

# houston VOICE



## The two of us

Studies show marriage can improve physical and mental state of gay men and lesbians.

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**BOYCOTT:** Hillary Clinton's views on gay marriage. Page 7



## Election draws near for state and federal posts

### Houston gay political group endorses seven candidates in March 7 Democratic primary

By ERIC ERVIN

As the March 7 primary election approaches, officials with a local gay political group are continuing to urge gay Houstonians to get out and vote for gay-friendly candidates who support their issues and concerns.

During primary elections, voters choose the nominees for the Democratic and Republican parties for national, state and county positions. The nominees' names will appear on the ballot for the Nov. 7 general election.

"It's critical that the GLBT community support pro-equality candidates," said Maria Gonzales, president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus.

On Feb. 3, the caucus released its endorsements for the election. It includes seven candidates, Bob Gammage, governor; Kevin Baily, state representative District 140; Al Bennett, state representative District 146; David Murff, U.S. representative District 7; Ted Ankrum, U.S. representative District 10; and Zinetta Burney, justice of the peace, Precinct 7.

"The Houston GLBT Political Caucus will offer all of our resources to support these candidates in the primary races," Gonzales said.

### The governor's race

Gammage, a former state legislator, congressman and Texas Supreme Court justice, attended



Garnet Coleman (D-Houston), a long-time supporter of gay rights issues, has garnered support from the Houston GLBT Political Caucus for the March 7 primary.

the caucus' monthly meeting March 1. He discussed his goals for the state's top political office and fielded questions.

Please see **PRIMARY** on Page 3



Illustration by Alan Defibaugh

## Men replace women at movement's helm

### Top 10 national gay groups headed by men

By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

Since 2002, when lesbians were at the helm of the nation's most prominent gay rights groups, a gradual shift has left gay men as the face of the movement.

The trend toward male-dominated leadership has continued, despite diverse staffs and boards of directors at the nation's largest activist groups.

Lesbians led the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force for 26 years of its 33-year history. The Human Rights Campaign had female executive directors for 10 years of its 26-year history. And at the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Joan

Please see **LEADERSHIP** on Page 4



**local news**  
Officials with a local non-profit group are planning for this year's AIDS Walk Houston event.  
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**dish**  
Gay musician George Michael is arrested and found with illegal drugs after partying.  
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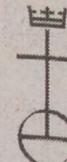
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## local news

# Gammage vying for state governor's seat

PRIMARY, continued from Page 1

"This campaign is about reform," Gammage said. "It is about opening state policy-making to public scrutiny. It is about restoring the public trust."

Gammage lists improving the state's public education system, including increasing teacher pay, as a top priority.

"Public office is a public trust. I am running against today's corrupt political machine," he said. "I am standing up for reform. I am determined to do everything in my power to restore the public trust and the integrity of the political system."

The Democrat is trying to unseat incumbent Republican Gov. Rick Perry. Other Democrats in the primary election include gay-friendly candidate Chris Bell and Rashad Jafer. The Republican candidates are Larry Kilgore, Star Locke and Rhett Smith.

"I support Bob Gammage because he's the strongest Democrat in this race and has the most progressive platform for the people of Texas," said Wesley Clark, a retired Army general who unsuccessfully sought the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination.

"He is a proven leader who will fight for the needs of all Texans, not the lobbyist, the special interests of the powerful partisan elites. He's grown up with Texas values of independence, integrity and commitment to family and neighbors and he will carry those values into the governor's office."

## Coleman for District 147

Garnet Coleman (D-Houston), who is a long-time gay ally, will face Democratic candidates Cheryl Armitige and Herschel Smith in next week's primary for the Texas House of Representative District 147 seat. There are no Republican candidates vying for the seat.

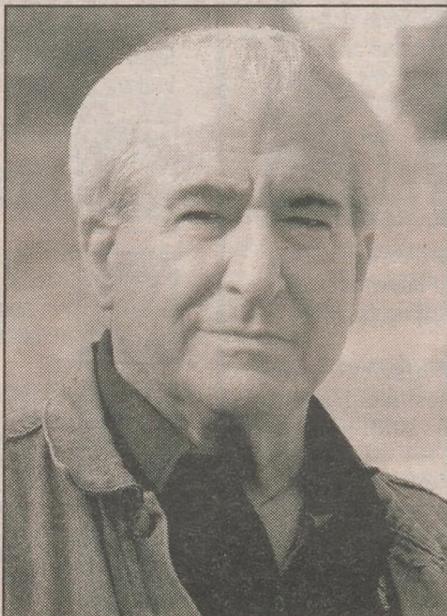
"Coleman has been an ally of this community for many years in the Texas State Legislature," Gonzales said. "He now has challengers in the primary, and it's our responsibility to do the work necessary to ensure he wins the primary."

The incumbent has gained high praise among officials with the caucus because of his support of gay rights issues. Coleman was one of several state and local politicians who opposed last year's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

"Constitutions, both our national and state ones, are supposed to protect rights, not deny rights," Coleman said. "It goes against the very grain of what a constitution is about."

Last November, more than 76 percent of Texas voters approved Proposition 2. It defines marriage as only the union between a man and woman.

Coleman calls the amendment a "proposition of hate."



Texas gubernatorial candidate **Bob Gammage** recently attended the monthly meeting of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus. The caucus has endorsed Gammage for next week's primary election.

He said he wants to improve the state's public school system, and increase salaries for schoolteachers.

## Other races

Caucus-endorsed candidate Kevin Bailey (D-Houston) faces Democratic candidate John Reyes for the Texas House of Representatives District 140 race. There are no Republican candidates.

Democratic candidate Al Bennett, who is endorsed by the caucus, is seeking to defeat incumbent Al Green (D-Houston) for the Texas House of Representative District 146 seat. Democratic Borris Miles is also vying for the seat. There are no Republicans seeking the District 146 post.

Caucus-endorsed Democratic candidate David Murff and Jim Henley are seeking to defeat incumbent John Culberson for the District 7 seat of the U.S. House of Representatives.

There will be no other Republican candidates on the ballot because Culberson is running unopposed for that party's nomination.

Caucus-endorsed Democratic candidate Ted Ankrum and Democrats Paul Foreman, Pat Mynatt and Sid Smith are trying to unseat Republican Michael T. McCaul for the District 10 seat on the U.S. House of Representatives.

## MORE INFO

Houston GLBT Political Caucus  
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## local news in brief

## PFLAG executive director to speak in Houston

Jody Huckaby, executive director of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, or PFLAG, will speak at the local chapters monthly meeting on March 5 at St. Paul's Methodist Church.

Huckaby will discuss his goals for the national organization.

Officials said the executive director wants to develop PFLAG's educational and advocacy efforts, which Huckaby believes are often unnoticed.

Huckaby also plans to focus on transgender issues and improve the organization's affiliate TransNet, which is designed to connect transgender people across the country.

He wants to expand the organization's outreach programs to include more faith-based groups "so that when urgent legislative issues arise, our PFLAG chapters will be more prepared to partner with them, along with their many other community allies, in a unified response."

"I hope to expand PFLAG's outreach to teenage GLBT and questioning youth," Huckaby said. "Particularly teenagers whose parents and family members need support and education, thus expanding on the 'Our House to the State House' program."



Jody Huckaby

## Barrera wins Lone Star Classic Logo contest

The winner of the Lone Star Classic Tournament Logo Contest is Johnnye Barrera of Barrera Design.

The logo will be printed on all advertising, apparel and tournament awards.

The tournament is scheduled for May 26-28. In its 16-year history, the Lone Star Classic Tournament has become one of the most prestigious softball tournaments for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender players in the country. Last year's tournament welcomed 35 teams from cities across the nation.

More than 500 players, friends and spectators who attend the tournament are exposed to amateur softball's finest, as well as the charismatic hospitality of the Montrose Softball League Inc. and the residents of the Greater Houston Area, officials said.

For more information, e-mail [LSC@MontroseSoftballLeague.com](mailto:LSC@MontroseSoftballLeague.com).

## Grand marshals announced for 2006 Houston Pride

Officials with Pride Houston announced March 2 the grand marshals for the 2006 Houston Pride Parade, which is scheduled for June 24.

The winners include Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams, honorary grand marshal; Bunnies on the Bayou, organization grand marshal; Phyllis Frye, female grand marshal; and Ray Ramirez, male grand marshal.

The grand marshal positions for individuals and organizations are nominated. They were elected during four voting sessions sponsored by the organization.

Jack Valinski, executive director, would not release the voting results, citing past organization practices. He said officials have never released the information.

Officials use instant runoff voting for the grand marshal elections. Voters are asked to choose their first, second, third and other picks for each position.

If no candidate receives a majority in the first voting count, the last place candidate is eliminated. The ballots are examined for voters' second place choice and recounted. The process is repeated until a candidate received the majority of votes.

Officials said this method eliminates the need for a runoff election.

## GLBT chamber luncheon honors local allies

Officials with the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce recognized allies to gay Houstonians during the organization's "Honoring Our Allies" luncheon Feb. 21 at the Hilton-Americas-Houston hotel and conference center.

This year's allies include AssistHers, outstanding nonprofit ally; Berryhill Baja Grill and Catina, outstanding business ally; Linda Boze with Demontrond Automotive Group, corporate ally; and community allies Phyllis Frye, Ray Hill and Jack Valinski.

Other awards presented at the luncheon included the Coy Tow Leadership Award to Austin James; Rookie of the Year Award to Rick Dickson; and President's Award to Rob Alfieri.

Mark Ng, manager of GLBT diverse group segments group with Wells Fargo, was the featured speaker.

"The chamber is happy to be celebrating its 11th year of service to the community," said Lisa Foronda, who was emcee of the luncheon. "We have enjoyed amazing support from the community and have always had excellent leadership."

From staff and wire reports

## news

# AIDS took toll on ranks of gay male activists

LEADERSHIP, continued from Page 1

Garry, who left earlier this year, served as executive director for eight years.

Now, the executive directors of the Task Force, HRC, GLAAD, Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, National Stonewall Democrats, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, Victory Fund, Log Cabin Republicans and Lambda Legal are all men.

Women currently lead smaller groups like Immigration Equality and Family Pride, as well as lesbian-focused organizations like the Mautner Project and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

H. Alexander Robinson is executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition, where more than half the members of the board of directors are women.

The leadership "doesn't reflect the entire movement if you look at the very top level," said Glenda Testone, senior director of media programs at GLAAD.

But, she said, staff members at gay rights groups are much more representative. GLAAD's staff is 60 percent women, according to Testone. Plus, she said, much of their work focuses on advocating for greater gender and racial diversity in media portrayals of gays.

Tim McFeeley, HRC executive director from 1989 to 1995, agreed, saying diverse staffs help ensure organizations address a variety of issues.

About half of HRC's management staff is comprised of women, and almost half the members of HRC's 50-member board are women.

At Lambda Legal, the 93-person staff is 45 percent women. Its 30-member board is equally diverse, with 43 percent women. Of four regional directors, two are women.

But the group's executive director, Kevin Cathcart, said the senior management is primarily male. The group strives for more diverse representation when dealing with the media and public, he said.

"One of the ways that we try to deal with that at Lambda Legal is having a broader array of spokespeople," Cathcart said. "I'm not always the voice or face of the organization."

## Why the gender shift?

It's difficult to ascertain the reasons for the shift from female to male leadership. Some experts explained it away as a coincidence, noting that it wasn't long ago that women dominated the movement. Others viewed AIDS as impacting the trend.

"I remember a point at which people wondered about so many women running organizations," said Susanne Salkind, managing director of HRC.

The recent changes, she said, "reflect the back and forth in leadership in the movement."

Kathleen DeBold, executive director of the Mautner Project and former deputy director of the Victory Fund, said the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s took its toll on many male leaders and related medical issues dominated the attention of those men left behind, leaving room for women to step up.

"We did lose a generation of gay male leaders to AIDS," DeBold said. "A lot of gay men were so involved in fighting AIDS — that was a priority."

Matt Foreman, executive director of the Task Force, said the AIDS crisis wasn't the reason his group was long led by women.

"I can only speak for the Task Force, which has had a strong and long record of lesbian leadership, with gay men leading or co-leading the organiza-



HRC's Joe Solmonese, GLAAD's Neil Giuliano and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Matt Foreman replaced women as executive directors of the nation's most prominent gay rights groups.

tion for only about a third of our history. ... We have been blessed by visionary lesbian leaders stepping forward to take the job," he said.

