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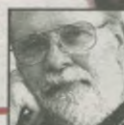


**The films of summer**  
Crank down the cooler, warm up the DVD player and enjoy flicks with gay appeal.  
Page 12

**CONN. LEADS:** Most advances for gays in Connecticut. Page 3



**ROASTING RAY:** Ray Hill gets roasted. Page 3



**TG MURDER TRAIL:** Defense changes strategy. Page 5



## Latinos played key role in California marriage defeat

Bill dies in close vote as its co-sponsor abstains

By EARTHA MELZER

After a close vote on a bill that would have legalized same-sex marriage in California, advocates on both sides of the issue are examining the role of Latino lawmakers and religion in dooming the measure.

The Religious Freedom & Civil Marriage Protection Act, AB 19, was sponsored by Assembly member Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and would have rewritten the marriage section of the California family code using gender neutral language and allowed licenses to be granted to same-sex couples.

The bill also specified that no churches or religious organizations would be required to perform any marriage, and acknowledged that the First Amendment protects religious expression.

The bill made it through committee and to a vote on the Assembly floor, where it failed to earn the 41 votes needed to pass, falling four votes short.

There are 48 Democrats in the 80-member Assembly. Nine of them abstained or voted no on the



The Religious Freedom & Civil Marriage Protection Act, which would have legalized same-sex marriage, failed to pass the California Assembly earlier this month. Born-again Christian civil rights lawyer **Alberto Torrico** (D-Newark) switched his position and supported the bill in the final vote. Assembly member **Mervyn Dymally** (D-Compton) (inset) was a co-sponsor of the bill but was not present for the final vote.

bill. All of the Republicans voted against the bill.

Five of the nine Democrats who abstained or voted no were members of the Latino Caucus, prompting some observers to blame

Latinos for the bill's failure.

Eddie Gutierrez, communications director for Equality California, said that most Latino representatives supported the bill, which he said was in the interests of



Please see **CALIFORNIA** on Page 7



Gov. Rick Perry uses the backdrop of a Fort Worth Christian school to put his signature to a bill that will advance the issue of same-sex marriage and civil unions to the statewide ballot in November. (Photo courtesy of the Associated Press)

## Gov. signs gay marriage ban at a Christian school

Perry suggests gay war veterans returning from Iraq find another state in which to live if they are opposed to Texas marriage laws

By BINNIE FISHER

In a move that reverberated throughout the country, Gov. Rick Perry chose an evangelical Christian school in Fort Worth as a backdrop for signing a measure that will ask Texas voters to decide in November whether to amend the state constitution to

Please see **PERRY** on Page 4



**local life**  
Todd Amdor and Matt Stone are partners in life and in *Pride*.  
PAGE 8

**dish**  
Richard Dreyfuss plays a homo in *'Poseidon'* remake and *'The L Word'* gets expert direction.  
PAGE 17







# Houston Pride Celebration



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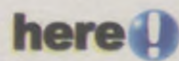
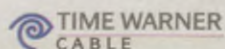
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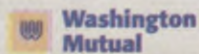


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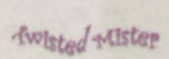
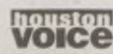


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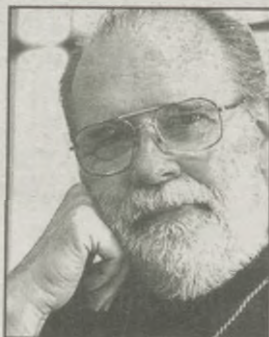
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## local news briefs

### Retiring activist Ray Hill gets roasted

Activist Ray Hill, who announced recently that he will retire from activism following the June 18 Conference on the Future at the George R. Brown Convention Center, is the object of a roast to be conducted today (June 10) at 1415 California. Billed as "The Well Deserved 'Roast' of Ray Hill," the event will raise funds for the Houston GLBT Community Center. Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston is among the organizations that will participate. Hill, whose business cards read "Citizen Provocateur," came out to his family in 1981 while a student at Galena Park High School. He has since worked for causes including gay rights and the rights of prisoners. The roast gets underway at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the door, and seating is limited.



Activist Ray Hill will be the subject of a roast later today at 1415 California.

### 52 weeks of Blockbuster up for grabs at Empower conference

Empower, the annual business expo highlighting gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses, gets underway Saturday morning at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Sponsored by the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, this year's event includes a conference called Equality 101 that features a number of speakers, including Eileen Terry, Senior Vice President of Diversity for Blockbuster Video. Terry, an out lesbian, brings with her 150 "Blockbuster for a Year" memberships that will be handed out to the first 150 attendees at the 9 a.m. session. The conference deals with a number of issues affecting gays and lesbians, including retirement, the law, building voting power and organizing for change. Admission to the conference is \$10. Admission to the expo is \$5. Admission to a "Taste of Montrose" luncheon is \$25. Chamber Executive Director Coy Tow said coupons are available at participating businesses that would lower entrance fees by \$5.

### Miss Mint Julep Kick-Off will benefit Montrose Clinic

The "Miss Mint Julep Kick-Off," being called a night of live cabaret and fine dining, features performances by Clay Howell, Marsha Carlton, Keith Caldwell and Lisa Whitley and dinner at Riva's Italian Restaurant, 1117 Missouri St. The event is at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Tickets are \$25, and a portion of the ticket price benefits the Montrose Clinic. For information and to purchase tickets, call 713-830-3015.



Rev. Madison T. Shockley, II, (center) pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, Calif., will deliver the keynote address at the annual GLBT Pride Interfaith Service in Houston June 19.

### California pastor to speak at Pride week Interfaith Service

Rev. Madison T. Shockley, II, pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, Calif., will deliver the keynote address during the annual GLBT Pride Interfaith Service at 7 p.m. June 19 at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 West 11th Ave. The title of Shockley's address is "What's Love Got to Do With It?" The event, sponsored each year by the Interfaith Alliance, is expected to draw participants from varied faiths.

From staff and wire reports

## national news

# Conn. leads in gains

By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

Gay rights opponents and proponents battled in the courts, in referendum campaigns and in legislatures over domestic partnership rights, marriage and discrimination.

Generally, Christopher Labonte of the Human Rights Campaign said, it had been a mixed bag during the first six months of the legislative session. "The political environment is extremely challenging to say the least," he said. "Our community is used as a wedge to rally the religious right."

Despite an at times hostile political climate, many states passed laws banning discrimination based on someone's sexual orientation or gender identity, including Colorado, Hawaii and Illinois (however Colorado Gov. Bill Owen vetoed his state's bill). Maryland extended its hate crimes act to include homosexuals and transgender people.

Since January of this year, several states have moved toward recognizing same-sex couples and granting them the same rights and protections enjoyed by married couples. Six state legislatures — California, Washington, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico and Maryland — voted down constitutional amendments banning gay marriage, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

Possibly the most significant gain for gay rights was achieved in Connecticut. In April, it became the first state to legalize civil unions without court intervention. Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell signed legislation that grants same sex couples the same rights as married couples. However, an amendment on the House bill was added which states that marriage is defined as between a man and a woman, a move Rell supported. Vermont and Massachusetts also recognize civil unions, largely as a result of lawsuits.

Other states also moved toward recognizing civil unions or trying to extend some of marriage's benefits to same sex couples. This was often a difficult battle because many conservatives feared these protections were a slippery slope to condoning same-sex marriage.

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski (D), along with Senate Democrats, support a bill that will legalize civil unions for gay couples, granting them many of the same rights of married couples. Originally the bill also outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation. The civil union bill passed a Senate committee, 3 to 2.

House Republicans supported a reciprocal benefits bill which would give about 20 benefits to any two people older than 18, including same-sex couples and relatives. The bill mainly addressed property issues and medical emergencies. Critics of the reciprocal benefits bill said it failed to address the needs of families.

An effort in California to legalize same-sex marriage was defeated as the legislative session ended. Del. Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) sponsored the measure, which, if it passed, would be the first state to legalize same sex marriage. The bill need-



GOP Gov. M. Jodi Rell signed into law civil unions for Connecticut. It was the first time a state has provided the same benefits it bestows to straight couples without a court mandate. (File photo)

ed 41 votes in the Assembly to pass; it failed with a 37 to 36 vote, according to Equality California.

In Tennessee, Rep. Chris Clem sponsored a bill to ban gay parents from adopting. The House subcommittee changed the bill so it does not bar gay people outright; now the bill favors heterosexual, married couples over singles.

The judiciary was a frequent recourse for gay rights supporters. Courts in New York and San Francisco ruled it was unconstitutional to deny same-sex couples marriage licenses; both cases are being appealed.

