

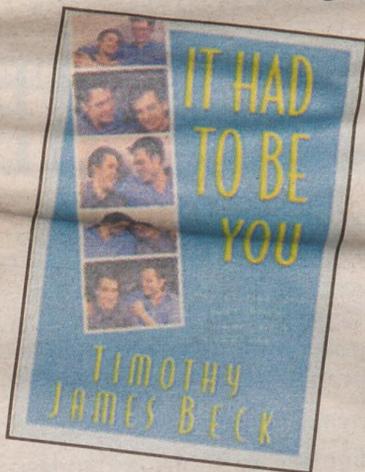
Gay Houstonians mourn the sudden loss of longtime ally Carolyn Roberts.
Page 3



INSIDE



Friends remember community activist Lynn Pannill, a major force behind the PWA Coalition.
Page 2



Houston has its share of gay authors, although some stay in the closet and leave gay themes out of their writing.
Page 17



The Country Playhouse presents 'Legends,' a comedy that focuses on two aging Hollywood actresses.
Page 24

Not-so straight shooters

Gay gun group grows as NRA tagged for anti-gay speakers

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

When a gay bartender and community activist in Knoxville, Tenn., was found dead April 21, many gay men and lesbians in the small city reacted with shock and fear.

At least one vowed to fight back.

Carl Cate said the death of Joseph Camber, a homicide that remains unsolved, inspired him to launch Knoxville's chapter of the Pink Pistols, a gay gun group that now cites 29 chapters in 19 states. That includes at least six in the Southeast — half of those in Texas, one in Houston — although some certainly remain fledgling, like Cate's, of which he is currently the only member.

"I had been thinking about it for awhile, and that pushed me over the edge," said Cate, who knew Camber and lives two blocks from the University of Tennessee campus



Pink Pistols founder Doug Krick says members of the 'pink shooting community' can help build bridges between traditionally conservative gun owners and gays who are often perceived as anti-gun.

where the bartender's body was found.

"I'm hoping to get people who are gay to be comfortable with the idea of carrying a weapon and defending themselves," he said.

A week after Camber was slain in Knoxville, the conservative National Rifle

Association — the country's politically powerful gun lobby — held its massive annual convention in Reno, Nev., featuring an April 27 keynote speech by U.S. Sen. Zell Miller,

Please see PINK PISTOLS on Page 10

Restroom equality is 'one real constant' in struggle for transgender rights

Activists cheer Philly as latest city to adopt rights law, but say toilet restrictions challenge basic dignity

BY RHONDA SMITH

For about a year, James MacGregor Halleman refused to use any restroom at Victaulic Company of America in Alburdis, Pa., to avoid complaints from co-workers.

Last spring, the 36-year-old Pennsylvania native, whose former name is Jane Marie, began an ongoing process to reassign his gender from female to male.

"I'm not legally male yet," Halleman said. "I'm pre-op, and plan to have my surgery in July. Then I can legally get my birth certificate and driver's license changed," to reflect his new gender.

But a socially thorny issue Halleman

said he faced almost immediately was opposition from co-workers, who did not want to use the same restroom that he did.

"I didn't want to use the women's restroom, and they told me I couldn't use the men's restroom," said Halleman, who has worked at the piping company since 1999. "So for one year, I didn't go to the bathroom at work. I held it."

Transgender men and women across the country have faced similar challenges in recent years.

"Bathroom issues are the one real constant in our struggle for rights," said Julie Maverick, a board member for the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, an organization founded in 1999 to lobby for the civil rights for transgendered, intersexed and gender-variant people.

Maverick, who spoke with the Voice on the condition that her legal name not be used, is a cross-dresser and a heterosexual man who is married and lives in Maryland. Neither her co-workers nor her family members knows that she is a cross-

dresser, a person who typically identifies and lives as one gender but occasionally wears the clothing of the opposite gender. And she fears losing her job or her family's support if they find out.

In Minnesota, the state Supreme Court ruled in January that a company called West Group had the right to decide which restrooms that transgender employees are allowed to use. Julienne Goins, a former trans employee there, sued the company for discrimination four years earlier after officials there told her to use a lavatory located five minutes from her work area or one in another building because a female co-worker did not want to share a restroom with a transgender employee.

And though she lost the case, Goins, a self-employed advertising creative director, said she has no regrets about filing the lawsuit.

"They had trampled upon my dignity and privacy," said the 29-year-old, who still lives in Minnesota and hopes to attend law school.

Please see RESTROOM, on Page 11

local news

Lesbian activist's sudden death stuns Houston

Pannill a staunch force behind People With AIDS Coalition, energetic volunteer for many causes

By PENNY WEAVER

Gay Houstonians still are reeling this week in the wake of the unexpected death of a woman who helped power the People With AIDS Coalition to become the extensive organization it is today.

Mary Lynn Pannill, 53, of Houston died Friday, May 10, 2002, of complications from Hodgkins Disease. Services were held Thursday.

Katy Caldwell, executive director at Montrose Clinic, was both a friend and a colleague of Pannill.

"It was a huge shock," Caldwell said of Pannill's death. "Our whole office was just devastated. We couldn't believe it.

"She cared very much about the gay community, was active in her subdivision over there in Cherryhurst, and was very dedicated to the AIDS service providers," Caldwell added. "She had a big impact on the community."

Caldwell, who met Pannill in 1996 through their shared work for AIDS orga-

nizations, said Pannill also was a great lady to know on a personal level.

Although Caldwell is a Democrat and Pannill was a "staunch Republican," the two got along well, Caldwell recalled.

"I will always treasure the relationship that I had with her," Caldwell said. "She could be a crotchety old dinosaur and definitely had her opinion, but it was OK if you didn't agree with her opinion. We used to argue about politics all the time.

"We'd agree to disagree. That was OK," she added.

Pannill was hospitalized early last week with all expectations of returning to volunteer work in short order. Caldwell said Pannill was looking forward to assisting Montrose Clinic staffers with grant applications and training for new programs.

"Our hepatitis C program is funded because she helped us do it," Caldwell explained. "She played a big role in my life personally and professionally.

"I'm going to miss her a lot. I'm going to miss her sense of humor too. She had a real dry sense of humor," she said. "She was just a lot of fun to be with."

Pannill was known for her generosity and kindness, as well as her hard work for AIDS causes, the community, and lesbian causes.

"She would give you the shirt off her

back," Caldwell said. "She was the most kind-hearted person.

"She genuinely believed in helping her community," she added. "She earned her living through the community, but she gave back even more to the community."

Pannill was born on July 17, 1948, in Fort Worth, Texas, according to obituary information that appeared in the Houston Chronicle. She was the only daughter of Fitzhugh Hastings and Mary Goodrum Pannill. She was named for her mother and her great-aunt Lynn Porter, who survived the Galveston Hurricane of 1900.

Pannill grew up in Midland, Texas. She attended public schools there, graduating from Midland High School in 1966. She then attended Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas at Austin, before receiving both a bachelor's and a master's degree in management from the University of Phoenix in 1996 and 2000, respectively.

Pannill originally pursued a career in retailing, first with the Lord and Taylor stores and then with Joskes of Texas, Inc. After the sale of Joskes in 1987, she became general sales manager of Dillard's Department Store in Westwood Mall. She resigned from Dillard's in 1988 and became a legal assistant with the law firm of Pannill, Moser & Barnes from 1988 to 1991. From 1991 to 1994, she worked as a representative of The Principal Financial Group.

In April 1994, she became executive director of the PWA Coalition. Under her leadership, the group increased its staff

from five to 30 and expanded from one location to four. In 1998, she resigned from PWA Coalition to found Non-profit Consulting Services, L.L.C., which provides technical assistance, grant writing, training, and an evaluation service to non-profit entities, government agencies, and corporations.

Pannill served from 1988 to 1996 on the executive committee of the Harris County Republican Party as chair of Precinct 38. She was also precinct judge of Precinct 38. She had been a member of the Cherryhurst Civic Club since 1984 and led the successful drive of the Cherryhurst Civic Club to reinstate deed restrictions.

In 1996, she became a member of Trinity Episcopal Church. She was chair of the Stewardship Committee for Trinity Church beginning in 1998, a member of the vestry beginning in 1999, and co-chair of the Millennium Capital Campaign beginning in 2000. Under her leadership, the Millennium Capital Campaign has raised more than \$3 million for the restoration and renovation of Trinity Church, which is one of Houston's most treasured structures.

Services for Pannill were held Thursday, May 16, at Trinity Episcopal Church, with the Rev. William B. Miller, rector, and the Rev. Linda Wilson, associate rector, officiating. Burial was in the Columbarium at Trinity Church.

Memorials may be made to the Millennium Capital Campaign of Trinity Episcopal Church.



Lynn Pannill

HIGH STANDARDS SET US APART.

CALL FOR GREAT SPRING SPECIALS!

AMLI Midtown
713.529.5333

Catch the trolley at your doorstep — Enjoy downtown living at its best!

AMLI Towne Square
713.522.4111

Luxury living near the best of Montrose, Midtown & Downtown.

48-Hour Service Guarantee
AMLI Corporate Homes available
www.amli.com

AMLI
Just the way you like to live.

WILD. HOT. PASSIONATE.

It's classy, it's art, it's here and it's refreshingly NEW.

When you want to say something funny, something erotic, something special or something just because, our brand new line of original, alternative greeting cards will make an impression to last forever. Beautiful cards for beautiful lifestyles. New designs added regularly. Check them out today!

- Exclusive photography
- Hand crafted design

TALMAGIC

- Rich, fine art quality paper
- Enticingly written scripts

WWW.TALMAGIC.COM

local news

Gay Houstonians lose longtime ally

Roberts known as popular columnist, caregiver and tireless volunteer

By PENNY WEAVER

Gays throughout Houston this week mourned the sudden and unexpected death of one of their most staunch supporters.

Carolyn Roberts, 41, died Friday night, May 10, 2002, of an apparent massive heart attack. At the time, she was in Lake Charles, La., with her husband, Jeff, and mother-in-law, Sha Roberts.

For the last decade, Roberts worked at the Houston Voice, carrying out a number of duties. One of the most popular was her stint as a columnist, in which she reported items including "Rodent Droppings," which were snippets of gossip from around Montrose.

Dubbed "Cuervolyn" for her favorite liquor, Jose Cuervo tequila, Roberts also volunteered for numerous charitable causes throughout the years.

Brian Keever, also a community activist and a longtime friend of Roberts, called her "an institution" in Houston.

"Her nickname for years was 'Cuervolyn.' She did a column ... and her favorite thing was getting 'rat droppings' on people because she could write about them and no one would really get mad at her," Keever said. "She's had quite a career. She was a very integral part of the community here in Montrose. She's going to be missed so sadly.

"I can't believe that she's actually gone," he said.

Don Gill, another longtime Houston gay activist, volunteer and fundraiser, said Roberts treated friends like family.

"Her life existed around her friends and this community," Gill said. "She took the family to her breast and we in turn took her to our chest. You can't help but love her.

It is without exaggeration that I call Carolyn the kindest person I have ever known. She reached out to people on a personal level, offering her shoulder to cry on during many difficult personal crises in friends' and co-workers' lives.

—Mike Fleming, former Houston Voice general manager

"I met Carolyn 12 years ago," he recalled. "There was one characteristic about Carolyn that in my opinion really excelled above many people in our community: She was one of the best listeners. I admired that trait in her, because that is a hard trait to have.

"All you had to do is call Carolyn, she would listen, and then she would look at



Carolyn Roberts

you when you were through, and she would say, 'Did you solve your problem?' Because all we need sometimes is to have a sounding board, and that she was," Gill said.

William Waybourn, president of Window Media LLC, publisher of the Voice, said Roberts' many friends and co-workers across the nation also are devastated.

"Like the Houston community where she worked, Carolyn's death sent shockwaves throughout the company," Waybourn said. "Her co-workers in the other cities came to work on Monday with sad feelings of loss.

"Carolyn had made it her unofficial duty to reach out to new employees with her own Texas-style 'welcome wagon,'" he added. "Her enthusiasm was not only apparent, but something she willingly shared with everyone — she didn't have a 'down' moment, or if she did, you couldn't tell it.

"A lot of stars turned off the night she died," Waybourn said.

Mike Fleming, general manager at the Voice from 1998-2001, remembered Roberts' giving nature.

"It is without exaggeration that I call Carolyn the kindest person I have ever known," said Fleming, now arts editor at Houston Voice's sister paper, Southern Voice in Atlanta. "Beyond being an employee whose loyalty was always certain, she was a caregiver and the true heart of the Houston Voice. She reached out to people on a personal level, offering her shoulder to

cry on during many difficult personal crises in friends' and co-workers' lives."

Roberts helped shape a positive atmosphere at the Voice, Fleming recalled.

"As people and systems in the office changed, Carolyn remained the only true constant, rolling with the punches and always carrying a cheery outlook that rubbed off on the other employees," he said. "She was dedicated to the newspaper's mission and role in the community in each of the positions she held at the paper: account executive, columnist and administrator.

"Her longevity made her a constant source of information on Houston's gay community," Fleming added. "Her 'Scene and Heard' column made her a community icon and, to many, the face of the paper."

Carolyn Alice Larson was born on Sept. 21, 1960, in Tyler, Texas, the daughter of Warren and Norma Larson. She graduated from Eisenhower High School in Houston in 1978.

She worked as office manager for Enterprises Rent-A-Car for several years. She then served as daytime bartender at the Venture-N of Houston before she began employment at the Voice in early 1993.

She married Jeff Roberts on May 13, 1995, in Houston.

While at the Voice, Roberts served as an account executive, columnist and administrator. She worked for the newspaper when it was privately owned and through many changes, including the 1996 purchase of

the Voice by Window Media.

Roberts was a founding member of the National Leather Association of Houston and a founding member and executive officer of F.I.S.T. (Females In Search of Trouble). She volunteered and assisted in numerous Houston charitable organizations, including Camp HOPE for children with HIV/AIDS.

She was the recipient of a number of community service awards, including: a 1995 award from the Pet Patrol; the Producers Award for Don Gill Productions' Night In Black Leather (NIBL) fund-raiser in 1998 for "dedication to our community, willingness to promote, desire to assist, and your sincerity to all people;" a Certificate of Appreciation from the Houston Leather Alliance for its 2000 Easter Basket Auction; and the Appreciation Award for NIBL 2001. She also was a co-director for the 2002 NIBL.

She was a very integral part of the community here in Montrose. She's going to be missed so sadly. I can't believe that she's actually gone.

—Brian Keever, friend

After serving eight years at the Voice, Roberts received a letter of congratulations from state Rep. Debra Danburg in 2001. Danburg stated, "Your dedication and service to the community is remarkable."

Also, Roberts served as a volunteer judge for a variety of community events, including several Houston Humane Society fundraisers and the 2001 Houston Pride Parade.

Survivors include her husband, Jeff; her parents; brother, Steve Larson; sisters, Karma Bell and Kris Shreve; nieces and nephews: Nissa and Tamica Larson, and Carston, Steven and Erik Bell; dog, Brandi Alexander; and numerous other family members and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga in Houston. Visitation will be held for one hour prior to the services.

All you had to do is call Carolyn, she would listen, and then she would look at you when you were through, and she would say, 'Did you solve your problem?' Because all we need sometimes is to have a sounding board, and that she was.

—Don Gill, friend and fellow activist

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at Mary's...Naturally, 1022 Westheimer in Houston.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Camp HOPE, c/o AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc., 3202 Wesleyan Annex, Houston, TX 77027; or the donor's choice.

MAKE CONTACT!

custom FULL COLOR BUSINESS CARDS

From your design on disk or from your image.

Great for Personal or Business use!