## Backlash against women?

After years of women leading high-profile gay rights groups, there was a backlash against female leaders, said Kerry Lobel, who served as executive director of the Task Force from 1996 to 2000.

During the last round of recruitment for leadership positions, she said, many felt "it was to time shift the dynamic to more male leadership."

"On the record, people would disagree with me," she said. "Look at the results — could it really be there were no qualified women or people of color to run GLAAD, HRC, the Task Force?"

Akaya Windwood, board co-chair at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said she noticed the dominance of men on an advocacy letter on equal marriage rights signed by about a half dozen gay rights groups last year.

"Not a one was a woman," she said. "I was stunned."

Even though there is diversity on a board of directors or staff, the public voice of the organization is still often male, DeBold said.

And when lesbians are in the public eye, they're often shown in a family setting with a partner and children. Many lesbians, however, do not have children.

"Our community is portrayed often in the most mainstream way possible," she said. "If more people were included in leadership, that could be different."

Some gay rights activists said the male-dominated leadership could alienate some women.

"It's very important that we talk about what it means for the future of our movement that there are so few lesbian leaders of non-family organizations," Lobel said. "The more you don't see yourself in leadership positions, the more you don't see the organization or the way they frame the struggle as relevant to you."

Francine Ramsey, executive director of the Zuna Institute, a California-based advocacy group for black lesbians, said the dearth of black lesbian leadership means they are, in effect, "invisible and disenfranchised."

"These are our representatives nationally but the diversity is not there," Ramsey said. "How do they create policy and programs if they don't have representation?"

The current leadership of gay rights groups also can present a skewed picture that reinforces the stereotypes that all gays are white and male, some said.

"The leadership of organizations looks a lot like the mainstream mythologies about our movement," said Lambda Legal's Cathcart.

## Changing face of gay leadership

Since 2002, the female heads of some of the nation's largest gay rights groups have departed and been replaced by men. Some groups, like the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, have a long history of female leadership. The group was led by Virginia Apuzzo, then Urvasi Vaid and later Torie Osborn from 1982-1993.



1993

SEPTEMBER, Peri Jude Radecic becomes executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.



1994

AUGUST, Radecic leaves NGLTF.  
DECEMBER, Melina Paras becomes NGLTF's new exec. director.



1995

JANUARY, Elizabeth Birch takes over as executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.



1996

DECEMBER, Paras leaves NGLTF and is replaced by Kerry Lobel.



1997

JUNE, Joan Garry is named executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.



1998

MAY, Kirsten Kingdon becomes executive director of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays.



1999

DECEMBER, Lobel leaves NGLTF after three years.

2000

JUNE, Elizabeth Toledo is named NGLTF's exec. director.



2001

MAY, Toledo says she will not renew her contract with NGLTF and Lorri L. Jean is named as the group's new exec. director.



2002

MAY, Kingdon steps down as head of PFLAG and is replaced a month later by David Tseng.



2003

MAY, Jean announces her resignation as executive director of the Task Force after her contract expires and Matt Foreman is named as her replacement.



2004

JANUARY, Birch leaves HRC and later joins Howard Dean's campaign for president. She is replaced by Massachusetts State Sen. Cheryl Jacques.

JUNE, Tseng departs as head of PFLAG.  
NOVEMBER, Jacques is fired from her post after 11 states approve anti-gay marriage amendments.



2005

MARCH, Jody Huckaby takes over as head of PFLAG after the nine-month tenure of an interim director.

APRIL, Joe Solmonese is named exec. director of HRC.

JUNE, Garry announces her resignation as exec. director of GLAAD.

AUGUST, Neil G. Giuliano is named exec. director of GLAAD.



## texas news

# Texas gay candidate outed as ex-prostitute

Political newcomer embraces God, seeks 'redemption'

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

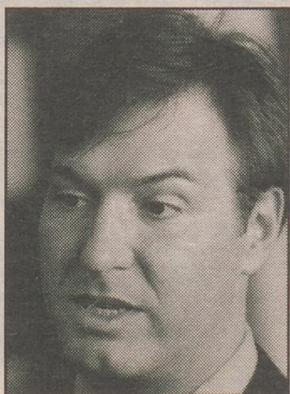
A gay former cosmetics salesman running for the Texas House of Representatives rejected calls to drop out of the race after news surfaced that he worked as a prostitute in New York and California until 2001.

"I stood before my creator years ago and asked for his forgiveness, grace and redemption," said Tom Malin, a Democrat who is running in the March 7 primary in a district in downtown Dallas.

"I was born again and feel as if [God] has granted me a second chance in life," Malin said in a statement released to the news media.

The Dallas Morning News stunned Democratic Party leaders and Malin's gay supporters on Feb. 17 when it reported that Malin was paid between \$200 to \$600 to engage in sex with men who arranged for his services through an internet-based escort service.

The newspaper said Malin acknowledged the accuracy of the report after a reporter told him the paper had traced his telephone number to a number Malin used on a website under the escort name Todd Sharpe.



Tom Malin, a Democrat running for the state House in Texas, says his past work as an escort shouldn't stop voters from supporting his candidacy.

The paper said it investigated Malin's background after it received a tip about his work as an escort from a Dallas gay Democrat, whom the newspaper did not identify.

The Morning News, which had endorsed Malin two weeks earlier, rescinded its endorsement on the day it published the story disclosing his past life as a prostitute.

Four days later, the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, the city's largest gay political group, rescinded its own endorsement of Malin, saying the candidate deceived the group and the party by concealing his role as an escort.

"This campaign is about the issues," Malin said in an interview this week. "Most people have said they support my effort to embrace recovery and redemption."

He said the flurry of media reports of his escort-service past boosted his visibili-

ty, and he is drawing sympathy for his "honesty and openness" in describing how he has overcome adversity.

"He may have indeed changed, but he has hurt the Democratic Party and possibly the future of gay candidates," said Erin Moore, president of the Dallas Gay & Lesbian Alliance.

"His concealing this is what people see as the problem," Moore said. "He is now perceived as being dishonest."

## Revelation damaging to other gay candidates?

Shannon Bailey, president of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus, which is affiliated with the Dallas Stonewall group, said revelations of Malin's past life as an escort could hurt the campaigns of other gay candidates.

But Bailey said it would have little practical effect in Malin's race in the 108th District for the state House of Representatives because the district is solidly Republican. According to Bailey and others familiar with the district, Malin could not have unseated Republican incumbent Dan Branch even if news of his escort service involvement had not surfaced.

The district includes some of Dallas' gay neighborhoods, such as the Oak Lawn, Bailey said. However, its boundaries were

changed to incorporate high concentrations of Republican voters in a controversial, statewide redistricting move orchestrated by then-U.S. House Majority Leader Tom Delay (R-Texas). Delay stepped down as majority leader last year after he was indicted for allegedly violating a Texas campaign finance law.

Malin, 37, is competing in the primary against another gay Democrat, Jack Borden, 65, a retired salesman. Borden, a member of the Dallas Stonewall Democrats, has run and lost at least a dozen times in various races for state and municipal offices, including Dallas City Council, county treasurer, and Democratic precinct chair, Bailey said.

Bailey said Malin had not been involved in any gay political groups in Dallas prior to his decision to become a candidate in the House race.

"Nobody ever heard of him until he entered the race," Bailey said.

Malin's campaign website said Malin has worked as an independent senior sales director for the Mary Kay Cosmetics Co., where he was recognized as one of the firm's "top recruiters and sellers." The website says he currently works as managing director of sales for Ignite Energy, a firm that sells residential electric utility service to consumers. He also has worked as an actor in television, film and stage productions, according to the website.

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## national news

# Two gay clergy vie to lead Calif. Episcopal diocese

## Most nominees for denomination's highest post backed gay bishop

By DYANA BAGBY

The five nominees to become the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California include a lesbian and a gay man, garnering praise from gay Episcopalians and anger from conservatives who fear a further split within the church over the issue of homosexuality.

Rev. Bonnie Perry of Chicago and Very Rev. Robert Taylor of Seattle are among five candidates vying to replace the current California bishop, Rev. William Swing, the country's longest-serving bishop. Perry and Taylor both have same-sex life partners.

The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, with 2.3 million members, is one of 38 autonomous churches in the Anglican Communion, which totals more than 77 million members in 164 countries.

The California nominations defy the Anglican Communion's 2004 Windsor Report asking for a moratorium on the ordination of openly gay bishops who are in same-sex relationships, said Cynthia Brust, spokesperson for the conservative American Anglican Council.

That report followed a schism caused in the Anglican Communion in 2003 after V. Gene Robinson, who is in a same-sex relationship, was consecrated as bishop of New Hampshire, becoming the first openly gay Episcopalian bishop. Robinson recently entered rehabilitation to overcome alcoholism.

"This nominating committee made an act of open defiance," Brust said. "They seem to be saying, 'We're autonomous, and you can't tell us what to do' — that's the flavor I perceive them to be making. And to make such a statement just before General Convention [on June 18], you have to assume it was purposeful."

But for Rev. Susan Russell, a lesbian and president of the gay Episcopal group Integrity, Brust and her allies "need to get a grip."

"The American Episcopal Church is a democratic entity. This issue has much less to do with sexuality than it has to do with power," Russell said. "I think their [Perry and Taylor] nominations are extra good news for the Episcopal Church. It shows we are not willing to be blackmailed."

Taylor, dean of Saint Mark's Church in Seattle, said the list of nominees is simply a compilation of people the nominating committee believes have the best to offer the diocese.



Rev. Robert Taylor of Seattle and Rev. Bonnie Perry of Chicago, both gay, are among five nominees to be the next bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California.

"I am a gay man, but that is just part of God's humanity," Taylor said. "The next step is for the people to look at the totality of the person and not just one asset."

The other California bishop nominees are Rt. Rev. Mark Handley Andrus of Alabama, Rev. Jane Gould of Massachusetts and Rev. Canon Eugene Taylor Sutton of Washington, D.C.

After interviews and town hall meetings with the nominees, congregants in the diocese in the Bay Area will vote on the candidates May 6. The House of Bishops at the Episcopal Church's General Convention in Columbus, Ohio will vote for the bishop-elect on June 18 by lay and clergy deputies. Following ratification, consecration will be July 22.

### Presiding bishop nominees

The nominations of Perry and Taylor last month came on the heels of the January nominations for presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Presiding bishop nominees are Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, bishop of Atlanta; Rt. Rev. Edwin F. Gulick, Jr., bishop of Kentucky; Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, bishop of Nevada; and Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr., bishop of Alabama.

The presiding bishop will be elected June 18 by other bishops at the General Convention. The new bishop will replace current Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold and serve a nine-year term.

Alexander, Gulick and Schori voted in favor of Robinson's consecration in 2003. Parsley voted against it.

Brust of the American Anglican Council criticized the slate of nominees, citing the open support by three candidates of Robinson's consecration. She also criticized Parsley, the lone candidate who voted against Robinson, for calling for unity among all church members, including gays, and not calling more diligently for a global Anglican community.

Integrity's Russell said what is being lived out now in the Anglican Communion is simply the "death rattle" of the church's patriarchal system.

"We lived through slavery and segregation but still have racism, we lived through having women ordained, but still have sexism, and now we're having to deal with gay inclusion," she said.



## news in brief

### N.Y. gay leader calls for boycott of Hillary Clinton's re-election

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's stance on same-sex marriage sparked the head of a leading gay rights advocacy group in New York to encourage a financial boycott of her re-election campaign, the New York Times reported. Alan Van Capelle, executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda, told board members in a memo that Clinton is "a complete disappointment," citing her opposition to gay marriage and her support for the Defense of Marriage Act. He said gay New Yorkers should stop giving money to support her re-election bid. Clinton opposes gay marriage but supports civil unions; she opposes a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage. Van Capelle said he will not "lend my name and sell tickets" to any fund-raiser that a gay group sponsors to further Clinton's re-election efforts. Such support would "actually hurt" gay political causes, he said. "It will send a message to other elected officials that you can be working against us during this critical time and not suffer a negative pushback from the gay community," Van Capelle said, according to the Times.



A top New York gay rights leader last week called Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton 'a complete disappointment' when it comes to issues like gay marriage.

