

# HOUSTON VOICE

Chamber News • Pages 15-18

## Right on

Infamous gay conservative David Brock details his life on the other political side.  
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'Full Gallop' starring Sally Edmundson closes this week, as other theaters debut new projects.  
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## Shelter for transgenders may close

Lack of funds threatens existence of facility that assists those in need

by PENNY WEAVER

Without more financial support — immediately — the Houston area's homeless shelter for transgenders may close as early as next week.

Cristan Williams, president of the nonprofit Community Awareness for Transgender Support (CATS), issued a call to action this week, asking for help because the shelter is in eminent danger of closing.

"That fact is, either the shelter survives and three homeless transgenders' basic needs are met, or the shelter folds this month [and] I get the displeasure of telling these people that they get to return to the streets," Williams said. "It's really, really imperative that the community get involved and get behind this."

Located in Galveston, the shelter was opened just over a year ago by CATS, an organization founded in 1999 with just four initial members. A need in this area for help specific to homeless transgenders was soon illustrated as CATS members attempted to assist others.



The homeless shelter operated by Houston's Community Awareness for Transgender Support (CATS) assists people who often cannot find help elsewhere, but the facility is in danger of closing without more financial backing.

unsuccessfully attempted to find housing for a homeless transgender person in the early days of CATS. "I couldn't find anything. I was flabber-

gasted. I just really couldn't understand it," Williams said. Thus the CATS shelter was born.  
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## Court throws out 'gay' death row conviction



Both James T. Fisher (left) and Fadjo Johnson were originally charged in the 1982 killing of an Oklahoma man, but charges against Johnson were dropped when he became the prosecution's lead witness. Fisher received a death sentence, but an appeals court now says he should get a new trial due to a 'grossly inept' defense attorney.

Homophobic lawyer 'sabotaged' case, adding new twist to claims of unjust treatment of gay defendants

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — A federal appeals court on March 12 overturned the murder conviction of a male prostitute who was sentenced to death for killing a male customer in Oklahoma City in 1982, ruling that the defense attorney was "grossly inept" and harbored prejudice against homosexuals.

The ruling by the Tenth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Denver presents a new twist to the long-standing claims by gay civil rights attorneys that anti-gay prejudice has played a role in prompting prosecutors and judges to favor death sentences against both lesbians and gay men convicted of murder.

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# Lesbians are giving thumbs up to speed dating

First-of-its-kind event in Houston a hit with women who participated; second 'Lucky 7' planned

by KAY DAYUS

Who says you can't meet a new love interest in seven minutes, or at least a new friend? Nonbelievers need only ask Kimberly Wright, who says she met an incredible woman at Houston's first "Lucky 7" speed dating game last month.

"It was remarkable," said Wright of the event held at Meteor Lounge. "I met the most incredible woman I've ever met and I'm having the most incredible experience of my life."

Wright is just one of dozens of participants, and she said she would definitely recommend the lesbian speed dating game to others.

"It was a great success," said organizer Shirley Knight, who produced the event under the auspices of the non-profit Athena Art Project, creators of the Houston Women's Festival.

She said organizers hoped to attract 35 to 50 women at the event and were astounded

to see 71 show up for the game and even more stop by afterward to socialize.

Although things were a little awkward at first, an ice-breaking game loosened up the participants and the speed dating then began in earnest, Knight said.

According to game rules, players must talk to another participant for seven minutes and then mark their score card as to whether they would like to get to know that person better. This takes place for seven rounds.



Organizer Shirley Knight said another lesbian speed dating session will be held in June, with the date to be announced.

Organizers later collect the score cards and find matches. It is then up to participants to communicate with each other after the game.

There were one or two snags with the process, according to some participants. Instead of turning to their left or right to talk to the person next to them, players were expected to choose someone they wanted to meet out of a roomful of people and talk with that person for seven minutes.

This was a problem, said one game player who asked that her name not be printed. Some people had several participants who wanted to talk to them, while others had none or few.

"Choosing the seven people was completely random, and I would have wanted something a bit more structured," she said.



Single lesbians like Robin (left) and Sally will have another chance this summer to participate in speed dating.

She added that participants had about two minutes to find someone to talk with, and if they didn't, they were out of that round. "I'm not terribly shy, but the pressure to scan a large room, pick a face, and make a beeline for them was pretty awkward," she said. She suggests organizers find a different method for selecting people.

But she said that altogether it was fun if the women didn't take it too seriously; however, she hopes that more lesbians in their late 20s and early to mid-30s show up next time.

Others, like Becky, felt different about the age spread. She was pleasantly surprised that

many older women participated. "I'm middle-aged and was happy to see women in the 30s, 40s and 50s age range there," she said.

Becky had a great time and would recommend the game to anyone, plus she got three dates out of it — two of those with the same person, she noted.

Sandy Brauer, one of the organizers and a player in the game, said the effort went well.

"It was a real positive experience and a great way to get out and meet new women in the community," she said.

Brauer also met someone she has been out with since the event, "and we'll go out again," she said. She's looking forward to the next dating game in June.

Overall, most women who attended the speed dating event agreed it was a great, safe environment in which to meet other lesbians, especially since most of them choose not to go to bars alone to meet others.

For Knight, it was a great success, especially since 96 percent of the people who played matched with at least one person. Now that the first event has been held, organizers can iron out the wrinkles and have an even better event in June, she noted. The date for that session is yet to be announced.

INFO

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**Center dubs fund-raiser a success despite lowered total**

Montrose Counseling Center's 14th annual St. Patrick's Day celebration and fund-raiser, "Bringin' in the Green," garnered more than \$17,900. Although that put the March 15 event's total below last year's celebration income, organizers still feel successful. "I've heard very wonderful things. We were very pleased with the money that we brought in," said Sally Huffer, development and marketing manager for the center. "Given the [fund-raising] climate, we're very happy with it." Many nonprofit agencies have seen a downturn in donations since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., as Americans have instead contributed to 9/11 help funds. At Bringin' in the Green this year, Jerry Atwood and Kim Yvette provided entertainment. Refreshments were served, a silent auction held, and complementary valet parking was provided.

INFO

**Montrose Counseling Center**  
701 Richmond Ave.  
Houston, TX 77006-5511  
713-529-0037

**Grand marshals chosen for this year's Pride parade**

The Pride Committee of Houston, Inc., has announced the grand marshals who will preside over the annual nighttime Houston Pride Parade on June 29. Female grand marshal for 2002 is business owner and activist Herlinda "Mela" Contreras. Male grand marshal is volunteer entertainer Rusty Mueller, also known as Crystal Rae Lee Love. PFLAG members Jane and Irv Smith will serve as a couple as honorary grand marshal. The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston won the vote to serve as group grand marshal. Other nominees were: for female grand marshal, Janine Brunjes, Mayor Lee Brown's liaison to gay Houstonians; and health educator/activist Barbara Walker. The other group nominated was the Gulf Coast Archives & Museum. The public voted to choose this year's grand marshals, and winners were determined by a plurality of the vote.

**Tennis club for gay Houstonians plans membership drive**

The Houston Tennis Club, a gay and lesbian tennis organization active in the city for more than 22 years, is combining its March social event with a membership drive dubbed "Promiscuous Doubles." Doubles matches are played from 9 a.m. to noon. Matches are played for 20 minutes and then all players switch partners. All levels of players get to play and interact with each other. The club meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. It is sanctioned by the national Gay & Lesbian Tennis Alliance. The club's annual tournament, the HOUTEX21, is held each fall and includes hundreds of participants from cities around the nation.

INFO

**Membership drive and doubles event**  
9 a.m. Sunday  
Cost is \$6 to participate  
Memorial Park tennis courts  
Houston Tennis Club  
www.houstontennisclub.org  
e-mail: dannyrk@ev1.net

**Club plans spring and summer deep sea fishing trips**

The Rainbow Fishing Club has reserved 20 spots for fishing enthusiasts on the New Buccaneer of Galveston for two deep sea fishing trips in the next two months. Those who participate will go on a 12-hour trip, and non-fishers also can go at a reduced cost. All fishing equipment and bait are supplied, plus there will be a cook and grill on board. The New Buccaneer accommodates up to 100 people, has a large sundeck and is the largest of its kind in Texas. Those who are interested are encouraged to make reservations as soon as possible.