PRICING:

Quantity	Price
100	35.40
200	48.30
500	87.00
1000	141.50

3 day turnaround

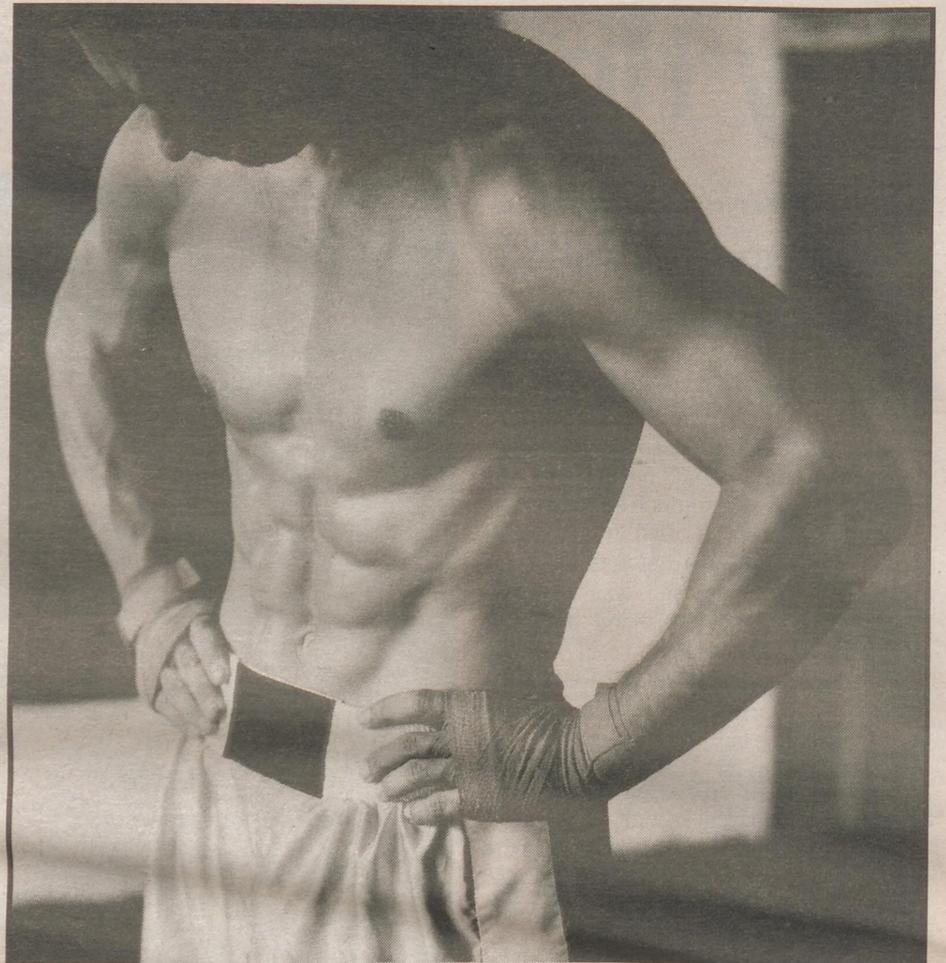
ABOUT THE CARDS:

Cards are run full color on Gloss/Matte Cardstock . Price includes scanning of image for front of card and basic file set-up/file sending. Complex design jobs may incur additional design fees.

SAMPLES AVAILABLE IN STORE!



1201 Westheimer
713/528-1201



FOR MEN ONLY.

BUTCH-UPTM.net

- BUTCH-UP** → **TOUGHEN UP!** More than a steroid! Get more masculine in appearance & attitude. Build muscles & strength. Be a real man! Super testosterone booster. \$24.95 / 4wks
- LOAD-UP** → **CUM MORE!** Increase your sperm load visibly. Impress yourself and your partner. You won't believe your eyes...it works in a big way! \$24.95 / 4wks
- SIZE-UP** → **GET IT BIGGER & THICKER!** Add inches to your penis, regardless of it's current size. Safe and without any embarrassing exercises. \$24.95 / 4wks
- STAY-UP** → **STAY HARD!** The best natural alternative to Viagra. Get it up and keep it there longer and harder. Guaranteed! \$24.95 / 4wks

Order at www.butch-up.net

Or mail CK/MO for \$24.95 per bottle plus \$6.95 S&H to:
Men's Health Plus, 2633 Lincoln Blvd # 400, Santa Monica, CA 90405
ENCLOSE COMPLETE SHIPPING ADDRESS!

When you're ready for greater success with:

- Relationships • Love
- Happiness • Sex **Life**
- Inner Peace • Career



Call for an appointment 713-527-0000

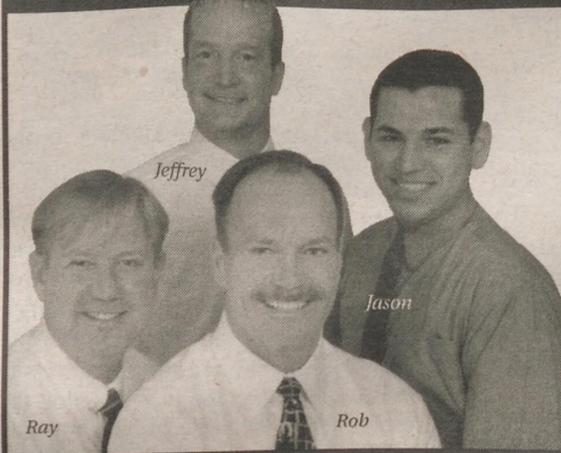
TONY CARROLL, LMSW-ACP
Counseling, Psychotherapy, Workshops for Individuals and Couples

1006 Missouri St.
Houston, TX 77006

Serving Houston's Gay and Lesbian
Community Since 1983

www.HoustonTherapist.com

SCHMERLER AGENCY



Your
Community
Insurance
Agency!

713.661.7700

For Auto, Home, Renters
Life, Health, Business Insurance
and much more.

6575 W. Loop South, Ste. 185
Bellaire, TX 77401

www.SchmerlerAgency.com

local news

Lesbian dance bumped in favor of hip-hop event

Venue owner says women's festival agreed to change night to accommodate concert planned by media giant

By KAY Y. DAYUS

Those who planned to go to Saturday night's dance sponsored by the Houston Women's Festival at the Engine Room downtown will be disappointed.

The event was rescheduled from its May 18 slot and replaced by an act booked by Clear Channel Communications, even though there was a signed contract between HWF and the Engine Room, officials with the festival said.

According to the HWF's Sandy Brauer, the non-profit organization had a contract signed, sealed and — she thought — delivered with the Engine Room to hold a dance for lesbians on Saturday.

Organizers thought the date was firm and spent several thousand dollars advertising the event to Houston lesbians. Then, in late April, the Engine Room notified Brauer that the dance had been cancelled by the venue because media giant Clear Channel Communications had booked singer Remy Shand for that same night.

"Ryan Plagman of the Engine Room called Shirley [Knight, of the HWF] and said he was sorry but another band was coming that night," Brauer said. "I called Mitch Burnum, the owner, and he apologized. He said he'd tried to switch the dates, but Clear Channel wanted the hip hop band."

According to Brauer, Burnum told her that Clear Channel had helped him set up in business and helped to keep him in business.

San Antonio-based Clear Channel is a billion-dollar conglomerate with around 1,200 radio stations, 19 television stations and 130 concert venues. According to the Internet magazine, Salon.com, Clear Channel's "hardball business policies" have drawn fire from some Washington regulators.

Spokespersons for Clear Channel in Houston did not return requests for comment by press time.

In Houston alone, Clear Channel owns eight radio stations, including Sunny 99.1 FM and the MIX 96.5.

Engine Room disputes account

Tommy Ryan, manager of the Engine Room, said his business signed a contract with the HWF for a May 11 dance, but "it was mutually agreed to change the date to May 18."

Festival organizers dispute that assertion. "We never signed a contract for May 11. That's absolutely false. We kicked around

several dates, but signed a contract for May 18. Ryan is exaggerating," Brauer said.

Ryan said that just this week, he signed a new contract with the HWF rescheduling the dance for June 8.

"I got them a new date and a better deal. We'll be taking a big hit, an extreme loss on the night," he said. "People will have to drink an awful lot for us to make money."

Ryan did not say how much the Engine Room, which seats 500-plus people, will make May 18 with \$12 individual tickets to the Remy Shand concert.

Asked to respond to HWF's claim that the Engine Room reneged on its agreement with the HWF, Ryan at first repeated that the

original date on the contract was May 11.

Then he said, "I just stepped in; Ryan Plagman, our talent buyer, was handling the deal."

The Engine Room no longer employs Plagman, according to Ryan, the manager. But he did confirm that Clear Channel is sponsoring Saturday's event and that "they sponsor a lot of our shows."

The "new and better" contract makes Brauer feel somewhat better about the cancellation, she said. The group will get a reduced price on the venue and some of its advertising costs, but she is still "a little queasy about it." The women are concerned that Clear Channel may step in again.

"We have an agreement from Clear Channel that they wouldn't interfere this time," Brauer noted.

Even the new date, a "better" deal and an offer to pay costs already expended are of little comfort for the women of the HWF, a branch of the Athena Art Project, they said.

"We sent out about 1,800 postcards and e-mails and had posters and fliers printed," Brauer said of early promotion efforts for the original May 18 date.

"We've disappointed a lot of people and a lot of people have called about it. We feel a strong obligation to accommodate those we've disappointed," Brauer said. "We basically got screwed."



We need athletic supporters.

\$2199* Gay Games® 2002 – Sydney, Great Barrier Reef & Melbourne

It's all party, party, party. For just \$2199, our Gay Games vacation gives you 4 nights in Sydney, 4 nights in Cairns and 4 nights in Melbourne. Drool over the buff bods at the Gay Games, cruise Sydney's hottest bars, dive into the Great Barrier Reef. And don't forget Melbourne's fabo shops. Plus you'll get Gay Games tickets to Opening or Closing Ceremonies. So hurry and get the best seats. Call 1-866 Go Gay Oz.

Can't make it to the Games? Australia is the perfect year-round gay and lesbian destination. Check out these other two-week vacations, starting at \$1699.

\$1699 Sydney, Adelaide & Brisbane
4 nights each. City sights, wine tasting and beautiful beaches.

\$1699 Sydney, Tasmania & Melbourne
4 nights each. The harbour, the history and the theater.

\$2199 Sydney, Outback & Melbourne
12 nights. Night life, Ayers Rock and trendy fashion.

\$1899 Sydney, Perth & Melbourne
4 nights each. Fine dining, ocean sunsets and the arts.



Call 1-866 Go Gay Oz or click on Gay.Australia.com

1-866-464-2969

Australia We can't wait to say G'day.

Houston Women's Festival

713-861-3316

www.hwfestival.org/dance.ht

These great deals include roundtrip air from Los Angeles and 12 nights hotels. *Gay Games Package ONLY available for the duration of the Sydney 2002 Gay Games. Price is per person based on double occupancy for Monday-Wednesday Economy Class departures from Los Angeles commencing no later than 12/6/02. Add \$35 for each Thursday-Sunday trans-pacific flight. Seats are limited and not available on every flight. For travel 4/1-4/30, 6/22-7/22, 9/1-12/6, add \$200. Hotels subject to availability. US/foreign taxes of approximately \$96-\$117, including September 11th Security Fee, are additional. After ticketing, no change is allowed on outbound sector; inbound may be charged for \$300. Cancellation penalties apply. There are no discounts for sales charged to credit cards. During periods of major or special events in Australia, space may not be available at these prices. Other restrictions may apply.

Explore the greatest river in the world aboard the *mv Rio Amazonas* with up to 24 congenial shipmates on a wonderfully enjoyable and meaningful cruise!



The Great Amazon Adventure Cruise

JUNE 28 TO JULY 6, 2002

The *mv Rio Amazonas* is a colorful and traditional river ship completely modernized in 1994. It provides cozy air-conditioned cabins, each with private facilities, and the spacious sundeck, outdoor lounge, dining and bar areas are ideal for relaxing and socializing. The experienced captain and engineer have worked the Amazon all their lives and are ably assisted by their attentive and attractive English-speaking Peruvian crew.

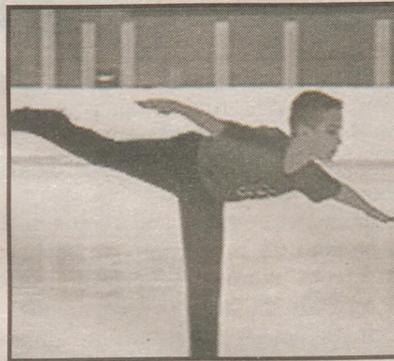
Following two days exploring Lima, we board the *mv Rio Amazonas* in Iquitos for our week on the Amazon. We make daylight and evening forays into the jungle via small boats and/or on foot making contact with the Yagua and Bora Indians and experiencing first-hand much of the Amazon's absolutely incredible flora and fauna. Visits to the river ports of Leticia, Colombia and Tabatinga, Brazil provide additional contacts with those who live along the river, as well as access to Amazon handicrafts.

Please call us or check our website for details about our 2002 tours, including *Peru in Style* on July 21 to August 2, that includes three nights at the unique Sanctuary Lodge, next to the ruins of Machu Picchu.

HANNS EBENSTEN TRAVEL, INC
513 FLEMING STREET, SUITE TWO; KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33040, USA
Toll-Free (866) 294-8174 FAX (305) 292-9665 E-mail: HETravel@aol.com www.HETravel.com

around the nation

Young skater sues N.Y. school over anti-gay taunts



The parents of **Aaron Vays**, a 12-year-old figure skater, have complained that school officials haven't protected him from anti-gay harassment. (Photo courtesy abcnews.com)

NEW YORK — A 12-year-old figure skater has filed a police complaint against the North Rockland County School District, saying the school has failed to protect him from anti-gay harassment, ABC News' "Good Morning America" reported. Aaron Vays, who began figure skating at age five, said school bullies have called him words like "fag" and "gay," destroyed his trophies when he brought them to school to show the principal, and physically attacked him, once causing internal injuries. But a school official turned the blame back on the boy. "All the situations are minor, as opposed to what they would lead you to believe," said Israel Bordanich, assistant superintendent for the district. "In some cases, the student has initiated things."

Mass. judge tosses out gay marriage lawsuit

BOSTON, Mass. — In the latest battleground in the fight for gay marriage, a Suffolk County Superior Court judge has thrown out a lawsuit from seven gay couples who say they should be allowed to legally marry in Massachusetts, the Boston Globe reported. "While this court understands the reasons for the plaintiffs' request to reverse the Commonwealth's centuries-old legal tradition of restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples, their request should be directed to the legislature, not the courts," Judge Thomas Connolly ruled May 8. But Connolly's decision also defended lawmakers' decision to limit marriage to heterosexuals. "Recognizing that procreation is marriage's central purpose, it is rational for the legislature to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples who, theoretically, are capable of procreation," Connolly ruled. The gay couples' attorney, Jennifer Levi of the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, noted that four of the seven couples have children, and they will appeal the ruling. The Massachusetts Supreme Court is expected to eventually decide the case.

Dallas adopts bias ban; Philly considers trans law

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas City Council on May 8 adopted an ordinance that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing and in public places such as hotels and restaurants. The council voted 13-2 for the measure, which was pledged on the campaign trail by new Mayor Laura Miller. Violation could result in fines up to \$500. "Let us walk out of the shadow of intolerance and bigotry and into the sunshine of human rights," said Council member John Loza, who is gay. The same day, a Philadelphia City Council committee gave preliminary approval to a bill that would outlaw discrimination on the basis of "gender identity." The Law & Government Committee passed the bill after hearing from transgendered people who testified that they had been harassed, fired and denied housing. No one testified against the bill. Council member Frank DiCicco, the measure's sponsor, said he expects it to pass when it comes up for final approval May 16.

Gay-themed book remains in S.C. school library

CONWAY, S.C. — A review committee of 12 Horry County librarians, parents and school officials voted May 9 to allow a gay-themed book to remain in high school libraries in the district, and to be available in middle school libraries with some limits to be set by the individual schools, the Myrtle Beach Sun News reported. Most discussion over "The Drowning of Stephan Jones" centered on the book's use of the word "fuck" and other profanity. But Eugene Carroll Craig, who lodged the complaint about the book, said he was concerned over gay themes in the book, and he has sent a letter asking the state attorney general to determine if it is obscene. Panel member and parent Carol Leibman said the book should remain on the shelves. "If this helps one student, it's worth putting it on the shelf," she said.

La. school backs away from ban on gay prom couples

BATON ROUGE, La. — Officials with the East Baton Rouge Parish school district issued a statement clarifying that same-sex couples could attend high school proms after Robert E. Lee High School refused entry to a gay teen and his date, the Associated Press reported. Lee High Principal Jack Stokeld turned away Cy Scott, 18, and his date, Paul Alexander, when they attempted to attend the school's prom last weekend. After Scott consulted an attorney, the school district issued a statement saying that same-sex couples must be allowed to attend to avoid "potential legal problems" and "alleged discrimination." But school officials also said the policy was never designed to discriminate against gay teens, but instead was intended to keep same-sex friends from buying cheaper "couples" tickets, thereby causing school groups to lose money. Stokeld has apologized to Scott. Meanwhile, gay teens in Nashville, Tenn., held their own separate prom on May 11, the Tennessean reported. Sponsored by One-In-Teen Youth Services, a gay youth group, the event at the Gaylord Entertainment Center allowed gay teens to attend a prom without facing uncomfortable reactions by heterosexual peers, organizers said.

From staff and wire reports

RELEASE 2002 TOUR

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!