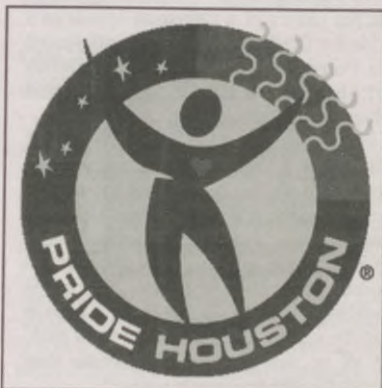
### Progress for same-sex families

Progress was also made for gay families' rights as well. In New Jersey, a judge ruled that same-sex parents should both be listed on their baby's birth certificate. Arkansas started removing questions about sexual orientation from its foster parent application. And in Illinois, the state Supreme Court ordered a 5-year-old boy returned to his lesbian foster parent. A lower court had ruled the boy should be given back to his allegedly abusive grandparents.

In Florida, a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit that challenged the Defense of Marriage Act. A same-sex couple had asked the court to force Florida to recognize their Massachusetts marriage. The plaintiffs will appeal.

Scott J. Bloch, head of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, announced last month that he would not protect federal employees from being fired because they were gay.

An explosive fight grew in the legislature over President Bush's nominees, several of who were anti-gay. To preserve the filibuster, a compromise was reached that allows an up or down vote on three nominees. One of those nominees, William Pryor, has been called the most anti-gay nominee in history. While Pryor was attorney general in Alabama, he wrote a brief that argued constitutionally protecting consensual sex between homosexuals would result in protections for incest, necrophilia, pedophilia, prostitution and adultery.



### Mandatory meeting for Pride parade entrants

A mandatory meeting has been scheduled for representatives of organizations that plan to have floats or entries in the June 25 Houston Pride Parade. The meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. Parade packets containing assigned positions and rules will be distributed. More information is available at 713-529-6979 or www.pridehouston.org.



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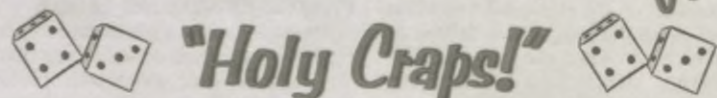
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## local news



Randall Ellis, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, said the governor's actions help place Texas at the top of the list of intolerant states.

## Perry's comments anger gay rights activists nationwide

PERRY, continued from Page 1

prohibit gay marriage and civil unions.

At the same time, Perry also signed a measure that would restrict abortion by requiring girls under 18 to get parental consent before they can have an abortion.

The choice of Calvary Christian Academy for signing the measures echoes Perry's campaign plan to celebrate with "Christian friends."

Gay activists describe Perry's signing of the proposed constitutional amendment on same-sex marriage as grandstanding, since the measure required no signature from the governor before being placed on the November ballot.

"Once again, Texas leads the way in denying civil rights by being so backward," said Randall Ellis, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL).

About 100 protesters lined up outside the school during the event, according to published reports.

While LGRL objected to Perry's choice of a venue for the signing ceremony, Ellis said it was what the governor said in a press conference following the event that concerns him the most.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist Bud Kennedy reported on June 7, 2005 that when Perry was asked what he would say to gay war veterans who come home from Iraq to learn they've lost all hope of being able to get married, the governor was quoted as saying, "Texans made a decision about marriage and if there's a state that has more lenient views than Texas, then maybe that's a better place for them to live."

Ellis called Perry's comments "shameful," and added, "Rick Perry should apologize to all veterans for suggesting that Texas does not honor their service. When

injured soldiers are coming home every-day from Iraq, we should honor everyone's service to our state and country, not judge them and tell them to get out."

### 'Beyond the reach of activist judges'

As Perry signed the marriage bill, he noted that because Defense of Marriage acts have come under legal attack in recent years, the proposed constitutional amendment places the issue, "beyond the reach of activist judges."

Perry added, "History tells us, and most Texans believe, that marriage exists for more than the convenience of consenting adults, but also for the eternal benefit of our children."

Ellis said he wonders how much Perry's upcoming re-election fight played into his choice of a Christian school as a venue for the bill signing. It is anticipated that Perry will face U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison in his bid for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in 2006.

Perry's spokesperson, Kathy Walt, had this to say about protestors outside the school who carried signs about the separation of church and state, "The critics are generally those who object to people of faith participating in government or the electoral process. There are a number of critics who would object to this bill signing if it were in a public school, a library, a Wal-Mart parking lot or any other venue because they oppose pro-life, pro-family issues."

Those who voiced opposition to the bill signing were not all from Texas. Gay rights activists from around the country commented regarding not only the choice of a venue but also Perry's comments.

"No family should have to leave their home to be protected under the law," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "Almost 43,000 same-sex couples live in Texas, and Gov. Perry should be treating those families with the same amount of respect and dignity that he gives other constituents."

### MORE INFO

Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas  
www.lgrrl.org



## national news briefs

### Defense switches focus in Calif. transgender killing case



Sylvia Guerrero, had her son's name legally changed after her death as a sign of respect. (AP photo by Anda Chu/Fremont Argus)

HAYWARD, Calif. (AP) — Darkness descended the night a transgender teenager was beaten and strangled to death, the attorney for one of the men accused in the killing said as he laid out his case for the jury. In a surprising departure from the first trial in the case which ended with a hung jury last year, attorney Bill DuBois said his client, Jose Merel, would take the stand and talk about his genuine attachment for 17-year-old Gwen Araujo. "He will tell you about the horror of that evening, about seeing into the heart of darkness that descended over that house on the fourth of October 2002," DuBois said in his opening statement last week. Merel, Michael Magidson and Jason Cazares, all 25, face charges of first-degree murder. Prosecutors say Araujo, who was born a boy named Edward but came to believe her true identity was female, was killed after her biological gender was revealed in a confrontation at Merel's house in Newark, a San Francisco suburb. Merel's attorney, meanwhile, said his client cared for Araujo and did not do her serious injury.

### Public policy branch of Focus on the Family raises \$9M

DENVER — In its first six months of existence, the public policy branch of the conservative Christian group Focus on the Family raised funds equivalent to \$50,000 a day, records reviewed by the Denver Post show, the Summit Daily News reported. Focus Action brought in almost \$9 million since it was started by James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, a non-profit group that, as such, is barred from backing or opposing political candidates, the Daily News reported. From April to September 2004, Focus Action garnered \$8.8 million, all from individuals, according to the newspaper. The group then spent almost \$2 million to distribute newsletters, e-mails and articles to prompt involvement in issues including gay marriage. The action group now wants to revive a proposed Federal Marriage Amendment to ban gay unions, according to the newspaper.

### Colo., Hawaii schools react differently to bullying videos

LAKEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Officials in the school district that includes Columbine High School have nixed the filming of a movie at another school in the county because it deals in part with bullying. Jefferson County school officials said they were concerned that filming "The Sensei" at Alameda High School would reopen the wounds of Columbine, where 12 students and one teacher were fatally shot by two students in 1999 who had complained that they were bullied. The movie by writer-director Diana Lee Inosanto is about a gay teenager who learns martial arts after being bullied by high school athletes in the early 1980s, at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic. Stevenson said the board denial had nothing to do with the film's treatment of homosexuality and AIDS. In Wailuku, Hawaii, about 300 students at a Maui school have been shown a video encouraging tolerant behavior toward gays. Officials at King Kekaulike High School had planned to show but decided to require parental permission after some parents and residents objected.

### Navajo Nation Council overrides veto of same-sex marriage ban

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — The Navajo Nation Tribal Council has voted to override a veto of a law that bans same-sex marriage on the nation's largest Indian reservation. The council voted 62-14, with 12 delegates abstaining or absent last week, to override the decision by Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr. last month to veto the Dine Marriage Act of 2005. Dine is the Navajos' name for themselves. The act defines marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman and prohibits plural marriages as well as marriage between parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, brothers and sisters and other close relatives. "In the traditional Navajo ways, gay marriage is a big 'no, no,'" said Kenneth Maryboy, a delegate from Montezuma Creek, Utah, who voted in favor of the ban. "It all boils down to the circle of life. We were put on the Earth to produce offspring."

