Tamaulipas state, where Nuevo Laredo is located. Medina, 23, and his Mexican lover, Hiram Olivares, were charged with the March 19 killing of El Mañana newspaper editor Roberto Mora, whose body was found stabbed more than 25 times outside his apartment building. Medina and Olivares, 28, lived in the apartment above Mora's. Prosecutors said Medina confessed to killing Mora in a jealous rage.

### Taiwan television figure announces she is transgendered

TAIPEI, Taiwan — The "Queen of Auction" on Taiwan television said publicly last week that she is transgendered, according to the China Post. Born Wu Chung-ming in 1962, Liching said she had sex reassignment surgery at age 22, the newspaper reported. Liching's agent told the media that she became a star and top seller on the Eastern TV Auction Channel due to her husky voice, according to the Post. She started her career as a singer and, after a traffic accident caused the loss of her "sweet voice," the Post reported, worked as a model. News reports indicate her sales records including moving 100,000 pairs of underwear in one hour and 700 notebook PCs in 85 minutes.

### Survey finds a high percentage of gay men in Indian city have HIV

MUMBAI, India — Although the numbers have been stable for four years, up to 20 percent of gay men in this city are HIV positive, according to a survey by the Humsafar Trust and the Indian Market Research Bureau, the Times of India reported. The study included 240 gay men and is the first of its kind, according to the Times. Although 92 percent of men in the city who were surveyed know where to get condoms, only 12 to 16 percent use them during oral sex with a man, the newspaper reported. The study also found that 27 percent of gay men were married and nearly half said they had sex with a woman in the last four weeks, the Times stated. "There is need to bring married men who have sex with men into the fold of healthy sexual behavior," Ashok Row Kavi, founder of the Humsafar Trust, told the Times. "A change in perception of condom usage is needed."

### Aussie PM to move ahead with gay marriage ban

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister John Howard told his parliamentary colleagues Tuesday that the Federal Cabinet plans to move ahead with a plan to restrict marriage to heterosexuals only and head off three court challenges, according to a report in the Courier-Mail. Howard said he has the support of the opposition party, which has been lobbied by gay rights groups, the Courier-Mail reported. The Labor Party plans to remove discrimination against gay couples through changes to other legislation, the newspaper reported. There is no formal definition of marriage either in the Marriage Act or the Family Law Act, and until now the notion that marriage is a union between a man and a woman has only been assumed. But with Canada and one U.S. state now permitting marriage between foreign gay couples, conservative groups and Coalition backbenchers have been lobbying the Federal Cabinet to ensure that such unions would not be recognized in Australia.

From staff and wire reports

May 30 • "Taming the Tongue....Is It Possible?"

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Galveston drag queen legend C.C. Ryder deals with AIDS by raising money for AIDS charities.

## C.C. By the Sea has roots in a dingy Pennsylvania bar

Galveston drag queen legend has a passion for raising funds to fight HIV and AIDS

By CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

If it's the Sunday before Memorial Day, it must be time for C.C. By the Sea, a fund-raiser for the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, hosted by Galveston drag queen legend C.C. Ryder.

Ryder's commitment to raising money for AIDS charities started two days before Valentine's about 20 years ago in a

dingy bar in Pennsylvania called the Blue Bugle.

C.C. Ryder (then known as Claire Schuler) had just ordered a cocktail at the bar when he noticed something besides the tacky German décor and the bad music: a man with a handlebar mustache who seemed out of place as he looked at the jukebox selections.

"You're not going to play any of that craziness are you?" Schuler asked.

The two ended up at an IHOP restaurant. "We talked and we looked in each other's eyes, and we could both tell," Schuler recalled.

Breakfast was followed by passion.

On Valentine's Day, the man with the mustache showed up at Schuler's home with a teddy bear. "And that was it," said Schuler,

who ended up living with Jeff in Baltimore.

In 1987 Jeff was diagnosed with HIV. "He begged me to get tested. It came back positive. The people were like, 'Do you have any questions.' And I was like, 'No. It's not going to stop me from living.'"

The two moved to Friendswood in 1993 so Jeff could be close to his family and seek treatment there.

### A dare to don drag

Schuler needed to do something to keep busy. So he started to do drag. He had done it before when he lived in Baltimore and earned money as an erotic dancer.

One day some drag queens challenged him to don a dress and take them on their turf.

Schuler took up the challenge, put on a pair of "5 and 1/2 inch Eartha-Kitt-come-fuck-me boots" and earned second runner up in his first pageant. C.C. Ryder was born.

Ryder started performing in Houston and Galveston, working at places like the BRB and Cousins.

### **i** CLAIR SCHULER a.k.a. C.C. RYDER

Age: 39

Residence: Galveston

Birthplace: East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

Occupation: Entertainer, 3rd Coast

Pets: 3 dogs (Christina, Maggie, Quito)

Religion: my own

Tidbit: loves tube steak

While performing, Ryder caught the attention of a bar patron named John. "John didn't particularly care for drag. And when I was performing he had no clue I was doing Madonna. He didn't know who she was! He was a redneck."

Once Ryder finished with his show, he went backstage, cleaned up, put on his "boy clothes" and headed to his car to go home. He noticed John in the parking lot, and called out to him.

"He had no idea who I was."

John was dumbstruck. "You're pretty good looking as a woman," he managed to sputter when he figured it out. "But you're better looking as a man!"

Ryder thanked him for the compliment and rushed home. He had to take care of Jeff.

Ryder remembers one moment at the hospital when a physician's assistant was treating Jeff. "I'm sorry Jeffrey," the P.A. said. "There's nothing we can do, because you're at the end of your disease."

Ryder couldn't believe what he heard. He cursed at the P.A. and promised Jeff he would be better.

But after being in Texas for a year, Jeff died six days before his 40th birthday in 1994.

Ryder pulled himself together and continued performing.

Weeks later Ryder noticed John was watching him perform at Cousins. When John asked how things were going, Ryder revealed his lover had passed away.

"He started crying," Ryder recalled. "He was real nice, and we exchanged numbers and eventually started going out for eight years. And we bought a house together in Galveston."

Things did not necessarily go smoothly. When John hit his 40s the couple split up. But, Ryder admits, they may yet get back together.

Right now Ryder has his work cut out for him. He's planning a blow-out barbecue for this weekend's C.C. By the Sea.

"Two lesbians have two big-ass barbecue pits," he said. "We'll have a champagne sunset cruise. We're going to watch dolphins. And then we're going to have a tea dance on the way in."

The event has come a long way. "The first year we spent \$500 and we only got \$70. Last year we raised seven or eight thousand dollars"

"It's my way of giving thanks. Unfortunately with government cutbacks, it's hard for people to get medication."

### **i** MORE INFO

C.C. By the Sea  
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# houston news

## A week for bunnies and bonnets



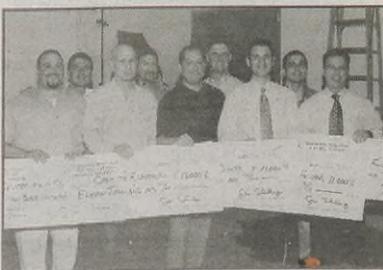
Bunnies on the Bayou costume contest winners included: **Becky Brewer** (center), first place; **Daryl Bryant** and **Tim Angelle**, second place; and **Patti** and **Christian Quinn**, third place. (Photos by Dalton DeHart)



**Frank Staggs** and **Earl Kreiger** of the Diana Foundation recently presented a donation to Unhinged Productions Artistic Director **Chris Jimmerson**.



The late **Robert Avalon**, Mayor **Bill White's** brother, was remembered recently during a benefit for the Foundation for Modern Music by (from left) **Andrea White** (wife of the mayor), **Bart Truxillo**, **Diane Marks** and **Brooks Ballard**.