INFO

**Deep sea fishing trips**  
Saturday, April 27  
Sunday, April 28  
Cost is \$30 for non-fishers  
Rainbow Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 66450  
Houston, TX 77266  
713-523-6381

**Chorus belts out tunes this weekend**



The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston presented an AIDS services benefit performance of its 'Sophistication' on Tuesday. This weekend, the chorus offers the production both Friday and Saturday. The piece features 'Naked Man' by Robert Seeley and Philip Littell. James B. Knapp is artistic director of the chorus. Friday's performance is at 8 p.m., and Saturday's are slated for 3 and 8 p.m., both at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door.

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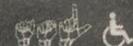
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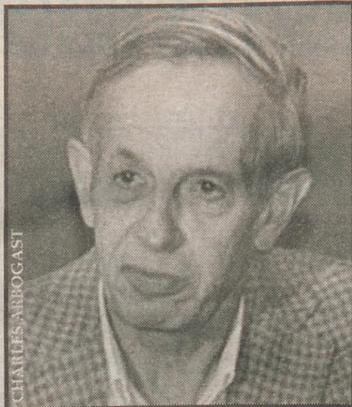


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**'Beautiful Mind' supporters fight anti-Oscar campaign**



**John Forbes Nash, the Nobel Prize-winning mathematician whose life is chronicled in 'A Beautiful Mind,' denies allegations he is gay and has supported the movie as it vies for eight Academy Awards.**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The makers of "A Beautiful Mind" have objected to what they say is a whisper campaign to hurt the Oscar chances of their movie, which is up for eight — including best picture — in the March 24 Academy Awards. Various news reports have noted that the movie ignores same-sex encounters and anti-Semitism in the life of John Forbes Nash, the Nobel Prize-winning mathematician whose life it chronicles. In a CBS "60 Minutes" interview on March 17, Nash and his wife denied the allegations, blaming his well-documented schizophrenia in the 1950s and 60s. The movie ignores the chapter in Sylvia Nasar's Nash biography that covers a 1954 incident in which he was arrested for indecent exposure and "making a come-on to another man" in a public restroom. In the book, she writes that Nash "was always forming intense friendships with men that had a romantic quality... He was very experimental, very try-outish. Mostly he just kissed." Nasar wrote a commentary in the Los Angeles Times last week, saying that despite the book's gay content, Nash is heterosexual.

**Gay discharges rise, but Army won't boot bi soldier**

GOOSSE CREEK, S.C. (AP) — While the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network reported that 2001 held the highest number of gay military dismissals since 1987, a Naval training school here reported a decline. Twenty-eight gay sailors were discharged from the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command & Nuclear Power Training Unit last year, down sharply from 81 in 2000, according to the report. Navy officials had no explanation for the drop. SLDN cites Defense Department statistics that say the U.S. military discharged 1,250 gay personnel last year, and a record 1,075 anti-gay incidents of harassment were reported. But as gay discharges spiked, Army officials have refused to grant a dismissal to Army Capt. David Donovan, a married man who says he is bisexual. Officials said there is no evidence to back the claim since Donovan won't provide specifics of any gay conduct for fear the Army might charge him with a crime. "I'm just trying to do what I believe is right," Donovan said. "I'm amazed it's required so much effort to do the right thing."

**Three-dozen United Way affiliates drop Scout funding**

WASHINGTON — At least 39 United Way affiliates around the country have stopped direct community funding of the Boy Scouts of America to protest the Scouts' ban on gay leaders, the Washington Times reported. Those chapters represent millions of dollars, but less than 3 percent of the 1,400 United Way chapters in the U.S., the newspaper reported. BSA and United Way officials said they believe the trend to cut BSA funds is winding down. The United Way groups that cut BSA funds include Boston, Seattle, San Francisco, Providence, and Tucson, among others. Each United Way is an independent organization and makes its own funding decisions. A BSA spokesperson told the Times that his group will not be deterred by the cuts and has no intention of changing its policy.

**Kansas court rules against trans in estate case**

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — The Kansas Supreme Court ruled unanimously March 15 that male-to-female transsexual J'Noel Gardiner is a man and is not entitled to any portion of her late husband's estate, according to the Kansas City Star. The 38-page ruling was a victory for Marshall Gardiner's son, who contested J'Noel Gardiner's claim to half of his father's \$2.5 million estate. Marshall Gardiner, 85, was a widower when he met J'Noel Ball, 40, in 1998. They were married in September 1998, and he died in August 1999 without a will. J'Noel Gardiner's lawyer, Sanford P. Krigel, said an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court or a request for a second state Supreme Court hearing is possible. The ruling overturned a May decision by the Kansas Court of Appeals, which held that there was more to gender than "simply what the individual's chromosomes were or were not at the time of birth."

**Custody cases explore rights for gay parents**

NEWARK, Del. (AP) — Two child custody hearings are testing the uncertain rights and responsibilities of lesbian partners who are non-biological parents within their relationships. A Delaware court ruled March 17 that two women should both be considered parents of a 4-year-old boy to whom one gave birth after in-vitro fertilization. The non-biological mother helped pay for fertility treatments, pays voluntary child support and argued that the state should not force payments because she has no biological or adoptive connection to the child. A judge ordered both sides to attend a March 18 child support hearing. In Ohio, lesbian couple Teri Bonfield and Shelly Zachritz asked the state Supreme Court on March 13 for shared custody of their children. The women have been together 14 years and have six children — two adopted and four from artificial insemination — between them. The couple said legal custody is necessary in case something happens to one of them. A decision is expected by summer.

—From staff and wire reports



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# Okla. case shows how bigotry undermines justice

➤ Continued from Page 1

In the March 12 ruling, the appeals court ordered Oklahoma authorities to hold a new trial for James T. Fisher, who was 19 when he was charged with the slashing death of Terry Neal, 30, inside Neal's apartment in Oklahoma City in December 1982.

Fisher, who has been on death row since his murder conviction in September 1993, has insisted he is not gay, according to attorneys working on his appeals cases. Court records show he referred to the men with whom he engaged in sex for money as "homos." He told police at the time of his arrest that he met Neal on the night of the murder at a location in downtown Oklahoma City where male prostitutes congregated.

A co-defendant, who testified against Fisher in exchange for an agreement from police to drop a murder charge against him, told the jury in the 1993 trial that he and Fisher stole Neal's television and car.

The appeals court ruling states that Fisher's defense attorney, E. Melvin Porter, exhibited hostility toward his own client and failed to adequately defend Fisher against a death sentence. The ruling points to testimony by Porter at an appeals court hearing, held years after trial and conviction, that his hostility toward Fisher stemmed, in part, because Fisher had sex with the man he allegedly murdered.

"[A]t that time, I thought homosexuals were among the worst people in the world, and I did not like that aspect of the case," Porter testified during one of Fisher's appeals court proceedings. "I believe my personal feelings towards James Fisher affected my representation of him."

Fisher admitted to police that he struck Neal over the head with a wine bottle but denied he murdered Neal, who was married and had children.

Court records show that the lead prosecution witness in the case was 15-year-old Fadjo Johnson who, along with Fisher, had been charged with first-degree murder in connection with Neal's death. Prosecutors later dropped the charge against Johnson and named him as their material witness.

Johnson testified that he and Fisher met for the first time on the night of the murder in a location in downtown Oklahoma City known as a place where male prostitutes sought out male customers. He testified that Neal approached the two in his car and drove them to his apartment.

Sources familiar with the case have said Neal used the apartment for sexual liaisons and that he lived with his family at another location.

Johnson testified that he watched television in Neal's apartment while Fisher and Neal had sex. He testified that Fisher hit Neal over the head with a wine bottle after the two finished having sex, and Fisher stabbed Neal repeatedly in the neck with the broken end of the bottle.

