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## True colors

Compassionate Brothers help African-American gay men deal with HIV and their spirituality.  
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APRIL 26, 2002

### INSIDE



The ACLU sues Texas prison officials on behalf of inmate Roderick Keith Johnson, allegedly used as a sex slave while imprisoned.

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Houston schools' Dr. Harriet Arvey was among speakers at the PFLAG/HATCH Spring Fling dinner, which raised a record amount of youth scholarship funds this year.

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Houston Grand Opera's 'The Makropulos Case' shines on stage with complex, stylish production.

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## Gay workplace bill gets nod

Vote may put measure passed by panel before full Senate by fall, supporters say

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — In an unrecorded voice vote, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions voted Wednesday to send the gay civil rights bill known as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to the full Senate for a vote later this year.

The approval puts the bill up for full Senate consideration for the first time since 1996, when it fell short of passage by a single vote. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) has said he would schedule a vote sometime before the middle of October, when the chamber is set to adjourn for the year.

The legislation, known as ENDA, would prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation in a manner similar to the way existing federal law bans job discrimination based on race, religion, gender, national origin, age and disability.

Please see **WORKPLACE**, on Page 5



Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), a chief sponsor of a bill that offers workplace protections for gays, said the measure combats 'irrefutable and compelling evidence' of bias aimed at gays. (Photo by Lawrence Jackson/AP)

## Gays push for positive change through stockholder options

Using role as stockholders, gay group works for gay inclusion through votes at annual meetings

By MIKE FLEMING

ExxonMobil, trying for a fourth consecutive year to stop a shareholder vote on including sexual orientation to its anti-bias policies, was stopped April 12 by the Securities & Exchange Commission, which said the company can't strike the measure from a shareholder ballot.

The effort, which culminates at ExxonMobil's annual meeting on May 29, is the largest of grassroots efforts coordinated by Equality Project, a New York-based group that puts shareholder pressure on publicly-held companies to advance gay-friendly policies.

"Exxon has made some nominal changes in the last couple of years that they were trying to pass off as policy," said Shelley Alpern, vice president of shareholder actions for the Equality Project. "But the bottom line is that it's not policy until the words 'sexual orientation' are spelled out in the non-discrimination policy."

In January, ExxonMobile requested the SEC remove the measure from its shareholder ballot because the company already mentions sexual orientation in company training materials, in its Standards of Business Conduct and in a diversity statement from CEO Lee Raymond.

"ExxonMobil intends to omit the proposal from the proxy material for its upcoming annual meeting because the proposal has already been substantially implemented," the letter reads in part.

The SEC said the company didn't offer enough evidence that it has written policies that include protections based on sex-

Please see **STOCKHOLDER**, on Page 8



ExxonMobil CEO Lee Raymond's conservative views may be thwarting an effort by gays to add sexual orientation to company employment policies, activists said. (Photo by Richard Drew/AP)

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## local news

# Prison rape of inmate sparks lawsuit

ACLU files suit on behalf of black gay TX prisoner alleging officials knew he was used as a sex slave

By PENNY WEAVER

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — The American Civil Liberties Union last week filed a lawsuit against Texas prison officials who allegedly were aware that a gay African-American man was repeatedly raped and sold as a sexual slave for \$5.

"Prison officials knew that gangs made Roderick Johnson their sex slave and did nothing to help him," said Margaret Winter, associate director of the ACLU's National Prison Project. "Our lawsuit shows that Texas prison officials think black men can't be victims and believe gay men always want sex — so they threw our client to the wolves."

Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Larry Todd said the agency had not seen the suit but was aware of complaints from Johnson, 33, who was sentenced to 10 years for burglary out of Harrison County and 270 days for cocaine possession in Dallas County.

"The inspector general is investigating, and so far the investigation has not validated any of the allegations," Todd said. "He will report his findings to the proper

channels at the proper time.

"Correctional officer and inmate safety is our highest priority and will continue to be in the months and years ahead," he added. "We run a safe, effective and efficient prison system."

The suit describes Johnson as a "homosexual with no history of violence and very little prison experience." The alleged incidents occurred at the Allred Unit, located just north of Wichita Falls, over approximately the last 18 months. Two weeks ago, Johnson was moved to the Michael Unit of the prison system in East Texas.

The ACLU alleges that the failure of prison officials to intervene on Johnson's behalf "highlights prison systems' failure to protect vulnerable prisoners, and the role that compound race, sexual orientation and gender bias plays in who gets protected."

Johnson, a Navy veteran from Marshall, Texas, has been bought and sold by gangs, raped, abused, and degraded nearly every day for a year and a half, the lawsuit alleges.

According to the ACLU complaint, Johnson appeared before the Allred Unit prison's all-white classification committee seven separate times asking to be placed in safe keeping from predatory prisoners. Instead of protecting Johnson, the ACLU charges, the committee members taunted him and called him a "dirty tramp" and one said, "There's no reason why black punks can't fight if they don't want to fuck."



Attorneys on behalf of Roderick Johnson have filed a lawsuit alleging that Texas prison officials allowed Johnson, who is gay, to be repeatedly raped and used as a sexual slave by other inmates.

Another committee member allegedly dismissed Johnson's pleas and said, "I personally believe you like dick," the ACLU charges.

Gangs and other prisoners often prey upon inmates who are gay, as well as those who are young, small, mentally or physically disabled, first-time offenders, shy, perceived as weak, or possessing feminine characteristics, Winter said. In Texas and elsewhere, individuals identified with one or more of these vulnerable characteristics typically qualify for a prison classification known as "safe keeping" or "protective custody," according to the ACLU.

Johnson informed the prison's staff of his sexual orientation during the intake process, his attorneys said. But after leaving the intake unit, he was placed in general population.

The complaint describes how gang members negotiated fees of \$5 to \$10 for sex with Johnson. "He was told that if he refused, he

would be beaten and killed. As a sexual slave, he was repeatedly penetrated anally and forced to perform oral sex at the command of gang members," the complaint said.

"He told me he fears for his life," said Johnson's cousin, Sharon Bailey. "The entire family is horrified and devastated by what's happening to Roderick. We are afraid we will never see him alive again. We have faith that God will protect him, but the prison must also be held responsible for ignoring our pleas for help."

Texas was identified as the worst state in the nation for prison rape in Human Rights Watch's 2001 book-length report, "No Escape: Male Rape in U.S. Prisons."

"Evidence has shown that, in fact, prison officials deliberately resist providing reasonable safety to inmates. The result is that individual prisoners who seek protection from their attackers are either not believed, disregarded, or told that there is a lack of evidence to support action by the prison system," wrote U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice, in a class-action case about Texas prison conditions that has spanned 30 years.

The suit seeks unspecified punitive and compensatory damages, an injunction to keep Johnson out of the general prison population as long as he remains in custody, clearing of Johnson's disciplinary record as an inmate, and medical and psychiatric treatment for him.

—The Associated Press contributed to this story.



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## PFLAG, HATCH host dinner



Above: High school students Laura Springel (left) and Joy Villarreal were among those who attended the April 19 PFLAG/HATCH Spring Fling 2002 Youth Scholarship Foundation dinner. The event, a fund-raiser to support scholarships for gay Houston youth, was co-hosted by the two groups: Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG), and Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH). Left: Speakers included Dr. Harriet Arvey, director of student support services for Houston Independent School District. Organizers announced Wednesday that a record of more than \$60,000 in scholarships will be awarded through the foundation in July. The grants are made possible in part by the fund-raising dinner. Last year, the foundation awarded \$57,000 in college scholarships to qualified Houston gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender students. (Photos by Dalton Dehart)

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## national news

## Senate supporters say bill won't pass House

WORKPLACE, continued from Page 1

"We are faced with irrefutable and compelling evidence of employment discrimination based on sexual orientation," Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), one of ENDA's chief sponsors, said during a committee markup hearing on the bill on Wednesday. "We are long overdue in providing this basic protection to America's workforce."

A version of ENDA was first introduced in Congress in 1975, Kennedy said.

Kennedy, chair of the committee that passed the bill, said after the vote that "the momentum is there" for "a strong vote" in favor of ENDA on the Senate floor. But he stopped short of predicting whether supporters have enough votes to ensure Senate passage of the bill.

The bill has a total of 44 co-sponsors in the Senate and 191 co-sponsors in the House.

Opposition to the bill surfaced on Wednesday and supporters aren't certain that they have the 60 votes that would be needed if opponents mounted a filibuster to keep ENDA from reaching a Senate vote.

"We're not sure if we can come up with 60 votes at this time," said Nancy Beuremyer, an official with the Human Rights Campaign, the national gay political group that has led the congressional lobbying effort on behalf of ENDA.

At least 51 senators are expected to vote

for ENDA this year, according to backers of the measure.

Supporters of the bill also acknowledge that the Republican-controlled House is not likely to pass ENDA any time soon. Although ENDA backers said a majority of House members would likely vote for the legislation, House Republican leaders — including House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) — have said they do not plan to allow the bill to come up for a vote.