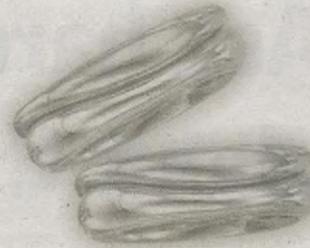


Bayou City Boys Club recently presented its almost \$48,000 take from Jungle to representatives of the Center for AIDS, AIDS Foundation Houston, The Assistance Fund, Casa de Esperanza and the Montrose Clinic.



The new logo for the Spay & Neuter Assistance Program was unveiled recently by (from left) SNAP Board Chair **Holly O'Dell**, Star & Lou Ad Agency President **Lou Congelio** and SNAP founder and CEO **Sean Hawkins**.

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## editorial

# Ask hard questions about the Iraq war

Photos of naked male prisoners forced into sex acts makes the Iraq war a 'gay issue.'

But for us, it shouldn't stop there.

By MUBARAK DAHIR

t

HE CLAIM BY SOME GAY people that the invasion and occupation of Iraq is not a "gay" issue crumbled this month when photos emerged of hooded, naked male Iraqi captives at the

Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad being forced to simulate sex acts on each other as a form of abuse and humiliation.

As a gay man and as a person of Arab descent, I felt a double sting from those pictures.

Looking at the blurred-out photos of hooded male Iraqi prisoners being forced to perform simulations of oral sex on one another, I had to wonder what it was that my fellow Americans in uniform who were directing the scene found the most despicable: the fact that the men were performing gay sex, or that they were Arabs.

No one can doubt that the gay-sex abuse photos display the deeply seated homophobia that remains pervasive and unchecked in the United States military.

But this is not where the gay angle ends to the story of abuse in the prisons there, or indeed of our very involvement in Iraq.

There are broader issues to the debacle of Iraq that we as gay people are particularly situated to tackle because of our own history of being maligned and misrepresented by government propaganda and lies. Part of our legacy must be to learn from our own history, and to be able to apply those lessons to other situations as we seek clearer pictures of truth.

Now more than ever we need to muster our sense of skepticism and cut through government manipulation to figure out what peril our country is in in Iraq, and how to get it on a better track.

As a shocked world now knows, the "gay sex" pictures were among numerous disturbing photos depicting Iraqi prisoners in various deplorable conditions: In some cases, naked Iraqis were shown shackled together and piled on top of one another in a human heap. Behind the

mound of stripped humanity, American soldiers stood with evil smiles on their faces, giving the camera the thumbs up.

One photo shows a dead and bruised Iraqi in an open body bag filled with ice.

In another, a man in a black pointed hood stands on a box or crate. Wires are attached to the tips of his fingers and other parts of his body, and he stands with his arms spread to either side, execution style.

And in yet others, American soldiers are shown dragging naked prisoners around on the ground on collars and leashes, as if they were dogs.

SINCE THE LEAKED PHOTOS WERE made public, reports have also surfaced that captives were not just humiliated, but were likely tortured, both psychologically and physically.

According to a report by the International Committee of the Red Cross, abuse at 10 detention facilities in Iraq, including Abu Ghraib, was widespread. Part of the abuse was psychological, and included keeping detainees naked in small concrete cells without food or sleep. Other abuse documented by the Red Cross included physical mistreatment that led to prisoners sustaining burns, bruises and other injuries.

The Red Cross report documents conditions at prisons in Iraq from March to November 2003 — long before the disgraceful photos came to the public's attention in early May 2004.

Press reports are also now confirming that some Iraqis have died while in the hands of military interrogators, though the details of what happened to just how many prisoners remains shrouded in secrecy. When the particulars do emerge, the picture is likely to get even grimmer.

President Bush condemned the photos and gave a mild chastising to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. At least six guards at the prison are being court martialled.

But Bush and Rumsfeld want us to believe that what we are seeing in those

photographs are isolated incidents carried out by a few unruly soldiers. That explanation lacks credibility.

As gay and lesbian people, we know that when one of our own gets bashed, it doesn't happen in a vacuum. It happens within an atmosphere that tolerates violence toward us because of who we are. The same thing is happening in Iraq.

The Red Cross report describes the methods of cruelty and torture it documented as a systemic pattern of abuse used to extract information from detainees. News reports since the scandal first broke make clear that the now-infamous photos were taken with the intent of scaring and intimidating other prisoners into making confessions or "cooperating" in other ways with authorities.

SOME IN THE MILITARY HAVE TRIED to defend, or at least minimize, these actions by saying that the prisoners were suspected "terrorists" and "insurgents."

But we need to ask difficult questions about who is being detained in Iraq, and why. Human rights groups estimate somewhere between 18,000 and 20,000 Iraqi men, between the ages of 15 and 81, have been imprisoned since the invasion.

Are we really to believe that there are 20,000 "terrorists" in Iraq — and that the United States army was clever enough to capture that many of them?

Calling the masses of Iraqis "terrorists" is as absurd as saying most gay men are pedophiles. It is nothing more than propaganda that doesn't hold up under scrutiny.

Indeed, the Red Cross report estimates that 90 percent of Iraqis detained in American-controlled prisons there were arrested "by mistake." It seems painfully clear that thousands of Iraqi men are probably being rounded up in general sweeps and being illegally held for no good reason at all.

Our government told us we were invading Iraq to rid it of weapons of mass destruction. Those arms have never been found.

Since we invaded Iraq, nearly 800 American soldiers have died. An estimated 15,000 Iraqis have been killed.

Now we see stomach-turning photos of American-led abuse, and we are supposed to believe that it isn't government policy, but the work of a few miscreants.

Isn't it time we demanded some plausible answers — and some real policy revisions — on what is going on in Iraq?

@ Mubarak Dahir is editor of the Express Gay News in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a paper affiliated with this publication. He can be reached at mdahir@expressgaynews.com.



## viewpoint KEN SAIN



Gay activists claim John Kerry is the best presidential candidate ever, but only one issue really matters.

## He's not Bush but who is he?

THE WALLS OF MY OFFICE WERE STILL spinning after I hung up the phone last week. I had just sat through a 40-minute teleconference staged by the presidential campaign of Sen. John Kerry.

The call reminded me of a 45 r.p.m. Abba record: All that spinning, fabulous as it may be, and yet no substance.

The conference was hastily arranged to inform gay media about a meeting between the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee and about 30 gay activists. The media were not invited to attend. Four activists who did attend were on the conference to tell us about it. But two of them work for the Kerry campaign. What did they come away with?

"John Kerry is the best presidential

candidate ever on our issues," said one.

"John Kerry is the best presidential candidate ever on our issues," echoed another.

In fact, I think all four made that statement during the call. You can sum up the point of the teleconference in four words: Kerry good, Bush bad.

BUT IS KERRY REALLY THAT GAY friendly? True, he did vote against the Defense of Marriage Act, a member of a very lonely club on Capitol Hill. But, he said he voted against it because he thought the process had turned into gay bashing, not based on the merits of the bill.

He has said over and over that he is against gay marriage. The activists he met with said he reiterated that position. But

Kerry has said that he supports civil unions and would support extending federal benefits to accompany that recognition.

But what has Kerry actually done toward providing federal benefits to same-sex couples stuck in the separate and unequal civil unions? He's done nothing.

OK, that's unfair. He's let others do something and then he has signed on after the fact. He is a co-sponsor of the Permanent Partner Immigration Act. He is a co-sponsor of the Domestic Partners Benefits & Obligations Act.

The House's Family & Medical Leave Inclusion Act is looking for a sponsor in the Senate. No doubt, Kerry will wait for someone else to step forward and sign on later.