According to Johnson's testimony, Fisher ordered him to take Neal's television out of the apartment, and the two drove Neal's car to another location in Oklahoma City, where they sold the television. Johnson testified that Fisher then drove him to a location near Johnson's home and told Johnson he planned to drive to Tulsa. Fisher was later arrested in Buffalo, N.Y., where he gave police there a statement admitting he struck Neal with the bottle but denying he killed Neal.

The appeals court ruling states that Porter "sabotaged his client's defense" by acting more as a prosecutor than a defense attorney. The ruling cites instances in which Porter failed to properly cross-examine prosecution witnesses, failed to explore contradictory statements by witness Johnson, and failed to seek out potentially exculpatory evidence from police and prosecutors.

The appeals court ruling also states that Porter — who was an elected state senator at the time — did not present an opening statement and waived his client's

right to present evidence during the trial. During the phase of the trial in which the death sentence was being considered, the appeals court points out, Porter chose not to make a closing argument, telling the judge and jury, "we waive."

The appeals court ruling noted Porter had questioned Fisher at the trial in a manner that resembled "a police interrogation of a hostile suspect rather than the presentation of a defense."

Porter could not be located for comment by press time. Prosecutors with the Oklahoma County District Attorney's office did not return calls seeking comment on the appeals court decision.

Assistant District Attorney Richard Wintory told the Daily Oklahoman that his office will "absolutely retry" Fisher for Neal's murder, even though the new trial would take place nearly 20 years after the slaying. He described Neal's death as a "horrible, slow, nasty killing," the Oklahoman reported.

## Unjust treatment for gays?

The appeals court ruling in Fisher's case came less than a week before the HBO cable network broadcast a television documentary on the capital murder case and execution of lesbian Wanda Jean Allen.

The defense in the Allen case argued that prosecutors used Allen's sexual orientation in an effort to appeal to anti-gay bias by the judge and jury in a complicated case that touched on race, homophobia, and assertions by the defense that Alan was mentally impaired.

The ACLU's Lesbian & Gay Rights Project and the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, a gay litigation group, have pointed to several other death penalty cases in which gay defendants reportedly faced anti-gay bias by prosecutors and judges. Both groups oppose the death penalty.

"My first reaction is we have a sinister combination of incompetence and homophobia," said ACLU attorney Diann Rust-Tierney, in discussing the Fisher case.

Rust-Tierney, who heads the ACLU's Capital Punishment Project, said that while the anti-gay prejudice acknowledged by the defense attorney in the Fisher case is unusual, homophobia and unqualified defense attorneys are common components in death penalty cases involving gays.

"This should send chills to the whole community," she said. "It shows how bigotry undermines justice."

But sources familiar with the Oklahoma County Public Defender's office, which waged the successful appeals case resulting in the order for a new trial, said the strategy Fisher's new lawyers will likely use for his upcoming murder trial may not please gay activists.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said public defenders familiar with the case would likely seek to portray Neal as a "pedophile" and "sexual predator" who sought to exploit the 19-year-old Fisher and Johnson. Court records show Johnson turned 15 in August 1982, four months prior to the murder.

Police initially believed that Johnson might have participated in the murder, and he was incarcerated from 1985 to 1990 after being convicted of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, according to records from the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

The records show that he returned to prison in 1992 following conviction on a series of drug-related charges, including two counts of drug trafficking. Under Oklahoma's strict anti-drug laws, Johnson received three consecutive, 20-year prison sentences for the drug convictions.

Richard Green, an official with the corrections department, said the convictions could result in as much as 60 years of incarceration for Johnson, depending on whether the state's governor agrees to grant him parole.

## Notable gay death row cases

CALVIN BURDINE, a gay man from Houston, was convicted of killing his roommate, but that conviction was thrown out by an appeals court because his court-appointed lawyer slept through portions of his 1984 trial. The appeals court did not rule on what Robert McGlasson, the attorney who handled Burdine's appeal, and gay legal activists and death penalty opponents have said was homophobia on the part of both prosecutor and defense lawyer during the original trial.

In arguing for the death penalty and against life imprisonment following Burdine's conviction, the prosecutor told the jury, "Sending a homosexual to the penitentiary [for life] certainly isn't a very bad punishment for a homosexual, and that's what he's asking you to do." The prosecutor also said, in seeking the death penalty during the sentencing phase of the trial, that Burdine's 1971 Texas conviction for sodomy, a consensual offense, was evidence of his "likeliness to commit criminal violent acts in the future."

McGlasson said Joe Cannon, the sleeping defense attorney who has since died, was himself homophobic, failing to challenge the prosecutor's biased statements to the jury as well as prospective jurors who exhibited anti-gay bias.

Burdine's conviction was for the 1983 stabbing murder of W.T. Wise, an older Houston man who associated with young male hustlers. Wise let Burdine stay in his trailer and had a brief sexual relationship with Burdine. The two men had an acrimonious break-up, Burdine told police he moved out because Wise wanted him to work as a prostitute.

Burdine was subsequently beaten up by a group of young men and was told Wise had put out a contract on him. He then went to Wise's trailer with a friend, Douglas McCreight, to stop Wise's aggression and get money from him. According to Burdine, after talking with Wise, McCreight stabbed Wise, killing him. The prosecution maintained that each man stabbed Wise once, but McCreight avoided the death penalty by agreeing to cooperate with police.

WANDA JEAN ALLEN was sentenced to death in 1989 for killing her girlfriend Gloria Leathers in Oklahoma City a year earlier. She was executed on Jan. 12, 2001, the first black woman put to death in the U.S. in 47 years.

There were references to her sexual orientation during her trial, including negative stereotypes about lesbians that activists argued may have prejudiced her case. At trial, the prosecution asserted that Allen "wore the pants in the family," that she was the dominant partner and exercised control over Leathers. The prosecution repeatedly stressed the lesbian nature of the relationship, according to activists.

Leathers had driven to a police station in an Oklahoma City suburb after trying to break up with Allen, who followed her and fired a single gunshot wound into Leathers' abdomen. Allen, who was 41 at the time of her execution, had previously received a four-year prison sentence for first-degree manslaughter in the shooting death of Detra Pettus in 1981.

STANLEY DEWANE LINGAR was executed by lethal injection on Feb. 7, 2001, in Potosi, Mo. The 37-year-old gay man sentenced to die for the January 1985 murder of Thomas Allen, 16, a high school student who was offered a lift by Lingar and his friend, David Smith. Lingar and Smith abducted Allen and killed him when he resisted orders to strip and masturbate in front of the men. Smith, who testified against Lingar, served a 10-year sentence.

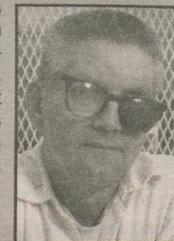
"It's pretty clear that the reason the prosecution [pushed for the death penalty for Lingar] is because they thought that a rural Missouri jury would be offended by the fact that he was homosexual and use that as a reason to give him the death penalty," Kent Gipson, an attorney who represented Lingar on appeal, told the Blade just days before his client was executed.

GREGORY SCOTT DICKENS was sentenced by Yuma County Superior Court Judge Tom Cole to death for the 1991 robbery-murder of Alabama newlyweds at a Yuma, Ariz., rest stop. According to court papers, Travis Amaral, 16, Dickens' partner, shot Laura and Brian Bernstein while Dickens watched. Amaral, who struck a plea agreement to avoid the death penalty, admitted firing the gun, but said Dickens planned the robbery and instructed him not to leave witnesses. Jurors acquitted Dickens of premeditated murder, but found him guilty of committing a homicide in the act of a felony, also punishable by death.

Defense lawyer Daphne Budge contends that Judge Cole should have recused himself from the case because of his loathing for gays. In a letter to his son, Cole wrote, "I hope you die in prison like all the rest of your faggot friends."