PET SHOP BOYS

Sunday, June 2

Album "Release" in stores April 23
Single "Home and Dry" out now

buy online at ticketmaster.com www.petshopboys.co.uk

HoustonPress PEPSI SOUTHWEST LAS VEGAS

verizonwirelesstheater
www.verizonwirelesstheater.com

Get Tickets At **CC.COM**

Call for Tickets 713-629-3700 (automated), or online at Ticketmaster.com
Tickets also available at all ticketmaster.com outlets and the Verizon Wireless Theater Box Office (520 Texas Ave. 713-225-8551). All dates, acts, times, venues and ticket prices are subject to change without notice. All tickets are subject to applicable taxes, and service and handling charges. A Clear Channel Entertainment Event.

Your ideas about liberation...

...are part of your identity.
You live for technology.
Digital camera. Cell phone.
Laptop. Why not choose a
tire that's as technologically
advanced? Bridgestone.
Created with a vision.
Tested with a vengeance.
By a brand that's been
passionate about quality
tires for over 70 years.
Welcome to the future.



BRIDGESTONE[®]
A GRIP ON THE FUTURE

bridgestonetire.com



FREELANDER S
STARTS AT \$25,600
-0- DOWN \$399 PER MONTH

THE ALL-NEW FREELANDER (SEE ABOVE).
IT'S EVERY BIT A LAND ROVER (SEE BELOW).

2002 Automobile Magazine All-Star Award for Best Small Sport-utility Vehicle

STANDARD CAPABILITY

- Permanent all-wheel drive
- Four-channel, all-terrain anti-lock brakes
- Hill Descent Control
- 24-valve V-6 engine
- Five-speed automatic transmission, featuring CommandShift
- Monocoque body with integrated structural frame rails
- Four-wheel Electronic Traction Control
- Room for five with 60/40 split-folding rear seat

STANDARD LUXURY

- Eight-speaker, in-dash CD audio
- Heated front windshield
- Power dual heated mirrors
- Power windows
- Power door locks with remote keyless entry
- Power retractable rear cargo window
- Alloy wheels, including full-size alloy spare
- Perimeter security system with engine immobilizer
- Four years of roadside assistance

LAND ROVER HOUSTON

7019 Old Katy Road
(713) 293-6100
Mon.-Fri. 9:00-7:00 • Sat. 9:00-6:00
www.landroverhouston.com



ADVANTAGE MOTORCARS
The Southwest's Largest Land Rover Centre

-0- down plus 1st month's payment. \$399 per month for 42 months (lease) W.A.C. Optional residual of \$13,547. 20¢/mile over 10k miles per year. Limited time offer. Ex-Service Loaners.



THE NEW FREELANDER • DISCOVERY • RANGE ROVER

THE LAND ROVER EXPERIENCE

THE LOVETT INN

Distinctive Lodging and Catering Accommodations

Call us for your next out-of-town guest!



Historic Accommodations • Corporate Meeting Rooms
Banquet Facilities • Jacuzzi Suites • Pool/Hot Tub
Near Downtown, Museums and Medical Center

We do catered events for up to 200 people!

501 Lovett Blvd. Houston, TX 77006

(713) 522-5224 • (800) 779-5224

Fax (713) 528-6708 • lovettinn.com

YOU'LL LOVE IT!

CLASSIC

clas•sic\klasik\adj: felt to be among
the great literary works of mankind

DONALD WINDHAM

Discover the pre-Stonewall world
of Lambda Award-winning
author, Donald Windham—
an American classic!

THE DOG STAR \$14.95

A brilliant, mid-century,
coming-of-age story set in Atlanta

"A literary high mark."

National Public Radio

"An unadulterated artist."

Tennessee Williams

"Virtually flawless."

Washington Blade

"A very beautiful book."

Albert Camus

"Downright powerful."

The New York Times

EMBLEMS OF CONDUCT \$14.95

Windham's stunning childhood,
coming-out memoir

"Extraordinary reading."

Village Voice

"Emotionally powerful."

Lambda Book Report

Order both now—only \$20!

(\$30 value)

Toll-free 1-866-445-5787

\$4.50 shipping and handling



LHI RAINBOW HEALTH FAIR

Saturday, June 8, 2002 • 8am – 4pm

RMC Church Gym building • 2025 W 11th St. at T C Jester Blvd

FREE mammograms, Blood pressure & Blood glucose
screenings; Wellness discussions for women

To schedule Mammogram:

Call 713-603-0023 or E-mail LHIhouston00@aol.com

Mammogram slots are limited so call early — deadline May 25

Co-sponsored by Lesbian Health Initiative & RMC Church
Funded by Hollyfield Foundation, An Uncommon Legacy,
Houston Black Tie Dinner, The Magnolia Ball,
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation





medical report

Bush's pick to lead NIH sails through Senate hearing

WASHINGTON — President Bush's nominee to head the National Institutes of Health sailed through his Senate confirmation hearing last week, after expressing strong support for federal funding for stem cell research, the Washington Post reported. Dr. Elias Zerhouni, a researcher at Johns Hopkins University, was nominated for the head post of the governmental organization that includes the Office of AIDS Research, which manages the scientific, budgetary, legislative and policy elements of the agency's AIDS research program. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), chair of the Senate Health, Labor, Education & Pensions Committee, said the committee was likely to approve Zerhouni's nomination Wednesday and that the full Senate could vote to confirm him by week's end. The Gay & Lesbian Medical Association has said it is taking a wait-and-see approach on Zerhouni. "Given the anti-gay appointments to the AIDS panel, and the whole administration stance on abstinence-only prevention, we have to keep our eye on what's happening," Maureen S. O'Leary, executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association, has said.



Elias Zerhouni, President Bush's nominee to lead the National Institutes of Health, could gain Senate approval as early as this week. Zerhouni will take charge of an agency involved in federal AIDS research. (Photo by Kenneth Lambert/AP)

Blacks lead in HIV cases, but not in drug research

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Minorities account for nearly half of all Americans infected with HIV but are less likely than whites to be included in research on new AIDS drugs, a study shows. The study in a recent New England Journal of Medicine looked at a nationwide sample of patients under care for HIV. Fewer than half as many black patients as white ones tried to get experimental AIDS drugs, which the researchers said suggested "there is less awareness and a more widespread negative attitude about research in minority communities." Dr. Allen Gifford, a researcher with the Veteran Affairs San Diego Healthcare System and the University of California, San Diego, said it's important to include racial and ethnic groups to find out if drugs are metabolized differently or have different side effects. Participants also have access to alternative treatments, he said. The two-year study surveyed 2,864 HIV patients three times beginning in 1996, two years after the government issued guidelines for including women and minorities in research.

S.D. men charged with exposing others to HIV

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Within the last 10 days, three men have been charged in South Dakota under a two-year-old law that makes it a felony to intentionally expose sex partners to HIV. In Brown County, James Lee Woods, 41, of Aberdeen, is charged with four counts involving three other men. William Kenneth Jenigen, 35, is charged with six counts involving three victims. He lived with Woods. Authorities have encouraged sex partners of either man to be tested for HIV. In an unrelated Beadle County case, Sitanka Huron University freshman Nikko Briteramos, 18, of Chicago, pleaded innocent after a grand jury indicted him on three counts of HIV exposure. Out of his case, Briteramos and three other people have tested positive for HIV. Some 207 people have been tested for HIV so far as a result of that investigation.

HIV targets cells programmed to attack it, researchers say

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Scientists who scrutinized the immune systems of HIV patients have confirmed a long-standing suspicion: The deadly virus targets the very cells programmed to attack it. The findings could help in the design of effective HIV vaccines, and also raise a caution about patients taking a break from drug therapy to boost their natural immune response against the virus. "This is a sobering paper because it tells us that we have a difficult task ahead if we're going to overcome this virus," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief of infectious diseases for the National Institutes of Health. A team of NIH researchers studied immune system cells called CD4 T cells in the blood of 12 HIV-positive people. They found that the CD4 cells that specifically target HIV contained two to five times more HIV than the other cells, a finding that supports the presumption that HIV selectively infects the cells that attack the virus. The findings were published in the journal Nature.

Calif. starts reporting system for HIV cases

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Doctors and laboratories, for the first time beginning July 1, will be mandated to report newly diagnosed HIV cases to public health officials statewide. Health providers will not use the patient's name, but a code mainly of numbers. But patients who receive testing at anonymous centers, where they don't provide their names, won't be subject to the new regulations. The reporting will differ from 33 states that track patients by name confidentially, and will differ from how California tracks 80 other diseases. "We're very pleased with the system we've developed," said Michael Montgomery, chief of the Office of AIDS in the Department of Health Services.

From staff and wire reports

Millions of Americans
pay too much for life insurance
Don't be one of them.

Save ^{UP TO}
70%

Compare the *best* rates from our *best* companies!
Get a free price comparison from BestQuote™

BestQuote™ is an independent insurance buying service. We select the best rates from our "A" rated insurance companies and send you a FREE price comparison!

See Why Almost One Million
Americans Have Shopped For
Their Insurance With Best Quote!

- You make the call — our representatives will never contact you
- Completely confidential
- Risk free, no obligation
- Guaranteed satisfaction
- Quick and easy

COMPARE!

What are you paying now?
Here's what you could be paying.

**\$200,000 Life Insurance
Monthly Premium**

Age:	35	45	55
Male:	\$11.64	\$20.56	\$40.69
Female:	\$10.94	\$16.54	\$28.45

North American Company for Life and Health GRX-10 Premier Non-Smoker Form # LS108A Guaranteed Level Ten Year Term Insurance, Dependent on Underwriting. Not Available in All States.

BESTQUOTE

The Best Way To Buy Insurance

Call today for your
FREE price comparison.

24 hours / 7 days a week.

800-811-5878

BestQuote Agency, Inc. 8780 Park East Dr., Beachwood, OH 44122. BestQuote Insurance Service: 2004. BestQuote.com. In CA - BestQuote Agency of Ohio Insurance Agency, License # 0859449. In FL - BestQuote Insurance Services, Inc. License # 1996254. In TX - BestQuote Agency of Texas, Inc. License # 7299. In AZ - BestQuote Agency of Ohio Insurance Agency, Inc. License # 01907. Steven H. Rubin - Ohio Licensed Licensed Insurance Agent - CA License # 0843356, FL License # 6217753, OH License # 919637. For additional license information call 800-811-5878 x151.



national news

Gay gun owners say they are pushed to fringe

PINK PISTOLS, continued from Page 1

Georgia's former governor and one of the few Democrats to address the NRA.

The next day, an NRA panel on media coverage of the pro-gun movement "degenerated... into a session of gay-bashing," according to a report on the gay Web site PlanetOut.com. The event included a commentator who called gun control advocate Rosie O'Donnell a "freak" for coming out as a lesbian, according to PlanetOut.

Gays, guns and stereotypes

In addition to the comments about O'Donnell, made by conservative commentator Debbie Schluskel, PlanetOut reported that pollster Kellyanne Conway remarked on how public schools are "so worried now about how many mummies Heather has" that they don't teach basic civics lessons.

American Spectator columnist Grover Norquist said liberals "don't want [men] to date girls" and gun owners don't get as much media coverage because "we don't have annual parades... so that everyone can appreciate that gun ownership is an alternative lifestyle," the Web site reported.

Schluskel said this week she disagreed with PlanetOut's characterization of her comments, explaining that her "major beef" with O'Donnell is that she "is out of touch because she lives in a good community and has body guards that are armed, but doesn't want the rest of us to be allowed to have arms."

Still, Schluskel didn't deny referring to O'Donnell's coming out as a gay parent, and said she disagrees with her on gay issues.

"I believe gays should be able to live their lives as they please, however I don't believe in gay rights and I don't believe that churches, synagogues and schools should be forced to hire gay teachers and things of that nature," Schluskel said.

O'Donnell is "probably the most prominent gay there is, and she is also the most prominent celebrity against the Second Amendment and gun owners' rights, and I don't think that is mere coincidence," Schluskel said. "I think gays tend to be liberal and against gun owners rights."

Staff at O'Donnell's "Rosie" magazine, which has published stories on gun control, did not respond to interview requests.

But Schluskel's comments may show the divide between gays and gun advocates that can leave little room for gays who are interested in guns for sport or self-defense. Enter the Pink Pistols.

"We want to try and do outreach to both sides, to show the stereotypes are not correct," said Brian Hepler, a co-founder of the Northern Virginia Pink Pistols chapter, one of the group's largest with 40 active members.

Hepler, who is heterosexual, said he got involved with the group through a bisexual ex-girlfriend, and became the de facto leader when she stepped back because of job responsibilities.

Most gay people stereotype gun owners "as white trash rednecks driving pickup trucks with gun racks in the back," while most gun owners assume gay people to be

"limp-wristed guys with cravats around their throats, prancing around... wanting to ban guns because they are icky," he said.

"We want to show that both sides are wrong," Hepler said.

Doug Krick, a bisexual Massachusetts Libertarian activist who founded the Pink Pistols in 2000, agreed that the "pink shooting community" faces barriers — and opportunities — in both of the groups it wants to represent.

"Your very existence is a type of activism," the Pink Pistols' Web site tells its members, "and can have great effect by helping to shatter some of the mental dichotomies people use to pigeonhole each other."

Both Hepler and Krick report generally good interactions with the NRA — "we've been better received in the shooting community than in the gay community," said Hepler, whose group visits the shooting range at the NRA's national headquarters in Fairfax, Va., every other week.

But both also acknowledge that the gun lobby isn't perceived as a welcoming place by many gay gun owners, perhaps fueling the growth of Pink Pistols.

"Every so often someone starts spewing forth with they don't want to deal with queers, but almost immediately they are shouted down," Krick said. "We've gotten quite a bit of support."

Still, Krick said he hasn't worked extensively with NRA's national leadership, and he was less than impressed with the group's response to his questions about the media panel at last month's NRA convention.

"NRA is a single issue organization," John Robbins, a communications manager for the group, wrote in a response to Krick. "As always, our efforts will continue to reflect our members concerns. ... The panelists were expressing their own personal views."

Krick said taking "no position" on the remarks made by the panel members is not enough. "I think they should have made a stronger statement as a counter example. I think they would have responded much differently if a speaker had made anti-Semitic or anti-black remarks."

The NRA "does not discriminate against anyone," a staff member in the public relations department said this week. But requests for further interviews were not answered by press time.

Fighting the 'culture war'

While the NRA officially describes itself as a single issue group, its leaders — including actor Charlton Heston, the group's high-profile president — have repeatedly cast the organization as on the frontline in what they dub "the culture war" that pits conservatives versus "political correctness."

In a December 1997 speech to the Free Congress Foundation, Heston acknowledged that he had "dear friends" who are gay.

"As long as gay and lesbian Americans are as productive, law-abiding and private as the rest of us, I think America owes them absolute tolerance," he said.

But Heston went on to urge supporters to "draw your sword and fight" against

enemies including "the fringe propaganda of the homosexual coalition," along with "feminists who preach it's divine duty for women to hate men" and "blacks who raise a militant fist with one hand while they see preferences with the other."

Heston said he feels his "blood pressure rising when Clinton's cultural shock troops participate in homosexual rights fund-raisers but boycott gun-rights fund-raisers... and then claim it's time to place homosexual men in tents with Boy Scouts, and suggest that sperm donor babies born into lesbian relationships are somehow better served and more loved."

The remarks drew rebukes from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and PFLAG, as well as the NAACP, Feminist Majority Foundation and Ms. magazine.

In several speeches in the last three years, Heston has repeatedly alluded to the incident and backlash as evidence of the culture war he faces and wants NRA members to fight.

"I've worked with brilliantly talented homosexuals all my life," Heston said in a speech he has repeated to audiences including Harvard Law School, Brandeis University and the Young Republicans.

"But when I told another audience that gay rights should be given no greater consideration than your rights or my rights, I was called a homophobe," he added.

Although Krick and other Pink Pistols members report good relationships with several local NRA chapters, especially in California, other NRA chapter leaders acknowledge that gays may not feel welcome.

Texas members of the Pink Pistols may soon find out. Gay Houstonian Dan Weiner formed the local chapter of the Pink Pistols last year. He said he has not yet dealt directly with the NRA.

"We are about to do a confab with all the Texas Pink Pistol chapters, all three of them, and we are going to see about getting involved with the NRA," Weiner said. "The way to fix homophobia is to be out. Perhaps we can get the NRA to cool its jets by showing them the Pink Pistols — showing them that we are probably more dedicated to the right to bear arms than they are."

"I'm not real fond of the NRA myself," he added. "I pretty much knew all along they'd have a large contingent of homophobes, or at least a noisy one."

'Armed gays don't get bashed'

The conservatism of the NRA may be one reason for the rapid growth of the Pink Pistols, which takes its name from an essay by gay writer Jonathan Rauch published in Salon Magazine on March 13, 2000.

In states that allow concealed weapons, Rauch wrote, "homosexuals should embark on organized efforts to become comfortable with guns, learn to use them safely and carry them."