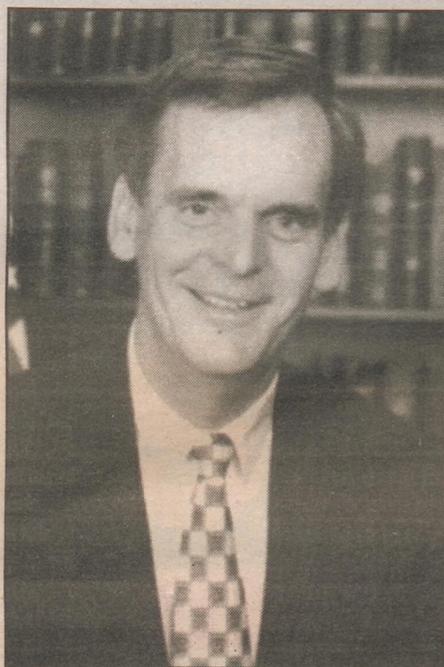
In 1996, the Senate came within one vote of passing ENDA, following a dramatic debate that took place the same week that the Senate passed the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act.

On Wednesday, Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), the ranking Republican member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions committee, was the only senator who could be heard to vote "no" during the committee's voice vote.

Gregg told the committee he and other opponents, including Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), have strong objections to a number of the bill's provision, including one that calls for banning job discrimination based on a person's "perceived sexual orientation."

"What does perceived sexual orientation mean?" Gregg said.

He said such a term could lead to "a whole new angle for litigation," which, Gregg said, could create a hardship for the



On Wednesday, Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), the ranking Republican member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions committee, was the only senator who could be heard to vote 'no' during the committee's voice vote on the gay workplace bill.

nation's businesses.

Gregg said he wants to offer several amendments to the legislation when it is debated on the Senate floor, including one

## SEN. EDWARD KENNEDY

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## SEN. JUDD GREGG

Russell Senate Office Building Room 393  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Tel: 202-224-3324  
Fax: 202-224-4952

that would allow states to exempt themselves from the ENDA.

Kennedy argued that legal experts helped him and other senators draft a "carefully crafted" bill that takes into consideration concerns raised by opponents. The bill was modeled, in many respects, after Title 7 of the 1994 U.S. Civil Rights Act, which has been upheld by numerous court rulings, he added.

The bill exempts from its coverage churches, religious organizations, religious schools, the armed services, and businesses with less than 15 employees. It breaks from the 1964 civil rights bill by prohibiting employment quotas for gays or preferential treatment based on a person's sexual orientation.

News reporter Lou Chibbaro Jr. can be reached at [lchibbaro@washblade.com](mailto:lchibbaro@washblade.com).

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## around houston

### Putting the 'unity' in 'community'

A number of people attended the 10th annual Houston Transgender Unity Banquet, presented by the local transgender Unity Committee. Groups that are part of the committee are Community Awareness for Transgender Support (CATS), Gulf Coast Transgender Community (GCTC), Helping Transgenders Anonymous (HTGA), Tau-Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess, Texas Association for Transsexual Support (TATS) and Some Transgenders Are Guys (STAG).



Transgender activist and attorney Phyllis Randolph Frye (left) presented an award to the CATS shelter, represented by Cristen Williams. A number of awards and recognitions were handed out at the dinner, and the night's program also included several speakers. (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

### Fund-raiser assists AIDS service organization

A fund-raising show this weekend benefits the People With AIDS Coalition of Houston. Featured at the Sunday event at Michael's Outpost will be performer and recording artist Charlie Pacheo. His latest music CD, "Here Come The Blues," is getting extensive airplay around the nation. The Sunday fund-raiser in a quarterly show hosted by Michael's Outpost. Money garnered will assist the PWA's New Beginnings Household Restart Program, which provides clothing, household items and furniture for people in the Houston area living with HIV.

### **i** PWA Fund-raiser

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### Gay Men's Chorus hosts May 3 fund-raiser concert

The annual fund-raising gala of the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston is set for May 3 this year at the Warwick Hotel. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and a silent auction, then continues with dinner at 8 p.m. and entertainment at 9 p.m. Featured is internationally acclaimed cabaret singer Deborah Boily with "I've Got My Standards... Now and Then!", a cabaret review that takes a look at popular songs of the last five decades. Master of ceremonies is Ernie Manouse, anchor/producer of Weekday on Channel 8 Houston PBS. Organized in 1979 as the Montrose Singers, Gay Men's Chorus of Houston is one of the oldest gay men's choruses in the nation. Artistic director for the group is James Knapp.

### **i** 'Silent Moon' fund-raising gala

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston  
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For tickets: 713-521-7464  
www.gmch.org/special/silentmoon  
e-mail: silentmoon@gmch.org

### Fund-raiser brings in more than \$50,000

The first ever "Turn One On For DIFFA," presented by Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA) netted more than \$50,000 for local AIDS service organizations. The lamp auction was held April 11 at The Crystal Ballroom at the Rice in downtown Houston and featured a collection of lamps by notable talents in the areas of art, architecture and interior design. Both a live and silent auction were held, in addition to a cocktail reception and dinner buffet. DIFFA/Houston is one of the largest sources of private dollars for HIV/AIDS care in the greater Houston area. Since it was founded in 1987, DIFFA has granted more than \$2.7 million to local service providers of HIV/AIDS care, treatment and preventive education.

### Bayou City Boys Club charity event nets \$48,000

The 10th annual Jungle X, billed as Houston's premier dance party, raised a record \$48,000 for local organizations, according to Bayou City Boys Club, Inc., which handles the event. More than 1,500 people attended Jungle events the weekend of March 30, according to organizers. Local organizations that will benefit from the funds this year are Casa de Esperanza, AIDS Foundation Houston Gay Men's Health Initiative, Center for AIDS, Montrose Clinic Next Step Program, Steven's House and PWA Coalition. Bayou City Boys Club is a not-for-profit, all-volunteer organization whose mission is to raise money for Houston area HIV/AIDS service providers.

### **i** Bayou City Boys Club

www.bayoucityboysclub.org

### CORRECTION: Sign up for Pride run/walk ongoing

The Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk will be held at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, June 8. In last week's Houston Voice, the Web address for the Fun Run was incorrectly printed. It is: www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html. The 3.1-mile race is an official part of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 2002 celebration in June. An early-registration fee of \$15 is available until May 31. After that date, the fee is \$18.

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## national news

## Exxon targeted for lack of gay protections

STOCKHOLDER, continued from Page 1

ual orientation. When the SEC wouldn't allow ExxonMobil to strike the measure, the board recommended that shareholders vote against the measure, a common tactic among companies facing similar measures.

The gay-friendly proposal is sponsored by a group of ExxonMobil stockholders, including the New York City Employees Retirement System, Trillium Asset Management, the Human Rights Campaign and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

## 'Conservatism' blocking vote?

Before retailing giant Wal-Mart moved into the top slot last year, ExxonMobil led the pack of Fortune 500 companies. A change in its policies would help set the tone for other companies to add sexual orientation to employment policies that already include federally-protected categories of gender, race, religion and national origin, Alpern said.

"Fortune 500 companies benchmark off each other," she said. "They compete with each other for the same talent and need to have attractive policies and benefits packages. By virtue of their size and influence, if Exxon was granted the right to withhold the vote, other companies would have put in similar measures to see how much they could get away with."



Protesters of ExxonMobil's employment policies, which don't include specific protections for gays, shut down its Houston headquarters for a brief time in February 2000. (Photo by Matthew A. Hennie)

Some 81 of Fortune 100 companies, including all but 10 of the Fortune 50 companies, have EEO policies that specifically ban discrimination based on sexual orientation; half of the Fortune 100 companies offer domestic partner benefits, according to the HRC.

ExxonMobil competitors ChevronTexaco, BP, Sunoco, Shell, Atlantic Richfield, Conoco and Amoco include sexual orientation in employment policies. BP, Shell and ChevronTexaco also provide domestic partner benefits to gay employees.

Before its merger with Exxon, Mobil Corp. offered written protection and domestic partner benefits to its employees, but when the two companies merged in 1999, the new company based its employment policies on those from Exxon, which did not include gay-friendly measures.

In February 2000, stockholders and activists protested at the company's Houston headquarters, causing the facility to close early for the day.

The ExxonMobil board consists mostly

of members from companies that already include sexual orientation, but Raymond appears to be the "cog in the wheel," Alpern said.

"By all appearances, Lee Raymond is the obstruction here," she said. "His personal conservatism has gotten in the way of going the way the tide is clearly turning."

ExxonMobil representatives did not return requests for an interview.

In 2000, the ExxonMobil ballot included a similar measure that received just eight percent of support from stockholders. Last year, a similar proposal received 13 percent of the vote, the largest of any shareholder vote on sexual orientation in any company since the Equality Project began in 1992, Alpern said.