GLEN ALAN MCGINNIS, a 27-year-old, openly gay African-American man who was 17 when he killed a mother of two, was executed by the state of Texas on Jan. 25, 2000. McGinnis shot Leta Ann Wilkerson in the head, shoulders and back during the robbery of a laundromat. His attorney said a number of societal factors worked against McGinnis, including his sexual orientation.

"He was polite, respectful, legitimately sorry about what he'd done," defense attorney William Hall told the Associated Press. "But he was also a black man who killed a white woman. And he was very, very gay, and that didn't help." Then Texas Gov. George W. Bush declined to stop McGinnis' execution.



Calvin Burdine

# CATS leaders plead for community support

➤ Continued from Page 1

According to Williams, transgenders face a great threat of becoming homeless due to job discrimination and because many are rejected by their families.

The expenses to run the shelter include building rent, utility bills, food and transportation. CATS also provides counseling and medical assistance, and helps not only transgenders but any person in need, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, Williams noted.

"CATS was run on a shoestring budget from the get-go," she said.

A private donation allowed the shelter to operate for a year, but that donation ran out in January and CATS volunteers have been working more earnestly ever since to raise funds.

"We still had some money in the bank [in January] and we started getting the word

out that we really need monthly donations from people," Williams said.

The group addresses "just about every issue that a transgender person has to deal with," she added. "We've done a remarkable job with having almost no money to do anything. Most months we have broken even."

Despite the initial pleas for assistance in any amount — even \$5 or \$10 per month pledges — CATS volunteers have not been able to avoid the current financial crisis.

"There just wasn't really any response," Williams said. "This month, the rent came due, the electricity came due, the gas bill came due, people are running out of food. There wasn't anything we could do."

This week, after another plea for help, CATS began to see some donations, but not enough.

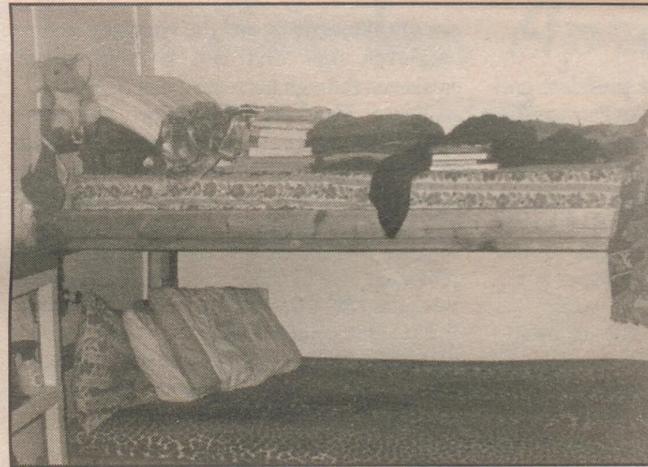
"In the past two days, we've had a pretty good response," Williams said Wednesday. "As of today, we have enough money to pay the rent, the electricity and the gas bill, and we have a little bit of money left over to buy bus tokens and food."

"[But] we're going to be facing the same thing next month," she added.

The support of Houstonians is vital to the shelter's continued operation.

"We have to rely on the community," Williams said.

Volunteers are working to obtain grant funds and assistance from other sources, but individual and corporate donations are



The CATS shelter was started a year ago and currently houses three transgendered persons. If the shelter closes, which it may be forced to do as early as next week, those people may have to return to the streets, said Cristan Williams, president of the nonprofit Community Awareness for Transgender Support.

vital, she added.

Williams noted that 100 percent of money donated will be used for the shelter and related programs.

"We currently have just under \$200," she said. "The shelter's basic rent and utilities run \$650 each month. This sum does not cover the cost of a phone, nor does it cover the costs associated with a new resident's arrival: bus pass, food, personal hygiene items, etc."

She warns that without community support the CATS shelter will be forced to close next week.

"This is not a false alarm," Williams added. "I have done everything I know to do. The shelter will close its doors this

month if we can't pay it's basic bills."

CATS is a "peer-led resource and information group which endeavors to advance the quality of life for all those whose physical makeup, emotional, sexual and/or self-expression do not fit current cultural gender stereotypes through grass roots education, activism and advocacy," according to the organization's mission statement.

Its goals include: to endure accessibility to psychological, medical and legal assistance; to educate the public about gender-related issues; to provide peer support to those who would otherwise be homeless; and to provide peer support to those who are dealing with gender related issues.

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# PlanetOut strives to reach profit goals

by RHONDA SMITH

SAN FRANCISCO — The president and chief executive officer at PlanetOut Partners Inc. sketched a financially rosy picture of his company Wednesday, as the largest online business aimed at gay consumers prepares to mark its first anniversary. But despite his declarations about the company's fiscal success, he refused to provide the Houston Voice with specific figures that depict the company's net worth.

"Fortunately, our story is one of the few success stories in the dot.com industry," said Lowell Slevin, who became head of PlanetOut Partners in San Francisco after the PlanetOut Corp. and Online Partners, the corporate parent of Gay.com, merged in April 2001. "We planned. We executed. We delivered."

"While many companies were still planning last summer, we were already launching our second business," he said. "While many talked about consolidation, we were integrating two companies. While a company like Yahoo still struggles with subscription services, we have almost 70,000 paying members."

Slevin said the company is "close" to reaching "sustained profitability," but is not there yet.

"Like almost every media company in the world we, too, fell short of our 2001 target," Slevin said. "We're happy to say we are very close to sustained profitability and positive cash flow, and have even had one month in which we experienced positive cash flow recently. I

can say affirmatively that this company is near breakeven now and will be well above breakeven through the second half of 2002."

Bryce Eberhart, PlanetOut Partners' director of corporate communications, told Houston Voice last March that the company's investors "are demanding we be profitable by year's end."

This week, Eberhart said, "We didn't hit profitability by the end of the year because we were affected by the downturn in the ad market, like all other companies that depend on ad revenue. The great news is that after the merger, we were able to diversify our revenue streams and launch two paid personal services."

## Downsized news division

Tom Musbach, PlanetOut Partners' news director, said his division was "downsized," like all other divisions in the company after the merger. But he does not believe this has affected the company's editorial standards or the quality of its news content.

"Every department in the merger has had to make cuts and get really creative in terms of how we use our resources," he said.

Musbach is the main staff person in the news section and oversees news for PlanetOut.com and Gay.com. He works with eight U.S. freelance writers and two in other countries who produce news and commentary for the sites.

"I'd like to see us be able to expand our

resources some and perhaps offer more stories," he said. "We're pretty limited in terms of what we can do at this point."

The merger of PlanetOut and Gay.com, two of the largest gay-related Internet portals, came at a time when industry experts were predicting doom for many dot.com companies because they would not be able to generate enough revenue from advertising to sustain their initial plans for growth. Industry analysts said the advertising difficulty came from the realization that most Web users ignore advertising when scanning a favorite site.

As a result, PlanetOut Partners began generating revenue directly from its customers from three primary sources: advertising, e-commerce, and "premium personals."

In addition to generating more funds from e-commerce, company officials said both sites increasingly are making money by offering "premium personals" services and charging customers fees to access them.

Together, Gay.com and PlanetOut.com reach 3.6 million registered members and have 5 million different visitors each month, company officials said.

Rodger Streitmatter, an openly gay journalism professor at American University in Washington, D.C., and author of "Unspeakable: The Rise of the Gay and Lesbian Press in America," predicted the PlanetOut Partners' business concept would work, but said it might take time.

## Other online options

Streitmatter also said that gay consumers have many others online options, such as more adult-oriented sites like Badpuppy.com, a subscription-based site. The site also makes daily gay news available for users at Gaytoday.com, which has featured Streitmatter's work.

Another factor, Streitmatter noted, is that many online media and service organizations now provide users with at least some content about the gay community. "People also have to weigh whether they want to subscribe to a gay-oriented source," he said.

Streitmatter predicted that while many gay consumers will still want and seek news from from gay sources, "I think a large portion of the gay community is going to be satisfied with the kind of treatment they have in the mainstream press and online outlets."

Eberhart said at PlanetOut Partners, reporting gay-related news is part of a grander plan.