### George Michael: Drug arrest was 'my own stupid fault'

LONDON (AP) — George Michael said his arrest for suspected drug possession in London last weekend was "my own stupid fault, as usual." The 42-year-old pop singer was arrested Saturday after he was found slumped at the wheel of his car at Hyde Park Corner in central London. "I was in possession of class C drugs, which is an offense, and I have no complaints about the police who were professional throughout," Michael — who rose to fame as half of the 1980s pop duo Wham! — said Feb. 27 in a statement. Class C drugs, the lowest category of illegal drugs, include marijuana, anabolic steroids and some amphetamines. Michael has said before that he uses marijuana to combat depression. "I have been through enough in 24 years of dealing with the media to know what I am in for from them this week," said Michael's statement. "I can handle that, it is my own stupid fault, as usual." Michael was arrested in 1998 for lewd conduct at a public restroom in Beverly Hills, Calif. Soon after, he said publicly for the first time that he's gay.

### Seven Army paratroopers charged for having sex on gay porn site

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The U.S. Army has charged seven paratroopers from its elite airborne division with engaging in sex acts in video shown on a gay porn website, authorities said last week. Three of the soldiers face courts-martial on charges of sodomy, pandering and "wrongfully engaging in sexual acts with another person while being filmed with the intent of broadcasting the images over the internet for money." One is also charged with adultery, CNN reported. Four other soldiers received non-judicial punishments for underage drinking, drunken driving and adultery. The Army has recommended all be discharged. The charges do not mention the name of the site, but media reports indicate it is ActiveDuty.com, a site based in Fayetteville, N.C., that purports to include naked and sexual photos and videos of "real military men."

### Study: For gay men, penis size does matter

AMSTERDAM — A new Dutch study at Utrecht University concludes that the length of his penis is key to a gay man's self esteem and his view of his body in general, the South African Press Association and Dutch Press Agency reported. Most gay men regard a large penis as ideal, and self-esteem is linked to the size of the sexual organ, said Liesbeth Woertman, a sexologist and senior lecturer in clinical psychology. The study by Woertman involved 251 gay men, at an average of 29. "Our study reveals that how gay men see their penis has considerable influence on how they value themselves in general," Woertman told media outlets. "It is not known whether if there is a similar link in heterosexual men, but there are various reasons for assuming that the self-image of heterosexual men is linked to how they evaluate the most characteristically masculine part of their body."

### Calif. study finds connection in genes of gay men's moms

LOS ANGELES — New research suggests that mothers of multiple gay sons have genetic differences from other women, HealthDay News reported. Nearly one fourth of mothers with more than one gay son processed X chromosomes in their bodies the same way, scientists found. Usually, women randomly process the chromosomes in one of two ways: half go one way, and half go the other. Study co-author Sven Bocklandt, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California at Los Angeles, said the research "confirms that there is a strong genetic basis for sexual orientation, and that for some gay men, genes on the X chromosome are involved." Scientists have tried for more than a decade to find genes that establish sexual orientation. Bocklandt and his colleagues in the new study examined a phenomenon called "X-chromosome inactivation."

From staff and wire reports

## AIDS Foundation Houston prepares for its biggest fundraiser of the year

Annual event raises money for Houstonians who are affected by HIV/AIDS

By NANCY FORD

This week the offices at AIDS Foundation Houston are buzzing with even more activity than usual. Staff members and volunteers are busy with final preparations for March 11, the date AFH is presenting AIDS Walk Houston.

"We began working on the walk at least six months ago," Kelly McCann, AFH's chief executive officer, says. "It's our biggest and most important fundraiser of the year."

Now in its seventeenth year, the walk helps raise funds to assist Houstonians living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, while simultaneously raising awareness of the disease.

This year AFH is collaborating with Par Pharmaceuticals Companies to produce the non-competitive 3.1-mile walk. Proceeds from the event will benefit AFH and local AIDS service organizations providing assistance to more than 100,000 Houstonians each year.

### Event's history

In 1989, when the concept of implementing a walking event was first introduced for Houstonians living with HIV, the landscape of HIV was much different than it is today. Protease inhibitors and similar medications had not yet been developed, resulting in a much higher death rate.

"Then, AIDS was still a more prominent illness among gay men," McCann says. "The tide was beginning to rise in communities of color, but no real attention had been given to the rise of HIV primarily outside the gay male population."

Today, the walk itself reflects the changes that have occurred in the disease and those living with it. In Houston, the epidemic has reached frighteningly rates. Approximately one in 90



Anissa Hill, AIDS Foundation Houston's communications coordinator, models the crown to be worn by members of AFH's Extra Mile Club, designated for people committed to raising at least \$1,000 for AIDS Walk Houston. (Photo by Nancy Ford)

Houstonians is HIV-positive; every eight hours, someone new contracts the virus.

"The generation that is coming up has lived its entire life in the shadow of HIV, and that's frankly one of the concerns that we have. Because of a certain comfort level that this generation has with HIV, in part because of the advances in treatment and those young people being able to see that they can live with HIV, there is an increased complacency among young people," McCann says.

She believes this is another reason that the walk is important, beyond raising money for people with HIV.

"It help us raise awareness and get educational messages out there," she says.

Hearing young people say, "I don't want HIV, but if I get it I'll just take the meds," frustrates McCann.

"Yes, there is hope for people living with HIV, but we would much prefer that people prevent infection in the first place," she says.

Another fact that mystifies McCann is a lack of the prevention message in communities of color. Of all the women who tested positive for HIV last year, more than 75 percent of them are African-American.

"When you think about African American women making up 12 or 13 percent of the overall population, yet they are accounting for 75 percent of all infections among women, something is majorly out of whack," McCann says. "I think that's another really important thing — to try to develop new prevention strategies that will resonate with communities of color, because HIV is spreading like

wildfire right now in those populations."

### Making strides

McCann says AFH is currently making greater strides into the faith-based community. Some African-American churches are taking an active role, she says, including Houston's Brentwood Baptist Church and Windsor Village United Methodist Church.

AFH has implemented specific prevention interventions that have been developed and approved by the Centers for Disease Control called Diffused Evidence-based Intervention, or DEBIs. One, called SISTA, is specifically designed for women of color.

"But I think we still need to develop new, better, hipper programs," McCann says. "We need to be constantly innovating and figuring out new and better ways of communicating this message."

Despite demographic shifts in the communities AIDS is hitting hardest, AFH has remained loyal to helping persons with HIV in Houston's gay community. AFH's Popular Opinion Leader program specifically targets MSMs, or men who have sex with men, one that McCann says is very effective.

"We target some of the people within the gay community who are indeed leaders, and then we train those individuals how to deliver prevention messages to other members of the gay community in bars and other social settings where men congregate," McCann says.

A large number of clients who are gay or

lesbian benefit from all of AFH's services.

"Significant percentages of our clients who are gay utilize our Stone Soup Food Pantry, and our rental assistance," McCann says. "And we have gay men and lesbians living within our housing facilities."

### High hopes

McCann has high hopes for a successful walk this year, with her eye on setting a new earnings record.

"Just six years ago, in 2000, our walk raised less than \$300,000," she says. "We were right at \$700,000 last year and hope to exceed \$800,000 this year. Raising \$1 million would be a dream come true."

McCann also hopes an increased number of participants will shatter previous attendance numbers.

"Much like the atmosphere we create at AFH, we like to think there's an atmosphere of acceptance at the walk for everyone. Partners, parents, neighbors, children — everyone is welcome," she says.

Though the morning offers entertainment, special activities for children and a traditionally festive atmosphere, McCann is mindful of why her organization must produce the walk in the first place.

"I hope that everybody will remember the reason we're walking, and that is not a festive thing. You'll see people wearing shirts or carrying posters commemorating loved ones that they've lost to this illness," she says.

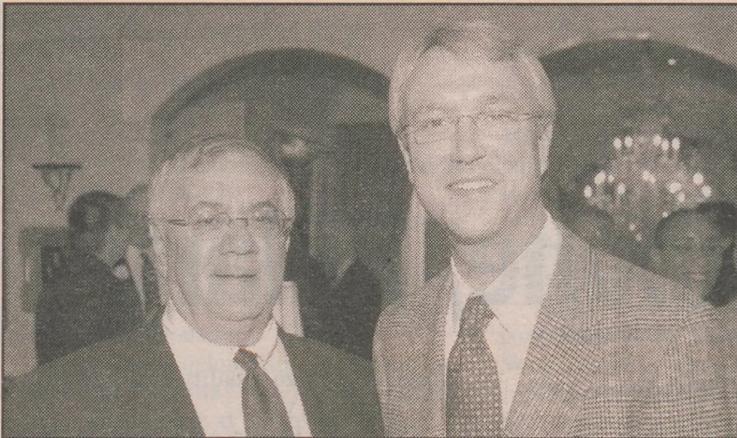
"It's a good time, but the reason we're walking is a deadly serious one."

### MORE INFO

Annual AIDS Walk Houston, March 11  
8 a.m. registration; 10 a.m. step-off  
1000 Bagby St.  
713-403-WALK  
www.AIDSWalkHouston.org

# out in houston

(Photos by Dalton DeHart)



U.S. Rep. **Barney Frank** (D-Mass.) and Texas gubernatorial candidate **Chris Bell** at a recent fund-raiser at the home of Tony Carroll and Bruce Smith.



**Harold Kelly**, president of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, **Scott Hendrickson**, **Tim Wilde** and **Rick Dickson** at a chamber mixer hosted by Male U Wear and Eclipse Sunless Tanning.

**Mike Holloman**, **Alex Martinez**, **Krystal Gilliam** and **Kristine Mills** attend a screening of 'Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin' at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.



**Gary Lackey**, (left), **Christian Rogers**, **Vince Flickinger**, **Kelly Cunningham** and **Ed Mason** at a Bunnies on the Bayou kickoff party to benefit the non-profit organization.

A Community Forum sponsored by the Ryan White Planning Council and The Center for AIDS  
 March 15, 2006 @ The Center for AIDS 6 - 8pm

## FACIAL LIPOATROPHY

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**RSVP Contact: Georgette (713) 572-3724**  
 Spanish translation available :: Buffet Dinner will be provided

### Speaker: Nelson Vergel

Nelson Vergel, a former chemical engineer, is a 23-year HIV+ survivor and leading treatment advocate in HIV disease in the US. He is co-author of **"Built to Survive: A Comprehensive Guide to the Medical Use of Anabolic Therapies, Nutrition and Exercise for HIV-positive Men and Women,"** founder of the Body Positive Wellness Clinic in Houston, and a nationally recognized speaker on HIV treatments, side effects management and quality of life.

He is currently active as a board member of the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition ([www.atac-usa.org](http://www.atac-usa.org)) trying to advance HIV drug research and access in the US.

For more information, please visit [www.medibolics.com](http://www.medibolics.com) and [www.facialwasting.org](http://www.facialwasting.org)



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# Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

MARCH 3, 2006

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## editorial

# It takes a backbone, Hillary

Hillary Rodham Clinton's haughtiness on marriage is particularly galling given her own rocky experience with the institution. Let's stop making excuses for her.

By CHRIS CRAIN

**O**T WAS THE E-MAIL THAT launched a thousand knives — the sort of sharp political dagger, however unintentional, that can either be dismissed as catty backstabbing or welcomed

as a not-so-pleasant reality check.

It was sent marked "confidential" by Alan Van Capelle, executive director of New York's statewide gay rights lobby, to his board members, but it was too cutting to stay sheathed for long.

After all, how often does a leading gay activist call Hillary Rodham Clinton "a complete disappointment" and vow never to "lend my name and sell tickets" to her fund-raisers? That sort of "man bites dog" — or "queer bites Hillary" — story will get people's attention, and it did last week.

Hillary's popularity among gays isn't hard to understand: She's a strong, intelligent woman who's been unfairly and viciously maligned by conservative Republicans for years — all qualities most politically active lesbians and gay men gravitate toward. Plus she's got star power and was done wrong by her man, qualities particularly irresistible to many gay men.

Van Capelle's problem with Clinton boiled down to one issue — marriage — and Hillary's dogged insistence that gay couples are not entitled to it. To date, she has perfected the minuet made famous by her husband: dance with the gays, take their money, their votes and their praise, but cut in with the next available dancer whenever the moves look too risky.