## Turning the tide

While shareholder resolutions will not likely change policy directly by a majority vote, grassroots actions "get their attention, and bring the issue to the board level," she said.

Before many Equality Project-backed measures get to a vote — or after officials are surprised by the level of shareholder support — companies elect to adopt the policies based on the pressures of shareholder activism.

Please see STOCKHOLDER, on Page 9

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# BLADE TO THE HEAT

by Oliver Mayer



A young Mexican-American boxer wins an unlikely decision against his idol, the middleweight champ. A third boxer thinks he knows how to rattle them. He calls them "maricones," "queers." What he has just done is light a match right next to the ammo.

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## national news

## Stockholder votes a common path for policymaking

STOCKHOLDER, continued from Page 8

Since the group's inception, dozens of large publicly-held companies have been influenced to ban anti-gay bias.

McDonald's, American Home Products, General Electric, Johnson & Johnson, American International Group, Home Depot and Emerson Electric have all added the language to their policies.

Just this year, Deere and Tootsie Roll agreed to change EEO policies because of shareholder pressure, according to the Equality Project Web site.

Defense giant Lockheed Martin and Alltel Telecommunications stockholders were scheduled to vote this week on similar measures.

Swarthmore College used the school's stockholder status to introduce the resolution to add sexual orientation to Lockheed's policy. The 1,450-student liberal arts college in suburban Philadelphia has a \$950 million stock portfolio that includes 7,500 shares of Common Stock in Lockheed.

Alltel stockholders were to vote in North Little Rock on an "inclusive nondiscrimination policy," which would bar unequal treatment based on sexual orientation for employees of the telecommunications giant.

Both companies urged shareholders to reject the gay-friendly measures.

A statement from board secretary Francis Frantz said that Alltel's current policies and practices achieve the objec-



A protester signs a petition during a rally against ExxonMobile's policies in February 2000. (Photo by Matthew A. Hennie)

tives of the proposal and that the company lists only forms of discrimination that are specifically prohibited by federal law.

"To try to name all possible examples would result in a long list that would only divert attention from the basic need for a fully compliant workplace," the statement says.

Lockheed's spokesperson had similar sentiments.

"The proposed addition to our policies is not needed, in the board's view, because harassment and discrimination are already prohibited by existing policies in place at Lockheed Martin [and] we are committed to the diversity of our employees," the spokesperson said.

A "kind of tradition" at the Equality

Project is Cracker Barrel Corp., which fired 11 employees for being gay in 1991 and sparked the group's inception. The group proposes a measure every year at Cracker Barrel, Alpern said.

The Equality Project Web site lists 10 objectives for companies to recognize gay employees, and offers suggestions for both shareholders and non-shareholders to take action to change company policies.

"We try to put grassroots pressure on large Wall Street investors, and history is showing it works," Alpern said. "The tide is turning in our favor."

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Issue 1122

# Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

APRIL 26, 2002

PAGE 10

## editorial

# Let's talk about sex, without having any

We may flinch at the idea of 'abstinence' sex education, but teaching our own kids to 'just say no' has merit, if only our advocates would help shape the message.

By CHRIS CRAIN

**S**OMETIMES THE RELIGIOUS right actually gets it right, or almost so. In the midst of a culture war that can feel every bit as enduring as the Middle East conflict, it's awfully tempting to reject any initiative from "the other side," especially if it smacks of religion or values, as hostile to gay lives. But it ain't necessarily so.

Take, for example, the concept of abstinence sex education. To be sure, these "just say no" advocates are true-blue products of grassroots evangelical Christianity — the same conservatives who are the most vocal opponents of our full equality and civil rights. Their motivation comes from a sincere faith shared by fundamentalists inside every major world religion — from Christianity (Catholic and Protestant) and Judaism to Islam — that sex is always sinful outside of heterosexual marriage.

In abstinence education, these religious zealots have dressed up their beliefs in the cloak of public health advocacy, and using government dollars, enter the nation's classrooms to teach teenagers — including those who are gay or are questioning their sexual orientation — that the best way to avoid unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases is to abstain from sex entirely. They teach that finding non-sexual ways of expressing romantic affection will be healthier for teens emotionally, as well as physically, and is better for relationship development.

Abstinence education is most troubling to gays because we know exactly who is pushing the idea, and since we have been the recipients of so much "values"-based judgment and disapproval from these same people because of our sexuality, we bristle at them advocating limits to sexual freedom, especially using tax dollars for their weekday Sunday School lesson.

But what ought to be most troubling to

gays about abstinence education is that, more often than not, the conservatives are mostly right about this one and yet our movement leaders are MIA. Though the true motives of abstinence advocates are biblically-based, they are correct that the surest way for teens, gay and straight, to avoid STDs including AIDS is to abstain from sex. And the experts generally agree that most teens benefit emotionally from deferring sex entirely until they're old enough to make their own informed, mature choices; usually until after they've reached adulthood.

Of course, we know that not all teens will choose to "just say no," but according to the most recent research, about half still do, and there's no reason to believe that gay and questioning youth aren't among those who abstain. With all the peer pressure today on teenagers to experiment with sexuality, it would probably come as a welcome relief to most teens who are struggling with their sexuality that they can take their time in figuring out who they are and how to express their newfound feelings, for whichever gender.

ABSTINENCE EDUCATION ONLY becomes problematic when its advocates start attaching "only" to the concept and tying the whole idea to marriage. This form of abstinence-only education is a whole other animal, and would teach teens that the only method of staying healthy physically and emotionally is to abstain entirely from sex. There is to be no mention of contraception, except for discussion of failure rates and to argue against condom use. And when this form of abstinence-only is tied to marriage, as it often is, the message to gay youth becomes one half of a conservative double-whammy: Abstain from sex until marriage and, by the way, you can't get married.

That leaves lifelong celibacy as the unspoken prescription from gay youth — something even Catholic priests seem

incapable of accomplishing — though the message about waiting until marriage probably strikes most gay teens as so irrelevant that they never quite get the point. It's one step better than actually teaching gay teens that they can convert to heterosexuality and then abstain from sex until marriage (to someone from the opposite sex), but it's still grossly irresponsible and needlessly endangers their lives and well being.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration and Republican congressional leaders are so far fixated on the abstinence-only-until-marriage approach. The Bush budget dangles some \$50 million in federal funds to states as matching grants for abstinence-only education, while offering another \$88 million in direct funding to private abstinence-only groups to come into public school classrooms.

A bipartisan House group, led by Pennsylvania Republican James C. Greenwood and California Democrat Barbara Lee, is offering up an alternative that makes much more sense: \$100 million for programs that teach "both abstinence and contraception, from both a values and public health perspective." Gays should not let our own unpleasant experience with "values"-based sex education prevent us from supporting this type of comprehensive approach, which includes abstinence among the responsible choices that gay and questioning youth can (and perhaps even should) make.

Thus far, our advocacy groups — including those aimed specifically at gay and AIDS health issues and protecting gay youth — have largely stayed out of the debate, perhaps afraid to wade into discussions of teen sexuality amid the Catholic Church scandal and its gay overtones. But that's a terrible mistake. Their influence is needed in shaping abstinence education so that "marriage" isn't the only green light for sex. A committed relationship, or at least adulthood, would seem just as reasonable.

Done right, abstinence education can provide our youth with the type of guidance on sexual choices that many older lesbian and gay adults missed out on, to the detriment of our own emotional and sexual development.

Done wrong, abstinence-only-until-marriage education can marginalize gay and questioning youth and leave them without the information they need to protect themselves from a host of adult-sized problems, the like of which those of us from earlier generations can only begin to appreciate.



Chris Crain is executive editor of the *Houston Voice* and can be reached at [ccrain@window-media.com](mailto:ccrain@window-media.com).

viewpoint STEPHEN FALLON



Why is it that gay men are so ready to pose before the camera, and even bare all? It's about acceptance, not narcissism.

# Ready for our close-ups

IF YOU'RE WILLING to do a little hiking, you can find places like the isolated cove that I discovered on a trip a few weeks back. My friend and I had strayed from the path that most of the locals use on their way back from the seashore.

Weaving our way up the path, we saw parades of footprints left by other curious hikers. We also saw with delight where those footprints spread out, indicating the sputtering will of most hikers who didn't want to cross the muddy stream, or thrash through the thorny brush to the other side.

We finally skidded down a dirt incline, and found ourselves facing a huge slab of granite. A thin stream of water trickled down the mineral-stained rock, causing glimmering bubbles in a shallow pool of water at its base. The rocks arranged themselves in a semi-circle, as if to hug and protect this secret pool.

"Cool," my friend David said, running toward the cove. "Let's take pictures!"

Before long, David was offering up his shirt, then his pants, and even his underwear, while I kept the camera whirring. Normally, David's a bit shy, but the camera put a safe distance between us, allowing him to reveal more to the lens than he would normally expose to his club buddy, me.