Six senators are listed as lead sponsors of the Domestic Partner Health Benefits Equity Act. Two are Republicans. None are named Kerry. In fact, according to the Human Rights Campaign Web site, Kerry isn't even a co-sponsor on this bill.

If Kerry is going to campaign on his opposition to gay marriage but claim that gay couples deserve all the federal rights of marriage in civil unions, then he should do more in the Senate to provide those rights.

The activists on the teleconference point out that with the Republicans in charge of the Senate, even the gay rights bills that Kerry signed on to support will never be voted on.

WAIT A MINUTE. DEMOCRATS WERE in charge of the Senate during 2002. Why

wasn't something done then?

If gay-friendly Democrats can't push through a relatively non-controversial bill like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act when they control the Senate, how does Kerry plan to grant gay couples all the rights of marriage with their civil unions during our lifetimes?

Don't hold your breath. In fact, it would be easier to get gay marriage approved in the Senate in one bill than it will be to get 1,138 separate bills passed to give gays the rights and benefits of marriage.

Kerry has a good gay rights record as a member of Congress. He says all the right things (except on marriage), and when given a chance, he votes in favor of treating gay Americans like everyone else. But, the four activists did offer one other reason gay men and lesbians should vote for Kerry.

He's not Bush. So far, that has been the theme to Kerry's campaign.

Kerry believes in a separate and unequal system of recognizing gay families and pays little more than lip service to actually making those relationships equal in Congress, where he is empowered to do something about it.

The room has stopped spinning, and I can see clearly now. The only problem is, the greater of the two evils in this case is so terrible, the lesser still looks pretty good.



Ken Sain is news editor of the Washington Blade, a sister publication to the Houston Voice, and can be reached at [ksain@washblade.com](mailto:ksain@washblade.com).

## viewpoint JENNIFER VANASCO



Conservatives reacted to abuse at Abu Ghraib by seeing 'homosexual acts' as the ultimate form of humiliation.

## The fear behind Iraqi prison abuse

AMERICAN SOLDIERS FORCED IMPRISONED Iraqis to "simulate homosexual acts."

That's according to the Associated Press, which publishes its articles in newspapers around the world.

And the fact that AP called these acts "homosexual" shouldn't matter, right? Semantics can hardly be important when the hard fact is that U.S. soldiers and mercenaries did indeed torture and sexually humiliate Iraqis in a way that defies not only the Geneva Convention, but moral dignity. These acts were wrong, and we should investigate them and root out all those in the chain of command who had responsibility.

And yet, it is important. Because it illuminates a small, dark corner of the American psyche, making it sharp and clear and disturbing as a photograph.

Rape of women by men is never referred

to as a "forced heterosexual act." It's called rape. Just as these acts to torture Iraqis should be called "sexual humiliation."

But the Associated Press isn't the only place where you'll find this kind of torture called "homosexual." You'll find it in conservative rants all over the Web.

Clearly, a segment of America — hopefully confined to the conservative "red states" that went for George W. Bush, but you never know — thinks that this sort of thing is standard for gay sex.

They seem to think, in fact, that sexual humiliation is gay sex, and that gay sex is sexual humiliation.

IT DOESN'T MATTER TO THESE PEOPLE that a woman, Army Pvt. Lynndie England, plays a prominent role in several of the photographs. She holds one Iraqi

by a leash, which apparently makes her sexuality "queer" because it suggests S&M, and makes her, by some strange logic, aligned with the gay people.

Elaine Donnelly, a conservative activist, told the New York Times that this "cultural deterioration" among soldiers is a direct effect of allowing women to serve in the military and "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a "trend" she is trying to reverse.

But this has nothing to do with women or gays serving in the military. If anything, all it shows about these additions to the armed forces is that our Victorian idea that women are a civilizing influence on men is clearly wrong.

Still, we can wonder if England or other women would have stood by to watch men simulating the rape of women. There must be some corner of her brain that would be repulsed by that.

We can also wonder if gay men were able to be open in the military, and if they were present at the prison, whether they would have stood by while Iraqi men were forced to sodomize each other and simulate oral sex.

After all, for gay men, sodomy and oral sex are natural, healthy parts of sexuality. Perhaps they would understand better than anyone else where the moral line is crossed.

BUT THE CONSERVATIVE REACTION TO these "homosexual acts" appears to be that forced sex and humiliation are the standard ways gays have sex. No wonder we scare them. No wonder they don't want us in the military or in locker rooms.

Sodomy is how some straight male bul-

lies humiliate and control other men, just like they use rape to humiliate and control women.

The horror at Abu Ghraib is not the only example. Another occurred when male New York cops sodomized Haitian immigrant Abner Louima not because they were attracted to him, but because they wanted to show that they were in control.

If conservatives think gay male sex is only about sexual humiliation, then they must be very worried that we want to humiliate them. Because isn't that what all oppressed minorities want? To not only dismantle the master's house, but bring him down to their level?

But that, of course, is not what we want. What we want is much more benign — equality. The ability to go about our lives without fearing for them. The chance to live next door without harassment or hassle. The right to speak up without being put down.

Maybe we need to address this almost-unspoken fear directly. Maybe we should make clear that we don't want to sexually humiliate.

We want to unseat their president, sure. We want to overturn their biased laws, absolutely. We want to live next door to them and work alongside them and eat at the next table.

But we don't want to rape them or make them simulate sex acts. That's just not what being gay is about.



Jennifer Vanasco is a Chicago-based syndicated columnist and can be reached at [vanasco@chicagofreepress.com](mailto:vanasco@chicagofreepress.com).

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## on the record



"Barring a miracle, the family as it has been known for more than five millennia will crumble."

Rev. James Dobson of the conservative Focus on the Family, on gay couples marrying in Massachusetts (Washington Post, May 20)

"Like mile-markers in time, certain calendar dates stand in memory as not only historic, but momentous. Dates like Dec. 7, 1941 and Sept. 11, 2001 represent far more than mere days on a calendar. Now, May 17, 2004 must be added to that list. ... This is a day that will live in moral infamy."

Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, on Massachusetts marrying gay couples (www.crosswalk.com, May 17)

"[George W. Bush] has appointed more open homosexuals to high office than Bill Clinton ever did. He has promoted the homosexual agenda. ... He has come out on the surface saying he's against homosexual marriages, same-sex marriages, but on the other hand, he hasn't really done anything to stop them."

James Clymer, chair of the Constitution Party in Utah, criticizing the president for being too liberal in the "culture wars" (Associated Press, May 23)

"Here is John Kerry's exact position on gay marriage: Kerry thinks it's OK for two women to get married as long as one is really rich."

Talk-show host Craig Kilborn from CBS' "Late Late Show" (Associated Press, May 18)

"When 'homosexual' comes up, people are hesitant. It's not easy table talk. And heterosexual men don't like to discuss it. They have to be on guard. They know these men are predators."

Rev. Lou Sheldon, 70, head of the Traditional Values Coalition, on his group's fight against gay rights (Washington Post, May 20)



"You know what that means. Group sex. Just sex, sex, sex."

Lou Sheldon, referring to an ad in the Washington Blade, a gay publication he said he never misses picking up, in which a group "meets frequently to socialize" with "refreshments, music and videos" (Washington Post, May 20)

"It's been raining a lot and the topsoil is loose. You know this president. He likes to go all out. Suffice it to say he wasn't whistling show tunes."

White House spokesman Trent Duffy on the fall President Bush took last weekend while riding a bike at his ranch in Crawford, Texas (Associated Press, May 23)

"Marriage is not about adult desires for affirmation and benefits, it is about the well-being of children. Two men being intimate are simply not the same as a husband and a wife, and alternative family forms are not just as good as traditional families."