If the song is about employment protection or hate crimes or civil unions, on which there's already overwhelming support in New York, Hillary is ready to samba. But when it comes to a wedding waltz, her dance card is full.

CLINTON'S HAUGHTINESS ON marriage is particularly galling given her own rocky experience with the institution. She did vote against an unprecedented amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would ban gays from marrying, but to do otherwise would have been unthinkable for her politically.

In her speech on the Senate floor, she

said, "I believe marriage is not just a bond but a sacred bond between a man and a woman." Another reality check: She's known for decades that in her own case the institution was never so limited and in fact was a not-so-sacred bond between a man and several women, including his wife and untold Gennifers, Monicas and others.

Hillary opposes allowing gays to marry in New York, and she backed the Defense of Marriage Act, signed by philandering Bill, which not only deprives married gay couples of federal legal recognition, it allows states to ignore marriage licenses issued to gay couples in Massachusetts or elsewhere.

With that kind of track record, Van Capelle rightly argued that there's no good reason for New York gays to throw good money after bad support.

"It will send a message to other elected officials that you can be working against us during this critical time and not suffer a negative pushback from the gay community," he said in the e-mail. "We have become a community that throws money at politicians, and we demand nothing in return. And that's what we get: nothing. It's the wrong message to send."

Van Capelle's point is a needed reality check for active gay politicians, especially in blue states like New York where marriage is no longer the untouchable third rail of politics.

"This year Eliot Spitzer, David Patterson, Alan Hevesi, Andrew Cuomo, Mark Green, Sean Maloney and others are running for statewide office and are in favor of marriage equality for gays and lesbians," Van Capelle points out.

HAPPILY GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN Howard Dean, now Democratic Party chair, can galvanize gay support by "courageously" signing into law as governor of Vermont second-class civil unions, and then only when the state's highest court ordered him to do so.

Gone are the days when John Kerry could back a constitutional amendment banning gays from marrying in his home state of Massachusetts, the only state where we can, and still expect widespread gay support.

Over Kerry's objection, the Massachusetts Democratic Party now

backs marriage equality, and they do in California as well.

So what's Hillary's excuse? Her anticipated run for president in 2008, according to her gay supporters.

"As she gears up to run for president, it's a broader stage, and these issues matter in a way that perhaps they don't when she's in the Senate," Jeff Soref, a prominent gay Democrat and co-chair of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force board, told the *Houston Voice*.

Let's get this straight. Hillary Rodham Clinton can't support gay marriage because she's running for president. Because we all know Hillary Rodham Clinton has a great shot being elected president so long as she doesn't back gay marriage.

The statement would be laughable if it weren't being uttered by someone like Soref, who has a leading role in the Democratic Party and the gay rights movement. And he's among the more courageous gay Democrats willing to speak out when the party tacks to the right, leaving gays in the wake.

But Soref has chosen a quixotic battle, taking Howard Dean to task for retooling the party bureaucracy in a way that reassigned those in charge of selling the party to gay voters. What about taking Howard Dean, Hillary Clinton and others to task for avoiding, rather than fighting, for legal recognition of our relationships, even if it's short of marriage?

In the fight over a federal marriage amendment, Hillary and other Dems devoted most of their remarks to avoiding the subject, claiming the entire issue wasn't important and was a Republican diversionary tactic. That's the way Hillary and Howard other leading Democrats see the Culture War: something to avoid rather than fight head on, a mean-spirited diversionary tactic from more comfortable issues like the economy and war.

So let's take a cue from Van Capelle and save our "Equality Awards" and "Courage Awards," not to mention our fund-raisers and campaign mailers, for those candidates who support our full equality and are willing to say why.

@ Chris Crain  
is executive editor  
of the *Houston  
Voice* and can be  
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houstonvoice.com](mailto:ccrain@houstonvoice.com).



# letters

## Reporting Lovell is gay belittles Houston Voice

To the Editors:

Re "Swinging both ways" (editorial by Eric Ervin, Feb. 24):

I agree with Houston Councilmember Sue Lovell. She was a candidate for City Council because of what she could offer to the city based on her work in and commitment to Houston.

Her sexual orientation is private; by focusing on it, the Voice looks no better than the tabloids at the grocery store. The headline announcing her participation could reasonably read, "Lovell, well-known activist, in runoff for at-large Council post."

By focusing on a private matter — sexual orientation — the Voice belittles her services to all of Houston. This also belittles the Voice.

**MARTHA FAILING**  
Houston

## Gay can be assumed, but not in Lovell's case

To the Editors:

I can't sleep tonight for thinking about the flap over the Houston Voice's headline: "Lesbian in runoff for at-large council post."

I published the GLC Voice, a Minneapolis gay newspaper, from 1979 through 1992.

Even back then, I got bored with too many headlines that ran "Open gay does this or that." It just seemed so obvious that the paper probably wouldn't have been reporting about those people otherwise.

In more recent years, I am so bored with such headlines in the gay press. I really am.

I probably would have written the headline as simply, "Lovell in runoff," shortening for impact.

However, one big however: I did not know Lovell is a lesbian. I continue to be amused and aggravated at how small so many lesbians think "the community" is. How could she possibly think "Everyone in the community knows she's a lesbian"?

Now, I like Lovell less for three reasons: because she objected to the Houston Voice headline, because she doesn't have a clue how numerous we are, and because she's not far enough out of the closet and pro-gay enough to get her gayness mentioned in the mainstream press.

**TIM CAMPBELL**  
Houston

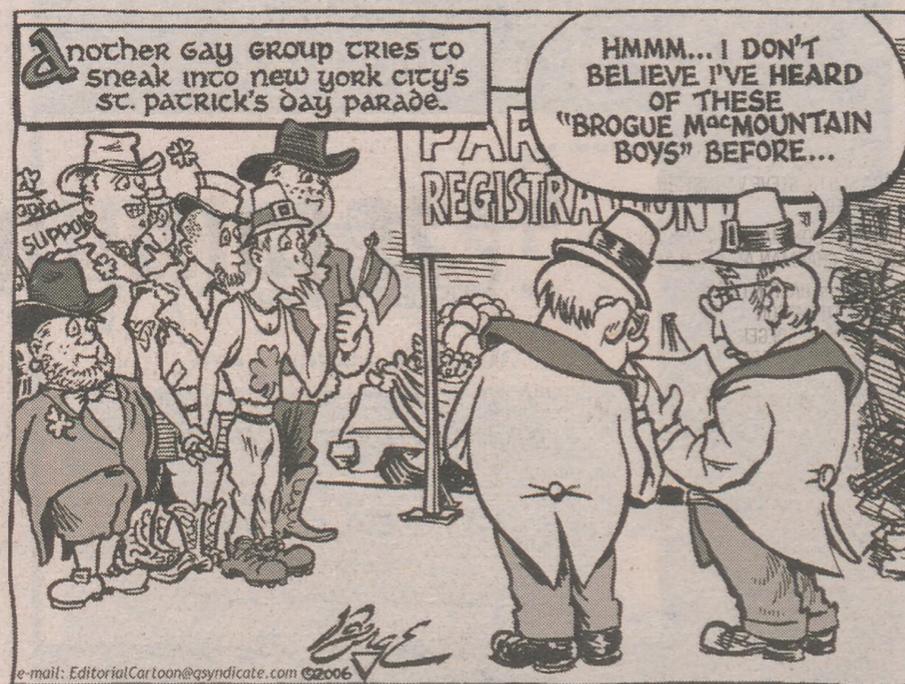
## Lovell has been out for years

To the Editors:

Eric Ervin should check his facts before his next rant on the Voice's editorial page ("Swinging Both Ways", Feb. 28).

Ervin wasn't in this town when Sue Lovell became the first woman president of the Houston LGBT Political Caucus. He wasn't in this town when Lovell was the public face of our campaign against the anti-gay 1985 referendum, when gays were likened to murderers, rapists and child molesters. He wasn't in this town when Lovell helped start AIDS Foundation Houston. He wasn't even in this town when Lovell ran as an openly lesbian candidate for City Council in 2003.

Ervin wasn't here on Aug. 20, 2004, when former Voice Editor Binnie Fisher published a story that "lesbian candidate" (part of the headline) Lovell would



e-mail: EditorialCartoon@qsyndicate.com ©2006

run for City Council again in 2005; on Sept. 18, 2003 when the Texas Triangle ran a lead story that "openly gay candidate" (part of the headline) Lovell would focus her campaign on quality of life issues; or on June 27, 2003, when the Texas Triangle ran a story on "gay activist Sue Lovell" as the proud mom of two adopted sons.

Ervin was here, but must not have been paying attention, when Lovell's opponent Jay Aiyer mailed thousands of brochures to Houston voters describing Lovell as a "former FedEx driver" whose campaign was funded by the "Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund." He must not have been paying attention even when the Voice itself reported on conservative talk show host Edd Hindie's vile gay-baiting attacks on Lovell's fami-

ly and children because of her sexual orientation.

The simple fact is that Lovell has been an out lesbian throughout her entire adult life — and more importantly — her entire public life. As a young gay man, I learned about Lovell's leadership from reading the Voice every week. That's why I volunteered on Lovell's campaign, and that's why I now work for her at City Hall.

Facts don't lie. But editorials can distort the truth when writers don't do their homework.

**TRAVIS SHEIVE**  
Houston

*Editors' note: Eric Ervin became editor of the Houston Voice in October 2005, but has lived in Houston since 2001.*

# THE Q

**Would you vote for a candidate solely based on their sexual orientation? Why or why not?**



No. My personal belief is that one's sexual orientation does not drive their ability to represent and fight for the rights of everyone. In our community, there are scores of people—gay and straight—that are capable of making significant contributions to push our democratic ideals and agenda.

**LANCE MENTER, 34**  
Houston  
Mathematics education manager



Not solely because they are gay. Although being gay does solve many issues, it is not always enough. But between two otherwise equally qualified candidates, go gay.

**ANDREA GERBER, 47**  
Houston  
Consultant



No. Although I appreciate the fact that a gay candidates would have overcome many of the prejudices that we all face, I vote for candidates based on their experiences, integrity and platform. We are at a difficult place where we are under attack by Republicans, but not supported by Democrats. We need accountable leaders regardless of their sexual orientation.

**THOM McDANIEL, 41**  
Houston  
Flight attendant



Yes, I would vote for a candidate solely based on the fact that they are gay. Then the next criteria is Democratic. I feel I could at least have my issues heard through a gay candidate versus someone who does not live my lifestyle.

**SALANGI LEGACY, 39**  
Houston  
Business owner



Most certainly not. A candidate's sexuality holds only a small percentage of importance to me. What is really important is how he or she is voting on the issues.

**TONY GOLMON, 49**  
Richmond  
Musician

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## on the record

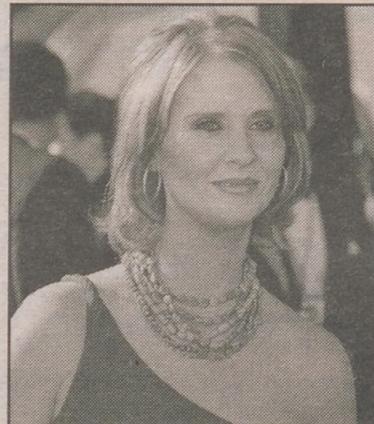
"Having a big gay following, I get hate mail and threats. Some people are blind or ignorant, and you can't be that prejudiced and hateful and go through this world and still be happy."

Singer **Dolly Parton**, nominated for an Oscar for her song "Travelin Thru" from the film "Transamerica" (USA Today, Feb. 22)



"George was completely out of it; he was all over the place. He was found with his head slumped against the wheel. No one could rouse him. He was virtually unconscious. When the police came he could hardly speak."

A witness who claims he saw gay 1980s icon **George Michael** passed out in his car in London; Michael was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and GHB, which were found in the car (The Sun, Feb. 27)



"It was a little crazy being on the front page of the paper, and I had photographers outside my house for a day or two, but, it wasn't so bad. I think people have been pretty good, I have to say. They understand and they're pretty respectful."

Actress **Cynthia Nixon**, of "Sex & the City" fame, on media treatment of her relationship with **Christine Marinoni** (Digital Spy, Feb. 25)

"Takataapuhi."