Yes, I was grinning behind that camera. David draped himself over a smooth

boulder and closed his eyes, looking like some angelic figure that had swept down from the heavens for a nap in an idyllic setting. Then he rolled onto the sandy shore, and made love to the camera while his buttocks took in the noontday sun. He was acting erotic and spontaneous. But he wouldn't venture into the pool of water.

"Wimp," I declared, passing the camera to him while I dropped my own pants. As I waded into the frigid water, I marveled to myself, "What the heck am I doing?" Shivering, I leaned up against the mossy wall.

David suggested I reach out and claw my way up the craggy façade, like a merman pulling himself out of the algae green waters. I heard the camera clicking, and realized that I had caught David's sudden exhibitionist streak. I'm sure our escapades shocked the film processors who processed these pictures.

**WHY DO GAY men scamper in front of the camera? Why are we often willing to bare all, even if we're not nubile adolescents any more?**

As I climbed out of the icy pool of water, I saw my own wavy reflection in the waters. I remembered the myth of Narcissus, who was so full of self-love that he drowned trying to kiss his own reflection in a lake. Gay



men are often stereotyped as preening narcissists, but I think this characterization misses our real motivation when we check a mirror or pose for a camera.

Many of us internalized our closeted self's shame during our teen years. Some of my friends tell me that they refused to shower after gym class because they were afraid that their bodies would betray them by revealing a nervous erection. Others, like me, were just plain skinny, and embarrassed next to the broad shouldered classmates who got an early promotion to puberty.

For many gay men, coming out meant hoisting themselves out of shame and self-doubt. Like a merman rising out of the waters, gay men often clawed their way to self-acceptance. We hammered our bodies into new shapes. Each visit to the gym acted as both a testimony to our newer selves and a penance for the times when we treated our bodies as something to be scorned.

For others, like David, coming out means leaving behind more than just body dysmor-

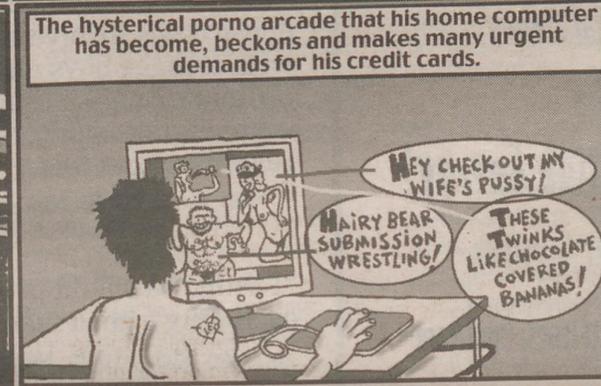
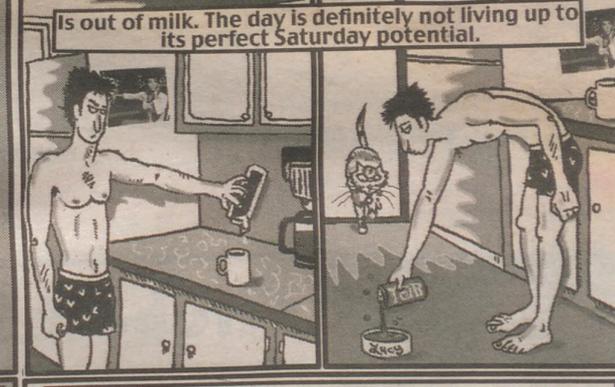
phia. David was always effeminate — the sort of guy that all the girls loved in junior high, and then eyed suspiciously during high school. His college trademark of layered clothing wasn't intended to make him appear strong and bulky, just indiscernible. Our photo session captured a permanent record of David's arrival at self-acceptance.

While dating my last boyfriend, I used to load my old camera with black and white film and take him on similar Bruce Weber sojourns. These outings recorded moments of validation. Looking through the lens, I find myself literally focusing on him with newfound appreciation. Whether with boyfriends or playful friends, these are the photos that would never have gone in our yearbook, but that mark our ultimate graduation.

@ Stephen Fallon, Ph.D. is the president of a Florida-based consulting firm and can be reached at sfallon@skills4.org.

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner



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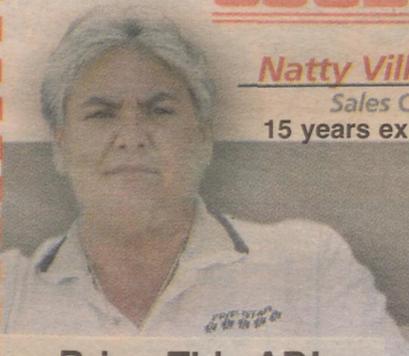
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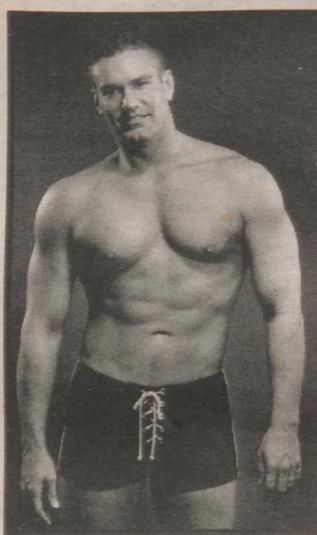
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**on the record**

“The majority of gay guys are bottoms, and there’s just like 10 tops and they’re all really tired. ... I’ve got a nice butt, but I just use it as a lure.”

‘Survivor: Marquesas’ castaway **John Carroll** (Howard Stern radio show, April 23)



“If I liked femme guys, I’d like girls.”

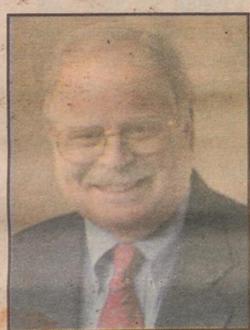
‘Survivor: Marquesas’ castaway John Carroll, who claimed he is bisexual, but “70/30” interested in men (Howard Stern radio show, April 23)

“Homosexuals, who used to hide their faces, have of late become more brazen in their acts. Their influence pervades the public and private sectors in Nigeria. ... In the last decade or so, they have formed themselves into a network of clubs and mafia, membership of which offers a sure passport to stupendous riches, even more power and influence. ... Gays abound in the armed forces, in the bureaucracy, among politicians and the private sector.”

(The News, in Lagos, Nigeria, April 22)

“We expressed our shame at having been part of the people who voted in 1977. We said we were wrong and we meant it, and we hope that the courts or the legislature will improve the situation as rapidly as possible.”

Elaine Bloom, an 18-year veteran of the Florida legislature, who voted for the state’s ban on gay adoption, and who is now helping organize former legislators pushing to overturn the ban (ABC News, April 18)



“One of the things that defines me is that I’m gay. But I’m also a law school dean, an engineer, I worked on the White House staff, and I spent time in Bosnia and Kosovo. I’m running as a total package, and I decided many years ago not to hide who I am, and that’s part of it.”

**Hank Perritt**, of Glencoe, Ill., who is the Democratic nominee for Congress from Chicago’s North Shore; Perritt has lived for 17 years with another man and the man’s son, but had until recently refused to comment on rumors about his sexual orientation (Chicago Tribune, April 19)

“Attention and money, that’s what it’s all about.”

**Hank Perritt**, 57, dean of the conservative Chicago-Kent School of Law, on his decision to acknowledge that he’s gay during his run for Congress from Chicago’s North Shore (Chicago Tribune, April 19)

“In this case, the incumbent Mark Kirk’s record on gay and lesbian issues is very good. He’s also met with the gay community back home, which demonstrates that he is reaching out to the community back home.”

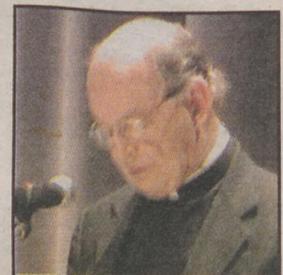
Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, on the group’s decision not to endorse **Hank Perritt**, the gay Democrat challenging a freshman Republican incumbent in a Chicago-area congressional race; the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund also declined to endorse Perritt (Chicago Tribune, April 19)

“A lot of people are worried now that there’s going to be a witch hunt against gay seminarians and gay priests. Priests are afraid that anybody with a homosexual inclination is going to have to repress that even more.”

A New York priest, on the ongoing scandal of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church (New York Times, April 19)

“The overwhelming majority of the sexual abuse cases involve adult men having sex with teenage boys and young men, and by ordinary English usage we call that a homosexual relationship. So there’s no blinking regarding that fact.”

Rev. **Richard John Neuhaus**, editor of First Things, a conservative Catholic journal (New York Times, April 19)



“I think we would probably discover we would be retroactively excluding a good many canonized saints over 2,000 years.”

Rev. **Richard John Neuhaus**, editor of First Things, a conservative Catholic journal, on his opposition to excluding gays from the priesthood (New York Times, April 19)



# Out on the Bayou

## Ministry of the truest color



"There are many men and women working in communities of faith that are not 'out.' We want to support them and recognize their abilities, something many churches have yet to do."