"We don't consider ourselves a news organization, but an online media company that offers personals, chatrooms, travel information, news, and entertainment information," he said. "We're specifically focused on giving our customers the best online experience possible, and part of that is news."

INFO

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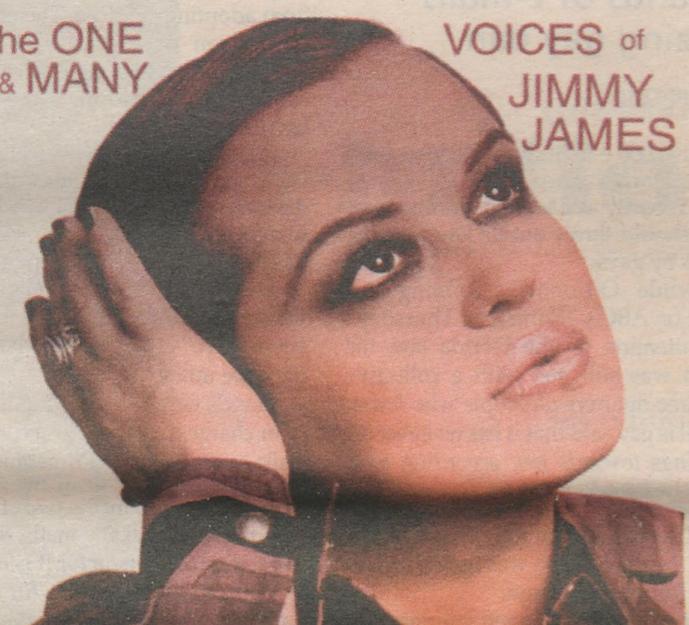


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# O'Donnell outing shines light on Fla. adoption ban

State's governor unfazed by tens of thousands of e-mails criticizing gay ban

by MIKE FLEMING

Some 100,000 e-mails have flooded state offices in Florida since Rosie O'Donnell came out recently as a lesbian, arguing that the state should throw out its law banning adoptions by gays.

But while O'Donnell's coming out March 14 on ABC's "Primetime Thursday" focused attention on the Florida law, the revelation was still met with a collective yawn: Three-quarters of people who know O'Donnell is gay said that it has no effect on their feelings towards her, according to a poll taken last week.

"I wanted there to be a reason [to come out]," O'Donnell said on the ABC program. "When I learned what was going on in Florida, I found that reason."

Response to the O'Donnell interview on ABC has been "overwhelming," said Eric Ferrero, public education director for the ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project.

"I was surprised at how many people didn't know about the law at all, and they're having strong reactions to Florida's institutionalized discrimination," Ferrero said.

In conjunction with O'Donnell's televised revelation, the ACLU launched a national campaign March 14 against Florida's 25-year-old law banning gays from adopting children. The effort includes publication of a paperback guide "Too High a Price," an e-mail drive to state officials and launching the Web site LetHimStay.com.

O'Donnell, who owns a home in Miami Beach and cares for a Florida foster child, wrote the introduction to the guide, which is geared to child welfare workers. She also mentions the Web site on her TV show, Ferrero said.

LetHimStay.com outlines gay parents Steven Lofton and Roger Croteau's battle to keep "Bert," a 10-year-old they have cared for since infancy.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and the state agency in charge of adoptions received 63,000 e-mails even before "Primetime Thursday" aired, officials said. Over the four days following the program, the two offices received an additional 50,000 e-mails, said Elizabeth Hirst, a spokesperson for Bush.

Calls and e-mails are still coming, said Kathleen Kearney, secretary of the state Department of Children & Families. Some 10 to 20 percent of respondents are from Florida, she said.

Bush, who is campaigning for re-election, isn't taking a public position on the adoption law, while his likely Democratic opponent, former U.S. Attorney General



When Rosie O'Donnell came out recently as a lesbian parent, she inspired more than 100,000 e-mails to Florida state officials in support of the ACLU's campaign to have the law struck down.

Janet Reno, is heavily courting gay voters in the state and has said she supports overturning the law.

"The governor will abide by the law, and that's basically all we're saying at this time," Hirst said. "He has expressed that he is willing to look at the issue, but has not taken a stand either way."

Florida is the only state with a law prohibiting adoptions by all gays, though gays can serve as foster parents. Mississippi bars same-sex couples, but not gay singles, from adopting. Utah restricts all unmarried peo-

ple from adoptions without specifying gays.

Anti-gay former beauty queen Anita Bryant led the 1977 "Save Our Children" campaign that pushed passage of the Florida measure. Now O'Donnell's star power and public support of Lofton and Croteau can change the tide against the law, Ferrero said.

"She is working with us to reach people on gay parenting who are not normally reached," Ferrero said. "People know and trust her, so she can reach the general public as well as child welfare workers who make decisions for foster kids."

Lofton and Croteau were also featured on "Primetime" and are among plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed against the state in 1999 by the ACLU to challenge the law's constitutionality.

The case moved to Atlanta's 11th Circuit Court of Appeals after Judge James King ruled last August that the gay adoption ban is valid, preventing the case from reaching trial.

Meanwhile, an Internet poll showed that among O'Donnell's most popular audience — American women between the ages of 35 and 44 — 73 percent of the women questioned said that O'Donnell's public coming out made no difference in their opinion of the talk show host.

Ten percent said it improved their opinions, while 18 percent said their opinions of O'Donnell had worsened, according to the poll.

Some 2,017 adults were surveyed on-line between March 12-14 for the Witeck-Combs Communications/Harris Interactive study.

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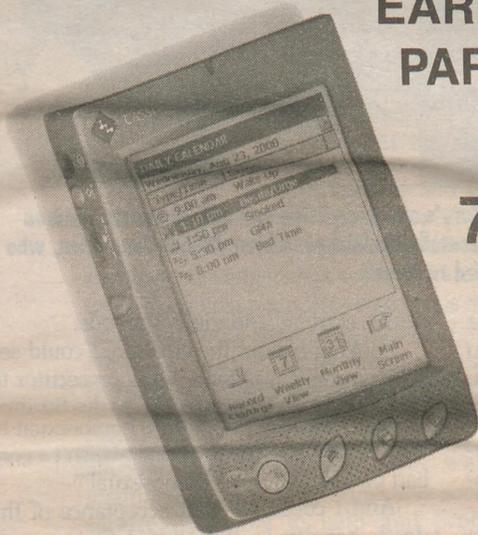
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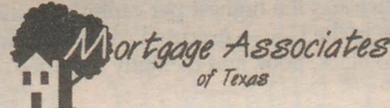
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## STAFF

**Executive Editor**  
Chris Crain

**Editor**  
Penny Weaver  
editor@houstonvoice.com

**Production**  
Bonnie Naugle

**Contributors**  
Lou Chibbaro Jr., Kay Dayus  
Trayce Diskin, Will O'Bryan,  
Rhonda Smith, Ella Tyler

**Webmaster:** Douglas Wright

**Photographers**  
Dalton DeHart, Kimberly Thompson

**Advertising Sales**  
Jim Nixon—Regional Sales Manager  
jnixon@houstonvoice.com

Wanda Faulkner—Senior Account Executive  
wfaulkner@houstonvoice.com  
cell (713)269-5743

Carla Laubscher—Account Executive  
claubscher@houstonvoice.com

**Administration & Sales Support**  
Carolyn A. Roberts  
croberts@houstonvoice.com

**National Advertising Representative**  
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.  
212-242-6863

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Issue 1117



## VIEWPOINT

# Deterring Wanda Jean

by LISA KEEN

Andrea Yates drowned her five children. The details of how she did it and how the older children struggled desperately to save themselves are too horrible to recount. The state of Texas sought the death penalty but earlier this week, a jury sentenced her to life in prison.

Wanda Jean Allen shot to death the woman she loved outside a police station in Oklahoma City after the woman announced she was leaving their relationship. The state sought the death penalty, the jury agreed, and on Jan. 11 last year, the state of Oklahoma executed Allen by lethal injection.