The native New Zealand Maori term for people in same-sex relationships, used in an HIV prevention campaign but angering a Maori former cabinet minister who said the term should be reserved for heterosexual love (Newswire.co.nz, Feb. 27)

"Kyle has told me on more than one occasion that he loves me. And I said, 'Kyle, I love you, too.'"

New York real estate agent **Sam Kelley**, claiming an affair with musician **Kyle Eastwood**, son of actor **Clint Eastwood**, during the son's now-estranged 14-year marriage to a woman (New York Daily News, Feb. 27)

"There is a demon in their spirits; their spirits are ill. But God can help them through his church and anyone who doubts this can check the Bible."

Scottish soccer star **Marvin Andrews**, originally from **Trinidad & Tobago**, on a lesbian member of Parliament who announced plans to enter into a civil partnership with her girlfriend (U.K. Mirror, Feb. 27)

"Is Reza more puff than pastry? ... Before you go, and bear in mind that this is a family show, what's the strangest thing you've ever put in your mouth?"

"Weakest Link" host **Anne Robinson**, teasing a celebrity chef on the U.K. version of the game show, but drawing criticism from British gay rights activists (U.K. Telegraph, March 1)

"As consumers, we feel ripped off. It is obvious now that the private Clay is very different from the manufactured, packaged public Clay who was marketed to us."

A spokesperson for **Clay Aiken** fans who have filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission claiming false advertising and misrepresentation by Aiken's label following tabloid claims that the "American Idol" star had an affair with a gay man (New York Post, Feb. 27)



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## True to himself

Gay musician Levi Kreis, who has an upcoming performance in Houston next week, talks about new album.

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# Key to happiness?

## Gays more likely to suffer depression, but studies suggest marriage may help

By BO SHELL and ANDREW KEEGAN

Leah Crask says her parents never fully recognized the relationship she shares with Teresa Weeks, even after the couple had their son, Caden.

Between the lack of family support and the constant task of proving her relationship to strangers in control of her insurance, healthcare and second parent adoption, Crask says the stress she and Weeks faced made life difficult until their marriage in March 2004.

"It made a large impact on our lives, and it was the first time my family really recognized our relationship to being equal to the relationship they were in," Crask says. "Getting married was a huge difference."

Two recent studies by researchers in the United States and England show Crask is not alone in believing that marriage can benefit gay men and lesbians psychologically and socially.

Crask and Weeks were married in San Francisco when the city's mayor defied a state law restricting gay marriage, and the couple faced renewed frustrations when a judge invalidated the unions.

They told their story this week as part of a press conference announcing the release of "I Do, But I Can't: The Impact of Marriage Denial on the Mental Health and Sexual Citizenship of Lesbians and Gay Men in the United States," a 150-source meta analysis by Gilbert Herdt, Ph.D, and Robert Kertzner, M.D.

A portion of the study will be published by the National Sexual Resource Center in the March edition of their online, peer-reviewed journal "Sexuality Research and Social Policy."

The report concludes that marriage plays a vital role in the psychological and social wellness of same-sex couples,

offering one reason why gay people may suffer depression at higher rates than the general population.

### Gays and depression

The National Institute for Mental Health estimates that each year 18.8 million Americans suffer from a depressive illness. Several studies suggest gay men and lesbians are more prone to depression, although statistics on the subject are incomplete.

Adam Fingerhut, a research scientist at the University of California - Los Angeles, is at the halfway mark of a two-year study focusing on why depression strikes roughly 30 percent of gay men and lesbians.

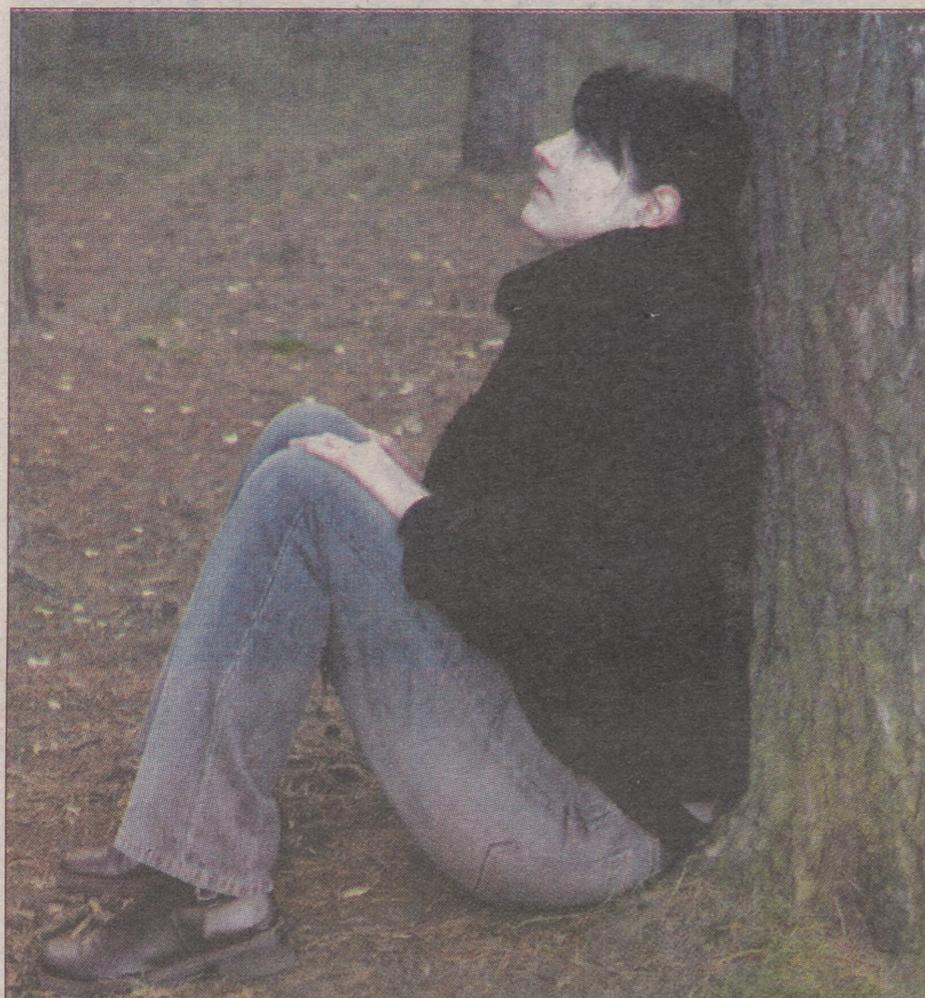
"We know gays suffer from poor mental health but don't know a lot about factors that contribute to it," Fingerhut says.

Funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, Fingerhut's research centers on gay identity. Discrimination, stigma and internalized homophobia all contribute to poor mental health for gay men and lesbians, according to Fingerhut, who is gay.

Results of a 2002 study published in the American Journal of Public Health found that gay men were three times as likely as straight men to plan suicide, attempt it, or both.

Of 2,881 men surveyed, one in five said they went as far as to formulate a suicide plan. All those surveyed lived in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. The study did not look at gay residents of smaller cities and towns, where acceptance is often even more challenging.

In 2004, the American Journal of Psychiatry published "Distress and Depression in Men who have Sex with Men." It concluded that depression in gay men was 17.2 percent higher than



in straight men. Reasons cited for the higher percentage included lack of a domestic partner; not identifying as gay; experiencing episodes of anti-gay violence; and high levels of community alienation.

### Marriage matters

Allowing gay couples to marry may be one way to alleviate some of the discrimination that may fuel higher rates of depression among gay people.

In their report on marriage and mental health announced this week, Herdt and Kertzner cite studies conducted mostly in the past decade to

say marriage is "likely to translate into an enhanced sense of well-being."

Mental health studies show gay men and lesbians can hold strong relationships and are capable of adopting children and raising them in an environment conducive to the child's success, Herdt says.

But the researcher also says that gay families are subject to cultural conditioning that instills a desire to marry, and restrictions on same-sex marriage under federal law and in every state except Massachusetts can lead to seri-

Please see MENTAL HEALTH on Page 34

**NIGHTLIFE:** The Purple One performs with a new Houston protégé. **Page 14**

**DINING:** Local restaurateur brings the sweet life to Montrose diners with a new Italian eatery offering authentic cuisine and more. **Page 16**

"Nothing ended, nothing begun, nothing resolved."

~ Annie Proulx's Brokeback Mountain

## Beyond Brokeback...

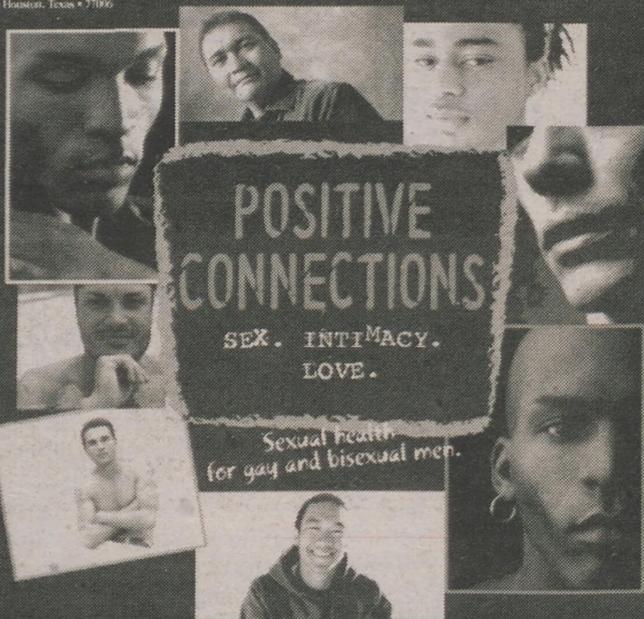
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## nightlife JOHNNY HOOKS



Prince performs at Houston's  
hottest new night spot, the 'Mexican  
Madonna' performs and Girlz groove

## Purple and pink nightlife

HOVO ON THE GO-GO IS BACK with what is shaping up to be the gayest weekend this city has seen since Houston Pride 2005.

FRIDAY NIGHT, MARCH 3 IS JAM packed with several events for gay boys and girls to choose.

Prince is scheduled to perform at Warehouse Live, 813 St. Emanuel St., for a special midnight show with his newest protégé, Tamar. The still reigning prince of everything cool (butt out jeans), in my opinion, is back with a vengeance this month with a new album called "3121", which will be released on March 21. Tamar's debut album will also be released the same day.

His recent fiery performance on "Saturday Night Live" was amazing and this special show will be one to remember. For tickets go to www.ticketmaster.com and search for "Pop/Rock" events for this weekend and a link will pop up. Tickets are \$50 and are Will Call only.

Next up we have Latin superstar Gloria Trevi at Rich's. Often hailed as "the Mexican Madonna," and like madge, she is just as controversial. Club Papi is presenting Trevi, and you can buy \$75 VIP tickets for a "meet and greet" with her. VIP guests are banded separately and will be able to meet, take pictures with and get an autograph from Trevi in a separate, intimate setting. Also, each VIP guest will receive an exclusive "Live @ Club Papi" limited-press CD. Regular tickets are \$20. For more information, visit www.richs-houston.com.

New Wave opera diva, Nina Hagen is also making a stop in Houston at the Engine Room, 1515 Pease. Oh the nights HotGG swirled on the dance floors of Rich's and Numbers to new wave anthems like "New York, New York", "Zarah" and "African Reggae" back in the 1980s. This is Hagen's first Houston appearance in years and will definitely be a "I was there" show that will have people talking for years. Go to www.engineeromlive.com or call 713-654-7846 for complete details.

IF NONE OF THOSE SHOWS TICKLE your fancy (believe me it's a wonderful feeling), then head over to the Groove Girlz party at 1415 California starting at 10 p.m. This regular party is one for the ladies, but if you're nice, boys are invited.