— Donald Wiggins, founder, *Compassionate Brothers*

President Amber David (left) and founder Donald Wiggins help power Compassionate Brothers.

### COMPASSIONATE BROTHERS



HIV/AIDS Support Group Ministry

## Compassionate Brothers bring hope, support to African-American gay men with HIV

By RICH ARENSCHILDT

"Rich, plan to be at my house for dinner on Friday; I have someone I want you to meet."

My usually laconic friend Derek has a level of excitement in his voice I don't normally hear.

"Don't eat before you get here — we'll take care of that," he continues.

Three days later, I sit in his cozy apartment and I am unable to consume another morsel. I am really, really full. We have consumed homemade chicken and gravy, cornbread, greens, potatoes, and apple pie. Our small group has just eaten enough food to feed an average American family for a week.

All of a sudden a diminutively rotund man bounces off his chair and takes center stage in this intimate living room. He then does a slightly unusual thing: He leads us in prayer. At about this time I would have sold my soul to the devil for some antacid, but

the earnestness of his words has focused my attention elsewhere. I realize that something special is happening.

No, I haven't been ripped from the transepts of Anglicanism and thrown into the jaws of fundamentalism, but rather, I was unexpectedly present at the birth of a new and unique endeavor: the Compassionate Brothers Ministry.

"I was sitting here with an IV pole and just two t-cells," exclaims founder Donald Wiggins, "needing help and wondering 'Where is my church? Where are the people who have been my community of faith for the past five years?'"

WIGGINS, A NATIVE of Houston's third ward, was mystified as to why his African-American brothers and sisters seemed suddenly oblivious to his life with AIDS, in spite of his long-time involvement in several ministries of the church.

"I then realized that there was no one knocking on the door, even though my doctors had given me only six

months to live. I was waiting for the church to do what I thought churches were supposed to do, and it wasn't happening."

At that point Wiggins realized that this was an opportunity; surely there were other African Americans with AIDS who had not only temporal, but spiritual needs. Assisting them was something he felt he could accomplish.

"The last thing I wanted was for someone to beat me across the head with a Bible. Unfortunately, most of the black churches still connected HIV/AIDS to homosexuality," Wiggins says. "I wanted someone who was going to assist me by lifting me up, physically, mentally and spiritually; someone or something that would actually empower me to get better."

While recuperating and thinking about how to solve this shortfall in his own backyard, Wiggins came to several realizations about African Americans, their churches, and HIV. Many pastors, regardless of their ethnic or religious affiliation have a policy of "love the sinner, hate the sin." According to Wiggins, this is often carried to extremes.

Please see **MINISTRY** on Page 14

# out on the bayou

## 'Brothers' minister to African-American AIDS patients

MINISTRY, continued from Page 13

"Even in a progressive church like the one I was a member of, many gay church members are ostracized," he says.

This discrimination has subtle as well as apparent underpinnings. The majority of church activities are based on an assumption of heterosexuality among church members, something that forces gay and lesbian congregants to squeeze themselves between a spiritual rock and biblical hard place, according to Wiggins.

"Many of our pastors are simply unable to relate to certain aspects of gay life," Wiggins says. "I could not discuss my same-sex relationships with my pastor at all. When I sought counseling, I was told, 'No one in this church has ever gone through what you have.' I needed somebody that understood me — I felt like I was speaking in a foreign tongue to my own minister."

AFTER GAINING GROUND with his illness, Wiggins returned to the church seeking physical and spiritual healing. He was able to meet some other gay men in the congregation who eventually came out to him. It was from this small group of men that Wiggins learned a valuable lesson — that his identity should not be solely defined by his behavior, but by broader, more universal concepts, he says.

At this point, he realized that he was

responsible for his own healing and part of that process was accomplished by devising a plan to heal others as well. "Who better to help others than somebody has 'been there, done that, seen the movie and got the T-shirt?'" Wiggins says with his characteristic wit.

At an AIDS Awareness Sunday two years ago, Wiggins spoke before his entire congregation and received a standing ovation for his candid remarks.

"For the first time, I was able to relate HIV to the Bible and to spirituality; I heard 'Amen' throughout the sanctuary and I knew what I had to do," he recalls. "It was time for me to leave and begin this new thing. The church, which had in some ways shunned and then embraced me, had motivated me to move forward."

Wiggins is currently enrolled in the College of Biblical Studies in southwest Houston. "I was in classes with some of the most conservative ministers in Houston," he says. "Initially they took one look at me and stayed away. Now I have a 4.0 grade point average, and some of those pastors are my staunchest supporters."

In connection with his studies, Wiggins began planning for a support group for African-American Christian gay men: Compassionate Brothers.

SINCE THEN, EVENTS have moved at a breakneck pace. "We just celebrated our first anniversary," Wiggins reports with

maternal pride. "Our mission is to support and empower those men who may have spiritual and emotional needs related to loving those of the same gender. There are many men and women working in communities of faith that are not 'out.' We want to support them and recognize their abilities, something many of the churches have yet to do."

PLANS FOR EXPANSION buzz around Wiggins's tiny kitchen like hungry gnats. "We are totally grassroots in scope," he says. Education and acceptance are core elements of his program. "Our support comes from many individuals. It took us a long time to find a place to meet; we finally stumbled upon Karen Vargas, branch manager at the Houston Public Library on Montrose. She has been a godsend by allowing us to use that space.

"Our meetings there provide us with a neutral location not specifically associated with HIV/AIDS, something that is important to many of our attendees," he says.

The group is open to all, according to Wiggins.

"Our gatherings are a hodge-podge," he says. "We welcome everybody: gay, straight, HIV positive or not, people of any color or background."

There are plans to start a group for women, Compassionate Sisters. Hospital ministries, prayer groups, and educational and social events are already planned

throughout the spring and summer.

Brother Wiggins has a dream: "I want people to feel special and to know that they have a purpose in life," he says. "Many people I know are lying on their sofas day after day collecting a disability check. Some of these folks are as healthy as I am — they have education and talent; we need them to help us reach out to others.

"Progress is being made; if you have the right ideas and ways to implement them in a non-judgmental manner, anything can happen," Wiggins says. "We can no longer depend on others to provide for us — we must accomplish it ourselves."

Compassionate Brothers Ministry is a group that battles complacency with regard to homosexuality and HIV. This group is one that prefers beating hearts to thumping Bibles.

### Upcoming events:

- April 29: "Subway Nite"
- May 23: "HIV Q & A" Educational Program
- June 29: Compassionate Sisters Kickoff

### Compassionate Brothers

Contact: Donald Wiggins  
 PO Box 667054  
 Houston, TX 77266-7054  
 713-523-8192  
 e-mail: donnie292@juno.com

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**dining** TRAYCE DISKIN

Restaurant offers delicious Chinese cuisine,  
excellent service despite daunting surroundings

**Dong Ting excels in tastes**

Long popular with lunching business people and upper-crust Houstonians, Dong Ting, which recently changed management and ownership, can be daunting.

Palatial dining rooms spill into mirrored banquet halls, and wide, antique-filled hallways lead to elegant outdoor courtyards. Even when the restaurant is busy, it looks empty because of its sheer size. Luckily, Dong Ting has the class and culinary skill to pull it off, and create an ambience that is anything but alienating.

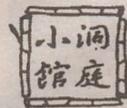
Tables for larger parties feature lazy susans for family style dining. And although there are always enough dishes to keep a party happy, servers go out of their way to accommodate vegetarians and other patrons (from the staff's perspective, American mysteries). For example, while most were intently dining on Birds in Jade Nest (\$6.95 for two), diced pork sautéed with duck liver, tofu, mushrooms, and wrapped in a lettuce leaf, two servers gingerly approached the two untouched plates.

"What, you don't eat any meat?" they good-naturedly gasped when we explained. "Do you want us to bring it back with just a little?" In China especially, meat is a sign of hospitality — the more meat served, the more caring and generous the host.

"That's okay, we get some people who don't eat meat," they finally lamented, removing the dishes. Before we could feel a pang of guilt, suddenly two salads appeared in their place, with fresh, crunchy iceberg lettuce, radishes, and garnished with chopped omelet strips. It made the perfect light course before the steaming Crabmeat Corn Chowder (\$3.25), which achieved a velvety consistency where the only lumps were juicy pieces of bright yellow corn. Although chunks of white crabmeat never appeared, their flavor was present in every milky spoonful.

SUCH PRECISE CARE is evident in the Dumplings (\$6.95), which aren't merely stuffed with pork, shrimp, or veggies, alone, but start with a filling sautéed with black mushrooms, garlic, and spices. Vegetarians beware — even the shrimp variety has minced pork (for explanation see above), but the vegetable dumplings' fresh steamed spinach is delicious, wrapped tight in a dough that's a little stiff, but keeps the ingredients inside steaming to perfection.