The death penalty has consumed the airwaves this month. The Yates trial and her sentencing has been covered and debated in virtually every media. HBO has been airing a documentary all this month about Wanda Jean Allen's sentencing and execution. And it has been airing a docudrama all month about the Matthew Shepard slaying, giving prominence to the struggle Shepard's parents went through in deciding whether to ask

The death penalty is alive and on the table and, with unprecedented frequency, is involving gay people.

Though it got little attention from the mainstream media at the time — and virtually no notice in the HBO documentary — it seems fairly clear that Wanda Jean Allen got the death penalty because she was lesbian.

"In these parts, you can get someone convicted quicker if they're gay or lesbian than if they're heterosexual, because everything is Bible-based," said Joann Bell, executive director of the ACLU's Oklahoma affiliate.

According to a report by Advocate columnist Adam Buckley Cohen, Allen believed her life might be spared if she was not a lesbian and, just weeks before her execution, she told a radio talk show host she was no longer gay. It didn't help.

Last year, Oklahoma stayed the execution of a man who said he killed another man for sexually propositioning him, but the state refused to reconsider the execution of Allen, who acknowledged a loving relationship with her victim. Oklahoma — which has the highest per capita execution rate in the U.S. — executed Allen, who was also black, poor, and mentally impaired.

### Driven by emotion

I have opposed the death penalty because it is applied disproportionately to people of color and other minority groups, and I have opposed it in cases where the evidence of guilt is less than overwhelming or derived from questionable witnesses. But I have never opposed it on principle.

Two-thirds of Americans support the use of the death penalty; even 50 percent of people of color support the death penalty. Why?

"Studies show that Americans support the death penalty more because it provides



Both faced the death penalty but who got the jury's sympathy? The mentally ill mother, Andrea Yates, who drowned her five children, or the mentally diminished lesbian, Wanda Jean Allen, who flew into an emotional rage when her lover tried to leave?

a method for revenge than because it is a deterrent to future crime," noted a Gallup Poll report last fall. Not surprisingly, then, when Gallup asked people whether Yates should get the death penalty, only 44 percent supported it. The apparent complications of the mother's mental illness, support for executing her dropped.

On occasions when I've supported the death penalty, I've been motivated by emotion. I backed the death penalty for the three white men in Texas who chained James Byrd Jr. to the back of their pickup truck because

causes extreme and violent moods.

Looking behind the emotion, I could see how wrong it was for a Texas prosecutor to encourage a jury to sentence Charles Burdine to death because "sending a homosexual to the penitentiary for perpetrating a very bad punishment for a homosexual."

And I could see that acceptance of the death penalty in the United States — at least in those states that still use it — puts us in the company of countries that behead men who engage in sodomy. Our willingness to keep the death penalty aligns us

Support for the death penalty comes from needing revenge, and in too many cases, prosecutors and jurors are interested more in deterring homosexuality than murder.

he was black and dragged him along a country road until his body was broken apart into 75 pieces. I wanted the death penalty for the two teen-agers in West Virginia who stomped to death J.R. Warren Jr. because he was gay, and who then drove over his body four times with their car. I would have been satisfied if Wisconsin had given the death penalty to Jeffrey Dahmer, who was gay and tortured, mutilated, and killed 12 men. And I believe the death penalty would have been just for the two men who raped and murdered Brandon Teena in Nebraska.

But my support for the principle behind death penalty may have been too much driven by emotion and too little by the difficult complications. With the Wanda Jean Allen case, I was prompted to look more closely, and I saw a person who was unable because of her clearly diminished mental capacity to control the type of powerful emotions that can emerge during a relationship breakup.

This week, the state of Georgia executed Tracy Housel for murdering a woman — though evidence was apparently entered that he raped and murdered a man in Texas as well — but who suffered from brain damage and a rare blood disorder that

more with Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Libya, and Syria — nations that, ironically, the Bush administration believes pose a threat so great that we're preparing to "deter" them with the threat of nuclear attack. When we put our finger on the proverbial button — whether our motive is to "deter" a terrorist nation or a murderer, we are allowing our emotions to override reason.

Many acts of killing are fueled by emotions. In many murder cases, the killers are clearly unable to control their actions because their minds are damaged.

In the case of the mother who killed her five children, the jury took into consideration her mental illness and gave her a life sentence. In the case of Wanda Jean Allen, the jurors were aware of her diminished mental capacity but still sentenced her to death, and I suspect they were motivated as much by a desire to deter homosexuality as the desire to protect society from murder.

They may have deterred Wanda Jean, but they didn't deter killing.

Lisa Keen is senior political correspondent for the *Houston Voice* and can be reached at lkeen@washblade.com.



VIEWPOINT

# Gay men send mixed messages on adult-child sex

by PAULA MARTINAC

If there's one word that makes lesbians and gay men nervous, it's "pedophilia." The charge of preying on young people has been leveled against us so often that we have ready responses when "gay" is mentioned in the same breath as "pedophile." Most recently, the Vatican spokesperson blamed gay priests for the ongoing scandal over sexual abuse by priests of young male parishioners.

Lesbians are often quick to defend their gay brothers with statistics that show straight men are more likely to be pedophiles than gay men. At the same time, our community rarely discusses how divergent the views of lesbians and gay men on are what constitutes pedophilia.

Over the last few decades, the lesbian and gay movement has worked hard to try to dispel the pedophile stereotype that hounds us and often costs us our rights. We've barred the North American Man-Boy Love Association from our community centers and pride parades, making it clear that we think advocating sex with children is reprehensible. And we've instituted a network of admirable social-service programs to help and protect queer-identified youth.

But some gay men still maintain that an adult who has same-sex relations with someone under the legal age of consent is on some level doing the kid a favor by helping to bring him or her "out." It's not pedophilia, this thinking goes — pedophilia refers only to little kids. Instead, adult-youth sex is viewed as an important aspect of gay culture, with a history dating back to "Greek love" of ancient times.

This romanticized vision of adult-youth sexual relations has been a staple of gay literature and has made appearances, too, in

gay-themed films. But it's a view that demonstrates little understanding of what pedophilia actually is — an abuse of adult power and an exploitation of the awakening sexual feelings of young people.

Gay men aren't alone in their ignorance about pedophilia. Society in general has a misguided way of seeing it

to respond to those fantasies. Last summer, I attended a reading in which a gay poet read a long piece about being aroused by a flirtatious young boy in his charge. In response, the man went into the boy's bedroom and took the boys penis into his mouth as the boy slept. Because the boy got an erec-

of the gay audience gave the poet an appreciative round of applause.

When some gay men venerate adult-youth sex as affirming while simultaneously declaring, "We're not pedophiles," they send an inconsistent message to society — and to their lesbian sisters. Women are rarely perpetrators of pedophilia, but lesbians get lumped together with gay men by our critics anyway — and we lose jobs as teachers and sometimes our own kids because of it. The lesbian and gay community will never be successful in fighting the pedophile stereotype until we all stop condoning sex with young people.

Paula Martinac is an author and syndicated writer and can be reached at [Lncolumn@aol.com](mailto:Lncolumn@aol.com).