"They should set up Pink Pistols task forces, sponsor shooting courses and help homosexuals get licensed to carry," he wrote.

Rauch made the suggestion in the context of ways to stem the tide of gay-bashing, and while Krick said he first launched the group "because I wanted to have people

to go shooting with," it has taken on a decidedly self-defense tone.

Slogans used by the group include "pick on someone your own caliber," "never again," and "armed gays don't get bashed."

Rauch said this week he hasn't worked with the Pink Pistols, despite supplying its inspiration, but he thinks gay people should seriously consider armed self-defense.

"It's important to send the signal that if the police can't protect us, then we are willing to protect ourselves," said Rauch, a senior writer for the National Journal and correspondent for Atlantic Monthly.

Weiner said he formed the Houston chapter of Pink Pistols as an outgrowth of his interest in preventing hate crimes.

"Community [safety] and individual self defense have always been important issues to me," he said. "I felt that we needed something that was more permanent, something that people could always get their hands on and be able to defend themselves."

The group has about five regular members, with more than a dozen on its e-mail list, according to Weiner. But Houston's Pink Pistols haven't exactly received a hearty welcome.

"We've been given a lot of cold shoulders," Weiner said. "[But] there are a number of closeted gun owners in our community."

"We have our rights, we are going to exercise our rights, and we will defend ourselves against those who would take them away," he added. "Our ability to defend ourselves will determine the number of hate crimes against us. The more we defend ourselves, the less trouble we will have. I think people are tipped off because [gays are] targeted as wimps."

Pink Pistols across the nation also have attracted a lot of interest from gay individuals, but not much support from gay groups, Krick said.

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force rejected two workshop proposals from the group for the annual "Creating Change" activist conference in 2000, officials said.

Sue Hyde, director of Creating Change, said she turned down the workshops not because they dealt with guns, but because she thought Pink Pistols had been too personal when criticizing a lesbian Massachusetts state senator who supported a stringent gun control bill there.

Yet even without that concern, Hyde said still she would have wanted NGLTF leaders to have a serious discussion about hosting a gun workshop.

"I wouldn't be at all surprised if there wasn't a general feeling amongst people in our organization that the interpretation of the Second Amendment as supporting the right of individuals to bear arms would not be in our interest," she said.

Hyde said she believes fighting for comprehensive anti-bias education in schools would be a better strategy to fighting hate crimes than using guns for self defense.

"I don't believe arming ourselves is a sustainable response to a subculture of hate towards homosexuality," she said. "We are not going to settle our scores as a community by having a shootout at the OK Corral."

Laura Douglas-Brown can be reached at lbrown@sovo.com.

national news

Transgenders still face struggle for rights

RESTROOM, continued from Page 1

"I felt harassed. What they did was wrong."

In another Minnesota case, however, a federal court ruled that a transsexual librarian could use the women's restroom at a local school. The court ruled that the complaining employee, who argued that sharing the lavatory with a transgender co-worker violated her religious freedom and created a hostile work environment, had the freedom to use other restrooms on school property. The complaining co-worker has appealed the decision.

In New York City, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit in New York Supreme Court in Manhattan last June against a landlord who evicted the Hispanic AIDS Forum, one of the city's leading Latino HIV/AIDS agencies, from its offices in Jackson Heights, Queens, because another tenant complained that its male-to-female transgender clients were using the "wrong" restrooms. The case is still pending.

At the time, Heriberto Sanchez Soto, executive director of the Hispanic AIDS Forum, said: "This epidemic is ravaging Latinos, and efforts to prevent its spread have to come from within our own communities and reach people where they are. We can't afford to let prejudice get in the way."

Philly to join cities with trans rights law

Some transgender rights advocates said society's acceptance of this community is increasingly growing.

"This year, we've already seen five ordinances passed, either to add 'gender identity' to existing laws or to add 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity' language simultaneously," said Lisa Mottet, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's legislative lawyer for its Transgender Civil Rights Project, including Erie County, Pa., Dallas, New York City, and Tacoma, Wash.

"Each time, the vote has been overwhelmingly positive, from local city councils to county commissions. I think that shows that council members and legislators understand when they've been educated that transgender people should not be discriminated against."

The Philadelphia City Council voted 15-2 on Thursday, May 16, to add "gender identity" language to its Fair Protections Ordinance, which makes it illegal to discriminate in employment, public accommodations, and housing. The city's mayor has said he would sign the measure.

The Transgender Law & Policy Institute in New York said only two states — Minnesota and Rhode Island — have laws prohibiting discrimination against transgender people. Eight counties and 35 cities

have such policies. Employers who have policies prohibiting discrimination against transgender employees include Aetna, American Airlines, Apple Computers, Lucent Technologies, Verizon Wireless and Xerox, according to the institute.

Ricki Wilchins, executive director of the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC), echoed Mottet. GenderPAC styles itself not simply as a trans rights group, though Wilchins is a transgender woman, but a national organization working to end discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes generally.

"Five years ago, no Fortune 500 company protected gender expression and identity as part of their own Equal Employment Opportunity policy," Wilchins said. "Now we're proud to say there's 16 that do, and several more in the pipeline that we're working with."

IBM has agreed to be a corporate sponsor of GenderPAC and its National Conference on Gender, which takes place in Washington, D.C., May 18-20 at the Hilton Hotel and Towers.

Wilchins also noted that three years ago, there were no sitting Congress members who had gender expression and identity language in their own official employment policies in Capitol Hill.

"Now, we're proud to say there's 100 who do, including 10 senators and 12 Republicans," she said, "which means our

message is crossing the aisle. There's a growing recognition that gender rights is an issue whose time has come."

Halleman said officials at Victaulic in Pennsylvania recently agreed to create a unisex restroom for him—and for anyone else at the company who wants to use it.

Ohio University in Athens began last year designating unisex restrooms across the campus, after Collin Lovell, a trans student who has since graduated, requested it. Unisex restrooms typically have signs posted on them designating that men or women can use them.

The Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority spent \$8,000 two years ago to construct a unisex restroom with a separate shower in a former porter's closet at a maintenance facility for a transsexual worker, the International Foundation for Gender Education in Waltham, Mass., reported.

National Transgender Advocacy Coalition

14252 Culver Dr., No. 904
Irvine, Calif. 92604-0326
www.ntac.org

Transgender Law & Policy Institute

www.transgenderlaw.org

Show your PRIDE all month long!

**houston
VOICE**

offers special local advertising rates for June 2002

- Pride packages — For the entire month of Pride, June 7 through June 28**
1. Three 1/2 page ads & one full page ad in Pride Issue June 28\$1427.00
 2. Three 1/4 page ads & one 1/2 page ad in Pride Issue June 28\$738.00
 3. Three 1/8 page ads and one 1/4 page ad in Pride Issue June 28\$425.00
 4. Four 1/4 page ads in the Pride month of June\$940.00

- Rainbow Package — For the Pride Preview on June 21 and Pride Issue on June 28**
5. One full page ad in Pride Issue June 28 (paid cash up front) and receive an 1/8 page ad free in the Pride Preview issue June 21\$643.00

Call your Houston Voice Sales Rep today! 713.529.8490

Packages are based on ads for the entire month of June 2002. Rates valid with signed contracts no later than May 31, 2002.

Ads must be published in the month of June 2002.

Limited premium location, Spot Color, and Process Color positions. Reserve your space NOW!

Executive Editor CHRIS CRAIN
 Editor PENNY WEAVER
 editor@houstonvoice.com
 Production BONNIE NAUGLE
 Contributors KAY Y. DAYUS, TRAYCE DISKIN,
 LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN, RHONDA SMITH,
 ELLA TYLER
 Webmaster DOUGLAS WRIGHT
 Photographers DALTON DEHART,
 KIMBERLY THOMPSON
 Advertising Sales
 JIM NIXON—Regional Sales Manager
 jnixon@houstonvoice.com

BRETT CULLUM—Account Executive
 bcullum@houstonvoice.com
 Administration & Sales Support
 CAROLYN A. ROBERTS
 croberts@houstonvoice.com
 National Advertising Representative
 Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
 212-242-6863

A WindowMedia Publication

Publisher- WINDOW MEDIA LLC
 President- WILLIAM WAYBOURN
 Editorial Director- CHRIS CRAIN
 Financial Director- CHRIS REID
 Art Director- ROB BOEGER
 Marketing Director- ERIC MAY
 Operations Manager- MICHAEL KITCHENS



the chamber
 the greater houston gbt chamber of commerce

CHARTER MEMBER

Established 1974 as the *Montrose Star*.

500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200
 Houston, Texas 77006
 (713) 529-8490
 Fax: (713) 529-9531
 www.houstonvoice.com
 Contents copyright 2000
 Office hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays

To submit a letter

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

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

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

Issue 1125

Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

MAY 17, 2002

PAGE 12

editorial

Goodbye to a friend

Carolyn Roberts' death was a shock, but the overwhelming outpouring of tributes to her is no surprise at all

By PENNY WEAVER

CAROLYN ROBERTS WAS the first person I met when I stepped off the plane and into Houston for the first time.

We had talked on the phone. She said she'd meet me at the gate and be holding a sign that said "Houston Voice." I pictured this as a regular size piece of paper, white, with those words scrawled on it in bold black marker.

But I didn't know Carolyn yet.

As I walked up the ramp from the plane, anxious and wondering what this city I had never even visited would be like, I saw her, standing there with a sign about a foot tall and three or four feet wide, with HOUSTON VOICE in red six-inch-high letters superimposed over a rich color photo of the cityscape.

Now that was Carolyn.

Anyone who knew her knew she lived life to the fullest. She was famous for her capacity for Jose Cuervo tequila — hence the indelible nickname of "Cuervolyn" — and she didn't skimp on the cigarettes, coffee or chocolate, either.

She was equally generous with her time, thoughtfulness and kindness for others.

Not knowing me from Eve, Carolyn still eagerly drove me around "her" city, showing me the sights and helping me search for an apartment. She looked at several places with me, and when she gave approval on the refrigerator in the apartment I picked out — an icemaker is a must-have here, she said — that sealed it.

I quickly learned and came to love all the mannerisms and habits that Carolyn was famous for. I still don't know how she typed with those two-inch fingernails! But type she did, and she accomplished an amazing amount of tasks at the Houston Voice office to keep this newspaper running like a well-oiled machine.

SHE MOTHERED ME a bit — as she did so many people — bringing me home-cooked meals every so often, including turkey, dressing and all the stuffings after Thanksgiving, which she knew I spent at home alone.

She fussed over my dogs, and we talked about pets and animals. Whenever we

heard about an abused animal, or a person caught being cruel to an animal, she always said in a determined voice, "There's a special kind of hell for people like that."

Her sense of humor was classic. She regularly sent hilarious e-mails to brighten everyone's day, and many were on the racy side, which made them even funnier.

She named her car — the most recent was her silver Mustang "Rocky" — and she made a closet full of clothes for her dog, Brandi. She used to say, "My dog's not spoiled at all," with a sly little wink.

I hope I will always remember all the stories Carolyn told. She was a walking, talking history of the Houston Voice. She took me to Mary's, and every person there or who passed by knew her and offered an enthusiastic hug.

CAROLYN WAS, AS my mom would say, "a character" and "full of personality." I can hardly remember knowing a better character.

Her spirit, her kindness, her generosity were so strong. People have come by the office this week who knew Carolyn simply by placing an ad in the paper every so often, yet when told the awful news of her death, they have broken down in tears with the rest of us who worked with her every day.

Her death is so hard to take in part because she was such a strong spirit. I've only known her a short time, and I feel like I've lost my best friend.

She was fiercely dedicated to this newspaper. She said she had told her friend, Tad Nelson, the former owner of the Voice, before he died that she would take care of his paper. We now must continue that promise as a pledge to Carolyn, as well. We will.

Carolyn lived her life as an example of how all people should live. She had friends of every size, shape and color, from all backgrounds and walks of life. She didn't care if you were a wrinkled old queen or a tubby old dyke. She didn't care if you were a leather daddy or the most vanilla person around.

Lipstick lesbian, circuit boy, straight, bisexual, trans, ex-con, alcoholic, drug addict, mayor of Who-ville — Carolyn didn't care. She still treated all of us like people, human beings with imperfections,



fears, hopes, dreams and a need to be loved.

Much of what Carolyn did out of kindness was through volunteerism and fundraisers for good causes. But so much also was quiet, almost purposely hidden thoughtfulness. She was the one who showed up with a card and flowers if she had heard that someone close to you died. She listened when you needed to talk, and she gave honest advice when you asked.

Carolyn never skimped on hugs, or became stingy with a dollar, or failed to step up and offer a helping hand when it was needed. Most of the time, her friends didn't even have to ask. Poof! She was there.

PEOPLE WHO DIE young are often made out to be practically saints by those who are left behind. Sometimes, it's as though they never did any wrong while alive.

No one can say Carolyn was perfect. She had her flaws, as we all do. But in a way, that's exactly what made her so special — she recognized that others were as imperfect as she was, and she looked past those kinds of trivial things. She opened her heart without reservation to us, and we opened our hearts to her, too.

I'm going to pull out that bold Houston Voice sign that Carolyn first brought to greet me at the airport and keep it here in the office, on display. Every time I see it, I will think of her and remind myself to love with abandon, always be free with a hug and a smile, and cultivate generosity in life.

I'll always remember how important this newspaper and its service to the community was to her, and I'll do my best to help maintain that tradition.

Carolyn gave of herself to so many. If each of us, whose lives are undeniably better for knowing her, can carry on some of that legacy, we will have done her justice and done her proud.

Taking time in life to relax with dear friends in a comfortable space, laughing and telling stories — and raising a shot of Cuervo to our buddy Carolyn — won't hurt a bit either.

@ Penny Weaver is the editor of the Houston Voice and may be reached at editor@houstonvoice.com.



viewpoint SARAH DEPALMA



Let congregations that quietly support GLBT members speak out in public

Wanted: Unconditional love

It has been fascinating to watch the pedophilia scandal develop within the Catholic Church. Surely it is no surprise to hear members of the clergy blaming homosexuality for this scandal.

The Catholic Church has never understood the issue of sexual orientation. There is no reason to believe the church would have a sudden revelation now that it is under such extreme duress. Let's face it: blaming gay men is a whole lot easier than accepting responsibility for passing known pedophiles on to new and unsuspecting congregations.

Once upon a time, I was a member of the Catholic faith. Like many transgendered people, my wife could not accept me in my new gender and filed for a divorce. Since we were married in the Catholic Church, we also had to file for an annulment.

We were totally shocked when we received a huge questionnaire seeking the reasons an annulment had been requested. No less than one third of the questions had to do with our sex life. My wife and I agreed to answer these questions "none of your business." We got the annulment anyway. All I had to say was that I was that I considered myself to be a lesbian and the annulment was automatic.

In retrospect, I should have said that I

was a transgendered woman who considered myself to be a lesbian and then watched their heads spin trying to figure that out.

The truth is that I spent a lot of time in hurtful religions. I was raised in an extremely conservative Pentecostal congregation until I was 14. My sin was getting caught leaving the movie theater after watching the Beatles movie "Hard Day's Night." The deacon of our church called me out and said I wasn't supposed to go anywhere that Jesus would not have gone.

I thought about that for several days and challenged him in church. I said that my understanding was that Jesus hung out with women of questionable reputation, the sick, dying, and unwanted of the world, so could the deacon please explain where it was that Jesus wouldn't go? His answer was utterly incoherent. That afternoon I told my parents that I was never going to that church again. They screamed until their faces were purple, but I didn't go to that or any other church for 10 years.

Over the years, I have done political battle with some religions and received the help of others. Ministers have told me that homosexuals are perverts. Other ministers have told me that the first minister is a pervert.

Members of one faith told me that



transsexuals are warping the perfect person made in the image of God. Members of other faiths welcome all members of the transgendered community and view anyone who would reject any member of the GLBT community as un-Christian.

What should we believe? Religion and spirituality play a pivotal role in the lives of many of us. Are we good or evil?

Religion and belief is in the eye of the beholder. The vast majority of Catholic priests and nuns are decent human beings trying to a job under the most difficult circumstances possible. We should offer to them what the Catholic Church seems unable to provide to us: unconditional love.

The same is true of the denominations and congregations who would hate us and have us labeled as scum. Imagine what would happen if a thousand members of the GLBT community stood outside a huge Baptist church in their home city with signs that said, "We disagree with your view of us but we love you as human beings anyway." It's positively subversive!

The truth is that religion does not have to be hurtful. Yet for years, congregations

of positive faith have quietly offered sanctuary for members of the GLBT community while allowing members of hurtful religions to dominate the public discourse about us. It's time for this to end.

We have seen what happens to public perception when a few tainted members of a religion get the spotlight. Many people both inside and outside the Catholic Church view blaming homosexuals for the problem of pedophilia as a blessing for their agenda. This is an opportunity for congregations quietly supporting the GLBT communities to turn the tables and show that actions do speak louder than words.