The only meat lover's caveat is not to miss the lamb dumplings — even the ground up texture can't hide the tenderness of the meat.



**DONG TING**  
RESTAURANT

WHILE THE MENU is overflowing with a variety of well-described, moderately priced dishes, I recommend letting the server know what meats, vegetables, and flavorings you like, and letting them surprise you. We did just that, and I couldn't have been more seduced by our Salt and Pepper Scallops (\$15.95), succulent scallops stir-fried with fragrant ginger and scallions.

The Dong Ting Fish (\$14.95) was less impressive due to a rather cloying orange sweet and sour sauce that could have used another kick of sour. The fish itself, however, a boneless, lightly fried orange roughy, was expertly cooked, and even the batter had a wonderful crispiness. The Tofu Fish Slices (\$14.95) allow the delicate seafood's true taste to emerge in the ginger, scallions, garlic, and hot pepper sauce.

Standbys like General Tso's Chicken (\$10.95) and Beef in Black Bean Sauce (\$12.95) are well executed, but it's best to take advantage of house specialties like Ling's Seafood Platter (\$15.95), an enormous treasure chest of sea scallops, jumbo shrimps, and fresh crabmeat simmered in a white wine ginger garlic sauce. Although this dish is seasoned with a pinch of Chinese five spices and scallions, the white wine creates a savory, lemon-tinged flavor that makes the entree unique.

The Dong Ting Eggplant (\$9.95) is hearty and luscious as these Japanese delicacies retain their violent skins and creamy texture.

Although Dong Ting's sprawling size may make small parties or couples feel lost and alone in the mansion, excellent food and attentive service go a long way in creating a sense of intimacy, romance, and gastronomic delight.



**Dong Ting**

611 Stuart  
713-527-0005

Food: 10110110110110  
Service: 101101101101  
Value: 101101101101  
Scene: 101101101101

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Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

## sports LEE DAVIS

Gay Houstonians have all kinds of choices  
to play or watch amateur athletics

# Spring sports are in play

Yes, I am back! The Houston Voice realizes the importance of sports for gay Houstonians and has allowed me the privilege of bringing the news to you.

### BATTERS UP

The Montrose Softball League (MSL) has begun another season. This Sunday, April 28, will mark the third week of season play. Games are played at the Houston Sportsplex, located at South Main and South Post Oak. If you have never attended an MSL event, you won't want to miss their action. Fund-raisers are held throughout the year with proceeds going to selected charities.

The MSL schedule for this Sunday is:

- 10 a.m. — Bandits v. Doc's Jocks; Chaos v. Comets
- 11 a.m. — Doc's Jocks v. Jagermeister Swingers v. Bandits; Chaos v. Outpost
- 12 p.m. — Jagermeister v. Meteors; Texans v. Swingers; Comets v. Rich's
- 1 p.m. — Swallows v. Meteors; Brick's v. Rich's; BRB/Lobo v. Outpost
- 2 p.m. — Bolts v. Bering; Trojans v. Texans; Brick's v. Force
- 3 p.m. — Bering v. Swallows; Trojans v. Bolts

The MSL schedule for Sunday, May 5, is:

- 10 a.m. — Hurricanes v. Trojans; Force v. Rich's; Doc's Jocks v. Swingers
- 11 a.m. — Outpost v. Force; Trojans v. Swallows; Swingers v. Hurricanes
- 12 p.m. — Texans v. Jagermeister; Chaos v. Doc's Jocks; Rich's v. Outpost
- 1 p.m. — BRB/Lobo v. Brick's; Bolts v. Bandits; Swallows v. Comets
- 2 p.m. — Jagermeister v. Bolts; Chaos v. Meteors; Bering v. Texans
- 3 p.m. — Hurricanes v. Bering; Swallows v. Chaos; Doc's Jocks v. Bandits

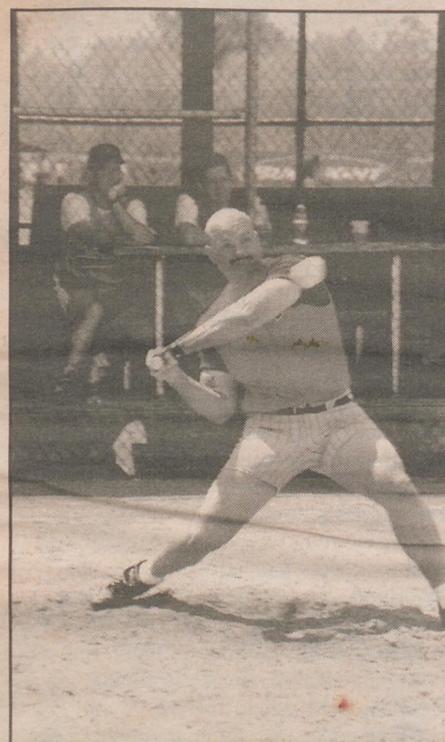
ON THE WEB

www.montrosesoftballleague.com

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Annual Lone Star Classic Softball Tournament to be held May 25-26. Teams are expected from throughout North America. Be sure to stay tuned for more information as the tournament nears. Come out and see some of North America's hottest men and women competing in a fun-filled atmosphere. Let everyone know how HOUSTON PROUD we are!

### GOOOOOOOOAAAAAAAAALLLLLLL!

The Montrose Soccer Club of Houston is open to men and women who have experience playing soccer. For more



Montrose Softball League continues its new season every Sunday this month and on through the summer, playing at the Houston Sportsplex, located near the intersection of South Post Oak and South Main streets. (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

information, send them an e-mail to [MontroseSC@soccer.com](mailto:MontroseSC@soccer.com) or go to <http://www.geocities.com/MontroseSoccer>.

### STRIKE IT — NO GUTTERS

The Voice wishes safe travel and all the best to teams attending the National Bowling Tournament in Oklahoma this weekend. Just remember — the way to Oklahoma City is not through Habana!

### RAP

It was great bringing the sports to you again! Remember, Houston, we not only have professional sports in the Texans, Rockets, Comets, Aeros and Astros, but we also have a plethora of opportunities for the amateur athlete.

Look for future updates on bowling, softball, fishing, biking, hiking, camping, flag football, soccer, pool, and all other facets of recreational happenings right here in Houston every other week in Out in Sports.

For information or for listings in this column, please fax or e-mail your events to The Houston Voice. E-mail: [editor@houstonvoice.com](mailto:editor@houstonvoice.com). Fax: 713-529-9531.

**theater** RICH ARENSCHIEDT

Houston Grand Opera makes a good case for 'Makropulos,' the second in its Janacek trio

**Timelessness explored in opera**

Houston Grand Opera's darkly stylish production of Czech composer Leos Janacek's "The Makropulos Case" marks the second work in the company's planned Janacek trilogy. The opera is complex, and this particular rendering does a great deal to reinforce the composer's intentions that surround the work's star, a 337-year-old woman who can still captivate her men.

This lead character, the aged Emilia Marty, both looks remarkably good for her age and still retains the seductive ability to captivate every man she encounters. Catherine Malfitano stars as the ageless and enigmatic diva, a role that she is closely associated with even though her voice sounds a lot less than three centuries old.

I KNOW THE question that is burning in your brain: "How could this woman be practically petrified and still be so foxy?" The answer is simple: She was given the elixir of life by her dad, Dr. Makropulos. He was appointed royal physician to the 16th century Greek emperor, Rudolf II. That's the nice thing about opera; there's always a perfectly reasonable explanation for even the most bizarre circumstance.

Though there are numerous plots and people involved in "Makropulos," the heart of the matter revolves around a woman who has run out of the potion that has kept her young and is now desperately searching for more. Kind of like a "Clinique" catastrophe, only worse.

While she is searching for this fountain of youth, all manner of men fall within Emilia's web. You would think that this would be good fodder for several ardent love duets, but this is not the case in "Makropulos." Prior to this work, operas of the 19th century were primarily driven by the music they contained, with dramatic action being somewhat secondary. Janacek's work, written in the 1920s, is driven primarily by its plot. Music and action are on equal footing here.

AS A RESULT, ONE of the challenges in this particular work is that singers have to act, something Malfitano and her boys do well. There is a fair amount of sex and angst in this production, most of which is aptly handled by director Stephen Pickover. The interaction (or non-interaction as the case may be) of the sexes is especially well articulated. After all, how exciting can men be after 337 years? While all the guys are in lust with Emilia, she clearly wants nothing to do with them — she's interested in far more important things...like living.

There are musical challenges as well. One doesn't automatically associate a language comprised mostly of consonants with opera. Janacek complicates matters further by using a musical language that closely resembles the natural rhythms of



Catherine Malfitano stars in 'The Makropulos Case,' presented through May 3 by the Houston Grand Opera.

Czech speech. Fortunately, there is a brilliant orchestral score that supports the whole endeavor; skillfully led by conductor Stephen Sloane. Fans of this composer's well-known "Sinfonietta" (composed one year later) will revel in some broad strokes and cool chordal progressions that support the various vocal lines.