### Zions Bank pulls sponsorship of HRC fund-raiser in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Zions Bank pulled its sponsorship of a gay rights group's fund-raiser last week after receiving anonymous phone calls saying the event supports same-sex marriage. The event is to support the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay rights advocacy group. Zions Bank spokesperson Robert Brough said the sponsorship was pulled to "avoid any misinterpretation related to the controversy around this issue [same-sex marriage]. We signed onto this thinking it was a Democratic Party human rights event to promote equality in the work force, particularly single mothers," he said. Brough said the sponsorship was requested by philanthropist Bruce Bastian, who is hosting the fund-raiser at his Orem, Utah, home. "Without being intimately familiar" with the HRC, Brough said, bank officials agreed to sponsor the event framed as a fund-raiser for work-force equality.

From staff and wire reports

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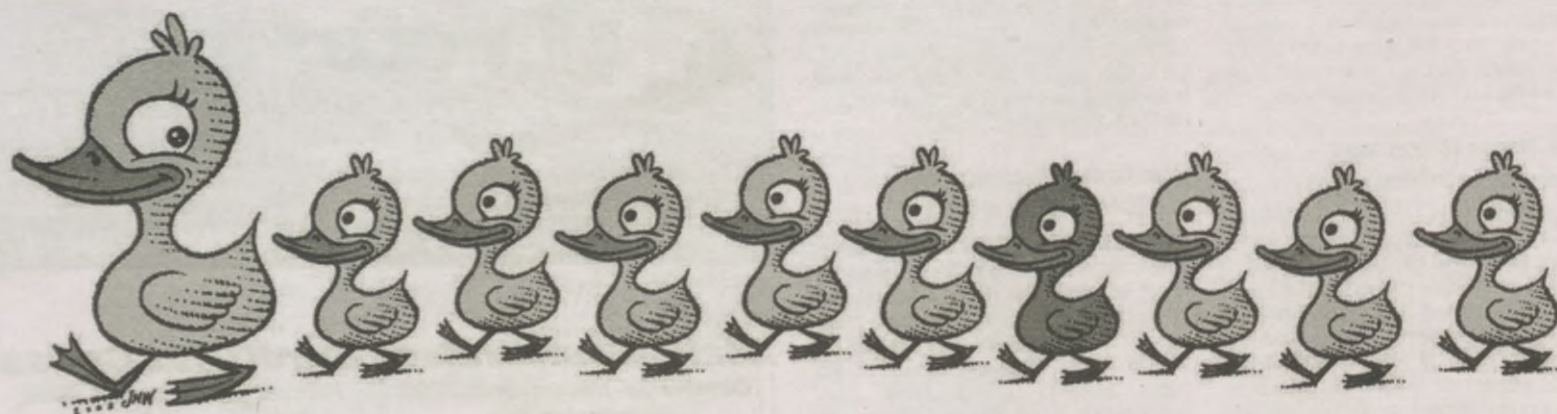
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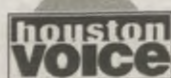
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## national news

## Marriage bill co-sponsor abstained from vote in Calif.

CALIFORNIA, continued from Page 1

the same-sex Latino couples in their districts.

According to Assembly member Rudy Bermudez (D-Los Angeles), the power of the Catholic Church in the Latino community was a factor in why several Latino Democratic Assembly members did not support the bill.

Burmudez said that he voted for the marriage bill, though his office was visited by several religious groups that expressed opposition to the measure.

Burmudez said that although he sees same-sex marriage as a civil rights issue, he is concerned about the backlash that AB 19 may provoke.

"When the Latinos were pushing hard for immigrants' rights for children, the radical right came in and pushed actions that eroded affirmative action for all," Burmudez said. "The radical right, who sells bigotry and racism, they are going to attack in an initiative process. ... We are going to lose rights we shouldn't be losing."

Monica Taher monitors the Spanish language media in California for its portrayal of gays as a media coordinator for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

"The media in California has evolved," Taher said. "They have been covering the issue from a human standpoint interviewing couples about how [AB 19] would affect them. This is an obvious difference from how gay and lesbian issues were covered 10 years ago."

Taher said that the Latino social conservatives, like social conservatives in general have promoted fear, ignorance and confusion with statements like, "If we let gay and lesbian people get married today, next they are going to want to marry their cats."

The religious messages against same-sex marriage in California are coming not so much from the church directly as from outside groups that are using religious language to urge Latinos to oppose same-

sex marriage, Taher said.

## Log Cabin blames Dems for loss

The vote on AB 19 took place in the context of broader legal battles over marriage in the state.

Assembly members said that their offices were besieged with calls both for and against the measure up until the moment of the final vote.

Assembly member Mervyn Dymally (D-Compton), one of the co-sponsors of the bill, was absent on the day of the vote. AB 19 proponents speculated that the absence of a key supporter dissuaded a few undecided Assembly members from voting for the bill. Dymally's office did not comment on his reasons for not voting.

"I think that the vote on AB19 shows that the LGBT community has a lot of work to do here in California to educate the public in general," said Jeff Bissiri, director of the Log Cabin Republicans of California, a gay GOP group.

Bissiri said that the bill failed because it lacked support in the Democratic Party.

"The simple math is that if Democrats want a bill to pass the Assembly it will pass."

John Marble, spokesperson for the National Stonewall Democrats, a partisan gay rights group, said that the bulk of the blame should be laid at the feet of the Republicans.

"There are a dozen Log Cabin Republican chapters in California," Marble said. "They failed to convince even a single Republican Assembly member to stand up for gays and their families in one of the most progressive states in the country."

One reason given by those who opposed AB 19 is that the people had already spoken on the definition of marriage when they adopted Proposition 22 in 2000, which said that marriage should be between a man and a woman only. Laws adopted by voter initiatives in California cannot be changed by the Legislature.

The idea that Prop 22 and AB 19 would conflict was strengthened when a

judge upheld the California law expanding domestic partnership rights. In that case, conservative groups argued that California was violating Prop 22 by "creating marriage under another name" with expanded domestic partnership rights. The judge found that the law did not conflict with Prop 22, because it did not create marriage in that marriage is limited to a man and a woman in California.

In reaction to the ruling that upheld the domestic partnership laws, a coalition of social conservative groups proposed a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. In California, constitutional amendments can be initiated either through the legislature or through petition.

The marriage amendment failed to pass the House or Senate, and amendment proponents filed paperwork to begin a voter initiative. A constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage is expected to be on the ballot in June of 2006.

Pam Chamberlain is a researcher with Political Research Associates, an independent non-profit research center that studies social conservatives.

Chamberlain said that the Massachusetts case that established same-sex marriage happened because the lawyers involved in the case chose a strategic time to make their arguments.

"Whenever there is an attempt by a social group to advance, according to social movement theory, there is always a backlash, that is part of the process," Chamberlain said.

"Abortion used to be the touchstone issue that could unite disparate segments of the right," Chamberlain said. "But it turns out now plenty of people who might have an abortion are still against same-sex marriage. Homophobic messages really resonate now."

## Religious groups divided

Religious groups were divided over AB 19.

The California Council of Churches, which represents 31 mainstream and progressive Protestant denominations, has been supportive of AB 19 and of the right of churches to support or refuse marriages.

Elizabeth Sholes, communications director for the Council of Churches, said that California's domestic partnership laws established secular rights for same-sex couples and that marriage is a faith issue that should be left to individual congregations.

Sholes said that the Council of Churches believes that the Bible rails against abusive relationships, not gay relationships, and that committed relationships strengthen society.

"Religious support for same-sex marriage has not received much media attention," Sholes said, because it makes better news when people speak with venom."

Carol Hogan, communications director for the California Catholic Conference, said the attempt to pass AB 19 was a "fool's errand," because of Prop 22 and California's law against overturning voter-enacted legislation.

Hogan said that the Catholic Church was not the lead organization opposing AB 19. She said the church opposes discrimination against gays and is not averse to domestic partnership benefits.

Hogan said that the Catholic Church believes that the state should have a role in defining marriage.

The conflict between religious and civil rights perspectives on same-sex marriage was exemplified during the Assembly vote by the struggle of Assembly member Alberto Torrico (D-Newark), a born-again Christian and civil rights lawyer.

Torrico was initially among those who abstained from the vote, but after intensive consultations with religious groups and direct lobbying by a gay family from his district Torrico ended up voting for AB 19 in the final round.

"Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's. Render unto God that which is God's," Torrico said in explaining his vote.

## Ford boycott bombs

By EARTHA MELZER

Less than a week after the American Family Association, a Mississippi-based social conservative organization, declared a boycott of the Ford Motor Company, it called it off, saying that it would put the boycott on hold till December pending talks with the company.