Just imagine meeting hateful words with a display of love. Why, in a few thousand years it might even catch on.

letters

Carolyn,

You touched the lives of so many of us, and we are glad that you did. We are all better and more caring friends as a result. We will work diligently to

share your gift to us with others. We will miss you more than words can ever express.

Your Photographer,
Dalton DeHart



@ Sarah DePalma has been a human rights activist for more than 30 years. She is co-host of a radio program and director of the Texas Gender Advocacy Information Network (TGAIN), a statewide transgender rights organization. She can be reached at redhead13@ev1.net

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



ONLY \$27.95

JOIN NOW AND SAVE!!

NOW OPEN 5AM MON-FRI

NEW LOCATION OPEN NOW!

HOUSTON GYM

713.880.9191

1501 DURHAM • MON-FRI 5A-10P • SAT 8A-8P • SUN 8A-6P

IT'S WHERE YOU FIND YOUR LOOK



LINDBERG®
Eye Elegance
 FINE EYEWEAR

3966 Westheimer, Highland Village • Houston, TX 77027 • 713-622-4411

on the record

“In a sport where 35 homosexuals compete, being judged by 15 other homosexuals, I bet no one saw this coming!”

Jerry Seinfeld on the controversy surrounding figure-skating judges in the Salt Lake Olympics, in his first stand-up show since his blockbuster sitcom went off the air (New York Post, May 8)



“Not writing for the New York Times is a better fate than not writing what I believe on my blog. ... Most of the time, people in big media, being journalists, don't mind criticism, especially from a piddling one-man blog. But others take offense, and you get canned.”

Gay writer Andrew Sullivan on the decision by the New York Times Magazine not to renew his writing contract, after he was critical of Times coverage on his “blog,” or personal Web site, www.andrewsullivan.com. Sullivan was effectively barred from the New Republic and the Advocate after he publicly criticized those publications as well. (Washington Post, May 14)

“What's more, it seemed like a hideous attempt to distance the stars from their roles, as if to say, ‘Don't worry, folks. This one only plays a queer on TV.’ This tack would never be used to promote other projects. (‘We now have Nicole Kidman, who's not really a prostitute, Woody Allen, who isn't really going blind, and Sean Penn, who has been known to get violent.’)”

Michael Musto on Larry King's interview with cast members from Showtime's “Queer As Folk,” during which he introduced each actor as gay or straight (Village Voice, May 14)

“Four words, Rosie. Don't do a sitcom.”

Bette Midler, in a farewell to the host on the May 13 airing of “The Rosie O'Donnell Show”; Midler suffered a failed sitcom last year (“Gay TV Alert,” May 14)



“I've never done it with another woman.”

Madonna to co-star Megan Dodds, just before they shared a kiss in the May 13 debut of “Up For Grabs” (“Gay TV Alert,” May 15)



“When life basically becomes such a rush, you need to stop and enjoy the people that you have. Because it could just be gone in a second. I think that's the reason we are such good friends, because I lost a lover from AIDS, and since then, we are very aware that you are here today and gone tomorrow, so enjoy the moment.”

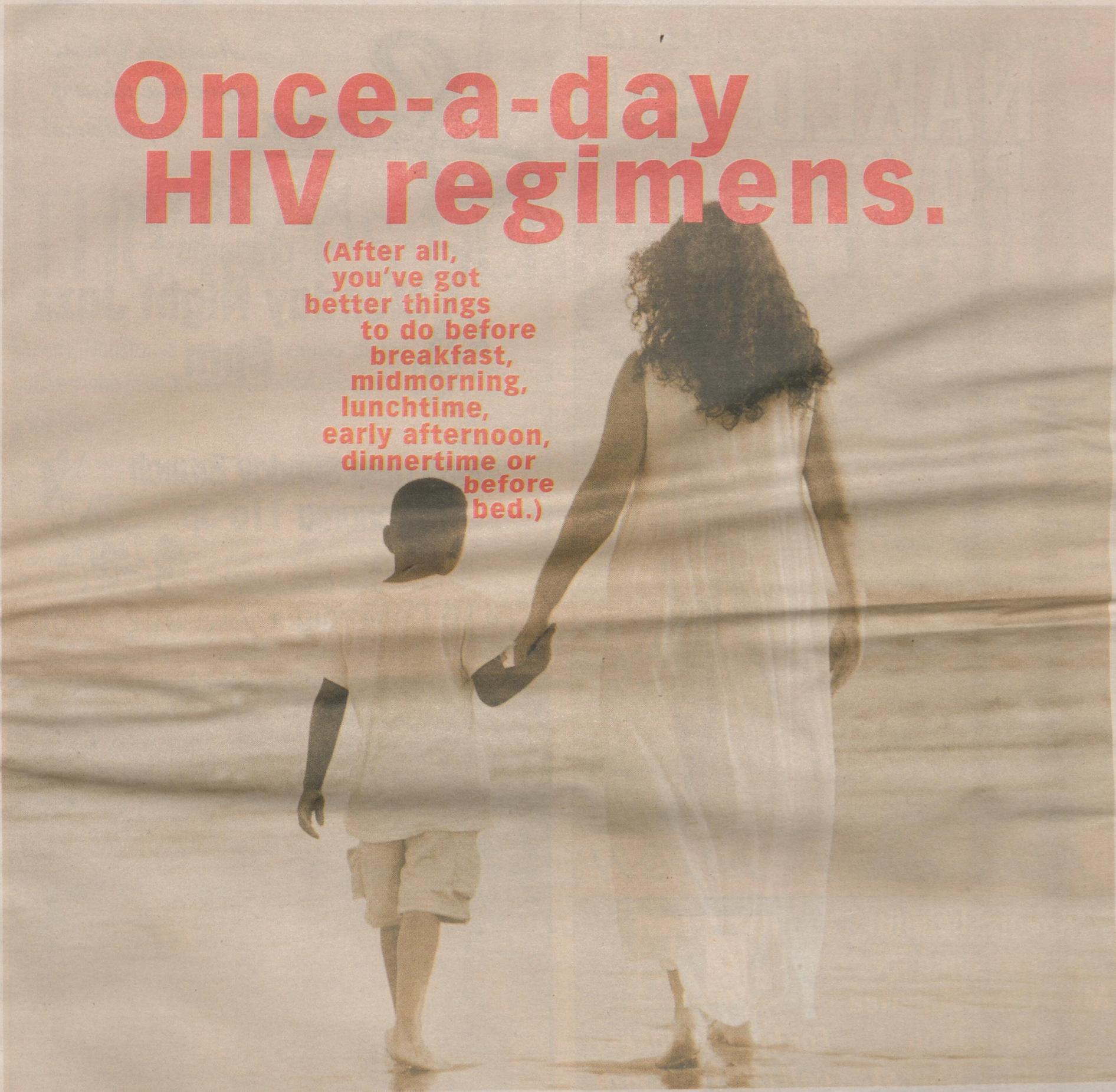
Oswald, talking about Danny, the other half of the gay best friends team, eliminated in the May 8 episode of the UPN reality series “The Amazing Race” (CBS' “Early Show,” May 9)

“We just passed right by [Danny and Oswald]. While they took their sweet time and sissy-footed around the whole cave, we just busted butt and got out of their as fast as we could.”

Straight friends Alex and Chris, a competing team on the UPN reality series “The Amazing Race,” though that remark was edited out of a clip shown on CBS' “Early Show”

Once-a-day HIV regimens.

(After all,
you've got
better things
to do before
breakfast,
midmorning,
lunchtime,
early afternoon,
dinnertime or
before
bed.)



SIMPLER,
EASIER AND
MORE MANAGEABLE.

BMS Virology™
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

ASK YOUR DOCTOR IF A ONCE-A-DAY HIV REGIMEN IS RIGHT FOR YOU.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 1-888-547-9854 OR VISIT WWW.MANAGEHIV.COM/1

Bienvenue Theatre presents
NAKED BOYS SINGING!
Opens June 7th



"A Glorious Celebration"
 ...NY OBSERVER

"OUTRAGEOUS! Laugh-Out-Loud funny...a Chippendale's Glee Club!"
 ...NY DAILY NEWS

"A musical full of witty, silly songs and charming performers. A whole lot of (fairly) innocent fun."
 HOUSTON PRESS

"Gloriously funny...Outrageous, Stupendous and Riveting! Joyfully, Hilariously, and Beautifully Packaged as a celebration."
 ...THE TEXAS TRIANGLE

"A thoroughly enjoyable evening... Genuine theatre... Some Hilarious, Some Poignant, all True Reflections"
 ...THIS WEEK IN TEXAS

"You'll LAUGH, you'll BLUSH, you'll HEAD to the gym."
 ...IN THEATER MAGAZINE

Directed by
Christian DeVries

Music Direction by
Tony DeVereaux

Choreography by
Michele Maslyk

Originally Conceived and Directed by
Robert Schrock

www.nakedboyssinging.com
www.bienvenuetheatre.com

Friday June 7 - July 27!

Special benefit performance for Miss Camp America Foundation on Friday, May 31.

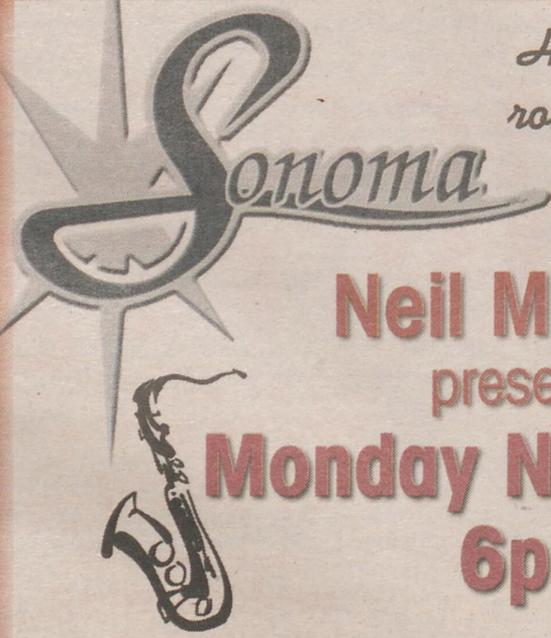


For benefit tickets call (281) 650-3676

*Preview performance Saturday, June 1
 First Come-First Served seating!*

Tickets & Info: 713.426.2626
www.bienvenuetheatre.com
www.nakedboyssinging.com • www.mcaf.org

Houston's most romantic dining experience!



Neil Markert presents:
Monday Night Jazz 6pm

Don't miss Sunday Brunch at Sonoma 11a-3p

★★★★★
2002 Zagat Guide Rating!

1415 California • 713-522-7066



TOM BIANCHI



ON THE COUCH
 Get 20% off this great new photobook!



Crossroads Market
BOOKSTORE & CAFE
 1111 Westheimer Road, Houston
 (713) 942-0147

Books Periodicals Greeting Cards Music Gifts Coffee & Desserts



Out on the Bayou

The faces behind the words

Quietly, Houston is home to a number of gay authors who have achieved national recognition

By ELLA TYLER

Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered authors might be the city's best-kept secret.

The local gay press gives visibility to many local writers, but authors — you know, people who write books and have publishers and agents — are largely invisible.

Several sources in Houston's extensive writing community could not think of any openly gay authors, and a poll of several gay activists was unsuccessful. The authors profiled here were found, whereelse but... the bookstores. Literally.

Dean James, whose newest book, "Posted to Death," features a totally modern gay vampire, is a manager at Murder By the Book. James is a nationally known expert on mysteries who has written three award-winning, non-fiction books about mysteries, including "By a Woman's Hand;" two other mysteries, "Cruel as the Grave" and "Closer Than the Bones;" and several short stories.

"Posted to Death," released in April, is James' first book with a gay central character. Soon after Simon Kirby-Jones, academic turned romance writer, moves to the quaint British village of Snupperton Mumsley, the local postmistress is murdered. Simon turns his attention to solving the crime and getting to know his new neighbors.

He can do this because a new drug, developed by AIDS researchers who are also vampires, allows vampires to tolerate daylight and eliminates their need to be bloodsuckers. The book is a funny but faithful follower of the school of British mysteries a la Agatha Christie, but has a wistful undertone. Simon's former lover made him a vampire to save him from AIDS.

James can talk for hours about gay mystery writers, but about local authors, he says, "There aren't many around." He doesn't think the local community cares about gay authors.

High-profile Houstonians

The city's most famous gay writers, Mark Doty and Edward Albee, live here only part of the year. Doty, whose seven volumes of poetry have won honors including the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Lambda Literary Award and a three-year Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writers' Award, divides his time between Houston and Provincetown. He teaches in the University of Houston Creative Writing Program.

Edward Albee, author of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe" and winner of three Pulitzer Prizes for other plays, teaches during the spring semester at the University of Houston School of Theater. He divides his time between Houston and New York.

Not to be outdone, Timothy James Beck, author of "It Had to Be You," which debuted in October, divides his time, according to the book's cover, between New York, Texas and California. When he is in Texas, he works at Crossroads.

The Timothy James Beck Web site gives broad hints that Beck is not an ordinary writer. It says, "He writes poetry and musical lyrics and has performed in Manhattan nightclubs. He has also been a teacher and worked in the healing arts. He is in touch with his feminine side by phone and e-mail. He likes spending time with his faithful canine and feline friends. He discovered all his inner chil-

dren in AOL chat rooms, where they were acting up. For insight into his Type R (for Renaissance) personality, see Aries, Gemini, Virgo and Pisces in any good astrology book."

This autobiography was composed by Timothy J. (James) Lambert and Rebecca Wocker of Houston, Timothy Forry of New York City and Jim Carter of Long Beach, who collectively wrote "It Had to Be You" under the name Timothy James Beck. Its sequel is due in January.

The four met on line and found they had shared senses of humor and an interest in writing. The book began as a single page written by Lambert and passed on to Wocker. When it came back via Forry and Carter, the character had been transformed into Daniel, who must give up his famously popular drag queen alter ego "Princess 2Di4" after Diana's death, and is now looking for a more meaningful and fulfilling life.

Wocker (the Beck) invented the princess character, Lambert says, thereby proving that a straight woman had a lot to contribute to the project.

"Gay life is all encompassing, and we tried to incorporate many walks of life in the books," he says. "She has lots of gay male friends, and before she tired of corporate life, was a technical writer, so her skills were really useful at the editing stage." Wocker now works as a massage therapist.

Lambert lived in New York while the book was being written, but moved to Houston last year. He lives in Wocker's guest house.

"We all came here to meet, and I loved it, so when it was time for a change, here I came," he explains. "Working at Crossroads, I feel like I am in the center of everything. The community here is huge and really strong."

Lambert hasn't met many other published writers, but he says he gets a lot of questions from aspiring writers. "It's bizarre — I don't feel at all established, and people are asking me for advice," he notes.

Gay poets appreciate support

The writer-in-residence at Lobo is the poet Michael Bolin. His first book of poetry, "Mourning Contagious Beauty," was published last September, and a second, "Running From Light," will be released at the end of June.

"It's about my life," Bolin says, "and it does have some AIDS related poems, but not all of them."

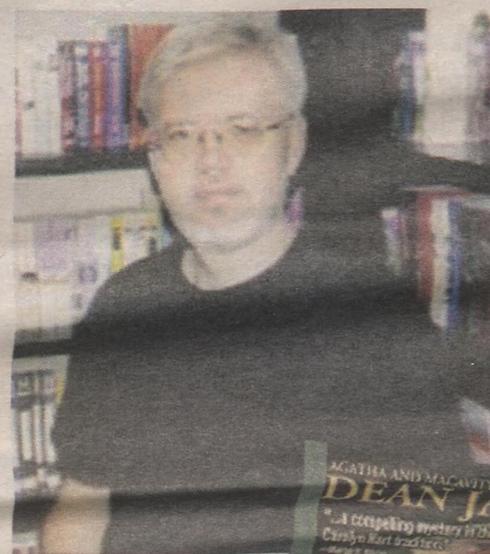
Bolin began writing poetry soon after his 16th birthday. "My first poem was about a girl," he confesses. He still has that poem, and has added 1,260 more to the count.

"I finished one yesterday, and I have [kept] every poem I've ever written," he says.

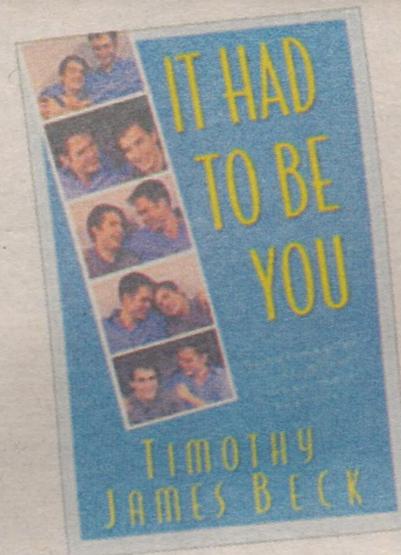
Bolin is part of an informal group of gay poets that includes Donna Garret, Michael Locke, and several others. Locke, who is black, is Houston's Poet Laureate.