The cast is well suited to the work and to each other. Malfitano, who is sometimes challenged by sustained dramatic roles, shines as the diva Emilia. All of her suitors provide an equal match vocally and dramatically. HGO studio alum Chad Shelton's portrayal of the lovesick Janek is especially pleasing. His tenor is full of ease and clarity; it's been nice to hear him make such good vocal progress.

This production, originally by Elijah Moshinsky, and on loan from the Metropolitan Opera, is well conceived and consistently implemented. It is modern without being stark and filled with design elements that reinforce the stage action. Its small scale serves to reinforce the theatricality of the piece and some of the staging on the final act is very effective.

In spite of some less than flattering costuming on some singers (who actually have aged a bit), there are some lavish touches that bring rich colors to the stage.

INCIDENTALLY, THERE'S AN ad in the HGO program for "La Crème" from some company called "Cle de Peau Beaute" that promises to "counteract the signs of aging" for a mere \$450 per ounce. I couldn't help wondering whether it was the most brilliant or the most idiotic promotional placement in advertising history.

Don't forget your skin consultation and sample at Saks (while supplies last)! Hopefully the stuff will be as successful as HGO is in its "Makropulos;" presenting a musically and dramatically complex work and accomplishing it rather well.

**'The Makropulos Case'**

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# community calendar

## Join Us As We Celebrate Our 29th Anniversary!

### Guest Speaker

Rev. Dr. Belinda Windham  
 Sunday, April 28, 2002  
 9am and 11am



Rev. Dr. Belinda Windham is a former Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Taylor, Texas, and St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Houston. She currently serves the Presbyterian Church (USA) nationally, as an elected member of the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee of the Office of the General Assembly.

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Sunday, April 28 — Special Praise and Worship Service by "One Accord"  
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 713-528-6756 or e-mail  
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### SATURDAY, APRIL 27

**NAMES Project Yard Sale.** Last weekend of each month. 713-52NAMES.  
**Rummage-A-Rama.** Sale hosted first Saturday of each month to benefit AIDS Housing Coalition Houston. 202 Tuam Ave. 713-521-1613.

### 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. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.  
**Dignity mass.** 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.  
**Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club.** 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.  
**Houston 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. • STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys), 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 28

### 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 available 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 available, 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.  
**Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston.** 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930.  
**Grace Lutheran Church.** Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.  
**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. to 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.** 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

### MONDAY, APRIL 29

**LUC Meeting.** Lesbians United in Coalition meet to bring lesbian and lesbian-supportive organizations together to share ideas. 6:30 p.m. at the home of Norma Acker, 1111 Worthshire. For general information, call AssistHers, 713-521-4628.

### EVERY MONDAY

**AIDS Mastery.** 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
**Frost Eye Clinic.** Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
**gayDAR.** Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

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

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

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

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

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

**Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show.** 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.

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

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

### TUESDAY, APRIL 30

**Houston Outdoor Group.** General meeting, 7:30-9 p.m. Don and Ray's. 713-522-7809. H.O.G. 713-526-7688. www.absentmind.net/hog.

**Spectrum meeting.** Houston Spectrum, organization for Southwestern Bell Co. gay employees, meeting. 6 p.m. Ziggy's Healthy Grill, 2320 W. Alabama.

### EVERY TUESDAY

**Bering Support Network.** Lunch Bunch Gang, 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
**CPR Classes.** 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.  
**For Mature Audiences Only.** Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.  
**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.  
**Gay Men's Process Group.** 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.  
**Gay youth.** New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.  
**Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous.** Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.  
**Houston Women's Rugby Team.** No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.  
**HTGA.** Support group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.  
**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.  
**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. Two-hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.  
**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

**Bering Omega Community Services.** First Wednesdays lecture series on HIV-related topics. "Responding to the Needs of MH/MR People with HIV." 6 p.m. Reservations required. 713-520-7070, ext. 141.  
**Classic Chassis Car Club.** Houston group's monthly meeting, 7 p.m., location TBA. 713-797-8615. www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org.

### 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.  
**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. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston, 7:30 p.m. • 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

### THURSDAY, MAY 2

**Gay/Lesbian Jewish Study Group.** Meets the first Thursday of the month. 7:30-9 p.m. at Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood Blvd. Alan: 713-523-3673 or Rabbi Glickman: 713-771-6221.  
**Gulf Coast Transgender Committee.** Meeting. 713-780-4282.

# appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

## EVERY THURSDAY

**Community Gospel Service.** 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.  
**Free HIV Testing.** By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.  
**Freelance Art Classes.** By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.  
**FrontRunners.** Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.  
**GLOBAL.** Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston-Central Campus. Weekly meeting, 6 p.m. e-mail: nguy0023@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. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.  
**STD exams & treatment.** Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
**Spanish Charla Conversation Group.** 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. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

## FRIDAY, MAY 3

**Campout.** Houston Outdoor Group plans its Enchanted Rock trip from May 3-5. For reservations, contact Howard K. at 713-528-6174 or e-mail howardk@hotmail.com. H.O.G. 713-526-7688. www.absentmind.net/hog.  
**Service of Healing.** For persons living with HIV/AIDS. First Friday of each month. Christ Church Cathedral, Golding Chapel, 1117 Texas Ave. 7 p.m. 281-331-4851.

## EVERY FRIDAY

**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. to 12:30 p.m. Light breakfast provided. 713-523-9530.  
**Frost Eye Clinic.** Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
**Govinda Yoga Club.** Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.  
**Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting.** 713-942-7002.  
**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com  
**Kolbe Project.** Morning prayer, 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.  
**Lesbian & Gay Voices.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.  
**Q-Patrol.** 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. • Card Players Club meets every fourth Friday of the month, 7 p.m. Call Jimmy: 713-864-7299 or 281-437-0636 • 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  
**Montrose Counseling Center Permanent Endowment, Inc.,** a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, is looking for an attorney who wants to give back to the community by providing pro bono legal counsel to its Board of Directors. Attorneys with estate planning or real estate experience are encouraged to respond. Please send a letter of inquiry with your resume/CV to: Montrose Counseling Center Endowment — LC, Attn: Executive Director, 701 Richmond Avenue, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713.526.4367. No phone calls.  
**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, APRIL 27

**"2002 Bering Spring Festival."** Fund-raiser to benefit Bering ministries. Activities include \$5 pancake breakfast; silent auction; rummage sale; activities for children; health fair; plant sale. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. 713-526-1017. www.beringumc.org.  
**THURSDAY, MAY 2**  
**"The Pink Ribbons Project: Dancers in Motion Against Breast Cancer."** Benefit performance of dance and music. Tickets: \$100 or \$50. 8 p.m., Cullen Theater, Wortham Center. 713-526-1907, ext. 2. www.pinkribbons.org.

## THEATER OPEN MAY 3

**"Dirty Little Showtunes...Encore"** by Tom Orr. Eight-weekend run, through June 28; Fridays & Saturdays only. Tickets: \$20. 8 p.m. Theatre New West, 1415 California. 713-394-0464.  
**NOW PLAYING**  
**"We Have Some Planes"** by acclaimed gay New York director Brian Jucha. Through May 25; Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays. Tickets: \$10-15. 8 p.m. Axiom, 2524 McKinney. Infernal Bridegroom Productions, 713-522-8443. www.infernalbridegroom.com

## FILM SATURDAY, APRIL 27 AND SUNDAY, APRIL 28

**"The Barefoot Contessa"** with Humphrey Bogart and Ava Gardner. Admission: \$5. 7 p.m. both days. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. 713-639-7515. www.mfah.org.  
**FRIDAY, MAY 3**  
**"Bob the Gambler"** directed by Jean-Pierre Melville. 7 p.m.; also plays May 10. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. 713-639-7515. www.mfah.org.

## GALLERIES ONGOING

**"The Grandeur of Viceregal Mexico"** at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Through Aug. 4. Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main St. www.mfah.org.  
**OPEN MAY 3**  
 Art by C. Ellen Hart and Christy Liffmann through June 5 at Gallery3's new location, 1101 East Freeway. 713-521-1543. www.gallery3.net.

## MUSIC FRIDAY, APRIL 26

**"Alfred Brendel, Piano"** presented by the Society for the Performing Arts. Tickets: \$15-50. 8 p.m. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. 713-227-4SPA. www.spahouston.org.  
**"Music of Handel and Bach"** by the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra with soprano Emma Kirkby. Presented by Houston Early Music. Tickets: \$25 or \$20 for seniors and students. 8 p.m. St. Anne Catholic Church, 2140 Westheimer. 713-432-1744.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 27

**"Gershwin Spectacular"** special presentation by Houston Symphony. Tickets: \$28.75-63.75. 8 p.m. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, 615 Louisiana St. 713-224-7575. www.houstonsymphony.org.  
**"Circa"** by Vancouver's The Holy Body Tattoo with live music from Britain's The Tiger Lillies. Tickets: \$29-38. 8 p.m. Cullen Theater. Wortham Center. 713-227-4SPA. www.spahouston.org.  
**FRIDAY, MAY 3**

**"Mozart & More"** series by Houston Symphony. Tickets: \$20-35. 8 p.m. Moores Opera House, University of Houston. 713-224-7575. www.houstonsymphony.org.