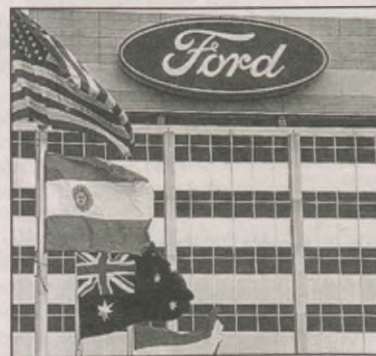
The boycott was started on May 31 in response to Ford's support of gay groups, advertising in gay publications, inclusive workplace policies and sponsorship of Pride festivals.

According to the AFA, Ford has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to

gay civil rights groups such as the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Campaign.

On a Web site created for the boycott the AFA argued that people should not buy Ford products — including Lincoln, Mercury, Mazda, Volvo, Jaguar and Land Rover — because profits from those sales would go to organizations that favor same-sex marriage.

The boycott suspension was declared soon after the owner of a Ford dealership in Dallas, Jerry Reynolds, was alerted to the boycott and grew concerned that it might affect his business. Reynolds contacted AFA



Executive Director Tim Wildmon, arranged a meeting between AFA and concerned dealers and struck a suspension deal.

An article in the online Automotive Business Review, which ran while the boycott was in effect, said that the AFA boycott

was unlikely to generate a problematic level of negative publicity for Ford and might even increase sales by gay customers.

Dan Sturgis of Pride at Work, the gay and lesbian caucus of the AFL-CIO which represents the United Auto Workers, said that when the boycott was announced, workers were reassured about their own standing. Sturgis said Ford officials told him that they were receiving an equal mix of support for and against the company's gay policies.

The Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force released statements celebrating the quick end to the boycott. "Ford has made it very clear that they will not respond to AFA demands and the AFA has backed down," said Roberta Sklar, communications director for the NG&LTE. "We have no reason to be concerned about Ford having a conversation with the AFA."



## Partners in life and partners in Pride

Todd Amdor and Matt Stone have created a new and improved Pride Festival for 2005

By DAWN RORIE

After almost a year of planning, the Pride Festival is back.

While the annual bash before the parade is always a popular event for those who wish to drink, dance and be merry before the parade begins, festival co-chairs (and partners) Todd Amdor and Matthew Stone have been working to make this year's event bigger and better than ever.

This is the fifth year that Amdor and Stone have volunteered for Pride Houston, and the second year that they have been involved with coordinating the festival, which has evolved considerably since its inception.

Houston's Pride Festival began as a Pride rally after the parade, back when the parade was held in the heat of the day. When the parade made its switch to the nighttime, the festival moved to the Garden in the Heights.

In recent years, the Festival has found a home in Montrose, finally landing at the intersection of Westheimer and Yoakum. With Yoakum closed to vehicle traffic on Pride day, festival goers can now celebrate all afternoon and continue mingling and partying as they gather in a special private viewing area to watch the Parade.

Other than location, what makes this Pride Festival different than last year's—or the year before that? According to Amdor, more community involvement has grown the festival into what organizers hope will be "the epicenter of gay Houston before the Pride celebration."

Thanks to approximately 75 businesses and non-profit organizations, the 2005 Pride Festival will feature plenty of food, drinks, booths, and tons of entertainment.

In addition to food and drinks provided by the Montrose Diner and Slider's Bar and Daquiris, festival-goers will be able to buy merchandise and find information about various gay-friendly businesses and non-profit organizations at the many



Matt Stone and Todd Amdor are the chairs of the 2005 Pride Festival that takes place the afternoon of June 25. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

booths that will be set up at the event.

The Hollyfield Foundation, which provides funding for many HIV/AIDS and non-profit organizations that serve lesbians and gays, will be showcasing 40 groups such as AIDS Foundation Houston, the Montrose Clinic, and the newly formed Houston Equal Rights Alliance.

According to Amdor, the festival is "trying to highlight some of the local non-profit groups that aren't as visible as some of the larger organizations."

This year, festival attendees will be able to test their pitching skills at Dunk'd—a dunking booth that will feature "GLBT community leaders, muscle boys, and drag queens," says Stone.

Pride Houston president Nick Brines, activist/lawyer Jerry Simoneaux, hotties from Muscles in Action and divas from the Miss Camp America Foundation are among the people who will brave the icy waters of Dunk'd in order to entertain the masses.

A wide variety of musical entertainment will rock the audience from two stages. Local acts such as the Houston Pride Band and skyblue72 will perform on the Community Showcase Stage.

### Sophie B. Hawkins performs

The Bud Light Stage features a lineup of artists that includes festival headliners Sophie B. Hawkins and Pansy Division. Grammy-nominated singer Sophie B.

Hawkins is known for her chart-topping singles "Damn! I Wish I Was Your Lover" and "As I Lay Me Down."

"Sophie is excited about the opportunity to perform for the gay community in Houston," says Stone.

Pansy Division, "the original gay punk band," came crashing out of the closet in the 90's to develop quite a following. They have performed more than 800 live shows and opened for Green Day's World Tour.

After partying for hours in the heat, cooling down is a must. The Red Bull Energy Dance tent will be cooling down bodies while keeping the party hot, hot, hot. The 1,000-square-foot, air-conditioned tent will feature music spun by some of Houston's hottest DJ's. "The key word here is 'air-conditioned!'" says Stone.

Although the Pride Festival will be an entertaining event for adults, Amdor and Stone emphasize that the event will be fun for families, as well. All entertainment will be family-friendly, and the festival will feature children's activities, including a blow-up moonwalk and an exhibit by the Houston SPCA. Children under the age of 6 get into the festival for free.

Amdor and Stone hope that heterosexuals will attend the event, as well. "Events like this change people's minds about what the gay community is and who its members are," Amdor says.

Stone agrees, explaining that the festival is not only a way for the gays and lesbians to reconnect, but also a way to educate heterosexuals. "This is a chance for all people to have fun and celebrate our community, our culture, our music, and learn more about our organizations," he says.

Festival tickets, costing \$10, can be purchased at Houston Buyers Club, 3224 Yoakum; Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond; Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer; and The Assistance Fund, 1116 Jackson or online at the Pride Web site.

After organizing such a huge festival for this year's Pride, Stone and Amdor can't imagine how they will top it in 2006, but they are determined to try. Planning for next year's Pride will begin just a month or so after the last bits of this year's parade paraphernalia are swept off of Westheimer.

Somehow, between working full time jobs and volunteering at various organizations—Amdor is an attorney for Bracewell and Giuliani LLP and serves on the board of the Hollyfield Foundation, and Stone is assistant director of sales for the Hilton Westchase and a board member of the Houston Black Tie Dinner—the pair manage to make every year's Pride celebration one of their top priorities.

The celebration and festival, says Amdor, is "Pride's gift to the community."

### MORE INFO

Houston Pride Festival  
2 p.m. until parade time  
June 25  
Yoakum and Westheimer  
[www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)



## out in houston

(Photos by Dalton DeHart)



At the recent Lesbian Health Initiative health fair, (from left) Deborah Bell and Lucy Watson look on as Pat Hilton signs in.



Ricky Comeaux (left) and Jerry Atwood reunited recently for a concert benefiting Bering Omega Community Services.



Performers from the cast of Disney's 'On the Record' including (from left) associate conductor Rick Bertone, Randy Meyer, Josh Franklin, Joanne Bonasso and Kyle Greer showed up recently for Musical Monday at Meteor.



Entertainers (from left) Sharon Montgomery, Jerry Atwood, Ricky Comeaux, Glynda McGinnis and Steve Dixon sang their hearts out recently in a show that benefitted Bering Omega Community Services.



Artist John Palmer (right) celebrated another opening recently with (from left) A. David Carlson and Terry Neffendorf.



Pitcher Dawn Harrell waits as the ball sails toward home plate in the recent Lone Star Classic.



Groove Girlz Productions founders Yvonne Feece (left) and Rebecca Mahaffey welcomed D.J. Farrah Cox (right) during the recent Groove Girlz Pride event.

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# Forum

## editorial

# Singing the right notes for the choir

Looking for motive in Gov. Rick Perry's signing of anti-gay and anti-abortion legislation last Sunday at an evangelical Christian school in Fort Worth

By BINNIE FISHER



HE INK HAD BARELY dried on the signatures Gov. Rick Perry affixed to two pieces of legislation last Sunday — one of them a proposed constitutional amendment banning gay

marriage and civil unions — and speculators began reasoning why he chose to stage the signing ceremony at an evangelical Christian school.

The most common reasoning was that he was playing to his base, died-in-the-wool conservative Christians who oppose same-sex marriage and abortion, the subject of the other piece of legislation.