"We will be featured in the national Pride magazine," Bolin says. "We do informal readings at Lobo, Oscar's, the Mausoleum and other places. I've gone with Donna to Rae's Place, and there are a lot of black lesbians reading there."

"We are very supported," he continues. "Several people here Please see **FACES** on **Page 18**



Gay Houstonian Dean James — author of books including 'Closer Than the Bones' — says locals don't care about gay authors. Other Houston writers disagree.



'It Had to Be You' is a gay-themed book with just as interesting a story behind its author as inside its pages.

out on the bayou

Some gay writers choose to stay in the closet

FACES, continued from Page 17

hand-sell my book, and we have had readings with as many as 100 people.

"People take writing books seriously here," Bolin says. "In New York and L.A., there's someone on every corner who says they going to be a poet or actor, but here it is materialized."

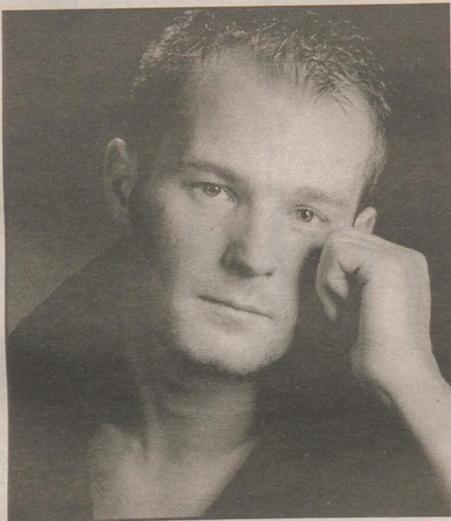
Bolin says Edward Albee's part-time presence in Houston is important to him. "He's accessible — he comes to Lobo sometimes. In 1996, I finally gave him one of my poems. He took it seriously and wrote me a beautiful letter."

Some writers stay closeted

The University of Houston's prestigious Creative Writing Program is a home for new authors, including some openly gay ones. One, a young woman who prefers not to use her name, can think of four or five self-identified gay classmates. She doesn't think it odd that there are so few visible gay or lesbian authors here. As a native Houstonian, she believes, "I think it's just being Houston."

She continues, "I did my undergraduate work at U of H too, and it is so big and impersonal that there is no pressure to open up, and nothing to get from it."

The graduate creative writing program is smaller, admitting only 20 new students each year, and she began the coming-out process when she began work on her masters last fall.



Gay Houstonian Michael Bolin is a writer whose second book of poems is due out this summer.

She is still not out to her parents, but is out to her classmates and a few of her students.

"I'm not out to my classes because I'm still a young (24), fearful teacher and I don't want to put up any barriers between us. There's also the issue of whether you want to be known as 'that lesbian writer.'"

Because the University's program stresses the craft of writing, rather than the content, she believes she could complete the program and completely avoid writing about her lesbianism.

"They say, 'We don't care what you write

about, it's how you write,' but we aren't encouraged to be personal. You get the feeling that your experience as a marginalized person isn't important, or interesting to anyone else, so you don't do it."

James Hall, a poet who is a doctoral candidate in the Creative Writing Program, isn't in the closet at all.

"Not only am I out, I don't let people heterosexualize me," he says. "When someone says, 'Isn't she a good-looking chick?', I say, 'Yes, she's attractive, but I'm gay.'"

He doesn't know how well this is accepted, since "people here are so polite, they don't say anything. I don't know which is tolerance and which is acceptance."

He came to Houston last fall from Fort Lauderdale, and lives in suburban Houston with his younger brother, who is also gay, and their parents, who recently moved here.

He is out to his classmates and recently came out to his students. "When I said I am gay, one of the students said, 'I knew you were because when I saw you reading at the library, you were reading one of those gay books.'" Hall said he was so surprised, "I didn't ask the student what makes a 'gay book.'"

Hall said he used to go to the library and take the books about sexuality to the basement and read them. "I never checked them out, but no else had either.



They were well read, though," he says with a chuckle.

Hall got his masters at Bennington, and didn't know any gay or lesbian students there. He is excited that Mark Doty teaches at U of H.

"He's my favorite poet. I've signed up for two of his classes in the fall and I hope it will be a safe place to learn to write about being gay," Hall says. "One of my

professors, a straight woman, introduced me to his work when I was 18. She copied 'My Alexandria' for me, and the first time I read it I was just looking for the sex. I must have bought it 10 times since then. She made a list of gay and lesbian authors for me, and I hadn't known they were gay."

For this writer, discussing sexual orientation in his work is a natural.

"I write about the gay stuff because I write about the reality I see," Hall says. Houston is rich in this kind of material, he believes.

"I live in a neighborhood where street signs are in English and some kind of pictograph and pass by a building near U of H that still says 'Houston Negro School of Nursing,'" Hall notes. "Writing prose and poetry can change the world."

And that's a good reason for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered writers to take pen in hand and come out, come out, wherever you are.



100% MORTGAGE LOANS 200% SERVICE

When you think of buying or refinancing a home... think of
Mortgage Associates of Texas!

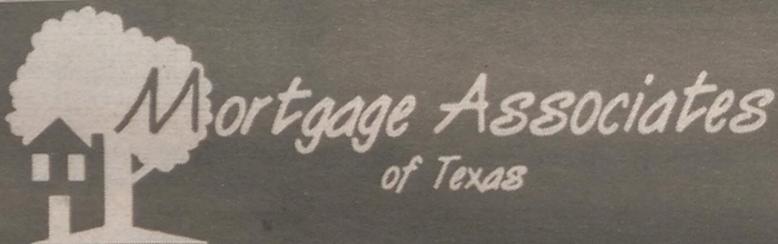
We're the largest and oldest mortgage company in the community.
We've always been here for you — and **we always will be!**

Referred by fine Realtors... Preferred by knowledgeable consumers!!!

5311 Kirby Dr. Suite 216
Houston, Texas 77005
www.mortgageassoc.com



John Frels,
President



713.524.1850

nightout

WEDNESDAYS 8 PM

“STAYING IN is the new GOING OUT.”



SHAG

It's an all-out, outrageous evening of gay and lesbian comedy and drama with hosts such as: performance artist **Tammy Faye Starlite**, downtown denizens **Kiki and Herb**, and the award-winning theater company **Five Lesbian Brothers**. It's what some insist on calling sophisticated entertainment.

PREMIERES
MAY 22



8:00 pm **Gay Cinema**

9:45 (ish) **Queer Duck**

10:00 pm **Queer As Folk**

To order **SHO TOO**, log on to **SHO.com** or call **1-800-SHOWTIME** and join the digital revelation.



empower

— GLBT Community Expo

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2002

at the George R. Brown
Convention Center

the **chamber** presents
the greater houston gbt chamber of commerce

Empower 2002

FEATURING:

- Trade Show
- Live Entertainment
- Artists
- Seminars
- Job Fair
- Health Fair
- Sports & Outdoors
- Home & Garden
- Children's area

Pick a booth - any booth!

All booths at Empower are in high visibility/high traffic areas. Most prime locations are given on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserve your booth today!

Contact the Chamber • 713-523-7576

e-mail: info@ghglcc.org

Web site: www.ghglcc.org

Combining Commerce with Community



WINDOWMEDIA, LLC

parent company to:

- Houston Voice - Texas
- Southern Voice - Southeast
- Washington Blade - Washington D.C.
- New York Blade News - New York
- Eclipse Magazine - South

is seeking dynamic **Sales Leaders** to join our growing company. If you have a proven track record, and are results driven, we can give you the biggest sales area in the country. We offer competitive salaries as well as benefits. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please send all resumes

Attn: Jim Nixon-Regional Sales Manager
C/o Houston Voice/Eclipse magazine
500 Lovett Blvd, Suite. 200 • Houston, TX 77006
fax 713-529-9531 • E-mail: jnixon@houstonvoice.com



Office: 409-763-8030
Fax: 409-763-2955
Home: 409-765-8830

3 story old corner store home circa 1890 in Galveston, 4B/2BA, central a/c, large deck on top, fully furnished, incredible panoramic view of the island, hot tub, AND MORE!

Call for information!

The House Company 

DAVID BOWERS

Realtor

2615 Broadway
Galveston, Texas 77550

Cell: 409-771-4637
Toll Free: 800-765-0576

Pick up a Houston Voice every week at any one of these hip spots:

- Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center — 803 Hawthorne
- The Outpost — 1419 Richmond
- Liquid — 1417 Westheimer
- Studio 911 — 911 Welch
- Acadian Bakery — 604 W. Alabama
- Montrose Library — 4100 Montrose
- CellMart — 7457 Harwin
- US Post Office — on Greenbriar @ I-59, West Gray @ Dunlavy
- Bricks II — 617 Fairview
- Hollywood — 2501 Montrose

dining TRAYCE DISKIN

Blowfish restaurant serves up inventive raw fish dishes amidst an enticing atmosphere

Sushi done with style

AS THE GRAY Street and Bagby area grows more and more yuppified with its own square block of cobblestone alleyways and expensive loft apartments, trendy restaurants have inevitably begun to fill the storefronts.

If you herald this steady progression of urban chic, then you probably have already celebrated the arrival of the snazzy digital parking meters, enclosed café courtyard, and excellent dining options like nearby Ibiza and the more casual Farrago.

If you're an opponent of midtown gentrification, lament the meters and iron-gated condos, but don't pass up the chance to enjoy the first-rate sushi at Blowfish.

WITH ITS FRIENDLY and efficient staff and hip but neighborhood-like atmosphere, Blowfish is a welcome addition to the block. Black on black never looked so sharp as on Blowfish's minimalist chairs and table lines, and smoky gray carpet.

The shimmering crimson-covered booths, whose chair backs extend into full partitions patterned with subtle geometric swirls, transform the space into something more sexy than swanky. Smart touches like looming cone-shaped pillars, and the single faux candles evenly spaced on the back wall, create a sense of movement as well as intimacy.

If you're an opponent of midtown gentrification, lament the meters and iron-gated condos, but don't pass up the chance to enjoy the first-rate sushi at Blowfish.

Blowfish enlists a similar blend of innovative quality and style when it comes to cuisine. Although you'll certainly pay gentrified sushi prices compared to equally good establishments like Miyako or Osaka, the increase isn't unreasonable for most items.

For instance, the Godzilla Roll (\$12), with fresh salmon, jalapenos and green Tabasco, wins points for sheer inventiveness. The subtle vinegar seasoned rice and salmon temper the spicy kick of the pepper, and the chopped green onions and sesame seeds add a nutty sweetness. The Millennium Roll (\$10) also requires emergency swigs of cold water or sake as spicy and peppercorn tuna mingles with the milder avocado and tangy lemon sesame sauce.

The Rainbow Roll (\$12) is a mixed bag in its seven different kinds of fish that wrap around a rather pedestrian California roll — it's difficult to enjoy



sticks of imitation crab with such a gorgeous outer layer of octopus, urchin, tuna, yellowtail, and more.

WHAT ALL THESE choices have in common, however, is exquisite freshness — from the thick cuts of tender meat and moist rice to the creamy avocado and delicate sauces. The deceptively simple Red Roll (\$10) is probably the best way to experience this freshness, as the crisp cucumbers, avocado and jalapenos complement the tissue-soft strips of ahi tuna. Or indulge in the richer Shoi Roll (\$12) with tuna, salmon, yellowtail and avocado battered and fried in tempura. Sushi Nigiri, or Sashimi, single pieces with or without rice, tend to be fairly overpriced for their size.

FOR THOSE LOYAL, non-sushi-eating companions, the dinner menu offers several options that make a sushi-less trip to Blowfish perfectly worthwhile. Try the Miso Marinated Chilean Sea Bass (\$15), where the fish tastes as if it's simmering in the onion-infused soy broth, or the Jalapeno Scallops (\$14) with soy butter. The Pan Sauteed Katsu Salmon (\$16) transforms Texas barbeque into something more polished with lightly seasoned Japanese breadcrumbs and a glazed grilling sauce.

The Grilled Hamburger Steak and Eggs with Plum Sauce (\$12) and Shrimp Vegetable Stir-fry (\$16) are both filling and hearty, as are the many udon noodle soups (\$7-10), but unremarkable in comparison to the other dishes.

Which brings us back to the seductive power of sushi (and a well-placed jalapeno or two). After a visit to Blowfish, you may not want to move in upstairs just yet, but you'll certainly be back to partake of one of the best reasons to circle the block a few times and park.



309 Gray
713-526-5245

Food: 101101101101
Service: 101101101101
Value: 101101101101
Scene: 101101101101

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

Main Street Theater

FREDERICK LONSDALE'S

On Approval

May 9 - June 9, 2002
2540 Times Blvd. in Rice Village

Box Office
713-524-6706

MAIN STREET THEATER

COPY CENTER/COMPUTERS/INTERNET BAR

STUDENT AND GROUP RATES AVAILABLE!

Osaka Japanese Restaurant

Lunch
Mon-Fri
11a-2:30p

Dinner
Mon-Thu
5:30p-10:30p
Fri & Sat
5:30p-1a
Sun
5:30p-10p

515 WESTHEIMER, SUITE E TEL: 713.533.9098

Christy's Donuts

1103 W. Gray @ Montrose
713.524.4005 / 713.524.4880 Fax
Monday-Saturday, open at 5am • Sunday, open at 6am

Keep up the Pace with Premier

cingularSM
WIRELESS

FREE PHONE
FREE
Nights and Weekends
with any Home Plan
of \$29.99 or higher



Motorola 2282

200 Cellular Minutes Free Caller ID, Call Waiting and Voice Mail FREE Nights and Weekends	450 Cellular Minutes Free Caller ID, Call Waiting and Voice Mail FREE Nights and Weekends
\$29.99 month	\$49.99 month
900 Cellular Minutes Free Caller ID, Call Waiting and Voice Mail FREE Nights and Weekends	1500 Cellular Minutes Free Caller ID, Call Waiting and Voice Mail FREE Nights and Weekends
\$69.99 month	\$99.99 month

NEXTEL
How business gets done.

SAVE \$100
on the
NEW i50sx
Now Only
\$49.99



Get Right Through 5000 5000 TOTAL MINUTES 500 Anytime Minutes 2500 DirectConnect Minutes 2000 Night & Week- end Minutes FREE VOICE MAIL & CALLER ID INCLUDED!	Get Right Through 8000 8000 TOTAL MINUTES 1000 Anytime Minutes 4000 DirectConnect Minutes 3000 Night & Week- end Minutes FREE VOICE MAIL & CALLER ID INCLUDED!
\$49.99 month	\$79.99 month

VoiceStream
WIRELESS
Authorized Dealer

FREE PHONE
Save \$79



Motorola 2282

75 Whenever Minutes 500 Weekend Minutes Free Caller ID, Voice Mail and Detailed Billing	600 Whenever Minutes 2000 Weekend Minutes Free Caller ID, Voice Mail and Detailed Billing
\$19.99 month	\$39.99 month
1000 Whenever Minutes 2000 Weekend Minutes Free Caller ID, Voice Mail and Detailed Billing Share between 2 phones at NO EXTRA CHARGE!!	2000 Whenever Minutes 2000 Weekend Minutes Free Caller ID, Voice Mail and Detailed Billing Share between 2 phones at NO EXTRA CHARGE!!
\$69.99 month	\$99.99 month

Premier
PAGING & WIRELESS
www.callpremier.com

Communicate with Us.

Houston

Stafford

713.465.8883

281.575.8500

Rate Plans subject to change without notice. Please call Premier Paging & Wireless for complete details. Discounts and coupons may not be combined. Approved credit and one year agreement are required.

THEATRE NEW WEST

DIRTY LITTLE SHOWTUNES!

The SEQUEL!
New Songs
New Show
Laughter was
NEVER this
NASTY!...
AGAIN!!!!

conceived and written by
TOM ORR
directed by
JOE WATTS
musical director
AARON ELLISOR

May 3 - June 28 Fri. - Sat. 8pm
No Performance on May 24 & 25
1415 California St.
Reservations: 713-394-0464
Tickets: \$20.00

Starring: Tracy Barcelona, David Barron, Jim Carter, Andy Clements & Rodney Doyle




copy.com

Special Thursday admission—Only \$10



**Sexy, funny & hot as
a sizzling mambo...
BLADE TO THE
HEAT**

A young and handsome Latino boxer defeats his idol. A third and hunky fighter (played by Alfonso Chable, left) knows how to rattle them. He calls them queers. He's just dropped a torch on the fireworks.