Conservative Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, who after months of indecision last week endorsed the Federal Marriage Amendment (Deseret News, Salt Lake City, May 22)



"I'm a comedian. I want to make people laugh. I want to make people feel good. ... Somehow, I was viewed as political when I just want to be a comedian."

Actress turned talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres, on the success of her daytime talk show, which last week won the Emmy for best talk show; DeGeneres does not discuss being gay on the program (Associated Press, May 22)

"In daytime, the audience doesn't want to be preached at by anybody. They don't want Oprah preaching spirituality or Rosie preaching politics or Ellen preaching lifestyle."

Jim Paratore, president of Warner Brothers' Telepictures Productions, which produces "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" (Associated Press, May 22)



**Ellen again**  
She's back on top with an Emmy for her new talk show.  
Page 22

# Galveston is out as a gay-friendly seaport

Locals say Galveston is and always was a gay-friendly Texas Mecca

By BINNIE FISHER



ONE OF ONLY A handful of Victorian seaports listed on the National Historical Register, Galveston had to grow up accept-

ing of diversity.

Along with accepting sailors from far-away places who laid anchor at this Gulf of Mexico port, Galveston Island also came to embrace all manner of diversity.

Today, the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau isn't shy about making it known that Galveston is a gay-friendly sea town with a good handful of gay bars and a beach that welcomes gays and lesbians. The bureau is happy to direct gay and lesbians to the city's gay B & B establishments and gay bars.

About an hour's drive down Interstate 45 from Houston, Galveston is a world away. It has the look of a place that grew up influenced by many cultures. Galveston has a Southern, Mexican and Caribbean feel.

The architecture leans toward Victorian, and the colors mimic the rainbow.

Houstonian Mikel Reper discovered Galveston several years ago and made it his weekend destination of choice.

## **i** MORE INFO

Galveston Convention & Visitors Bureau  
866-505-4456  
www.galvestoncvb.com



Several businesses along the Seawall fly the colors to assure visitors that Galveston is gay friendly. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

Working in the city, it was nice to get away to a place with surf and sand on the weekends.

"Two years ago, I bought a house in Galveston," he said. "My friends were tired of me hanging out on their couches."

Reper, who owns one of the few houses on the Seawall, said Galveston is a great destination for many reasons.

"It's very gay friendly," he said. "A lot of [gay men and lesbians] are buying houses down here."

Reper, a Houston interior designer with a yen to own a business, said he looked around Galveston and decided

the city needed a place where someone could find nice gifts and home accents. Recently, he opened the Nest, an upscale store with gifts and items for the home.

REALTOR RICHARD ABSTEIN SAID there is something about Galveston that hooks gay and lesbian visitors.

"Yes, it's a tourist town, but it isn't one of those pristine destinations where everything is new and scrubbed clean," he said. "There are hotels and condos that fit that bill, but there is something else as well. There's history."

He said it is that history that most of his gay and lesbian clients seek when they are looking for property on the island.

Abstein, who was born on the island, said the town dates back to 1838. "That's new compared to cities on the East Coast," he said. "But, it's a great little town with lots of history."

He hesitates to use the word, but when he does, it is in a complimentary vein. "Seedy," he said, in describing what it is that he finds so captivating about Galveston.

Please see **GALVESTON** on Page 20

**NOT SO TINY:** Gay author Louis Bayard takes license with Dickens and grows up Tiny Tim. Page 14

**STILL HERE:** Elaine Stritch's one-woman show about surviving show business comes to HBO. Page 15



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## books KEVIN RIORDAN



Gay author discusses how classic tome  
'A Christmas Carol' inspired latest work  
that visits Tiny Tim as a grown man.

## Taking Dickensian license

AUTHOR LOUIS BAYARD'S PREVIOUS novel was a postmodern comedy of manners about a gay guy's quest to become a father. His latest, "Mr. Timothy," is a picaresque mystery-thriller featuring Tiny Tim of "A Christmas Carol" all grown up in Victorian London.

Talk about a change of literary pace. "I was attracted to the idea of revisiting a well-known book or character," says Bayard, who is gay. "Charles Dickens is probably the largest influence on my work ... having the characters be as vivid as possible, having them be really colorful characters that pop off the page at you. And having an energy in the prose."

There's plenty of energetic prose and colorful characters in the boisterous, bawdy, occasionally disturbing and sometimes quite moving "Mr. Timothy." Only a handful of characters, including Timothy's 'Uncle N' — aka Ebenezer Scrooge — are borrowed from Dickens. The rest of the novel's rich and rollicking cast are Bayard inventions.

And the narrator, Timothy, is almost unrecognizable without his crutch or winsomeness.

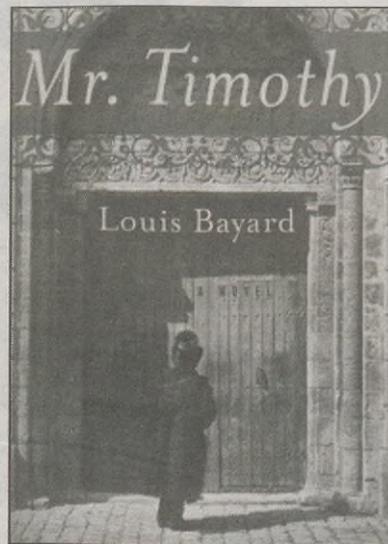
"I never really liked Tiny Tim," Bayard says. "He was too sweet, too pure." That was then.

In "Mr. Timothy," he's 23 and living in a brothel, where he teaches the madam to read when he's not busy helping a cheery fellow named Captain Gully fish corpses out of the Thames. Their London is simultaneously dreamy and nightmarish, a fabulous yet fetid metropolis teeming with corruption, brutality, and — here and there — beauty.

BUT "MR. TIMOTHY" IS HARDLY A Valentine to the city. It's full of matter-of-fact depictions of life among the city's poor — especially its poor children.

"At that time, children were half of London's population," Bayard observes. "These kids had to be very tough."

And in the book, they are. Timothy falls in with a street-smart urchin named "Colin the Melodious" as well as a girl named Philomela, who seems destined to become one of the branded, violated female corpses that haunt the narrator's dreams.



Gay author Louis Bayard takes his cues, and a few characters, from Charles Dickens in 'Mr. Timothy.'

Timothy, Colin and Philomela would seem unlikely heroes, but that's what they become as they discover a repulsive criminal enterprise involving London's upper crust, the police and the ritualized sexual abuse of young girls.

Interspersed among the novel's deftly written action sequences are meditative letters from Timothy to his recently deceased father, Bob Cratchit, whose ghost the narrator sees all over London.

"MR. TIMOTHY" IS NOT MERELY A period romp, but it is also a heartfelt exploration of the tricky difficulties, treacherous resentments and primal power of the father-son relationship.

Bayard says the experiences of watching his own father age and recently becoming a father himself, are reflected in the book. Bayard and his male partner have a three-year-old son.

The novel has what Bayard describes as a "gay vibe" — albeit one that's about the quintessentially gay experience of creating one's own family, rather than romance. Timothy never expresses overtly homosexual feelings, but he seems to have an ambiguous, or perhaps unformed, sexuality.

Bayard's next book will be another mystery-thriller involving, a well-known literary figure.

"It's about Edgar Allen Poe," Bayard says. "I thought it would be fun to make him a detective, since he wrote the first detective novel, 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue.' My book is going to be set at West Point, where Poe (was a cadet) for eight months. There's certainly potential for a homo-erotic vibe there."

## MORE INFO

'Mr. Timothy'  
By Louis Bayard  
Harper-Collins  
384 pages, \$24.95  
Madstone Theatres Parkside

## television BRIAN MOYLAN



Broadway legend Elaine Stritch brings her Tony award-winning, one-woman show to HBO with magnificent results.