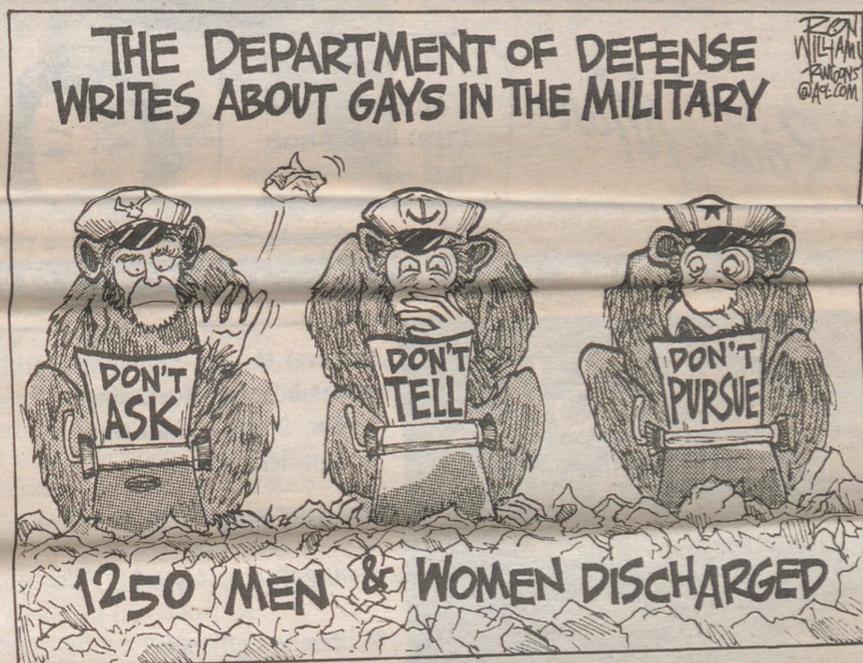
When gay men celebrate adult-youth sex as affirming while declaring 'We're not pedophiles,' they send an inconsistent message to society.

as a kind of sexual preference or choice rather than as sexual abuse. After the recent revelations about the extent of child molestation by priests, a CNN poll found that 55 percent of those questioned believed that priests wouldn't seek out children for sex if not for the vow of celibacy. But if that's true, how do we explain all those married men who prey on kids, including oftentimes their own?

For gay men of the baby-boom generation, the condoning of adult-youth sex may have to do with nostalgic narcissism — their own memories of feeling the first pangs of queer desire at a time when there were no outlets for them. I've heard 40-something gay men sigh when they reminisce about sexually desiring men as pubescent boys. The problem occurs when they use those memories to condone adult-youth sex today — "gay kids want sex" becomes the justification for it.

Of course, kids have sexual fantasies, some of which involve sex with adults. So, too, do many adults, gay and straight, have fantasies about kids. But adults have a choice in how

tion, the poet took that natural physiological response as a stamp of approval for his actions, which constituted sexual abuse. Disturbingly, most



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## on the record



Rene Russo

"I'd like to say that when I was born — oh, I'm going to cry, but this is for you, Rosie — my dad left and it was women in my life that were gay that raised me and that helped and nurtured me."

Actress Rene Russo, thanking Rosie O'Donnell for coming out as a gay parent, after Russo was shown a taped segment of O'Donnell's interview of "Primetime Live" ("Good Morning America," March 14)

"There is not a straight man in America that cares if Rosie O'Donnell is gay."

Neal Boortz, a syndicated radio talk show host based in Atlanta (March 12)

"Social engineers — often found in the human resources and public relations departments of our largest companies — have played a part in creating a culture in corporate America that encourages its leaders to make up the rules as they go along. Nowhere is this attitude more in evidence than in the battle over same-sex domestic partnerships in large corporations."

Warren Smith, editorializing in a the conservative religious newspaper, the *Charlotte World*, about how compromising moral standards in companies and large accounting firms has led in part to the collapse of Enron, the energy giant. (365gay.com, Feb. 18)

"I know people think it's so strange for a lesbian to say I fell in love with the Texas Legislature, but I did."

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, on her decade at the helm of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (*Austin-American Statesman*, Feb. 27)



Dianne Hardy-Garcia

"Praise the Lord."

Texas State Rep. Warren Chisum (R-Pampa), upon learning from a reporter of the impending departure of Dianne Hardy-Garcia as executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (*Austin-American Statesman*, Feb. 27)

"I've known him since I was 20 and that's just not true — I should know."

Alicia Nash on rumors that her husband, mathematician John Nash, the subject of the film "The Beautiful Mind," is gay; Nash was once arrested for soliciting sex with men in a public restroom ("60 Minutes")

"God bless the narrative. God bless originality."

Actor Russell Crowe, accepting the Best Actor award from the Screen Actors Guild, in what one paper called "a swipe at recent reports detailing how 'A Beautiful Mind' glosses over the real-life story of its main character." (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, March 12)



Howard Stern

"Ian McKellen is gay? I mean, I saw that he was sitting next to this gorgeous young guy at the [Screen Actors Guild] Awards — as beautiful as a woman — but I thought, 'That must be his son.'"

Howard Stern, expressing what appeared to be genuine surprise at news that the British actor and star of "The Lord of the Rings" is gay (March 12)

"Homosexuality is socially detested and legally condemned and persecuted. It defies the society's norms and moralities as inspired by the religion and stipulated by law. And this is for the good interest of families and children to live in a society free from both physical and psychological disease and problems."

The Egyptian State Information Service, an official outlet of the Egyptian government, in response to an e-mail from a British gay man complaining about a recent crackdown on gay men (RainbowNetwork.com)

**Derek Henkle**

Henkle came out as gay when he was in the ninth grade. Thereafter, he was constantly harassed. On one occasion students lassoed a rope around his neck in the school parking lot and threatened to kill him by dragging him from their truck. Instead of ensuring his safety, school authorities treated Henkle as if he were the problem, and transferred him to an alternative school for troubled students that did not meet his academic needs. The principal there told Henkle to "stop acting like a fag."



Derek Henkle

After a transfer to yet a third school, Henkle was beaten bloody by another student while two school security guards stood by. Unwilling to take measures to create a safe educational environment for Henkle, school officials had him take classes at a local community college to obtain a GED instead of a high school diploma. He is now a college student.

The Henkle case breaks new legal ground with its charge of first amendment violations by school officials who forced Henkle to hide his sexual orientation. Also, the case raises state tort law claims of negligence and infliction of emotional distress, and seeks punitive damages against school officials, including a school teacher, who tolerated anti-gay abuse.

**Jon W. Davidson**

Jon W. Davidson is senior counsel of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the nation's oldest and largest legal organization dedicated to the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV/AIDS. He is based in Lambda's Western Regional Office, which litigates groundbreaking cases in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. He also provides national strategic advice and assistance furthering Lambda's case, education, and policy work countrywide.



Jon Davidson

Davidson has won legal victories ranging from protecting the rights of lesbian and gay students, to helping secure asylum for gay people persecuted in their home countries, to stopping AIDS-related discrimination. Davidson also has helped reform anti-gay practices of the Los Angeles Police Department and is a frequent policy advisor to state and local legislators.

In a federal case challenging the Reno, Nevada, school district's mistreatment of a gay student, Davidson currently represents Derek Henkle, who suffered severe harassment and violence from fellow students.

Davidson was lead counsel in *East High Gay/Straight Alliance v. Board of Education*, and co-counsel in *East High School PRISM Club v. Seidel and Colin v. Orange Unified School District*. These suits succeeded in forcing school boards in both Salt Lake City and Orange, California, to allow lesbian, gay, and bisexual students and their non-gay friends to meet together and express themselves on the same terms afforded other students.

He also won an important victory for people living with AIDS in *Galanty v. Paul Revere Life Insurance*, securing a ruling from the California Supreme Court that insurers cannot deny disability benefits to people who become disabled from AIDS more than two years after their policies go into effect.

Davidson is also involved in attempts to reform several areas of the Los Angeles Police Department.

# Scientific researcher featured at Chamber's April dinner

Legal experts also visit Houston to talk with GLBT Chamber members on April 2

The Chamber will host well-known researcher Dr. Cheryl Lynn Weill, who will discuss the science of investigating sexual orientation and sexual identity, at its monthly dinner meeting April 2.

Dr. Weill received a B.S. degree from the College of Chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley in 1969 and a Ph.D. degree in chemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1974. After additional training in molecular neuroscience at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratories, and Harvard Medical School, she embarked on an independent research and teaching career in the Departments of Neurology and Anatomy and the Neuroscience Center at Louisiana State University Health



Scientific researcher Cheryl Lynn Weill, an authority on research into sexual orientation and sexual identity, speaks at the Chamber's monthly dinner meeting April 2.

Science Center in New Orleans.

Her research was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation and concerned the survival of neurons during development, and the identification of the genes and the molecular signals used by neurons for their survival. She recently retired from academic science, obtained a Masters of Social Work degree, is licensed as a LSW and has embarked on a new career as a psychotherapist.