The head of an organization working toward equality for gays and lesbians had another thought. Maybe Perry wanted to upstage a potential opponent in the race for the 2006 Republican gubernatorial nomination.

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison would be a formidable opponent for Perry, whose approval ratings of late have not been exactly stellar.

Although legislation to require girls under 18 to gain parental consent before getting an abortion needed Perry's signature, the amendment to ban gay marriage that will be presented to voters in November did not need the governor's John Henry.

But, signing those documents surrounded by other conservative Republican legislators and evangelical Christians made for the kind of photos that should appeal to Perry's constituents.

Perry's spokesperson said there would be complaints regardless of where Perry chose to sign the bills, and she shrugged off the 100-member opposition that gathered outside the school carrying signs about separation of church and state.

It was all so perfect for Perry. And when asked what he would say to gay veterans coming home from Iraq regarding the marriage amendment, the governor suggested that if they don't like the laws in Texas, they should find another state

in which to live.

That statement was denounced by gay activists from around the country, but it was likely applauded by those who gathered at the school for the signing. They're all for helping returning veterans and displaying those yellow ribbons on their cars, but that's for heterosexual veterans. Gay veterans can go to wherever. Hell, maybe.

### IT WAS SUCH A NASTY THING TO

say that one has to wonder if perhaps there was a motive beyond grandstanding or singing to the choir or even upstaging Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Thinking back, what in Rick Perry's not-too-distant past might prompt him to disassociate himself from gays to the extent that he would suggest gay veterans coming home from Iraq not come back to Texas?

Ah yes, there were those rumors early in 2004. They were nasty little rumors about Perry and another male employed at the capitol that began being e-mailed around the state early last year.

At one point, a group of demonstrators gathered outside the Governor's Mansion wielding signs with slogans like, "It's OK to be gay."

A story in the Austin Chronicle mentioned the rumors but also indicated that no real evidence existed to substantiate them.

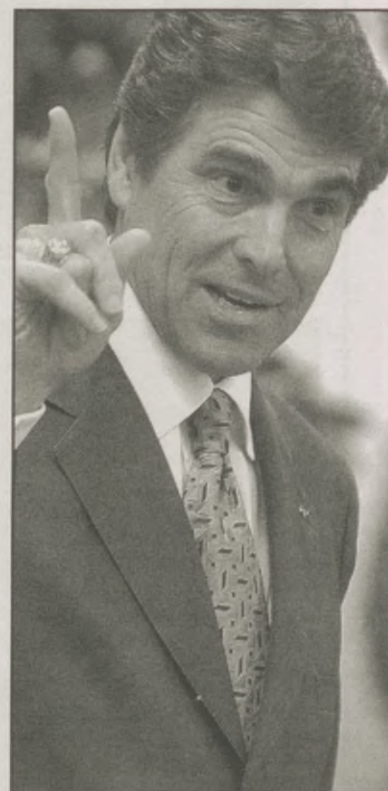
At the time, Perry's spokesperson, Kathy Walt, dismissed the rumors this way, "These are false, malicious and hurtful rumors, and the Chronicle's own investigation acknowledges that fact."

Perry and wife, Anita, denied the rumors in an interview with an Austin television station. The rumblings eventually quieted.

The point to be made here is that whether there was any truth to the rumors, publicly denouncing gays in a ceremony at a Christian school might be considered preventative medicine.

Fear causes us to run as fast as possible from that which worries us the most.

A perfect example is Alan Keyes, the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate who



lost in 2004 to Democrat Barack Obama. Keyes is adamant in voicing his opposition to gays. He has a lesbian daughter.

And then there's the mayor of Spokane, Wash., Jim West. Could there have been a more vocal opponent of equal rights for gays and lesbians? After an investigation by the Spokesman Review, the mayor admitted recently that he'd had sex with men.

In his zeal to prevent such rumors from surfacing, as a state legislator he backed an unsuccessful measure to ban gays and lesbians from working in schools day care centers and some state agencies.

As the incoming mayor of Spokane, he opposed offering domestic partner benefits to City Hall workers.

This is not to suggest that the rumors about Perry were true. But, let's face it, those rumors could do some damage should they surface again just in time for what is shaping up to be a hard-fought campaign to remain as governor of Texas.

Maybe snuggling up to the base and letting them know that you really are opposed to equal rights for gays and lesbians is a good thing. Signing a piece of legislation that doesn't need your signature, well, that's just icing on the cake.

@ Binnie Fisher is editor of the Houston Voice. She can be reached at bfisher@houstonvoice.com





## viewpoint JASON VICTOR SERNIUS



Marriage equality came up four votes short in California last week, no thanks to Bible-quoting pols from both parties.

# Painfully close to victory in Calif.

FOUR VOTES SHORT. YOU COULD LOOK at it as a body count.

You might practice reciting the figures as would a TV news anchor: eyes wide open, voice authoritative yet dispassionate, accents on key syllables, offering bare-bones information while leaving room for the commercials that pay the way.

Except this time, detachment is not an option. The count is about us.

On June 2, the California State Assembly came up four votes shy of passing AB19, a bill that would have sanctioned same-sex marriage in California.

Introduced by gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), the bill would have changed the state's definition of marriage to a union between two persons instead of a union between a man and a woman.

Even though the final tally was 37-36 in favor of the bill, it was four votes shy of the 41-vote majority needed to pass.

For the minority Republicans, voting was a no-brainer. They followed the party line, which thanks to Daddy Bush is far more clearly defined than Dorothy's Yellow Brick Road to Oz.

Faced with choices about life, liberty, and the pursuit of property, they chose the latter, cited the Bible, and voted no as a solid, I-know-where-my-next-meal-is-coming-from bloc.

Leno, lesbian Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), and other members of California's gay Assembly caucus

did their best. They even enlisted the help of lesbian couple Orzu and Ramona Gatto and their 17-year-old daughter Marina.

The Gatto family of San Carlos, Calif., approached Assembly members on an individual basis. Among their questions: "Is this child less equal than another child? Does this child's family deserve to be treated differently from another?"

SOME DEMOCRATIC ASSEMBLY members also consulted the Bible. Some thought of their constituencies, others of future elections and the money they needed to keep their children in private school, safe from the ruinous influences of California's abysmal public school system.

Some even changed their minds. But it was not enough.

After the final vote, 41-year old Ramona Gatto expressed shock at the outcome. "After talking to a lot of members face to face," she said, "they would not look me in the eye and say they would not support equality."

Leno was more direct. "If this body can't pass AB19," he declared, "it should clarify its position and say we do believe that gay and lesbian couples are second-class citizens."

IN RELATED NEWS, ON MAY 31 California Attorney General Bill Lockyer filed notice to appeal San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard



Gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) sponsored AB 19, which would legalize same-sex marriages in California. (Photo by AP)

A. Kramer's March 14 ruling that California laws restricting marriage rights to opposite-sex couples violate equal protection guarantees in the California Constitution.

Lockyer, as the California official responsible for defending state laws that have been challenged in court, has no choice but to appeal Kramer's ruling, but his act guarantees a ruling from the California Supreme Court next year on the constitutionality of California's current prohibition of same-sex marriage.

So after the California defeat, is our glass half full or half empty? The

answer may depend upon viewing the question from a blue state or red state of mind.

From my vantage point in California, cracks are appearing in the monolith, and neither words nor missiles nor Fox News barrages are enough to patch them up.

Beyond expressing our outrage at yet another refusal to honor our love, the only viable response is to deepen our relationships with each other and press on.

@ Jason Victor Serinus is an Oakland-based freelance writer and can be reached at [jserinus@planetaria.com](mailto:jserinus@planetaria.com).

## THE

As the Alley Theatre closes an extended run of "Steel Magnolias," why do you think the play appeals to gays and lesbians?



Long-term friends who can live with each other's bitchiness and laugh about it.

MIKE EVANS, 33  
Houston  
Dog Trainer



Big hair, witty sarcasm and the revelation that they weren't the only ones wearing '80s shoulder pads.

ANDREA LAVER, 29  
Houston  
Costume designer



The campy one-liners. Everybody knows I love a ba-da-boom joke.

DANNY KALLEN, 45  
Houston  
District manager



It takes place in a beauty shop, and the girls are all purty.

PATTI ALDREDGE, 49  
Houston  
Social worker



Gay boys love strong Southern women with attitude and sass.

BRYAN HLAVINKA, 31  
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Engineer

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Interviews and photos by Dalton DeHart



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**Kiss and Tell**  
Brittany Murphy tells a British mag that her favorite cinematic smooches were with women.  
Page 17

JUNE 10, 2005

## what's old is new

FROM JAMES DEAN AND JOAN CRAWFORD TO JOHN WATERS AND BETTE DAVIS,  
SUMMER DVD RELEASES STARRING SOME OLD FAVORITES ABOUND.