8 p.m., Thursday, Friday, Saturday
UNHINGED PRODUCTIONS, 3304 LaBranch
Reservations: 713-524-8707

Regularly priced tickets: \$15; \$12 for students, seniors

homefront ELLA TYLER

Heat of summer demands innovative touches in home décor to ward off even the highest temperatures

Chill out at home

I WAS ON an expedition to Ikea several weeks ago and saw "Summer accessories here now" on their marquee. How odd, I thought, and wondered what would be a summer accessory and why one would have them.

Now, after two weeks of record-breaking heat, the need for new décor for summer is apparent. Even with air conditioning, space that had been cozy and comfortable now seems cluttered and demanding.

De-accessorizing rather than re-accessorizing may be the answer, though. I thought about places that have a perfect feel for summer, and they're more about space, color and texture than things. People lived in Houston before air conditioning was invented, and our older houses were designed to be livable without air conditioning. Look at some of them for ideas about cooler ways to live. The way people in the tropics decorate, dress and eat can give us inspiration.

I could spend hours at Organicity, a new restaurant in Dallas where I ate recently. It is a tiny storefront owned by a Greek shoe designer. The memorable points are the big windows, the aqua wall with frescos of Greek gods, and the simplicity.

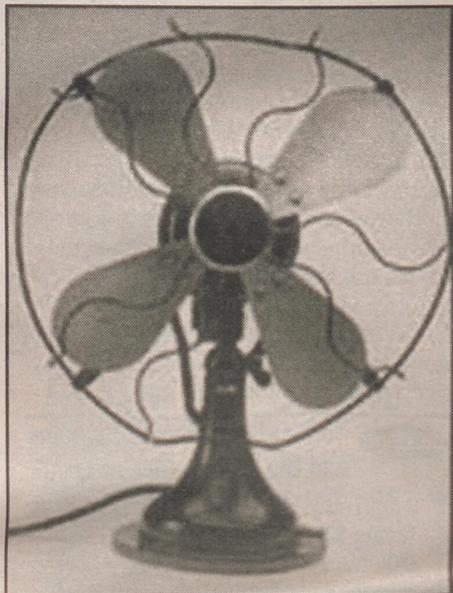
There are about 10 tables, each decorated with a single, lightly scented candle. No tablecloths, no placements, maybe not even salt-and-pepper shakers. The core colors are shades of blue, white and silver. The establishment serves organic Greek food, much of which is cooked on a wood grill outside.

"COOL" COLORS — ONES with a blue rather than red undertone, such as blue, green and lavender — really do seem cooler. They also make rooms feel larger and make sunny rooms seem less bright. They are psychologically soothing as well. Also, very light colors, of whatever hue, reflect rather than absorb heat. There is a light, icy blue color that will send me looking for a sweater in August, no matter where the thermostat is set.

Yellow is a warm color, but not as mentally demanding as the reds. A spot of yellow might liven up a room that is so serene that you want to just sit there forever. If you want to use several colors, be aware that colors that sit across the color wheel from each other (red and green or blue and orange) are, in combination, exciting and energizing. But this is not the effect we are looking for now.

Hard or smooth surfaces and simple lines seem cooler, too. Layers do not. You might begin your summer makeover by paring your bed coverings down to sheets and a plain white coverlet. Put the fancy comforter and shams in the linen closet. You don't have to give up the dust ruffle.

Look around the house. Put away the red, gold and orange things that are sitting about, such as throw pillows, ashtrays and vases, and either leave the space empty or replace them with blue, white or clear



To help keep summer utility bill costs lower, fans are a good supplement to air-conditioning in the home.

items. Buy white flowers instead of orange. Use the green place mats, not the red ones.

These simple changes will make your house more of a calm oasis from the heat and humidity. This is a great time to check out those salad and cold soup recipes and use those portable grills and other small appliances, too.

AN EVEN BETTER way to cool your space is with a fan. Ceiling or portable fans allow you to be comfortable at the 78 degrees that the utility company suggests you set your thermostat at to lower energy bills. According to their Web site, www.hlp.com/savenow, your air conditioning can be responsible 70 percent of your electric bill. Suggestions to curb costs include closing blinds and curtains in the daytime. The blades of your blinds should be up, it says.

It also suggests installing reflective film on windows. The International Window Film Association offers information on their Web site www.iwfa.com.

THE SUMMER HEAT can be dangerous. More than 200 people in the United States die every year of heat-related causes. Some of them are people who are shut indoors without air conditioning or adequate ventilation. If you know someone who is in this position, either who is without A/C or who is not running it because of concern about high bills, get them some relief.

If you are out in the hot weather, wear loose, light-colored clothes, drink plenty of nonalcoholic fluids, even if you are not thirsty, and watch for signs of heat-related illness. The evaporation of sweat is what cools the body, so high humidity and little air circulation are especially dangerous. At the first sign of distress, move to a cooler area, drink fluids and seek medical advice.

MONT
BLANC



BOHÈME FOUNTAIN PEN

A JEWEL THAT WRITES. BLACK PRECIOUS-RESIN WITH A CHOICE OF COLORED STONES. FOUNTAIN PEN, \$350; BALLPOINT OR MECHANICAL PENCIL, \$195.

IWmarks

Fine Fashion Jewelry, Diamonds, Bridal Jewelry and Better Swiss Watches

3841 BELLAIRE BOULEVARD - HOUSTON - 713.668.5000



THINKING ABOUT STARTING A FAMILY?

Gay and Lesbian Parenting and Family Building: Options & Solutions

Adoption/Foster Care ♦ Donor Insemination ♦ Surrogacy

Adding a child to your family can be a daunting task. My practice is devoted to the gay and lesbian family. My goal is to help you successfully bring that new addition into your family in the most time-efficient and cost-effective manner possible. I would be privileged to accompany you on this unforgettable journey. It is your satisfaction that makes my work meaningful and worthwhile. Call me for a free, no-obligation consultation or e-mail for a free information packet.

LAW OFFICE OF JEANNE C. PI, PLLC

PROVIDING PARENTING ALTERNATIVE & LIFE SOLUTIONS TO GAY & LESBIAN FAMILIES

Telephone: (713) 885-0041 ♦ E-mail: jcplawoffice@yahoo.com
Evening and Weekend Appointments Welcome

Proudly Serving the
Gay & Lesbian Community

Principle Office:
Houston, Texas

Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

OPENS TUESDAY!

**JOBETH WILLIAMS joins
GLYNIS BELL & RHONDA ROSS**

THE
**VAGINA
MONOLOGUES**

BY
EVE ENSLER

**"A BONA FIDE
PHENOMENON.
SEX HAS NEVER BEEN
FUNNIER OR MORE
POIGNANT."
THE NEW YORK TIMES**



SPREAD THE WORD

May 21 - 26

Wortham Theater Center

Tickets On Sale Now!

ticketmaster

ticketmaster.com

713.629.3700

Fiesta · Foley's · Warehouse Music

For Group Sales

Call 512.692.0529

Sponsored by:

imagesource

out on the aisle PENNY WEAVER

Classics bring fantasy, laughter to theater audiences this month

Comedies brighten stages

'Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love'

Brad Fraser's play returns to Theater LaB Houston in a new production of the piece that launched the theater in 1993. The contemporary drama is set in Edmonton, Alberta, and centers on a group of young people whose lives intersect and eventually bleed into one another as they search for meaningful relationships while a serial killer terrorizes the city at night. Ed Muth directs a new cast that includes Jack Birdwell, Adam Clarke, Marie Hennebery and Laura Hooper. The play is recommended for adult audiences.

on stage 'Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love'

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through June 15
Tickets: \$22 · Theater LaB Houston
1706 Alamo · 713-868-7516
www.theaterlabhouston.com

'Songs for a New World'

The Masquerade Theatre presents the Houston premier of "Songs for a New World," with music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown. The author transports the audience from the deck of a 1492 Spanish sailing ship to a ledge 57 stories above Fifth Avenue to meet an array of characters ranging from a young man who has determined that basketball is his ticket out of the ghetto to a woman whose dream of marrying rich nabs her the man of her dreams and a soulless marriage.

on stage 'Songs for a New World'

8 p.m. Thursdays through Mondays, through June 1 · 3 p.m. Sunday matinees
Tickets: \$20-25
Masquerade Theatre · 1537 N. Shepherd
713-861-7045 · www.masqueradetheatre.com

'Legends'

In its original production, 'Legends' starred Mary Martin, at age 73, and Carol Channing, at age 68. The comedy by James Kirkwood now is on stage at The Country Playhouse. Barbara Lasater plays "Sylvia," a flashy former movie star who has made 63 movies and has been married many times but is now broke. She is ready to reactivate her career and still has plenty of pep and sass. "Leatrice," played by Salle Ellis, is about the same age but is a far different kind of movie star: seen mostly as a nun, nurse or "saint." Her public figure was always one of "goodness," but beneath the surface, she is just as strong as Sylvia.

on stage 'Legends'

Through June 1
Tickets: \$15 or \$13 for seniors and students
Country Playhouse · 12802 Queensbury
713-467-4497 · www.countryplayhouse.org



Salle Ellis and Barbara Lasater star in 'Legends,' a comedy by James Kirkwood now playing at The Country Playhouse.

Directed by Lisa Schofield, the show plays each weekend until June 1.

'On Approval'

A wealthy widow invites a man who has adored her for years to join her in remote Scotland for one month to see if they are compatible for marriage. The "experiment" proves to be a complete success, although not exactly in the way she intended. Frederick Lonsdale's "On Approval" is a bright comedy of manners in the style of Noel Coward.

on stage 'On Approval'

Through June 9
Main Street Theater · 2540 Times Blvd.
713-524-6706 · www.mainstreettheater.com

'The Wizard of Oz'

This classic production for children is dramatized by Elizabeth Fuller Chapman from the story by I. Frank Baum. "The Wizard of Oz" follows Dorothy and Toto along the yellow brick road to Oz. She meets new friends, the infamous wicked witch and the great Oz himself.

on stage 'The Wizard of Oz'

11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturdays through June 29
Tickets: \$6 · The Company OnStage
536 Westbury Square · 713-726-1219
www.companionstage.org



Appearing in The Company OnStage's 'Wizard of Oz' through June 29 are (from left) Blair Ault as Dorothy, Wayne Melnick as the Tin Man, Marisilda Garcia as the Scarecrow and Michael Long as the Lion.



Melissa Etheridge Live in Hawaii!

A Tropical Getaway July 16-21, 2002

Come together with other fans of Melissa and join us for this weeklong tropical excursion to witness Melissa Etheridge's first-ever live concert in Hawaii! Share an experience of a lifetime with other Melissa fans in the sun, sand and surf of Hawaii's jewel city of Honolulu. Witness Melissa live July 19th at The Neal Blaisdell Arena from premium seating!

This Hawaiian fantasy includes:

-  **A premium reserved ticket to Melissa's July 19th show**
-  **6 days and 5 nights hotel accommodations in Waikiki**
-  **Hawaiian Luau**
-  **Girls night out**
-  **Ground transportation to and from the concert**
-  **Souvenir package**

Price is \$795.00
per person based on two people to a room

Please call for single accommodation rates. If you are under 18 you must be accompanied by your legal guardian. Cost of package does not include air transportation to or from Hawaii. Do not book your flight until you have been confirmed on the package. A \$100 fee will be assessed per person for cancellation up until May 31, 2002 @ 5:30 p.m. PT. No refunds for cancellations after that date for any reason.

Deadline to sign up is May 31, 2002 @ 5:30 p.m. PT
Customer Service Hours 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. PT

 **www.melissaetheridge.com**
415-575-6655 

The **KOLBE** Project

Offering Peace & Reconciliation to the Alienated

1030 Heights Blvd.
Houston, TX 77008
ph. 713.861.1800
www.kolbeproject.com

CALENDAR

- | | |
|---|---|
| Friday • May 17
Morning Prayer 10am | Monday • May 27
Memorial Day |
| Monday • May 20
Eucharist 7:30pm | Office closed — No Eucharist |
| Friday • May 24
Morning Prayer 10am
Movie Night 7pm
"AI: Artificial Intelligence" | Friday • May 31
Morning Prayer 10am |

Maranatha Fellowship MCC

3333 Fannin, Suite 106, at 10AM

For more information, call the church office 713.528.6756

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

May 19 "God ... Help Me To Pray" Rev. Janet Parker

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

WANT TO LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE?

MFMCC is sponsoring a free 6-week beginning sign language class starting on Saturday, June 8th, 10:30am until noon. The only cost involved is approximately \$30.00 for the textbook. If you are interested, please call the church office at 713.683.1867.



Want to write?

(and get paid for it?!)

Houston Voice seeks to add to its pool of freelance writers, particularly those interested in covering news such as politics, police reports, court issues and in-depth investigative pieces.

Ideal candidates will have polished writing skills, an eye for accuracy and detail, and the ability to adhere strictly to weekly deadlines.

Contact Penny Weaver by e-mail: editor@houstonvoice.com

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

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

Maranatha Fellowship
Metropolitan Community Church



"Building Community Through Compassion"



The Reform Church of Galveston, Texas

We would like to extend
an invitation for all
to come worship with us
at 11am Sunday.

Father Tom Martin, pastor

3712 Broadway
Galveston, Texas 77550
409.765.8500



It's about time for CAFÉ METRO!!!

- **What is Café Metro?**
A concert/coffee house benefitting
Resurrection's Project Noah (flood recovery)
- **When is Café Metro?**
Friday, June 14, from 7pm til ?
- **Where is Café Metro?**
In Resurrection's Activities Building
(with special lighting and ambiance)
- **What is it?**
An evening of poetry, jazz, blues, rock, ballads, country,
soul, acoustic guitar, instrumental, classical and MORE!!!
- **How much will it cost?**
\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

RESURRECTION
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
2025 W. 11th St. @ T.C. Jester • 713-861-9149 • www.resurrectionmcc.org

community calendar

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Houston Area Bears. Bear Watch 3 continues with a beach gathering, 1-4 p.m.; cocktails at Jimmy's, 5-6 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. barbeque at Paradise Guest House; and 8 p.m. pool party, all in Galveston. 713-867-9123. www.HoustonAreaBears.com.

EVERY SATURDAY

All-Spanish Worship Service/Culto en español. 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-9403 or 713-861-9149.

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m.-3 a.m. 713-526-5738.

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.

Houston Outdoor Group. Memorial Park walk. 9:30 a.m., meet in front of tennis center. Jimmy, 713-864-7299.

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

Resurrection MCC. Noche Espiritual, Spanish language worship, 6 p.m. 713-861-9149.

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 Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in, noon-4 p.m. • Community Awareness for Transgender Support shelter committee meeting, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

EVERY SUNDAY

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. 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. Price-fixed buffet. 11 a.m. Riva's, 1117 Missouri St. Paul, 713-880-0690. e-mail: PoznFubb@aol.com.

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

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

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

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

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in, 2-5 p.m. • LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifty), 2 p.m. • Dinner, 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

MONDAY, MAY 20

EVERY MONDAY

AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight. Keys West. 713-830-3000.

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

gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

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

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsals, 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.

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

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

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

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

Queer Voices Radio Show. 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.

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

TUESDAY, MAY 21

Center for AIDS. Men's mixer, 7 p.m. 1407 Hawthorne. 713-527-8210.

Houston Area Bears. Garden party show at the Briar Patch. 713-867-9123. www.HoustonAreaBears.com.

Southmore Poetry Slam No. 16. Featuring the omniseual poet, activist, lover and really nice guy, Brett Axel of Utica, N.Y. \$5 entry fee. 9 p.m. Poets sign up at 8:30. 4401 La Branch at Wheeler. 713.299.4996. E-mail: Southmorehouse@hotmail.com.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Center for AIDS. Women's mixer, 7 p.m. 1407 Hawthorne. 713-527-8210.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Mary's; 9 p.m.-midnight at Ripcord; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJ's; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-524-0218.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

EVERY THURSDAY

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

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at The Outpost; 8 p.m.-midnight at Brazos River Bottom and Cousins; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

Freelance Art Classes. By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
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.
HIV Art Therapy Program. 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.
Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.
Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. No partner required. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.
STD exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Spanish Charla Conversation Group. Café Agora, 7 p.m. E-mail charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop in 6-9 p.m. • Mood Disorders Support Group, 6:30 p.m. • Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus board meeting, 7:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 24

Houston Area Bears Movie Night. "Attack of the Clones." 713-867-9123. www.HoustonAreaBears.com.
Kolbe Movie Night. AI (Artificial Intelligence), 7 p.m. Soft drinks and popcorn provided. Kolbe Project, 1030 Heights Blvd. 713-861-1800. www.kolbeproject.org.