# A living witness at 79

SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME THAT when Joni Mitchell sang her signature piece "Both Sides Now" at a young age in the '70s, it was cute but couldn't compare with when she recorded it again 30 years later. After three decades of cigarettes, booze and living, the world-weary song takes on an entirely new meaning.

The same can be said for Elaine Stritch when she performs Stephen Sondheim's "I'm Still Here," a song about surviving the travails of show business. It opens her one-woman show, "Elaine Stritch: At Liberty," which premieres on HBO at 8 p.m. next Saturday, May 29. It's one thing when some chanteuse belts out "I'm Still Here," and quite another when a 79-year-old Broadway veteran sings it.

And the song reverberates as the audience listens to Stritch's autobiography, rife with stories of packed houses, loneliness, true love, alcoholism and diabetes. The more you learn, the more you realize what an accomplishment it is that she's still here.

Stritch, in black tights and a white, oversized men's tailored shirt, is telling the audience stories like a grandmother would across a kitchen table, over a cup of tea.

The stories are about how she got started on Broadway, what it was like to date a young Marlon Brando, and how she felt leaving her boyfriend of two years to date Rock Hudson. "We all know what a bum decision that turned out to be," she quips.

Stritch also chats about how gay writer Noel Coward created a role just for her in the musical "Sail Away."

Throughout the program, she intersperses the evening with songs, mostly from roles that she originated on Broadway, including Sondheim's "Ladies Who Lunch" from "Company." Her most effective songs are the ones she intersperses with commentary.

Stritch transforms "No Business Like Show Business" from a loving ditty to an ironic tour de force by sharing tales about the rough side of the acting industry in asides between the verses. She also takes "Zip," a thinking man's striptease number from "Pal Joey," and uses it as a narrative vehicle to joke about a time when she was zipping between two musicals, one in New York and one in New Haven, Conn.

Treating the audience like a good friend, Stritch is honest about her bout with alcoholism, the solitude of being a hit on stage who no one wanted to date,



The HBO version of Broadway's 'Elaine Stritch: At Liberty' shows the Broadway star on and off stage in an unvarnished and entertaining look at her life.

and how a combination of diabetes and drinking almost killed her.

THE HBO VERSION OF STRITCH'S 2002 Tony award-winning, one-woman show is more than what was seen on Broadway, in London and across the country.

The HBO program also features footage documenting how the show was made, behind-the-scenes glimpses at Stritch's life, and photos of Brando, Coward and other celebrities. There's also a moment when Stritch is driving across a bridge, while performing in London, and says that it reminds her of the actress Vivien Leigh in the movie "Waterloo Bridge."

"[The movie] was so sad," Stritch says. "Everything about [Leigh] was so sad — except her talent. There was nothing sad about that."

The same can be said for Stritch, whose caustic wit, honesty and self-revelations save the show from being a pity party. Her strength, tenacity and talent (though her voice isn't as good as it once was) are inspiring and demonstrate the complexities of a life devoted to what can be a thankless profession.

There's another segment that shows Stritch performing "Ladies who Lunch" for the original cast recording of "Company." After a poor performance, she throws a bit of a temper tantrum, cursing how bad she is. She returns the next day, however, and nails the song in one take. That is Stritch in a nutshell. No matter how badly she misbehaves or how sad her stories get, she seems to always return triumphant.

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### MORE INFO

'Elaine Stritch: At Liberty'  
HBO  
Saturday, May 29, at 7 p.m.

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## national news



'And Baby,' a magazine for gay and lesbian parents, was conceived before the Massachusetts court decision on gay marriage.

## Magazine is the country's first for gay and lesbian parents

AND BABY, continued from Page 1

eventually went to work for a fashion magazine in New York, her dream at the time.

"A year into it, I hated it," she said. "I didn't feel like I was making a difference."

After she got together with Weiss, who had a design background, the magazine idea jelled. The two knew they wanted a family, but there were no resources to which they could turn.

The magazine launched in 2001 with some advertisers hesitant to commit on Darne's lesbian intuition regarding the number of children in gay homes.

As serendipity would have it, a study was released revealing that there were 3.4 million children living with gay and lesbian parents nationwide.

The advertisers fell in line, realizing there indeed was a market for Darne's magazine.

And Baby differs from many gay and lesbian publications in the type of ads it accepts.

"We're the most wholesome ticket," Darne said. "We accept no tobacco ads, no alcohol ads and no sex ads."

Because And Baby is a first, Darne said, "We've been able to go after a whole new set of advertisers. Enfamil is one of our biggest accounts."

Although the publication targets gay and lesbian parents, Darne said, she also hears from straight parents who are reading the magazine.

### MORE INFO

'And Baby Magazine'  
www.andbabymag.com

"We have a lot of mainstream subscribers," she said. "This gives them a look into the GLBT community. This magazine helps create dialogue in a positive way."

The success of the magazine is leading to a media empire that one day will include TV and books. Darne has even been referred to as the "lesbian Martha."

Success aside, Darne said, she is most gratified that the idea she and Weiss came up with is making a difference in people's lives.

"I think I'm on the path of what I'm supposed to do," she said.

The sales offices for the company are in New York, and the creative shop is in the Bay Area. Darne and Weiss have recently made their home in the Bay Area as well. Weiss runs the creative end, and Darne handles the administrative needs.

It means Darne spends two weeks on the East Coast and two weeks on the West Coast every month.

Just as Darne was certain there was a market for a slick magazine for gay and lesbian parents, she said, he also knows that And Baby and other positive media is creating a better world.

"The world's going to look very different when our children are grown," she said.

### RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have you been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder (Manic Depression) and are feeling depressed? The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston is conducting a research study in the Clear Lake area for individuals diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder (Manic Depression). You may qualify for a research study if you suffer from such symptoms as:

- Feeling sad or blue most of the time
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## community calendar

SATURDAY  
MAY 29

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

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

**Dignity mass.** 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872. Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. at Viviana's. 713-830-3000.

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** CATS (Community Awareness for Transgender Support) board meeting, 2 p.m. 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

SUNDAY  
MAY 30

**Front Runners Houston.** Runners meet at Memorial Park at 8 a.m. for a three-mile run. http://home.swbell.net/latathon/houfr.htm. E-mail: larathon@swbell.net. 713 522-0899.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Adult discussion, 9 a.m. Service, 11:15 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

**Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County.** 502 Church St. Service, 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Some Transenders are Guys (STAG)), 6 p.m., 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

MONDAY  
MAY 31

Free HIV Testing. **Montrose Clinic.** 1-7 p.m. at the clinic, 215 Westheimer and 3311 Richmond, Suite 100; 4-8 p.m. at Bricks, 617 Fairview; and 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. at O, 710 Pacific. 713-830-3070.

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

**Gay Bowling Leagues.** Women's league. 6:45 p.m. Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarnef Drive. Men's league. 9 p.m., Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd. 713-861-1187.

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

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

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

**Kolbe Project.** Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800. Lambda Center, **Alcoholics Anonymous.** 8 p.m. Beginner's Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

**Montrose Clinic.** Offers weekly peer support groups for gay and bisexual men with HIV. Spanish speaking group meets, 6:30 p.m. 215 Westheimer. 713-830-3050. Grupo de Apoyo para Latinos gay y bisexuales VIH positivos. Lunes 6:30. Para mas informacion llama al 713-830-3025. Queer Voices Radio Show. 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1.