## MULTIPLE PERFORMANCES

**"Samson & Delilah"** by Houston Grand Opera. Tickets: \$18-225. Dates include 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 26; also Sunday, April 28, and Wednesday, May 1. Wortham Theater Center's Brown Theater, Texas Avenue at Smith Street. 713-227-ARTS. www.houstongrandopera.org.  
**"The Makropulos Case"** by Houston Grand Opera. Tickets: \$18-225. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27; also Tuesday, April 30, and Friday, May 3. Wortham Theater Center's Brown Theater, Texas Avenue at Smith Street. 713-227-ARTS. www.houstongrandopera.org.

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# houston classifieds

Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at 11 a.m.

## 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.

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### 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 Alameda Rd. or send monetary donations to:

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

### NEW SOCIAL GROUP

Looking for former Jehovah Witnesses for a social group • 713-941-1682 • gayjwhouston@aol.com.

### BOY OF MONTROSE

Pick up your application at the Ripcord for this June 30 fund-raiser.

### 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

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## EMPLOYMENT

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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

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• Dallas 2509 Pacific  
• Austin 5815 Airport  
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### FREE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

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## FOR SALE/RENT

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## Q Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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56	57	58						59				60		
61								62				63		
64								65				66		

## "SHE-MAN STUDIERS"

### Across

- Refused to submit, with "out"
- Timothy or his sister Tyne
- Area of Tennessee?
- \_\_\_ Lube
- Photographer Catherine
- Composer Ned
- Fruit starter in Brown's jungle
- Leaves, with "out"
- "An \_\_\_ Frost"
- Lover of women who studied mankind
- Taylor of "I Shot Andy Warhol"
- It arouses you in bed
- Shorten leaves of grass
- Our Tribe and Redwood Records (abbr.)
- Word before admiral, in the navy
- Comic-juggler Felder
- Kirshner of "Exotica" and "Love & Human Remains"
- R. Simmons helps you lose them
- Title for a queen
- With 39-Across, anthropologist and lover of 20-Across
- See 37-Across
- Rey Domini and Edgar Box
- Where commuters get off (abbr.)
- London to Amsterdam direction
- Signs of "The Lion King"?

- Split in the skin
- David Sedaris' home on the air
- Taxpayer's ID
- Melville mammal
- Small swallows at Hung Jury
- Anthropologist who claimed 20-Across "made me a lesbian"
- More queer
- Style of Marcel Duchamp
- Richard of "Bent"
- Janis Ian's "Between the \_\_\_"
- Bills stuffed in a stripper's G-string
- Put the top on the cake
- Distributed queens, perhaps
- Vidal's Breckinridge
- Randy Shilts' area

### Down

- Result of excessive rough play
- Vikram Seth's "An \_\_\_ Music"
- Remedy for rubbing someone the wrong way?
- Brand of bright pink
- Closet opening
- Comes out
- Boyd's "Revolution of \_\_\_ Girls"
- Affirmation to a male cross-dresser
- "...a \_\_\_ deferred" (Hughes)
- Yellow-brick way
- Abbr. on a Provincetown Ferry ticket
- Rev. White of Soulforce
- "What's O'Clock" author Lowell
- Kate Clinton keeps fans rolling in them
- Like a "Man of la Mancha" knight
- "Spartacus" lay?
- Style of Marcel Duchamp
- Richard of "Bent"
- Batman's alter ego Bruce
- Work under Edith Head, perhaps
- Events at Star Canyon restaurants
- Lesbos and Man
- "The Threepenny Opera" dramatist Bertolt
- Cross-dresser \_\_\_ d'Arc
- "The Eagle \_\_\_ landed" (leather-bar motto?)
- Iran, before Khomeini's rule
- One who comes too quickly
- City where Duane and Glick work
- Like an irregular tongue
- Roehm's sausage
- Stick it to
- It winds up a Schumacher film
- Out-of-this-world org.
- Dancer Shawn and others
- Gershick's "Gay \_\_\_ Girls"
- \_\_\_ out (abate)
- Gay British humor magazine

Answers on Page 21



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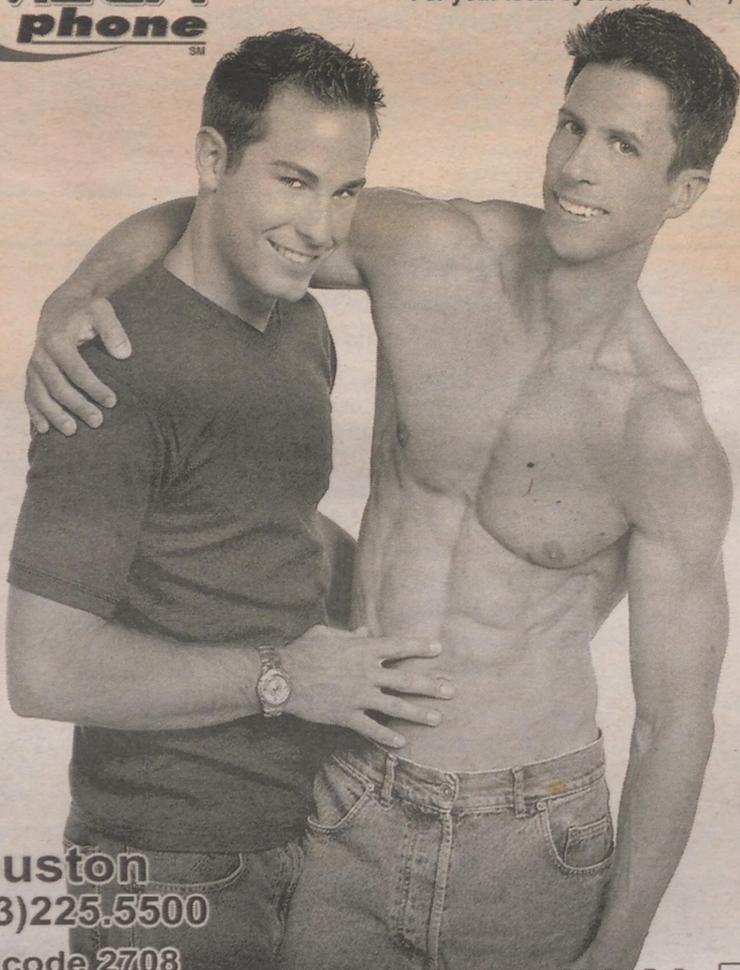
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## astrology JILL DEARMAN



## My Stars!

April 26-May 2



## ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

Venus, Mars, and Saturn are all traveling quickly through the social sector of your chart. You better get out and see people. Waiting for the perfect time won't cut it right now. Make the perfect time. A Gemini can teach you the art of subtlety — in 10 easy lessons!



## TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

This is your time of year, Taurus. Don't be lazy! Resist the urge to let your love life take care of itself. If you don't make some decisions soon, an overzealous Capricorn may make decisions for you.



## GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

This is a great week for you to pursue an old dream. Saturn can help you to make it a reality. Focus on one project that truly inspires you. Force yourself to avoid distractions.



## CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

You may be reminded of lost loves during this sentimental cycle. Vow to avoid the really crazy ones, and if you have to e-mail one ex, make it a Taurus. Choose your dramas carefully, darling.



## LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

Several planets in your friendship house this week bring out your experimental side. Why stick to the tried and true when the unknown is so fascinating? A Virgo can take you to new places, physically and metaphysically.



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

The moon will be close to Pluto in your home sector on April 29. Do what you can to completely revamp your surroundings to better reflect who you are today — not five years ago. A Leo is seeing you as if for the very first time.



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

Mercury moves into your knowledge sector in May. It could actually be time to study one of the things you're obsessed with. Your ability to translate esoteric material into accessible prose is strong. So is another Libra's attraction for you.



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

Make other people feel sorry for you! That's the only way this week as the Sun and Mercury line up against you. In love you can get what you want, if you show your vulnerability. A Pisces is sensitive to your needs.



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

This is a good time for you to push your own limits, career-wise. You are about to experience a real breakthrough, but first you have to overcome one more challenge. Steel yourself and turn to a Taurus for encouragement.



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

Love affairs abound during this time of year as the Sun inspires you to act less like an earth sign and more like a fire sign. A Sag wants you to take action and stop playing coy. Your ambivalence is played out!



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

It's a funny time for you and your friendships, darling. You think you're reading people's minds, but you're really projecting your own fears! Be open and direct with a Scorpio. It's the only way.



## PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

Try not to be such an escapist for at least one week. You have work to do that takes passion and commitment. A Scorpio can inspire you to throw yourself into your career with full force.

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail [QScopes@aol.com](mailto:QScopes@aol.com).

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