By MATTHEW FORKE



OR MANY DVD COLLECTORS, MYSELF included, empty shelf space has become an unaffordable luxury. So, how to ease the keep-case clutter: Trek to Ikea? Call California Closets? Sell used DVDs on eBay?

Of little help to gay pack rats are movie studios that continue to churn out supplement-rich special editions of TV favorites and multi-disk superstar collections. Here is a sample of what's available this summer.

**"The Best of Everything":** Or, as one Amazon.com customer calls it, "When Breasts Were Everything." Glossy melodrama perfectly captures the excitement of '50s New York as three ambitious secretaries (Hope Lange, Suzy Parker and Diane Baker) brave the "lipstick jungle" of a major publishing company, each threatened by boorish lovers, lecherous executives and Mildred Pierce herself, Joan Crawford as an embittered editor. (1959, Fox Home Video, \$19.95)

**"The Golden Girls Season Two":** Shoulder pads and blue hair in place, "Girls" hit the ground running in its sophomore year (which won an Outstanding Comedy Series Emmy Award). Guest stars include Burt Reynolds, George Clooney, Rita Moreno and Nancy Walker. (1986-87, Buena Vista Home Video, \$49.99)

**"The Detective":** Mia Farrow should thank her lucky stars for choosing to work with Roman Polanski in "Rosemary's Baby" instead of then-husband Frank Sinatra in this homophobic museum piece. Worth viewing for pre-Stonewall historical purposes only. Also stars Robert Duvall, Lee Remick and Jack Klugman. (1968, Fox Home Video, \$14.98)

**"The Doris Day Collection":** Ready to take a "Sentimental Journey" with the top female box office draw of the 1960s? Miss Day's radiant new 8-disc set includes "Young Man With a Horn" (1950, with Lauren Bacall as Kirk Douglas' lesbian wife); "Lullaby of Broadway" (1951); "Love Me or Leave Me" (1955); "Billy Rose's Jumbo" (1962); "Please Don't Eat the Daisies" (1960); "The Glass Bottom Boat" (1966); "Calamity Jane" (1953) and "Pajama Game" (1957). Also recommended for Day fans: Alfred Hitchcock's "The Man Who Knew Too Much" (1956) or anything with frequent costar Rock Hudson. (Warner Home Video, \$66.92)

**"The Complete James Dean Collection":** In honor of the 50th anniversary of his death, Dean's three major films,



Johnny Knoxville and Tracey Ullman appear in "A Dirty Shame," a tale of suburban dysfunction by Baltimore director John Waters. (Photo courtesy of Fine Line Features)

"Rebel Without a Cause" (1955), "East of Eden" (1955) and "Giant" (1956), are now available in a six-disc, boxed set from Warner Home Video. (\$49.92)

**"Dead Ringers":** "Separation can be terrifying," reads the tagline, an observation that doubly applies to the bizarre sibling bond between identical twin gynecologists Elliott and Beverly Mantle. Beware of the chill-inducing "Instruments for Operating on Mutant Women." (1988, Warner Home Video, \$19.97)

**"Wonder Woman: The Complete Third Season":** Signaling the death knell for everything great and glorious about the '70s, the third and final season of Wonder Woman bounds into stores just in time for summer. (1978-79, Warner Home Video, \$39.98)

**"A Dirty Shame":** The latest tale of suburban dysfunction from Baltimore director John Waters pits crazed sex addict Sylvia Stickle (Tracey Ullman) and her unwholesome brood (Selma Blair and Chris Isaak) against the prudish residents of Pinewood (the "Neuters"). A Weirdbmobile, to be sure. (2005, New Line Home

Entertainment, \$27.95, Available June 14)

**"Jaws: 30th Anniversary Edition":** Just when you thought it was safe to pick up "Jaws: The Collector's Edition," along comes its new 2-disc "30th Anniversary Edition." This edition features a new DTS soundtrack and a two-hour production documentary, expanded by one hour from its previous DVD release. (1975, Universal Home Video, \$22.98, Available June 14)

**"The Joan Crawford Collection":** The TCM documentary "Joan Crawford: The Ultimate Movie Star," is included with this collection. For those unfamiliar with the actress outside of her character-assassinating "Mommie Dearest" persona, Warner Home Video's new five-disc set offers a terrific introduction to Crawford's body of work: "Mildred Pierce" (1945); "Humoresque" (1946); "The Women" (1939); "Possessed" (1947) and "The Damned Don't Cry" (1950). (\$49.92, Available June 14)

**"The Bette Davis Collection":** Although it includes three previously released titles, Bette Davis fans will be pleased to see pristine new transfers of several notable films: landmark weepers "Dark Victory" (1939), "Now, Voyager" (1942) and "Mr. Skeffington," noir classic "The Letter" (1940) and camp melodrama "The Star" (1952). (Warner Home Video, \$49.92, Available June 14)

**"Bewitched: The Complete First Season":** Arriving in stores the same week Nicole Kidman's remake is released in theaters (a coincidence?), Season One of the long-running sitcom starring Elizabeth Montgomery, Dick York, Agnes Moorehead and Marion Lorne may be purchased in either black-and-white or colorized versions. (1964-65, Columbia TriStar Home Video, \$39.95, Available June 21)

**"The Mary Tyler Moore Show Season Two":** Finally, "Love is All Around..." Again! Inexplicably delayed for more than two years, the kind fairy godmothers at Fox Home Video have granted MTM fans a generous wish: the complete second season. Co-starring Ed Asner, Valerie Harper, Cloris Leachman and Ted Knight. (1971-72, Fox Home Video, \$29.98, Available July 26)



Doris Day in "Calamity Jane."

**JEWEL IN MONTROSE:** The newly opened Aladdin Mediterranean Cuisine is a jewel in Montrose. Page 14

**ALL THAT JAZZ:** The weekend is packed with events including Jazz and a birthday party for Kofi. Page 15





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## dining J.A. CHAPMAN

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# A Mediterranean Jewel

ALADDIN MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE is a jewel in the heart of Montrose.

The folks who run Fadi's have recently opened Aladdin on the corner of Montrose and Westheimer. It offers many of the same items as the original Fadi's, in a casual cafeteria-style setting.

Aladdin has an opulent feel, but the prices are reasonable. Arched doorways, tile floors, hand painted murals and beaded chandeliers all contribute to the exotic ambience. An alcove-sized room in the back with two tables and a fireplace offers privacy for small groups.

All the dishes are on display in the serving line. It's worth perusing the offerings before ordering, as the variety is staggering and many of the items are unusual.

The set up is simple. The menu is hanging above the trays at the start of the line. Choose a combination plate, a sandwich, or just order a la carte. Grab your silverware, fill a basket with some delicious wafer-thin baked pita bread to snack on, and tell the server behind the counter your menu choice. They'll walk you through the rest of the line.

The Aladdin's platter combo plate (\$8.99) is a good place to start. It comes with a meat entrée and two veggie orders (three veggies for \$9.99). The braised lamb shank is one of the house specialties and definitely worth a try if you're a lamb fan. It's cooked slowly so the meat just falls off the bone. One lamb shank is a huge portion, as are most servings at Aladdin.

The falafel dish (\$7.99) is another good option. Three falafel balls are served with tahini and accompanied by a dip and salad of your choice. The falafel is made fresh when you order it, so you'll have to wait a few minutes for it to arrive. But it's crispy and warm and worth the wait.

Hummos is the litmus test for a Mediterranean restaurant, and Aladdin delivers in spades. The dips are the first items in the serving line, and await your selection on large, tantalizing platters. The hummos is a bit thin, but boasts a bold lemony flavor and is a zesty accompaniment to any meal. The server will top it with paprika and olive oil, if you like.

THE HUMMOS IS EXCELLENT, BUT MY personal favorite is the baba ganouj, a garlicky eggplant dip. Aladdin's version possesses a deep, dark smokiness that conjures up visions of cooking over an open flame. When accompanied by some of the thick, hot pita bread, fresh from the brick oven, it's intoxicating.

Don't miss the eggplant stuffed with a spinach and feta cheese sauce. A few pinenuts add texture for a rich, exotic treat. Standards such as tabouli and a chopped



cucumber salad are expertly executed, with fresh ingredients and bright, bold flavors.