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Lesbians Coming Out 7 p.m. American Veterans for Equal Rights, 7p.m. 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

TUESDAY  
JUNE 1

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

Free HIV Testing. **Montrose Clinic.** 1-7 p.m. at the clinic, 215 Westheimer and 3311 Richmond, Suite 100; 4-8 p.m. at The 611, 611 Hyde Park; and 8 p.m. - midnight at Club Houston, 2205 Fannin. 713-830-3070.

**GLBT Pentecostals.** Bible study, prayer, 7 p.m. in the Heights. For info: 936-931-3761; e-mail: www.Wgbl947@cs.com.

**Houston Roughneck Rugby.** Practice from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

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

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

**Montrose Social Group.** 7:30-8:30 p.m., Room 224, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. www.msghouston.org

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Lesbian Coming Out Group, 7 p.m., 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 2

**MS Healing Art,** with Salli Babbitt, 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray, 713-523-9530.

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

**Physically Challenged Healing Art,** with Salli Babbitt, 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray, 713-523-9530.

**OutSkate.** This roller Rink skate club hosts Gay Skate Night at Zenith Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road every Wednesday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$5 entry plus skate rental. 281-933-5818, Dobia367@aol.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, 7 p.m., 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

THURSDAY  
JUNE 3

**HIV+ Healing Art Group.** 1-4 p.m., Kermit Eisenhut Studio, 1953 Montrose Blvd., 713-523-9530.

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

Free HIV Testing. **Montrose Clinic.** 8 p.m. - midnight at Brazos River Bottom (BRB), 2400 Brazos, atd at Cousins, 817 Fairview, and 4 -8 p.m. at All-Star News, 3415 Katy Freeway. 713-830-3000.

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

**FrontRunners Houston.** Runners meet at Memorial Park at 6:30 p.m. for a three-mile run. http://home.swbell.net/latathon/houfr.htm or e-mail: larathon@swbell.net. 713 522 0899.

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

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

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

**Houston Roughneck Rugby.** Practice from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY  
JUNE 4

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

**HIV+ Healing Art Group.** 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Kermit Eisenhut Studio, 1953 Montrose Blvd., 713-523-9530.

Free HIV Testing. **Montrose Clinic.** 1-5 p.m. at the clinic, 215 Westheimer and 3311 Richmond, Suite 100; 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto; 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. at The Meatrack, 2915 San Jacinto; 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. at Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin; 10 a.m. - 1 a.m. at E.J.'s, 2517 Ralph. 713-830-3070.

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Women's Game Night, 7p.m., In Our Own Write (Poetry Night), 8-10 p.m., 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

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

## appts.

FRIDAY  
MAY 28

"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)," opens tonight on the Ensemble Theatre's Mainstage, 3535 Main St. and continues through June 2. The production proves that slapstick and Shakespeare do mix. 713-520-0055.

Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple" opens at 8 p.m. at the Grand 1894 Opera House in Galveston, 2317 Ship's Mechanic Row, and runs through June 20. 409-763-4591.

SUNDAY  
MAY 30

Montrose Clinic will be the beneficiary of "Art for Charity", 3-7 p.m. at Meteor, for May 30, 3-7 p.m. at Meteor, 2306 Genesee. The talents of local artists will be featured in body painting exhibits, and new swimwear by John Falocco from "Queer as Folk," will highlight a fashion show with Ernie Manouse of Houston PBS as emcee. 713-521-0123.

THURSDAY  
JUNE 3

Art League Houston's Healing Art Outreach Program, benefiting Persons with a Variety of Challenges such as HIV, cancer and multiple sclerosis, will have an opening reception and exhibition from 7-9 p.m. at Wells Fargo-River Oaks, 1500 Waugh Dr. Light refreshments will be served. A silent auction will benefit Art League Houston.

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# eclipse cover story

## Settled by pirate, Galveston may have gay-friendly past

GALVESTON, continued from Page 14

And why not, since the first known resident of the area was the pirate Jean Lafitte, who established the colony of Campeachy on the island in 1817.

After the town of Galveston was incorporated, the seaport took off, becoming one of the most active ports west of New Orleans before it was dealt a near fatal blow in 1900.

The hurricane that killed 6,000 people and destroyed a third of the town's buildings is still referred to as "The Great Storm."

Although the city was raised up by 17 feet during the rebuilding, and the Seawall was added to minimize future storm destruction, Galveston never returned to its earlier prosperity and eventually was overshadowed as a port by Houston.

SOMETIME IN THE EARLY 1980S, A renewal began that focused on restoring the historic downtown Strand district.

Because of the efforts of the Galveston Historical Association, renovation of the Strand brought Mardi Gras back bigger and better than ever. Each year, the celebration lures busloads of gay men and lesbians from Houston for the party that is spread over two weekends.

Galveston is also the site of a huge gay and lesbian bash on East Beach, a section of which is designated as the gay hang-



Undercurrent, one of several gay bars in Galveston.

out. Splash Day draws hundreds of gays to the beach for a party to kick off the summer season.

"You can drink on East Beach," said Andi Zarro, spokesperson for the Galveston CVB. "People keep telling us how much they love it there. Nobody bothers them."

Abstein said he isn't sure when

Galveston became gay friendly, but he's certain it didn't come about as part of the gay liberation movement.

"I've talked to people who were here in the '20s, and it was gay friendly then," he said.

In addition to its gay bars and East Beach, Galveston has many attractions that draw people of all persuasions.

### **i** GALVESTON GAY BARS

Garza's Kon Tiki, 315 Tremont: a stone's throw from the Strand

Robert's Lafitte, 2501 Avenue Q: close enough to the Gulf to hear the waves

Third Coast, 409 Avenue M: great views of the Gulf of Mexico

Undercurrent, 3102 Seawall Blvd: flies the rainbow flag from second-story deck

The 242-acre Moody Gardens theme park and convention center can be seen from Interstate 45. Its three pyramids contain a rainforest, an aquarium and a Discovery Museum.

At the foot of the Strand, an art deco Railroad Museum offers a glimpse into train travel in its heyday. There's also a Mardi Gras Museum, a Lone Star Flight Museum, the Galveston County Historical Museum and the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig & Museum.

The Texas Seaport Museum on Pier 21 is the home of the Tall Ship Elissa.

In addition to being one of the top locations in the country for bird watching, Galveston has miles of beach for walking and some of the most startling sunsets in Texas.

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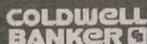
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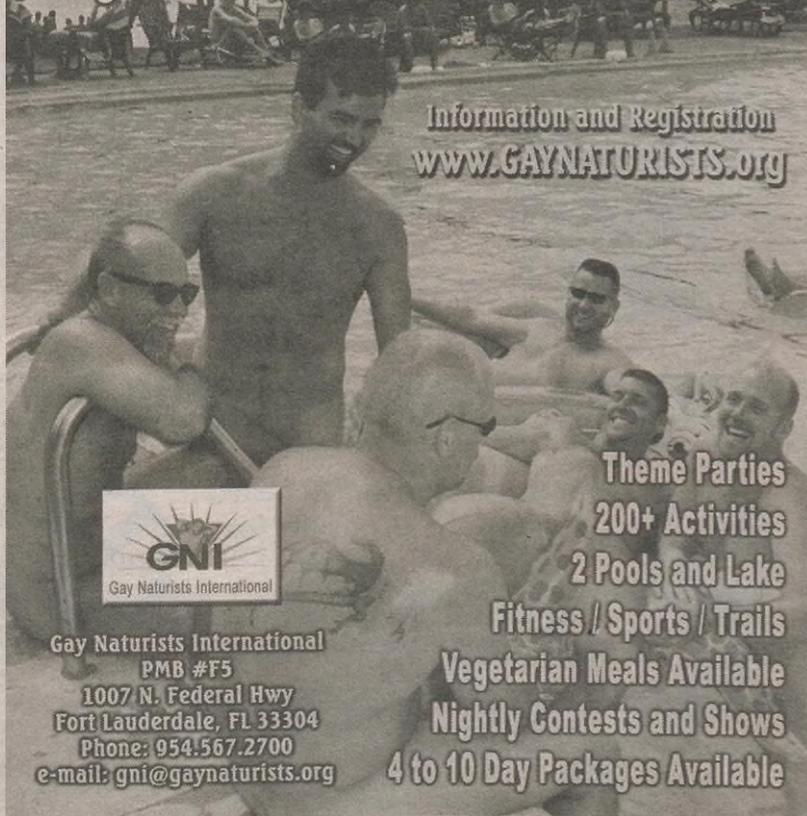
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**dish** There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

# Talk of the town

DeGeneres wins big with Emmy, pseudo-lesbian singer comes up pregnant, and a gay male beauty pageant

THERE WAS NO SCANDAL MAY 21 when lesbian talk show host ELLEN DEGENERES kissed a lady that wasn't her girlfriend, ALEXANDRA HEDISON. She was showing her affection for Emmy, the feminine statuette that honors the best in television.