## HoVo on the go-go

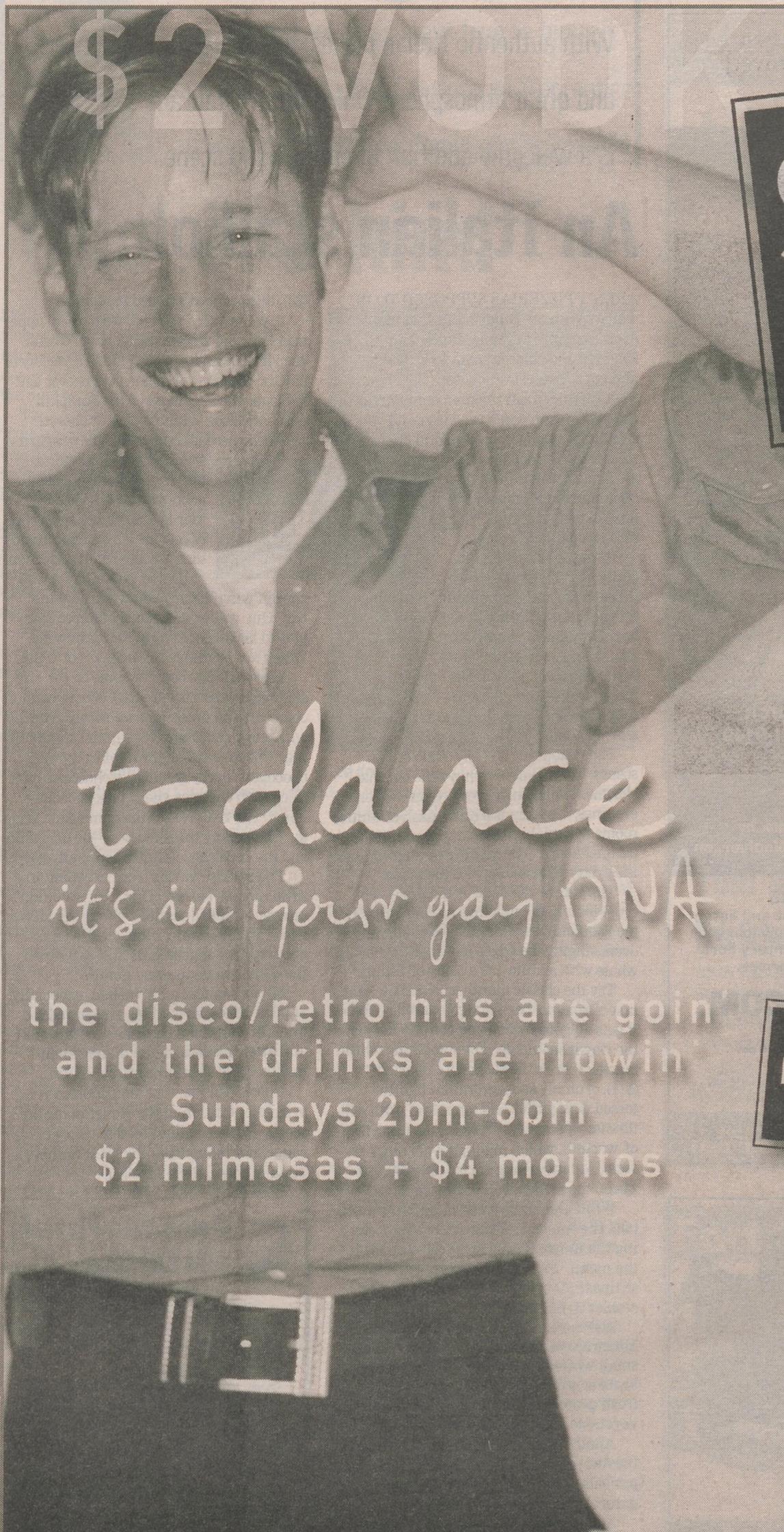
You'll find Mr. Pink Eyes and DJ Yoon spinning hip hop, house and flaming new dance tracks till 3 a.m. Don't have a date? Well you can buy one at the event. A hot singles silent auction from 10:30 p.m. until midnight benefits Pride Houston. Cash and credit cards are accepted. Admission is \$5 before 11 p.m. and \$10 afterwards. Visit the Girlz website at www.groovegirlz.com.

OF COURSE THE BIGGEST EVENT scheduled for March 2-5 is LUEY Weekend, which is sponsored by The Houston Council of Clubs. Nearly 1,000 revelers from across the nation will descend on the Montrose for this 33rd annual party that promises to continue the Mardi Gras celebrations and to "Let Us Entertain You."

Registration is free for visitors and \$15 for residents of Harris and adjacent counties. The official host bars for this year are the Brazos River Bottom, EJ's, Mary's Naturally, Rich's-Houston, the 611 and the Ripcord. However, expect all the bars in town to throw open their doors with enticing specials and super gay shows.

Speaking of shows, the infamous LUEY "Show of Shows" will be Sunday, March 5 at Rich's. Doors open at noon with \$2 well drinks, domestic beers and some yummy breakfast tacos to help start your day off right. The show starts promptly at 1 p.m. and you'll have plenty of time to get home for the Oscar telecast and root for "our" cowboys.

FINALLY, DO NOT MISS THE performances of these two gorgeous gay singers and songwriters, Eric Himan and Levi Kreis at Guava Lamp on Thursday, March 9 at 8 p.m. HotGG met Himan last year and simply fell in love with his amazing talents and have heard fabulous things about Kreis. Can you believe, there's no cover for this event? These two rock. Guava Lamp is located at 570 Waugh Drive and can be contacted at 713-524-3359.



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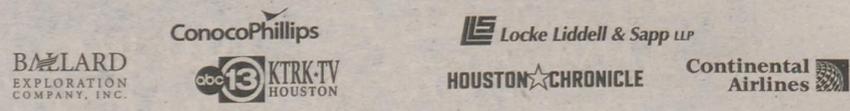
Book by  
**Linda Woolverton**

Photo from TUTS 1993 Production.

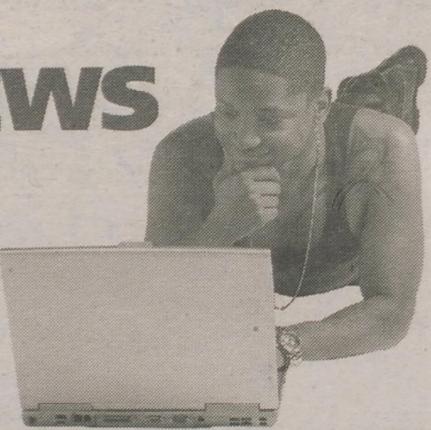
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## dining J.A. CHAPMAN

With authentic Italian dishes, fine wines and great atmosphere; **Dolce Vita** restaurant is a welcome addition to city's dining scene.

# An Italian stallion

AREN'T PIZZERIAS SUPPOSED TO BE warm? With an imported Italian pizza oven working overtime, Dolce Vita Pizzeria and Enoteca should be warm and cozy inside, but it's not.

A distinct draft plagued many areas of the restaurant. On a recent visit, I was so cold that my guest and I had to change tables. As we departed for a warmer seat, one of the customers at a table of six next to us declared, "We're cold too."

It might have been bit chilly, but the temperature is really the only complaint I have about this authentic Italian pizzeria and wine bar. Brought to you by Marco Wiles, owner and chef of the glorious Da Marco restaurant a couple blocks down the street, Dolce Vita offers the closest thing to real Italian pizza that you'll find this side of Rome.

The restaurant is really a tale of two scenes. Downstairs is a hip wine bar that becomes ridiculously crowded on weekend evenings. Upstairs is a mish-mash of dining rooms with plain painted walls and simple parquet floors. The mixture of atmospheres is a pretty good analogy for the menu.

The star of the show is the pizza. The crust is thin, the toppings are light and the pie is quickly baked in the wood-burning oven, singing the edges just slightly. Served whole with a knife, it's a thing of beauty.

Try the classic margherita (\$11), a light mix of tomato, basil and mozzarella cheese. It gets all gooey when you cut into it—just the way it should be. For something a little fancier, there's the salsiccia e friarielli (\$11), crumbly sausage, rapini lightly tossed with garlic, and topped off with a little sharp pecorino. The sausage has a hint of warmth, which highlights the other flavors. An interesting variety of other pizzas on the menu await your taste buds.

While the pizza is the main attraction, half the fun of visiting Dolce Vita is trying the unusual offerings from the rest of the menu. Essentially a wide variety of antipasti, it offers everything from vegetables to fish to cheese.

A surprise favorite was the beets horseradish and walnuts (\$4), served in a small white bowl. The sweetness of the beets is offset by the sharpness of the fresh grated horseradish. Like all the vegetable plates, it's served cold.

Another unexpected hit was the wood roasted parsnips with saba (\$4). The sweet, pre-balsamic vinegar saba enhances the natural sweetness in the parsnips.

The whitefish "scapece" (\$7), chunky whitefish marinated in mint, is a light, fresh dish. Or try the niman ranch "speck"

(\$8), thinly sliced smoked prosciutto. If you want to start off with warm appetizers, try the crochette (\$5), battered and deep fried tidbits which come in a variety of flavors. The pumpkin and goat cheese deftly blends the sweetness of the pumpkin puree with the saltiness of goat cheese.

Anchovies fans will want to be sure to try the fried anchovies (\$5), a plate full of lightly floured anchovies flash fried and topped with chives and a slice of lemon. It's a simple, basic dish executed with perfection.

Dolce Vita offers a well chosen wine list, as would befit a wine bar. Our waiter generously offered samples to be sure we chose the right wine. Wines are available by the glass or bottle.

Leave a little room for some of the classic Italian desserts (\$6 each). Three cannoli come with an order, and are nicely crunchy with a few chocolate chips in the cream filling. Chocoholics might want to try the chocolate cherry ganache, a chocolate cake filled with cherries and a dark chocolate icing. The real treat is the homemade gelato. Choose any three flavors—the pistachio and the dark chocolate are especially good.

The service varies from excellent to a little inexperienced. One waiter couldn't answer simple questions about the menu, while another waiter knew little facts about all the ingredients and explained the dishes to us in great detail.

Meals can feel a bit rushed, especially at peak times, as courses are served too quickly. But the friendliness of the staff and attentiveness of the management makes these seem like minor issues.

Dolce Vita Pizzeria and Enoteca is a brilliant addition to the Houston dining scene. With excellent food at every price range, not to mention the most authentic pizza in town, it's a sure hit.



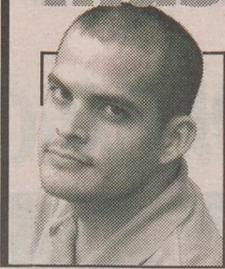
## Dolce Vita Pizzeria and Enoteca

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Food: 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1/2  
Service: 10 | 10 | 10 | 10  
Scene: 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1/2  
Value: 10 | 10 | 10 | 10

☛ = Stay home and eat cereal  
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## music RYAN LEE



Gay singer Levi Kreis stays true to himself and his music on first CD since an 'Apprentice' appearance launched his career into the limelight.

# 'One' of a kind

LEVI KREIS ISN'T SURE WHICH IS more virulently anti-gay, the Southern Baptist upbringing he escaped, or the music industry that once touted him as the next big thing.

The gay singer-songwriter's latest CD, "One of the Ones," represents his "rebellion from having 12 different producers trying to make me 12 different things," Kreis says.

After signing with Atlantic Records in 2004, Kreis was primed to make his way into heavy rotation on the radio and MTV, but only if he followed his attorneys' advice to never tell anyone about his sexual orientation.

Kreis originally obliged, until he realized that constant "editing of information about my life" created a distorted vision of him and the type of artist he wanted to be, he says. Kreis didn't conquer angst and self-hate to sing in Atlantic Records' closet, so he decided to forego the world of major record companies.

A few months later, he found himself with an appearance on the fourth season of NBC's "The Apprentice," a final shot to establish himself as an independent musician.

"I knew that that one little moment was going to be a fleeting moment if I didn't do something to make it special," Kreis says. "That was my only opportunity to take my music career by the reins and do it myself."

IN THE 'APPRENTICE' EPISODE, THE teams of Donald Trump wannabes competed to find an unsigned musician, and write, record and produce a song for XM Satellite Radio. One team selected Kreis, and he wowed XM Radio execs as well as thousands of viewers.

Kreis' website got more than 22,000 hits on the night the episode aired. He says his career is "hard to keep up with" since the show.

His lyrics are unapologetically gay affirming. On "One of the Ones," Kreis layers his raspy vocals over piano and sings about different lovers — or "Ones" — he's had in his life. But the singer strives for universal resonance, and the gender-neutral lyrics allow any listener to relate.