Not everything is top notch. The ultimate shawarma sandwich (\$5.49) — a mixture of beef and chicken — proved disappointing as the beef was unfortunately tough. The chicken was tender and tasty though, and the tangy yogurt sauce and pickles added flavor. It came wrapped in tin foil, perfect for lunch on the go.

The chicken kabob — which, like the falafel, is prepared when you order it, so expect to wait — was tender and spicy and worth the extra time. But the spinach I selected as a side dish was limp and unimpressive. Go with the tender fried cauliflower or the tangy eggplant instead. A meat and two veggies plus a soft drink were offered as a lunch special (\$8.49) — an exceptionally good value.

Don't forget to save room for dessert. Aladdin has a wide variety of baklava (\$1.59), including both walnut and pistachio versions without the sticky honey, and a cream baklava (\$1.99) that melts in your mouth. They're the perfect end to your Mediterranean meal.

The service is prompt and friendly, and Aladdin is open until 3 a.m. on weekends. With an outdoor patio overlooking all the Montrose action, Aladdin is the perfect spot for a late-night nosh.



## Aladdin Mediterranean Cuisine

912 Westheimer  
713-942-2321

Food:   
Service:   
Value:   
Scene: 1/2  
☛ = Stay home and eat cereal  
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## nitelife JOHNNY HOOKS



A birthday for Miss Kofi, Bombay Jazz, 'Purple Reign' at DiverseWorks, all about Eve at Sippora and a Pride edition of 'Featured at the Center'

# Happy Birthday Kofi

HEY KIDS, WHAT TIME IS IT? IT'S HoVo on the Go-Go time! This week we take a look at a tribute to Prince, a ribbon cutting at Metro, a bit of Jazz and a birthday party for our own Kofi!

THIS IS A BUSY FRIDAY, SO GET ready.

"Purple Reign" will be a part of the DiverseWorks "12 Minutes MAX!" series. You have to love DiverseWorks, always on the cutting edge bringing amazing talents together in Houston. For this show, six local artists and musicians will each share their interpretations of the Purple Rain soundtrack in pieces that last no longer than 12 minutes.

THE SHOW HAS A LINEUP THAT IS TO die "4," but HotGG is most excited about two performers. One is fave local DJ Sun spinning a Prince-themed set and the other is queer video artist (and FOJC: friend of Jonathan Caouette) Atton Paul, unspooling a psychedelic, pixelated video work using Prince images. Friday at 8 p.m., \$10. 1117 East Freeway. For tickets and information, call 713-223-8346 or visit [www.diverseworks.org](http://www.diverseworks.org).

IF PRINCE IS NOT YOUR THING, THE Houston GLBT Community Center is hosting a special Pride month edition of its performance night, "Featured at the Center." Beginning at 7 p.m., gay men, lesbians and transgendered individuals present music, dance, poetry and other spoken-word performance, stand-up comedy, film or display works of art.

"FEATURED AT THE CENTER" TAKES place on the second Friday of every month at the GLBT Community Center, home base for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and their allies in the metropolitan area and Southeast Texas. There is no admission charge, but donations are welcomed. Coffee and wine are served. Performers and artists interested in participating in any program should contact Aaron Coleman in advance at 713-522-0712 or [aaronssongs@yahoo.com](mailto:aaronssongs@yahoo.com). You can also contact the Center. The Houston GLBT Community Center is located at 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. The Center phone number is 713-524-3818 or via the web at [www.houstonglbt-communitycenter.org](http://www.houstonglbt-communitycenter.org).

NOW FOR THE LADIES AND THOSE who love them, Sippora Gallery unveils "EVE - The Identity of Woman!" Twelve women artists have captured their unique vision and experiences in art. Whether done collectively or alone,

## HoVo on the go-go

long ago or right now in our own age, they have translated their religious, social, spiritual, and political selves into outward expression and beautiful form. Friday from 6 until 9 p.m. Sippora is located at 234 West Gray. Call 713-520-1085 or visit [www.sippora.com](http://www.sippora.com)

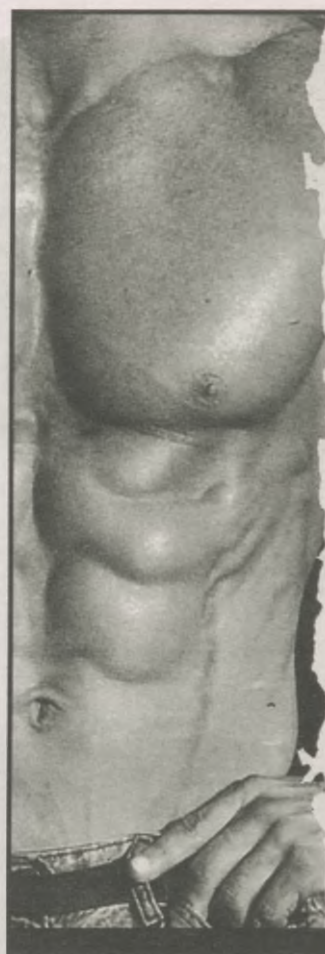
SATURDAY CHECK OUT "BOMBAY Jazz: An East-West Fusion" at the Wortham. Jazz greats Larry Coryell and George Brooks join forces with Indian music maestros Ronu Majumdar and Vijay Ghate to explore the melodic richness of raga and dynamic rhythms of Indian classical music, while pioneering a new musical form. Part of the concert proceeds will benefit AIDS Foundation Houston. These performers have worked with everyone from George Harrison to Etta James to Jimi Hendrix, so expect a fabulous evening. Tickets range from \$20 to \$50 and can be had by calling Aids Foundation Houston at 713-623-6796 ext. 249 or online at [www.iaahouston.com](http://www.iaahouston.com).

WITH IT BEING SO HOT, WHY NOT take a day to pamper yourself or your sweetie at METRO-His Spa. Owner and local Houstonian Raul Guzman invites you to a reception and ribbon cutting at the spa on Sunday from 5 to 8 p.m. in the evening. A special 10-percent savings (in addition to any other current promotion) will be offered for all gift certificates purchased exclusively at this reception! A Father's Day gift certificate is the perfect idea for the special men in your life, and they are available simply by phoning METRO-His Spa at 713-52-METRO (526-3876) or visit them at [www.metrospa4men.com](http://www.metrospa4men.com). 2606 Grant Street across from the new Baba Yega Café.

FINALLY, GET OVER TO JR'S AND wish Miss Kofi a Happy Birthday. I'll let you ask her which one honey! Wednesday at 11 p.m.



If you have any club announcements or events, email them to [jhooks@houstonvoice.com](mailto:jhooks@houstonvoice.com) or call 713-529-8490. See you on the Go-Go!



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## Forever blue no more

Erasure gets its due, actors describe gay kisses and 'L Word' hires directors

You couldn't break the chains of love for **ERASURE** Tuesday, June 7, during the band's sold out show at D.C.'s 9:30 club. The capacity crowd (filled with equal parts women and gay men) was definitely feeling the music and even Capital Pride organizers showed their gratitude by giving the gay-straight electronic duo its first ever Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts.

"Erasure has been around for many, many years. A lot of us came out to Erasure," said Robert York, director of Pride, who presented the award onstage before the band started its encore. "They're one of those groups that crosses boundaries and educates people."

The band received the Gay Pride honor even though only singer **ANDY BELL** is gay.

"What straight man could you get to wear gold lame?" York joked about straight musician **VINCE CLARK**, the other half of the group, who was wearing a tuxedo made out of the flamboyant fabric. "How secure can you really be?"

Bell graciously accepted the award and said, "Thank you," along with something else that was drowned out by the screaming crowd. Then he launched into a song no one knew. (Must have been from the new album.)

During the performance, the duo played all their big hits and Bell, who disclosed his HIV-positive status in December, looked and sounded as good as ever, dancing about the stage in a number of glittering outfits (including just a pair of diamond-studded briefs).

The real highlight of the evening came from a pair of covers, a slowed-down version of **BLONDIE**'s "Rapture," with Clark doing the rap, and Bell's solo, an a cappella version of "Ave Maria."

### Kiss and tell

Two young actors, both with careers on the rise, have two different reactions to their same-sex kisses onscreen.

**JESSE BRADFORD**, the wholesome-looking stud from "Swimfan" and "Bring It On," says he

turned down a chance to play a gay character in the film "Rules of Attraction" and always wondered if he turned down the part because the character was gay.

Well, he felt better about himself

after accepting a gay role in the upcoming movie "Heights," until it came time



Gay-straight duo **Andy Bell** (left) and **Vince Clark**, better known as Erasure, received a Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts as part of this year's Capital Pride Director's Awards at D.C.'s 9:30 club this week.

for his big same-sex kiss.