At the ceremony for the 31st Annual Daytime Emmy Awards, which aired on NBC, DeGeneres walked away a winner for her syndicated program, "The Ellen DeGeneres Show." It was named Outstanding Talk Show of the year, beating out "Dr. Phil," "Live with Regis and Kelly," "The View" and "The Wayne Brady Show."

The hosts of all five shows were also nominated for Outstanding Talk Show Host, and WAYNE BRADY, whose show is no longer on the air, won.

DeGeneres' show also received three awards for technical achievement, making it the most-honored talk show this year. It wraps its first season on May 28.

The show's second season begins in early September and will be upgraded to better time slots in 38 of the country's top 100 markets, the Associated Press reported. Reruns will air throughout the summer, along with some unaired hours that were already taped.

In other Daytime Emmy Awards news, EDEN RIEGEL, who plays lesbian character Bianca on "All My Children," was nominated for



Lena Katina

Outstanding Younger Actress in a Drama Series. She didn't win.

Things She Said," a song that promoted the women's supposedly same-sex love relationship. The two talked about and displayed their affection for each other in subsequent interviews. But they never used the "L word," and Dish doesn't mean the Showtime drama.

Now, JULIA VOLKOVA, one half of Tatu, told the Russian newspaper Zhizn that she is pregnant — not from insemination, but from sex with a



Julie Volkova

### Baby makes three

TATU, the female Russian duo, made headlines in 2003 with the single "All the



Ellen DeGeneres getting close with a lady — a golden lady — backstage at the Daytime Emmy Awards on May 21. (AP Photo by Tina Fineberg)

man. The man in question is PASHA SIDOROV, a karate champion who is married with children.

"I don't know if I am going to have a girl or a boy, and I don't want to know before it's born," she told the newspaper. "Obviously, we will not be celebrating a wedding."

Tatu also fired its controversial manager, Ivan Shapovalov, who apparently is responsible for marketing the band's lesbian appeal and the duo's sensationalistic media stunts.

"He spends his time thinking up scandals instead of planning our artistic work," Volkova said.

Volkova and her singing partner, LENA KATINA, are set to resume their work as a band after the baby is born at the end of this summer.

### Mr. America

Remember in Monopoly when you would win \$10 for coming in second place in a beauty contest? Dish was always more amazed by the chintzy prize than by coming in second.

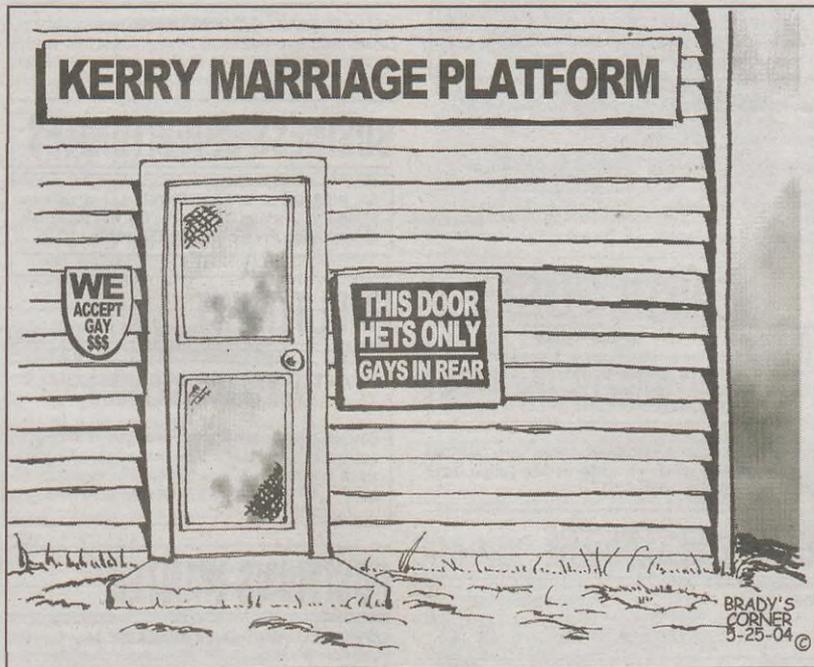
Now Gay.com, the Internet portal and personals site, is throwing a beauty pageant with a much larger prize. Starting June 1, Gay.com users can begin applying to be Mr. Gay.com Universe, a title that comes with a \$5,000 prize.

All users with a complete profile and a picture are able to enter, and 50 semi-finalists from five different regions will be chosen. Web surfers choose one man from the 50 contestants from North America, the United Kingdom, Australia, Spain and Germany. Those five men will then compete for the ultimate title.

So, boys, get to the gym, get some new pictures taken and get on Gay.com ... for something other than cruising.

@ Send comments, suggestions to Dish@houstonvoice.com.

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**SW ROOMMATE WANTED SHARE** 3/2/2. Near medical center, kit privileges. Quiet neighborhood. \$475/mo + dep. Randy (281) 650-2200 [randytex@sbcglobal.net](mailto:randytex@sbcglobal.net)