EVERY FRIDAY

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Meatrack; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJ's and at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.
Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon. 713-873-4157.
Freelance Art Classes. By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Light breakfast provided. 713-523-9530.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
Govinda Yoga Club. Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com
Kolbe Project. Morning prayer, 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.
Mishpachah Alizim. GLBT Jewish congregation. Sabbath services at 8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Baby Barnabys, 602 Fairview. Monthly study groups with Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood. Mishpachah Alizim, P.O. Box 980136, Houston, TX 77098. 866-841-9139, ext. 1834.
Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Film Night, 7 p.m. • Card Players Club, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

Gay & Lesbian Help Line. For gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Staffed by volunteers of all ages. 6-11 p.m. Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 888-340-GLBT.
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston. Volunteers offer a friendly ear to callers in need of information, nonjudgmental support, crisis intervention and referral services, emergency shelter and advocacy services to crime survivors who may need someone to accompany them to a hospital for medical attention or assistance in filing a police report. 713-529-3211.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Volunteers perform a variety of critical tasks which include staffing the information desk during drop-in hours; helping with Center programming and events; working on community outreach efforts, fund-raising and publicity. 713-524-3818.
Peer Listening Line. Youth only. Staffed by GLBT youth for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday. 800-399-PEER.
Scholarship foundation. The Amethyst Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, seeks two executive board members and ASF Community Event volunteers. The group provides college scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. 210-372-2020. www.amethystscholarship.org.

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

SPECIAL SATURDAY, MAY 18

• **SPIN Project** media training is designed to assist community activists in communicating with the press. Fee: \$20. Pre-registration required. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Shrine of the Black Madonna Bookstore & Cultural Center. For more information, contact John Pluecker, Ada Edwards' office, P.O. Box 1562, Houston, TX 77251-1562. www.spinproject.org

• **Canine Cupid Mixer** is the first fund-raiser for PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support) Houston. The event offers Houstonians a festive way to meet new people. Singles, couples and families are all invited to attend with their pets. Activities will include contests, a silent auction and more. 2-5 p.m. at Whiskey Dick's, 4455 West Sam Houston Parkway North. PAWS, 14900 Woodham, Ste. 170-A, Houston. 281-443-3360. www.pawshouston.org.

ENDS SUNDAY, MAY 19

"Cinderella, the Real True Story" is being performed by Bering Drama Ministries. The cast includes a PFLAG parent, and the show is G-rated. Tickets: \$10. All proceeds benefit Bering Support Network for persons living with HIV/AIDS, their loved ones and caregivers. Playing May 17, 18 and 19, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday shows. 3 p.m. Sunday shows. 713-526-1017.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

A luncheon hosted by SLAGH (Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston) features guest speaker Travis Thompson, who will discuss alternatives to adoption. \$12 per person. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Café Montrose, 1609 Westheimer. 713-227-1717. E-mail: Jerry@Simoneaux.com.

FILM FRIDAY, MAY 17

"The Ski Bum" with Charlotte Rampling. What begins as a way to make quick money becomes a test of a young man's ideals. 9 p.m. Also plays May 18. Tickets: \$6. Rice Cinema, Rice University Campus, Entrance No. 8, University Boulevard and Stockton Drive. 713-348-4853. www.ruf.rice.edu/~cinema.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

"The Bad and the Beautiful" directed by Vincente Minnelli, starring Kirk Douglas, Lana Turner, William Powell and Barry Sullivan. The steamy tale of a tyrannical movie tycoon told from the perspectives of an actress, a writer and a director. 7 p.m. General admission: \$5. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. 713-639-7515. www.mfah.org.

GALLERIES ONGOING

• **Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History Satellite Exhibition.** The first exhibition from the GCAM collection presented at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center honors the NAMES Project Houston. Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

• **Positive Art Workshop Photography Exhibition.** Artists living with HIV/AIDS created these pictures with accompanying text. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

THROUGH MAY 30

"Crossings," an exhibit based on the collaboration of artists and writers presented by WIVLA, Women in the Visual & Literary Arts. Now open. CG Jung Center, 5200 Montrose Blvd. 713-524-8253.

MUSIC SATURDAY, MAY 18

"A French Fantasy" is part of the Houston Symphony Classical Season. Tickets: \$18-75. 8 p.m. May 18, 2:30 p.m. May 19, 8 p.m. May 20. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, 615 Louisiana St. 713-224-7575. www.houstonsymphony.org.

CONTINUING

"I've Got my Standards...Now and Then" by Houston-based actress/cabaret singer Deborah Boily plays several times this month. 9 p.m. May 17 and 18. 7:30 p.m. May 19. Ovarions, 2536 Times Blvd. 713-522-9801. www.deborahboily.com.

DANCE/PERFORMANCE ART THROUGH SATURDAY, MAY 18

"The Swan Tool" brings together Portland-based artist Miranda July with sound artist Zac Love. The piece is July's latest multimedia performance recently part of the 2002 Whitney Biennial. Tickets: \$20. 8 p.m. May 17 and 18. DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. 713-335-3445. www.diverseworks.org.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



THE TIRE PLACE
Inc.

- Alignment
- Brakes



1307 Fairview
(3 blocks west of Montrose)
713-529-1414

if your hair
isn't **BECOMING** to you,
you should **BE COMING** to me.

DON GILL
STUDIO 911
713-521-0911
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



KAehler CLEANING

Make Ready •
Residential & Commercial •

Continually the Best
713.861.6181

Jerry Simoneaux
attorney at law

Houston

- Criminal Defense
- Civil Litigation
- GLBT Issues
- Estate Planning
- Domestic Partnerships

call 713-227-1717
law.Simoneaux.com
not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization



Alignments
Brakes

2314 Washington
713-880-4747



MASSAGE
by Ken

713-240-9598

Ken Claude RMT#28519



Shawn Penn
@ Avondales Hair Salon
2702 Crocker
Houston, Tx. 77006
(713) 521-2444
(713) 992-6264
Tues-Fri 10a-7p & Sat 9a-6p



LAWRENCE
CONSTRUCTION

Carpentry • Repairs
• Remodeling •

936.563.5180 / 936.760.5531
Lawrence Gilstrap

Serving Houston's Gay
Community for 15 years

shiatsu
sports/stretchers
spa treatments
tandem/4hands
swedish

713.802.0439

www.inkworkx.com/massage.htm

jeff & estevan

028430
028496

Appointments: Monday, Saturday

CHIROPRACTOR
Dr. Richard W. Fletcher

- Neck/Back Pain
- Auto/Work Injury
- Medicare/Medicaid

1245 Yale • 713-862-3897
In The "Heights" at 13th & Yale
(Yale is 1 Block West of and parallel to HEIGHTS BLVD.)

Se Habla Español

Call Brett Cullum
at 713.529.8490
to place your ad
in the directory!

houston classifieds

Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at 11 a.m.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

To place a classified ad in the Houston Voice or for changes, billing and other questions on your ad, please call toll-free 1-877-966-3342, ext. 15

OCCASIONS

Bubba Tom and Merlin celebrated 12 years of togetherness on May 14. Happy Anniversary!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!!

Now accepting applications for the 2003 LUEY Pin & Poster contest • More info call Bob @ 713-521-7254.

AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON & TUTS

Present legendary film star TONY CURTIS in "Some Like It Hot." In the NEW Hobby Center for the Performing Arts • More info brown@afhouston.org • Call Wendy Brown @ 713-623-6796 ext. 249.

Wild flowers and German beer • Trip to Fredericksburg • 281-437-0636.

FOOD EMERGENCY HOU. HUMANE SOCIETY

The cupboards are bare at HHS. They need puppy and kitten food • Any kind • Any quantity • Drop donations at 14700 Almeda Rd. or send monetary donations to:

Houston Humane Society
PO BOX 450428
Houston, Texas 77245-0528
For more information call 713-434-5555.

DAY SHELTER

Needs new or used clothing and shoes in good condition • Contact Etalia or Ruth at 713-528-5667 • 402 Pacific

MR. PRIME CHOICE

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

AUTOS FOR SALE

1996 BMW Z3 TAKE A TEST SPIN!

Black exterior/Black leather interior • New black soft top • Chameleon CD • 5 speed • 52k miles • \$15k • 713-524-5414

EMPLOYMENT

Housekeeper • Live-in • Furnished • Private entrance • 2/day week • 8 to 10 hours • Organized • Quiet • NO drugs • 713-522-6197.

LOVETT INN

Houston's premier gay-owned & operated lodging facility is now accepting applications for full-time or part-time HOUSEKEEPER. Weekdays & Weekends required. For information or an application, call: 713-528-6433, 11AM-4PM, Monday-Friday. Or send your information, (with photo) to FAX 713-528-6708 or LovettInn@aol.com.

M2M FASHIONS 3400 MONTROSE

Experienced accountant position and retail sales. Apply in person • 713-521-0804.

BASIC BROTHERS

Looking for Sales Associate • Must be dependable • Self-motivated • Sales oriented • 1232 Westheimer NO PHONE CALLS

INDEPENDENT BARBER COSMETOLOGIST

Very reasonable • Call Frank @ 713-522-2263.

Guaranteed Money • We are looking for young (18-25 preferred male/she-male) attractive upbeat escorts • All-American, Latin and Asian a plus • Must be reliable and ready to make money in a safe professional environment • No experience necessary • If you are ready for financial security, call us today and start today. 11am to 9pm, 7 days a week • 713-526-1531.

Resurrection MCC Seeks Interim Gospel Ensemble Director. Previous musical direction, will work with pianist/arranger, knowledge of African-American worship music and styling. Part-time position. Contact: Mark Unbehagen - 713-861-9149 ext. 110.

HOUSING ASSISTANT

Transitional housing program seeks part-time house assistant • Knowledge of HIV and chemical dependency issues preferred • Must be able to work a flexible schedule • Fax resume to Brian Jones @ 713-522-2674.

ARE YOU THAT SPECIAL NURSE?

Adult day care for non-critical HIV patients seeks full-time nurse weekdays, occasional hospice work, nights/weekends • Pleasant work place in Montrose • Competitive salary and good benefits • Psych/rehab experience • Spanish speaking • RN preferred, but will consider all applicants • Pick up application at Bering Care Center, 1427 Hawthorne.

MIDTOWNE SPA

Looking for cashiers and floor managers • Houston 3100 Fannin • Dallas 2509 Pacific • Austin 5815 Airport No phone calls please!

FREE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

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

FOR SALE/RENT

WESTBURY GARDENS

Furnished Bedroom in Private Home w/large closet, private bath, use of washer/dryer, light cooking only. Covered Parking. Non-smoking student preferred. \$550/mo. Deposit Required. 713-729-9616

WESTBURY GARDENS

Efficiency (small 1 bedroom) with washer/dryer. 450 square feet. 1 at \$425, another at \$450 - by the pond. 713-729-9616.

MONTROSE: Unique 2 bedroom Garage Apt. with garage, W/D connections, Big Porch, Central A/H, \$495/mo. R&H Management. 713-901-1909.

MONTROSE: Move-In Special. 1BR/1BA, in small complex. Close to Bus, Fresh Paint, Hardwoods. \$525/mo. (carpet \$495) + Utilities. 301 Avondale. R&H Management. 713-529-6261.

MONTROSE: Spacious Efficiency in small, attractive complex. Off-street parking. \$495/mo. All Bills Paid. 1419 Hyde Park. R&H Management. 713-880-0272 or 713-807-8028 to apt.

WESTBURY

1/1 • New W/D & dishwasher • Recently upgraded • Covered parking • Pets ok • \$600/mo. • 713-283-8896.

LAS LILAS

9-unit historic building is newly renovated and leasing 1-2 bedroom units • Minutes from Downtown • Central AC/Heat • Hardwoods • Tile • All new appliances • Courtyard/skyline views • \$695/mo. • 415 Fairview • 77006 • 281-685-2555.

PRIDEREALTY.COM SALES/RELOCATION

Furnished rooms in Montrose from \$295/week • For single, quiet person • Free cable TV, breakfast, parking, maid service • With queen bed, kitchen, & laundry access • Montrose Inn • 408 Avondale • 713-520-0206

Q Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
13					14						15			
16					17						18			
19				20						21				
		22	23								24			
25	26						27	28	29					
30							31					32	33	34
35						36	37					38		
39				40							41			
				42					43	44				
45	46	47							48					
49						50		51				52	53	54
55							56					57		
58						59						60		
61						62						63		

"WATER FRIENDS FOUR"

Across

- Lanchester of "Bride of Frankenstein"
- Michael of "The Village Voice"
- "Ab Fab" network
- Log Cabinite Tafel
- Quit, with "out"
- Gilbert of "Boys Life 3"
- Byron poem
- Swimming champ
- Preposition that goes either way
- "The ___ in Winter"
- Etheridge's "___ Legacy"
- Gay leader?
- Loud, to Bernstein
- "Water Dancer" author
- Not straight
- Greek love
- Cho's "Pink as the Day ___ Was Born"
- "With Malice Toward ___: A Life of Abraham Lincoln"
- Instrument played by the Phantom of the Opera
- Choose not to come
- W. H. Auden's tongue
- Request from one's knees
- Become wife and wife secretly
- Diving champ
- Sal of "Exodus"
- Kind of legal tender

Down

- "Island of Lost Souls" director Kenton
- One with a tricky tongue
- Vidal's "___ History"
- You might say it when you get it
- Disney's "The Gnome-___"
- Scene at 32-Down
- Coldcock
- Dick, for short
- Poems of Sappho
- Peter Allen collaborator Carole ___ Sager
- George of "The Gay Sisters"
- "Oh! Calcutta!" group of actors?
- Hangout for Natalie Barney
- Stereos, in Johnny Mathis' day
- Hit high, like Billie Jean's balls
- "Le Freak" disco diva Rodgers
- Social activist Addams
- Site of Alfred Douglas' pre-Oscar parties
- Lambda ___ Defense and Education Fund
- The Gay '90s, for one
- Maria ___ Trapp
- '69 site of fame
- Drag queen ___ Phace
- Kim Carnes' "Bette Davis ___"
- Arena cry, to Arenas
- Rule, for short
- Strip under the futon
- Arouses with one's stick
- Some actors have big ones
- Writer Damon and others
- Verdi opera
- Disturbance at 32-Down, e.g.
- Ursa ___ (nighttime bear)
- Yukio Mishima's porcelain
- "A Streetcar ___ Desire"
- Leather pokers
- Prop for "Talking to My Angel"?
- Elton John Broadway musical
- Larry Kramer, to Yale
- Sweetie, briefly
- She's lovely to a fag

Answers on Page 29

We'll never forget our dear friend Carolyn



Everyone knows how Carolyn doted on her dog, Brandi. Around the office, we teased her that she was Brandi's "servant" or...well, the T-shirt we gave her for Christmas says it all. The look on her face when she opened this was priceless! Ever a good sport, she laughed and enjoyed the good-natured ribbing.



A few months ago, Carolyn was among the judges for the Houston Humane Society's K-9 Fun Run.



Carolyn dressed in style for her 40th birthday party at Mary's. Here she is with friends and her husband Jeff (next to her).



Carolyn was well known for the many outfits she made her dog, Brandi, including this camouflage ensemble complete with a beret (right).



We can't imagine the Houston Voice office without Carolyn. We'll miss her laugh and her stories, the day each week when she would bring Brandi in and show off a new outfit she had made her; the way she "mothered" all of us. Carolyn was not just a co-worker; she was a treasured friend. She safeguarded this newspaper as a voice for and of the entire community, and we will do our best to carry on that tradition.

We'll never forget you.

With love,
The Houston Voice Staff



The old days! Above: Carolyn worked at the Venture-N as a bartender for several years. Left: When Carolyn started work for the Voice in 1993, the office was located on Westheimer.

"Seasons of Love"

Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Minutes
 Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Moments So Dear
 Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Minutes
 How Do You Measure - Measure A Year?
 In Daylights - In Sunsets • In Midnights - In Cups Of Coffee
 In Inches - In Miles • In Laughter - In Strife
 In - Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Minutes
 How Do You Measure A Year In The Life
 How About Love? • Measure In Love • Seasons Of Love

Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Minutes
 Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Journeys To Plan
 Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Minutes
 How Do You Measure The Life Of A Woman Or A Man?
 In Truths That She Learned Or In Times That He Cried
 In Bridges He Burned Or The Way That She Died

It's Time Now - To Sing Out • Tho' The Story Never Ends
 Let's Celebrate • Remember A Year In The Life Of Friends
 Remember The Love • Measure In Love
 Measure, Measure Your Life In Love

From "Rent"
 By Jonathan Larson, (C) 1996



In memory of Carolyn Roberts, Houston Voice and Window Media will donate advertising valued at \$500 to the Houston Humane Society and another \$500 to the Women's Shelter in Montrose, two organizations whose missions were close to Carolyn's heart.