Prior to coming out, Kreis' fan base was primarily women in their 20s and 30s. Now his fan mail includes heterosex-



Levi Kreis blends beautiful vocals with poignant lyrics to capture the nuances of gay romance on his latest CD, 'One of the Ones.'

ual men who say they connect to his lyrics and are surprised to learn he is gay.

"It kind of occurred to me that my goal with this album was to be able to speak to everyone, to represent the experiences that we all as human beings go through," Kreis says.

KREIS ALSO LOVES FEEDBACK FROM young gay people, like a 19-year-old preacher's son struggling with many of the same sexual orientation issues that once paralyzed Kreis.

By age 15, Kreis recorded his first album, a Christian record he promoted on a tour of churches. Privately, he spent three hours per day praying for God to eliminate his homosexual desires.

Thinking that his sexual orientation was at odds with being a servant of God, Kreis enrolled in Exodus International, an "ex-gay" ministry.

Today, Kreis does not identify as Christian but says he can still deliver enlightening sermons through his music.

"To be able to speak your passion, you feel that rush and it's like you know you're being true to what your journey is," he says. "To be a part of a message so powerful feels like church to me."

Kreis also acts and appeared in Matthew McConaughey's "Frailty" and the touring company of "Rent." He wrote the theme for the upcoming film "Southern Baptist Sissies" by gay writer Del Shores of "Sordid Lives" and "Queer As Folk" fame.

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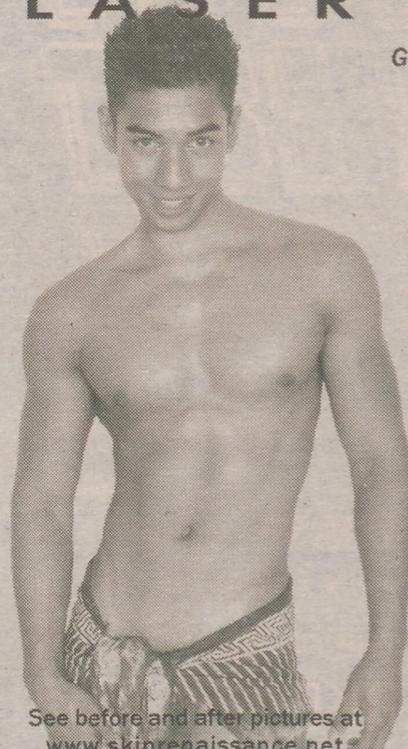
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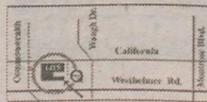
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## dish

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

# Too curious George

Michael likes it kinky,  
Clay Aiken fans fight  
back and Rufus  
channels Judy

These days **GEORGE MICHAEL'S** perennially grizzled look isn't just caused by a well-manicured attempt to appear butch. More likely, it comes from partying too hard, taking too many drugs and getting down and dirty.

Michael was arrested on Sunday, Feb. 26, in Britain's Hyde Park on suspicion of possessing drugs according to the United Kingdom's paper, the Sun.

The gay singer's car was found parked at an odd angle in the middle of a busy intersection in the wee hours of Sunday morning, and after a passer-by saw the singer looking rather wilted and slumped over the steering wheel of his car, the police and medical emergency folks were called.

The medical personnel ensured that Michael had no injuries, and they did a breath test and car search. The singer apparently came up clean on the test, but the cops did find marijuana and GHB — the circuit party staple — in his car.

"It's my own stupid fault, as usual," Michael, 42, said in a statement after the arrest. "I was in the possession of class C drugs, which is an offence...P.S. I promise I won't make a record out of this one — even though it's tempting."

In 1998, Michael was arrested for flashing his cookies at an undercover cop in a public toilet, which prompted his coming out publicly. The police at Sunday's scene also reportedly found porn, sex toys and strange little masks in the trunk of the star's car.

After seven hours in police custody, he was released and awaits the next steps in the legal process.

### Fans gone berserk

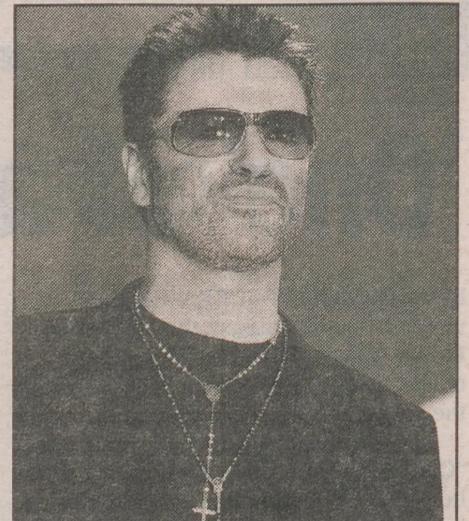
**CLAY AIKEN** is having one hell of a year so far. First ex-Green Beret **JOHN PAULUS** blabbed to the world that he and Aiken had sex in a smarmy hotel room.

Adding to that scandal, the New York Post's Page Six claims that certain Aiken fans have turned to bite the hand that feeds them. Some of the "American Idol" runner-up's worshippers have registered a complaint against the singer with the Federal Trade Commission. They claim the Aiken persona amounts to false advertising.

"As consumers, we feel ripped off," a spokesperson for the consumers told Page Six. "It is obvious now that the private Clay is very different



Clay Aiken



Gay pop singer **George Michael** was arrested for possession of pot and GHB and cops at the scene also got a pornographic treat when they opened up the star's trunk. (Photo by Roberto Pfeil/AP)

from the manufactured, packaged public Clay who was marketed to us."

How is that? It's not like Dish's blind grandmother didn't know Aiken was a big old queen in the first place.

### Need more gay?

Just in case you weren't feeling gay enough, go see **RUFUS WAINWRIGHT'S** upcoming Carnegie Hall concert on June 14 and 15.

Wainwright, gay singer, musician and composer extraordinaire, will be performing the entire legendary 1961 **JUDY GARLAND** Carnegie Hall concert. She sang everything from introspective ballads penned by gay musician and writer **NOEL COWARD** to powerhouse arrangements of standards "Come Rain or Come Shine" and "Chicago."

Wainwright will tackle the entire thing, and even the poster for the event is a mock-up of the 1961 original with his own portrait in place of Garland's.

Another important gay cultural moment worth reporting concerns the auctioning off of the shirts worn by **JAKE GYLLENHAAL** and **HEATH LEDGER** in "Brokeback Mountain."

Tom Gregory, a gay activist, bought the shirts for a mere \$101,100.51, and the money went to a children's charity fund in Southern California. Gregory says he plans on keeping the shirts entwined together on a hanger.

"I would never wear them, put them on, or separate them," he told the AP. Then, channeling Judy said, "They really are the ruby slippers of our time."



Rufus Wainwright



Send comments, suggestions to  
Dish@houstonvoice.com

## eclipse

# Discrimination among factors fueling gay depression

MENTAL HEALTH, continued from Page 25

ous mental health consequences.

"When society denies them their deep-seated need to marry, it only makes them part citizen," Herdt says. "The result is diminished hope, diminished dreams and diminished abilities to imagine a future of success."

One of the most important highlights of the study, Herdt says, is the intriguing "conundrum" that psychological and psychiatric associations view homosexuality as unrelated to mental illness, but gay men and lesbians show heightened levels of stress disorders, mainly depression.

Herdt explains the difference through the idea of "minority stress," a concept he says emerged from mental health research to explain the impact of simple discrimination in a range of areas including employment, housing, health care and adoption rights that can often be linked to unequal marriage rights.

Most studies on the benefits of marriage are based on heterosexuals, but studies specifically discussing gay and lesbian mental health were used to further support the researchers' arguments, Herdt says.

## 'Tremendous effects'

Another study, published this month in the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* in England by Michael King and Annie Bartlett, similarly argues that gay men and lesbians may benefit from marriage or civil unions.

King and Bartlett's research cites a study from Vermont that, in part, compared 212 lesbians and 123 gay men who received civil unions in Vermont with 166 lesbians and 72 gay men who were not in civil unions. The couples in civil unions had greater openness about sexual orientation and closer relationships with their families than those not in civil unions, the study found.

The authors of the Vermont study, along with King and Bartlett, say same-sex unions may lead to the greatest benefits by increasing acceptance of gay couples, which then leads to a reduction in discrimination.

King and Bartlett also suggest that social and legal recognition of gay relationships could increase the stability of same-sex relationships, allow for better physical health and associated benefits,



Dr. Gilbert Herdt, co-author of the 'I Do, But I Can't' study, uses the term 'minority stress' to explain the mental duress same-sex couples face because they are not allowed to marry.

and could challenge and improve the face of health care.

Anecdotal evidence from the Waterloo Counseling Center in Austin, Texas, also sug-

gests the mental health of gay men and lesbians suffers under the denial of marriage.

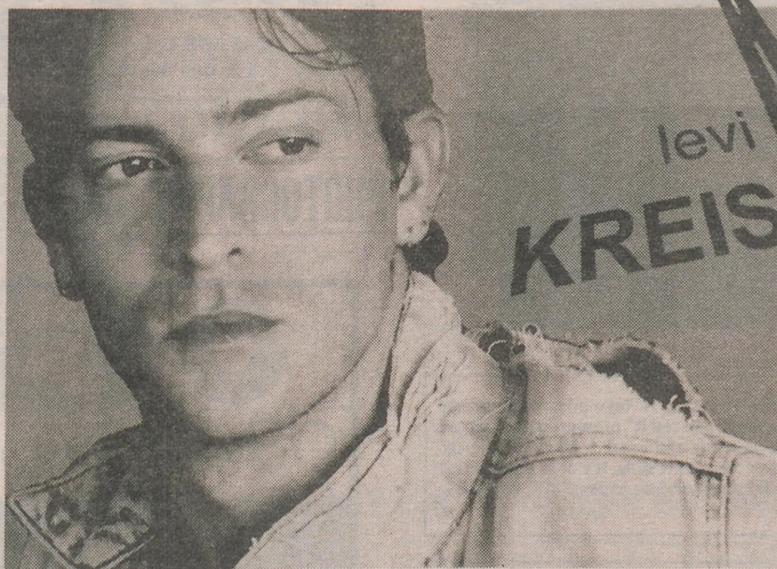
Last November, Texas voters approved a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage by a vote of 76.25 percent to 23.74 percent.

There is no empirical evidence proving a link between the vote and an increase in clients at Waterloo, but Gail Goodman, executive director of the counseling center, says Austin's gay residents are questioning how open they should be with their sexual orientation.

"We have people coming in that are reporting that they're having difficulties wondering if they need to go back into the closet and not feeling safe," Goodman says, adding that the center's client load doubled in the past 18 months.

Goodman agrees that the lack of legal marriage undermines the mental health of gay men and lesbians, as American society is set up to support marital ties.

"When you have a group saying we're not going to support [gay marriage], in fact, we'll work against it, saying we don't want you to get married, or raise or adopt kids — when that's the message, it has tremendous effects," Goodman says.



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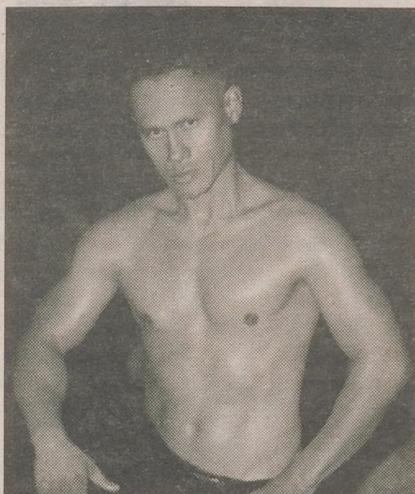
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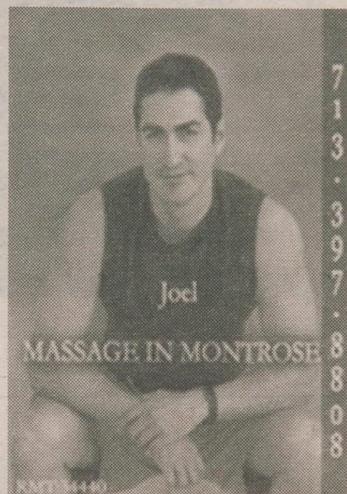
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**DEADLINES:**

**8am Wednesday** for online submissions only.

**5:30pm Tuesday** for all other submissions.

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

**THE TEMPTATIONS**  
 ©2005 By ALISON BECHDEL

Mo has a MASTER'S DEGREE. IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE. NOW SHE'S SHARING A GRADUATION NIGHT FUTON WITH FIONA, THE DIGITAL SERVICES SPECIALIST.