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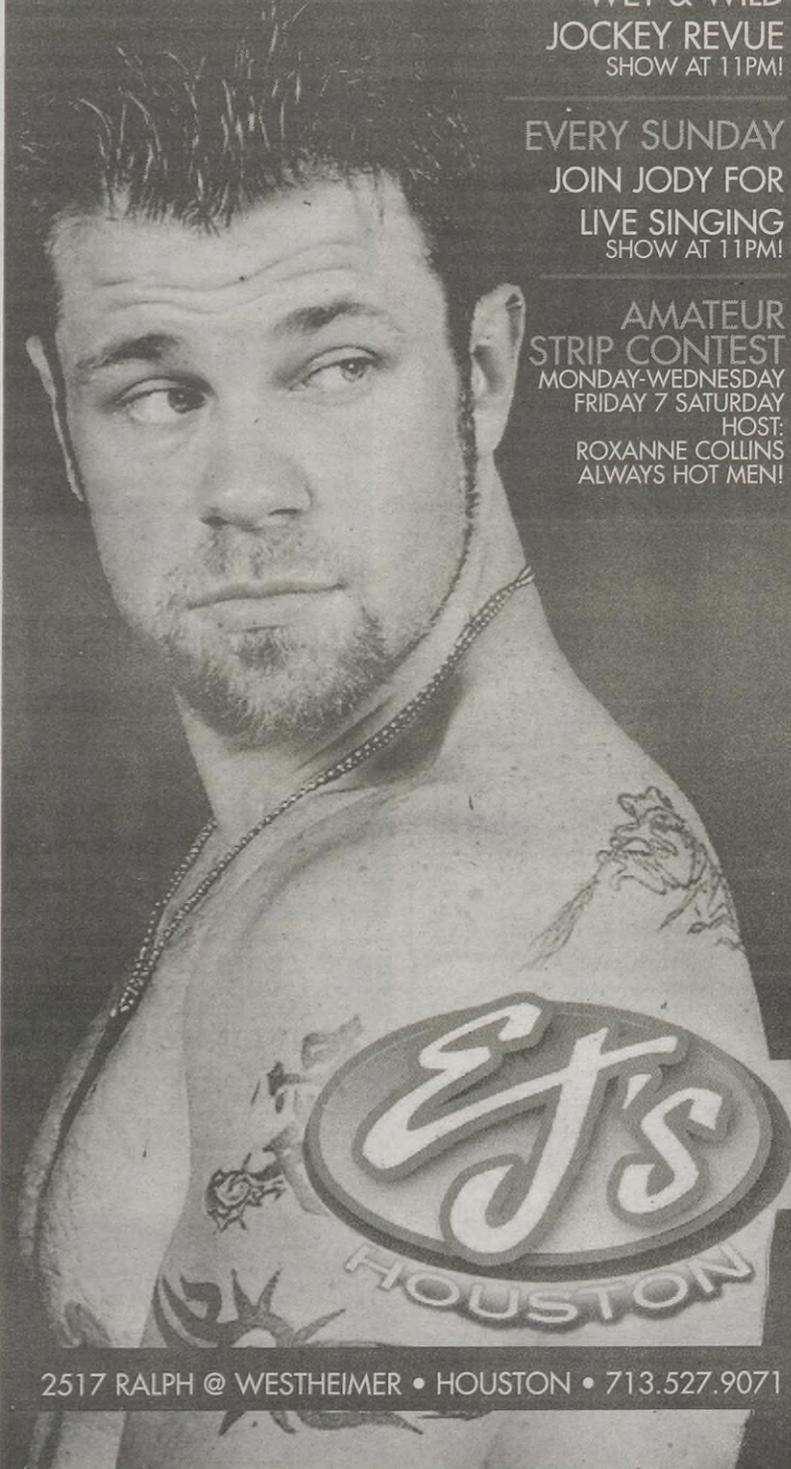


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# bitch session



Got a bitch? Call 1-800-858-8088 or e-mail [bitch@houstonvoice.com](mailto:bitch@houstonvoice.com)

These are real bitches, sent in by real readers about gay life's little annoyances, and the big ones, too.

**WHY IN THE WORLD DO GAYS** have a bug up their butt about Christian gays? We're not out to recruit you for the spiritual life; we're here to be friends with you.

of the law but disrespectful to those around you. Please stop pointing fingers at others and learn how to act.

**TO THOSE OF YOU WITH A** lover who was married before: Stop thinking they will go back to that life. Most of us are so done with the straight life that we ain't going back and we ain't going to keep defending ourselves for our past.

**TO THE PERSON COMPLAINING** about baldheads and goatees: Long hair, short hair or no hair doesn't make a difference. There are handsome guys with hair, and homely guys, too. There are also handsome and homely bald guys. Personally, I dig the buzz cut and baldheaded guys, but to each his own.

**LET'S END THIS ONCE AND** for all: As a police officer, bicycles on sidewalks and spitting in the street are not only violations

**TO THE GUY WHO SAID THAT** the buzz cut and goatee look is over: I am 35, 6-foot-2, 220-pounds, balding, buzz cut, goatee

It breaks my heart to hear a very attractive guy whine he can't get a date because others are afraid to approach him. Poor baby!

and glasses, and I get hit on all the time — and from hot men, too. Don't be so quick to judge!

**BUZZED/BALD AND GOATEES** are out? I'm guessing you're a long-haired, limp-wristed, lisping thing that can't get man. Sucks to be you.

**TO THE TOP-LEAGUER WHO** is disgusted that guys drool at him at the gym: Perhaps you should find a gym that includes those of your status and fine breeding. Until then, just deal. Life ain't that hard.

**TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE** "look police" who bitched about "the troll" at his gym: I'm so tired of you guys who talk about winners and losers or guys who are in or out of your league. The only league you're in is the swelled-headed jerks' league.

**IF YOU WANT A PARTNER,** you won't find him by tricking in

the bars, and don't get pissy when you get put on the street afterward just cuz he was smart enough to know the pitfalls of picking up bar trash!

**IF YOU'RE GONNA BRING** your straight friends into the club, please explain to them that it's not acceptable to shove us "fags" aside at the bar. Gay-friendly my ass!

**TO THE PERSON WHO FEELS A** "smoke-free" environment in clubs and bars would be "healthier": Honey, you didn't look so "healthy" after sucking down those five Long Island Iced Teas and three shots of Cuervo.

**NEWSFLASH! HIV CAN STILL** kill you. The current treatments don't work for everyone. It's true that having HIV today is not a death sentence; it's more of a crapshoot. So don't throw away the condoms, but also don't assume you're going to outlive someone just because he is positive.

**WHAT'S THE DEAL ABOUT** not dating disabled gay people? We're great people. Don't let us scare you!

**GAY REPUBLICANS KNOW** exactly what they are doing when they vote for hate-spewing candidates who work to undermine our rights. They just don't care so long as they get a tax break.

**IT'S BEGINNING TO** sound to me like the trolls out there are the only ones having any fun. Somebody find me a bridge to live under!

**FOR ALL THE VULTURES** looking for a hook-up at the bars: Just because my boyfriend and I like to hang out at bars with our friends does not mean we are looking for a three-way. We are monogamous, thank you, and happy with it. Don't try to pick us up every time we see you!

**I AM TIRED OF ALL THESE** men who try to get into your pants and don't care about relationships. Are there any men out there who aren't dogs? Where can I find one? Just because some people think gay men are all about bars and sex doesn't mean we have to live up to it.

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# PRIDE AS BIG AS TEXAS

### "Lift-Off" Party

The Pride Kick Off

featuring **Jai Rodriguez** from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and DJ **Mark Tarbox**  
Saturday, June 12 9:30pm-3am George R. Brown Convention Center

### Grand Marshal Reception

sponsored by **Bud Light** and **Smirnoff Twist**

Friday, June 18 7pm-10pm

JP Morgan Chase Bank Lobby, 707 Travis

### Official Pre-Parade Party

featuring **DJ Hex Hector (Miami)** in the Boaka Bar

with **DJ TBA** in the Groove Lounge

Friday, June 25 9pm-3am

Boaka Bar/Mercury Room, 1008 Prairie @ Main

### Pre-Parade Festival

featuring food and beverage vendors and fresh Texas DJ talent

under the **M2M Entertainment** music tent

Saturday, June 26 4pm-8:30pm

Westheimer and Yoakum

### Houston's Night Time Pride Parade

the largest Pride event in the Southwest

Saturday, June 26 8:45pm

Lower Westheimer, from Woodhead to Whitney

### Official Post-Parade Party

featuring **DJ Warren Gluck (NYC)**

and Billboard Recording Artist **Pat Hodges**

Saturday, June 26 11pm-4am

Club Go, 2001 Commerce @ Chartres

### Official After Pride Party

featuring **DJ Dawna Montel (LA)** in the main room

and **DJ Chris Sill** in the Groove Lounge

with performance artist **SHOKRA**

Sunday, June 27 3:30am-10am

OPUS, 412 Main Street @ Prairie

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS LOG ONTO-

[www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)

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**PRIDE PARADE**  
**SATURDAY JUNE 26TH, 2004**  
**@ 8:45PM**



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**LIFT OFF IS JUNE 12**  
**9:30 pm - 3 am**  
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# Jai

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