"There are certain risks involved," he told the New York Daily News gossip columnist Lloyd Grove. "But it was one of the most heterosexual reaffirming moments of my life. Like, 'Oh, that's why I don't like this. That's why I always figured I wouldn't like this.' Now I know. Now I know for sure."

Good for you, Mr. Bradford.

Meanwhile, **BRITANNY MURPHY** tells the British edition of men's magazine Maxim that her favorite cinematic smooches were with women.

"I will admit that my most memorable onscreen kiss was with **REESE WITHERSPOON** in 'Freeway,' just because we were laughing so much," she says about her role in the 1996 independent movie. "And my longest was with Joanne Vannicola for this [2000 television] movie called 'Common Ground.'"

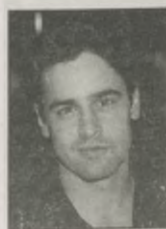
### Casting couch

Showtime's lesbian drama "**THE L WORD**," has signed up a number of prominent directors to film episodes for its impending, but still unscheduled, third season.

Those behind the camera in the third season will include: lesbian director Angela Robinson of "D.E.B.S." and soon-to-be-released "Herbie: Fully Loaded" fame, "The Laramie Project" creator Moisés Kaufman, Rose Troche of "Go Fish" fame, and "Boys Don't Cry" director Kimberly Pierce.



Brittany Murphy



Jesse Bradford

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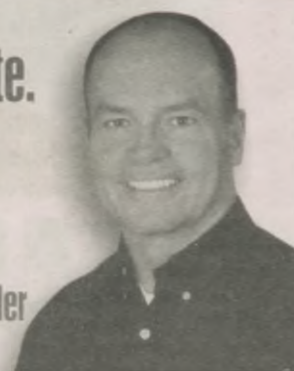
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## king



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SO, LIKE, WHAT DO YA DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT BEIN' TOTALLY HOT?

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COOL. YOU SHOULD DRAW ME.

I'D RATHER STICK MY HANDS IN A BLENDER.

SO, TELL ME WHY I SHOULD PICK YOU TO BE MY "STEVE"...

WELL... BECAUSE I'M HONEST AND SENSITIVE... HAVE LOTS OF LOVE TO GIVE... AND I'M LOOKING FOR A PARTNER TO SHARE MY LIFE WITH...

WHAT A JACKASS! OKAY, IF I WANNA WIN THIS, I'M GONNA HAVE TO LIE... C'MON, SKY, YOU CAN DO THIS... BE CREATIVE...

WHATEVER, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT, DUDE.

UM... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A LITTLE FILM CALLED "MISSION INCREDIBLE"?

WELL, YEAH, WHO HASN'T?

I HAPPEN TO BE IN WAY TIGHT WITH THE PRODUCER, IF YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN. AND HE'S GONNA BE CASTING THE SEQUEL REEAL SOON.

SWEET.

PLUS... IF YOU PICK ME, EVERY NIGHT WE'RE TOGETHER, I'LL...

WHISPER WHISPER WHISPER:

WHOA! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! I GOTTA SAY, MAN, YOU JUST MOVED T' THE HEAD OF MY LIST!

AWESOME, BRO.

UGH... I FEEL SO DIRTY...



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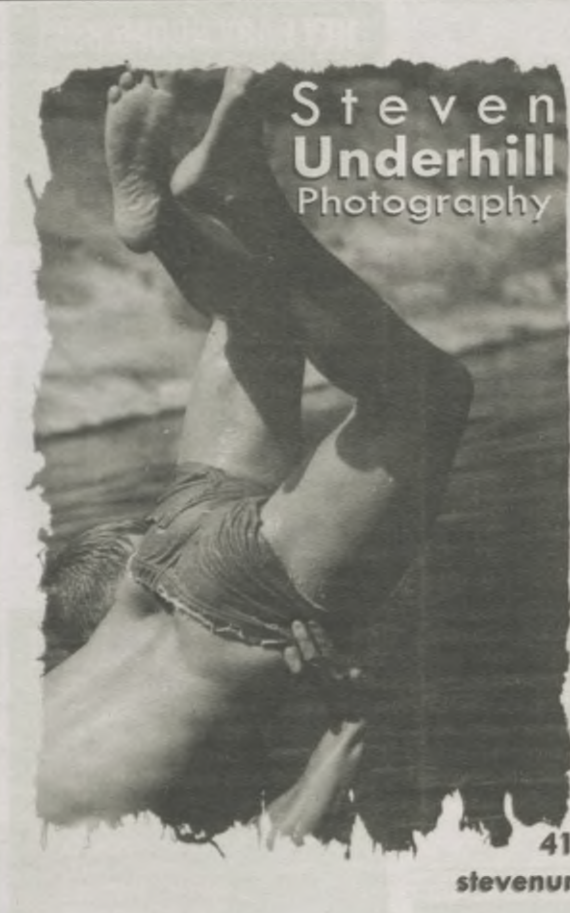
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## bitch session



If you are young, good-looking and can get any man you want, then why are you still single?

I'M TIRED OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE A list of requirements for dating but don't fall into any of their own categories. Why don't you look in the mirror and start with yourself? If you wouldn't date you, what makes you think I would!

I CANNOT STAND MY PARTNER RIGHT now. He is always asking why I spend so much time with my family. It drives me freakin' crazy. Why can't he just be like any other boyfriend and like my family?

WITH SUPPOSEDLY SO MANY QUEERS in suburbia, why do all the social clubs and events still revolve around the city? It's hard enough commuting to and from work without having to rush downtown for fun.

WHY CAN'T A STRAIGHT GIRL WEAR a rainbow and not be considered gay anymore? From a Str8-up Beeyotch

PLEASE, LITTLE TWINK, REALITY check: Gyms are for exercising not fashion analysis, or at least they were before cute fluffy, perfumed, perfectly styled little gym bunnies invaded the place.

DEAR STRAIGHT GIRL:  
You are not cute.

WHY IS IT THAT EVERY LESBIAN I meet is in recovery for some kind of addiction, or is plain ole crazy?

FACE IT GUYS, EVEN MEN WHO SAY they don't belong in any category have their own category.

I GO TO THE GYM TO WORK OUT. IT'S the only time in the day when I'm able to do something just for myself. If you want to talk to someone, go talk to the women. They seem to be there mainly for social reasons.

IF YOU FEEL THE GAY WORLD IS shallow, well welcome to the gay world. If you don't like it, go back to the real world.

TO THE GUY WHO BITCHED ABOUT

those who wear "mindless fag uniforms": It's so hypocritical to assume those who wear certain brands and styles of clothing are "buying attitude."

TO THE CUSTOMER WHO STOLE MY briefs when I took them off to dance at the club the other night, I hope you had a good time that night sniffing them. Oh, by the way, I have crabs and a staph infection. Enjoy!

ALL OF MY BITCHING HASN'T changed a damn thing!

YOU SAY YOU WANT TO BE SEEN FOR the real you, and not just as a beautiful body, yet you keep playing on your looks, and the only people you make even the slightest effort to befriend are other beautiful people.

IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME THAT you're in your 50s. It bothers me a lot that you chose to lie about it. In doing so, you sold both yourself and me short.

I'M TIRED OF YOU FOLLOWING ME into the locker room every time you see me at the gym. We broke up years ago, we're not getting back together, and I'm not stripping in front of you. Go stalk somebody else.

TO THE PERSON QUESTIONING THE phrase "men of color": It's an historical phenomenon created by the racism that undergirds American society. Funny enough, that same racism is as prevalent in the gay community. As a man of color, I've experienced it firsthand!

WHY ARE GAY BARS HIRING straights anyway? Our bars should be the one public place that should be declared straight-free.

TO ALL THE CUTE GUYS WITH attitude: I have one thing to say. Beauty is temporary, but dumb is forever.

IT'S REALLY FUNNY TO SEE GAY MEN trying to define what constitutes a real man.

OH, PLEASE! JUST BECAUSE I PREFER smooth to hairy does not mean subconsciously I am a pedophile. I'm just a man with taste who knows what he likes. There are thousands of hairy men who are very attractive. I just happen to prefer smooth or shaved, so deal with it.

AM I THE ONLY GAY GUY WHO IS NOT either a wannabe thug or a junkie? Is there anything as a normal gay male anymore? Someone who works, does not sleep with everyone in sight, does not shoot themselves up with dope, or try to hide beneath a blanket of self-hate masquerading as masculinity!

**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@expressgaynews.com](mailto:bitch@expressgaynews.com)



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