COME ON. WE'RE DONE WITH THE PROGRAM, WE'RE BOTH GOING BACK TO OUR SEPARATE LIVES. IT'S THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR A NO-IMPACT, HERMETICALLY-SEALED TRYST.

GOD, FIONA. I... I REALLY WANT TO. BUT I CAN'T DO THAT TO SYDNEY.

YOU WOULDN'T BE DOING IT TO SYDNEY, YOU'D BE DOING IT TO ME. THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT?

HMM, I SEE YOUR LOGIC.

MEANWHILE, THE LONELY CYNTHIA HAS PARLAYED A RIDE WITH THE LOCAL LGBT CYCLING GROUP INTO DINNER, THEN COFFEE, WITH ONE CYCLIST IN PARTICULAR.

... AND THAT'S THE LOGIC OF PRE-EMPTION. WE CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND LET A BUNCH OF FUNDAMENTALIST EXTREMISTS DESTROY THE FABRIC OF AMERICAN SOCIETY.

EXACTLY! THAT'S WHAT I'M ALWAYS SAYING!

THESE CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICALS WHO WANT TO MERGE CHURCH AND STATE WILL SCREW THIS COUNTRY WAY MORE THAN AL QAEDA COULD EVER DREAM OF. WE'VE GOT TO STOP THE REPUBLICAN MULLAHS!

NO, WHAT I MEANT WAS... UM, ACTUALLY, I'M AN EVANGELICAL. AND A REPUBLICAN.

YEAH, RIGHT. GOOD ONE, CYNTHIA.

NO, REALLY. AND IT'S SO HARD TO MEET PEOPLE. I TRIED THE RAINBOW REPUBLICANS, BUT THEY WERE ONLY FISCAL CONSERVATIVES.

GOD, YOU CRACK ME UP. LISTEN, D'YOU WANNA COME OVER TO MY PLACE?

REALLY? UM... I'D LIKE TO. BUT I SHOULD WARN YOU, I'VE SIGNED A VIRGINITY PLEDGE.

STOP IT! I'M GONNA PEE MY PANTS!

WILL PASSION PRE-EMPT PRINCIPLE?

PERHAPS.

PERHAPS NOT.

NO! I'M SORRY, FIONA! I JUST CAN'T!

DAMN. I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING ABLE TO SAY, "WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE URBANA-CHAMPAIGN."

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# bitch SESSION

Most gay men don't have a massive schlong or perfectly sculpted body. If you're looking for that, date a porn model.

IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WHEN GUYS started tweezing their eyebrows. Now they're partially shaving their stomachs to create faux "happy trails." Stop the madness!

SO THERE'S A LINK BETWEEN THROWING out all spirituality and living a debased life? Prove it. When last I checked, we atheists were overrepresented in universities and underrepresented in prisons.

PLEASE DON'T SCRATCH YOURSELF through your towel while I'm talking to you in the gym locker room. There are over-the-counter ointments for that sort of thing.

I'M A GAY MAN BUT I PREFER straight porn because it isn't politically correct and because, even though it has women in it, at least it doesn't have twinks.

TO THE HETERO WHO ASKED WHAT one voice could change: One pebble thrown in a pond makes a big ripple. Someone has to toss that first pebble by speaking up first!

TO THE GUY WHOSE MOTHER'S AUNT verbally abused him: Don't give up hope! Plenty of people have better judgment than your worthless mother and your worthless aunt.

ISN'T A BITCH JUST ANOTHER WORD for a mother dog? Why is everyone "bitching"?

**Bitch Boy responds:** Just because everyone is calling you a "son of" one doesn't mean all bitches are mothers; just female dogs, sporto.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! Someone actually printed "Please Bring Presents" on his birthday party invitations? I think I would have brought a nicely wrapped vial of bull semen.

TO THE GUY WHO SAID HE'S HAVING threesomes when his daughter is home: You're sick. Someone should tell her mother.

WHAT IN THE HELL IS FELCHING?  
**Bitch Boy responds:** Paging John Waters. Answer your page please, Mr. Waters.

WHAT'S UP WITH GUYS WHO GO TO restaurants dressed in leather? Get a new wardrobe, trolls!

TO THE ASSHOLE WHO DOESN'T want anyone in the club to touch him when he has his shirt off: Keep your clothes on.

SO YOUR POINT IS DON'T BE A SHEEP, right?

WHO THE HELL IS TINA AND WHY should I care about some stupid fag hag everyone's bitching about.

IT'S ALWAYS THE RIGHT TIME TO DO what's right, and we're doing a whole lot of wrong.

I LOVE IT WHEN YOUR AD SAYS "DRUG free" but your eyes are rolling up into your head when I'm on the other side of the room.

**Bitch Boy responds:** Maybe it was your outfit.

TRANNIES ARE COOL, BUT FAT TRANNIES make me barf. They look like my grandmother in an evening gown.

WHAT KIND OF RELIGION SAYS HOMOSEXUALS go to hell because "the Bible says so" or "it's just not natural"? Actually, the Bible doesn't say so, and I have a horny gay cat.

WHY ARE GAY MEN SO APATHETIC? I'm gay, 16 and work my butt off to secure equal rights for my future. Why do I have to set such an example? A lot of gay men need to apologize to the lesbians for all these years of them doing the dirty work, and get down to business!

I'M 51 WITH A 46-INCH CHEST, 34-INCH waist and enjoy my life. I don't need some young guy telling me to "go home Grandpa, we do not need you around." So next time you need money, call him and not me.

WHY WAS INVESTING IN THE Internet bubble touted as the wave of the future but investing in inexorably rising oil prices called speculation?  
**Bitch Boy responds:** Why won't the Wall Street Journal launch its own "Bitch Session"?

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU HAVE learned in therapy. You're still an asshole.

I AM A PHYSICIAN WHO TREATS A lot of HIV patients. Just because you are poz does not give you the right to use our tax dollars to support your lazy ass. I can't tell you how many healthy patients ask me to sign disability papers. Get off your bum and get a job!

BITCH PLEASE! IF I WANTED YOUR life, I'd have to cut my income in half, lower my I.Q. by about 30 points and stagger home with your Abercrombie-wearing, loser friends every night.

TO THE JERK WHO REFERRED TO women as "hos": Do you kiss your mother with that mouth? That's what you're calling her, and the rest of the females in your family.

YOU FRENCH-KISSED ME IN THE BAR and then gave me your number when I said I didn't want to go home with someone I didn't know. Yes, there was alcohol involved, on both ends. Why don't you have the courtesy to return my phone call?

**Bitch Boy responds:** Maybe he's still trying to get the coffee out of the other end.

WHAT'S UP WITH GUYS WHO POST profiles on hook up sites alerting everyone that they already have a man, but they are only on the site "for friends"?

Come on, people! Do you think we are really that stupid or are you just dumber then dumb?

I AGREE WITH THE GUY WHO BITCHED about the games at church. The behavior is obnoxious. If I wanted to see attitude and bitchiness, I would go to the clubs, not church.

I MAY BE BIG AND REQUIRE TWO seats on a bus, but I have the strength to leave my house everyday and deal with nasty stares all the time. You freak out when you have a zit and refuse to leave your house. Don't judge me.

WHEN WILL PEOPLE GET A CLUE that our government is not working for us and overthrow it by not voting either Democratic or Republican. Get these bozos out of office.

WHY WOULD YOU SAY IN YOUR online profile that your ideal date must have "never been married"?

INSTEAD OF TRYING TO PICK UP THE 20-somethings at the gym, try doing a proper workout to lose that paunch.

HAVING A BARTENDER KNOW YOUR name and what you drink does not make him your "friend." And having some cute, homeless loser taking advantage of you doesn't make you a "couple."

ARE THERE ANY HOT SINGLE GAY men still interested in a relationship? It seems like all the good ones are in committed relationships and all there is left are weirdos or eyesores.

IT REALLY SAYS A LOT ABOUT HOW heterosexuals still view gays when one of the lead actors of "Brokeback Mountain" can seriously claim his character isn't gay!

CAN WE COME UP WITH AN ALTERNATIVE to the word "attitude" on here. That's such a faggy word.

**Bitch Boy responds:** Actually, "attitude" is brand new — and perfect!

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

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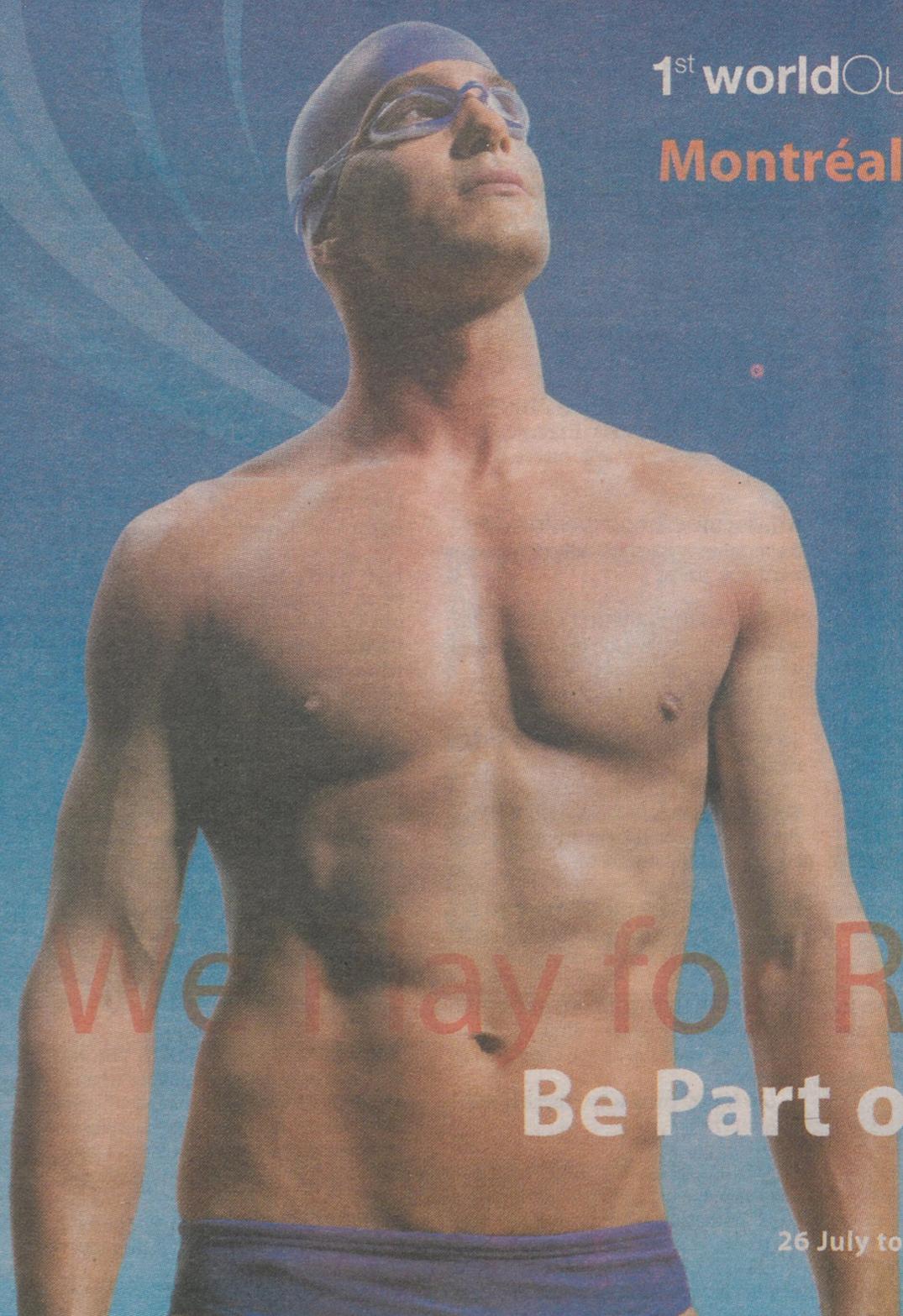
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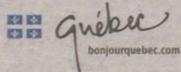
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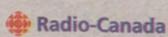
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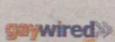
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