Weill said her long-term goal is to be a Licensed Clinical Social Worker providing

## Legal figures are guest speakers for luncheon

On April 2nd, not only will the Chamber have one of the most exciting dinner speakers, but in addition the Chamber has the opportunity to have lunch with some of the most savvy legal council regarding GLBT law around the nation.

This luncheon will be at Baba Yega and will require members to register in advance by sending an email to [ctow@ghglcc.org](mailto:ctow@ghglcc.org) and reserving your seat by March 31.

The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will end around 1 p.m. with time for additional questions and answers following lunch.

Special thanks to Jim Null and PFLAG for allowing us to have some one-on-one time with the speakers who PFLAG has paid to come into Houston for the hearing we have concerning

psychotherapy primarily to adult survivors of childhood incest, abuse, and trauma. She also lectures on and writes about human sexuality.

Cheryl Weill's visit with the GLBT Chamber is sponsored and underwritten by Tech-Star Accounting Solutions, a division of McVay Business Services, Inc. and travel provided by Continental Airlines. Projection equipment donated by Jim Null.

Please support our sponsors and thank owner Mike McVay at TechStar Accounting Solutions, 12502 Seattle Slew Dr No. 2002, Houston, TX 77065-4572. Phone: 832-912-8989 or email to [mike@mcvaybusiness.com](mailto:mike@mcvaybusiness.com) and [www.mcvaybusiness.com](http://www.mcvaybusiness.com).

**INFO**

**Monthly Chamber dinner**  
Tuesday, April 2  
6 p.m. social, 7 p.m. dinner  
\$22 per member; \$25 for guests;  
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## Be part of the Chamber's unprecedented growth

On behalf of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank the Houston Voice for long standing relationship and commitment to helping the Chamber promote the diversity and rich economic strength of Houston's GLBT community.

The Chamber continues to grow at a remarkable rate of over 125 new members in the past 6 months and we believe it is because more and more individuals, businesses, corporations and non-profit organizations recognize the importance of collaborative efforts to promote our community as a viable and sought after consumer market.

It is essential that all of us focus our buying power within our community and that we focus our buying with businesses and companies who support fair and inclusive workforce policies and benefits.

It is also critical that we are deliberate in our attempt to remove our support from the

businesses and companies who refuse to recognize our equality as consumers or employees and that we shift the market share to impact change.

The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce continues to add benefit to our membership and to the work we do for the community at large. We are participating in promoting Houston around the world and helping our members identify opportunities to better support one another within the Greater Houston area.

The Chamber offers membership privileges such as free movie premiers, discounts at area businesses, discounts on marketing and advertising, a monthly newsletter to



Coy Tow, Executive Director

keep you well informed, monthly socials, monthly business meeting with educational and inspiring speakers, networking and lead generation, a web listing, opportunity to be a vendor or sponsor at EMPOWER (the Chamber signature community exposition to be held on September 21 and 22), ribbon cuttings, marketing lists, and the list goes on!

Our web site has more information at [www.ghglcc.org](http://www.ghglcc.org) and you may also call our hotline at 713-523-7576.

Investment in the Chamber is an investment in community infrastructure, community service, and a commitment to commerce. Come join an organization of professionals from all professions and become a part of making a positive difference in the present and in the future!

Coy Tow  
Executive Director

## Chamber members can attend free movie premier

Angelika Film Center in Downtown Houston Bayou Place is offering Chamber members some exclusive previews of coming films for FREE! If you plan to attend any of the screenings you must send an e-mail to ctow@ghglcc and let us know you are planning on attending. You are welcome to bring guests but they must be with you when you pick up your tickets at the box office. Please help us support this effort and show Angelika our appreciation for bringing us such great films!

### A Matter of Taste

Sunday, March 24 (Film opens Friday, March 29)

7:30 p.m.

Five 2001 César Award Nominations including Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Screenplay

"Exquisite! First-Rate!" — San Francisco Chronicle

In this acclaimed psychological thriller, Frédéric Delamont, a wealthy middle-aged businessman, befriends Nicolas, a handsome, young waiter. Delamont, a man of power, influence and strictly refined tastes, is immediately smitten by Nicolas, charm. Lonely and phobic, Delamont offers Nicolas a lucrative job offer. In spite of their differences, a close friend-



Sandi DuBowski (near left) made 'Trembling Before G-d,' a documentary about the lives of several Hasidic and Orthodox Jews who also are gay. Chamber members can see this film for free on April 15.

ship begins to emerge between the two men. However, their bond of trust and admiration soon spirals downward into a dangerous game of deceit and obsession for which neither is prepared. Directed by Bernard Rapp. In French, with English subtitles. Released by Attitude Films. Running Time: 90 minutes. Rated: NR.

### Trembling Before G-D

Monday, April 15 (Film opens Wednesday, April 17)

7:30 p.m.

"Trembling Before G-d" is an unprecedented feature documentary that shatters assumptions about faith, sexuality, and religious fundamentalism. Built around inti-

mately-told personal stories of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian, the film portrays a group of people who face a profound dilemma — how to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism and the Divine with the drastic Biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality. As the film unfolds, we meet a range of complex individuals — some hidden, some out — from the world's first openly gay Orthodox rabbi to closeted, married Hasidic gays and lesbians to those abandoned by religious families to Orthodox lesbian high-school sweethearts.

### Princesa

Tuesday, May 7 (Film opens Friday, May 10)

7:30 p.m.

## Members invited to network with the Chamber

The Corporate Networking Group is a Chamber-sponsored networking group designed for corporate and business professionals to network around GLBT specific workforce issues.

The Chamber will sponsor a Social and Networking event on April 11 at Meteor from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. with snacks, special drink prices, and name tags to help us meet new people and network.

All are welcome to come and join in the fun! There will be a \$1 donation at the door to pay for expenses.

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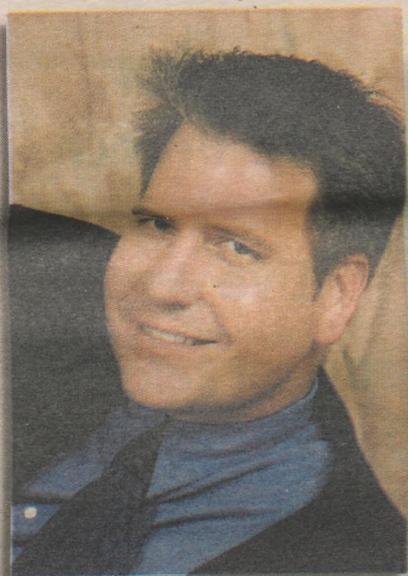


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# Out on the Bayou

Houston Voice • March 22, 2002

## Out of his right mind

David Brock shares his stories and regrets of life as an infamous gay conservative

by WILL O'BRYAN

Perhaps it was the time, perhaps it was the place, or maybe the gods were simply having fun. For whatever reason, David Brock took the road less traveled.

Brock is an openly gay man who voted for Al Gore in the last presi-

dential election. He was also the vicious right-wing pundit who smeared Anita Hill in his book, "The Real Anita Hill," and boasted of his attempts to topple the Clinton presidency with "Troopergate." He has since apologized publicly to both Clinton and Hill.

"My commitment to conservatism wasn't very deep to begin with," explains Brock, speaking from his Washington, D.C.-area home. "It's not so much a flip-flop as much as recovering certain values that were already there. I was living a lie. I was never a conservative. ... [But] those views were incompatible with where my career was going. I really just didn't listen to my own conscience."

Brock's conscience is precisely what everyone is talking about these days. He initiated the conversation by writing a book about it. But with the release of "Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative," Brock primarily skewers himself — though he's taken

plenty on the right along for the ride.

Brock's firsthand accounts of life at the Washington Times, or among the young warriors of Newt Gingrich's congressional revolution are funny, if somewhat frightening.

Brock describes co-workers at the Washington Times magazine, Insight: "Kirk [Oberfeld] was married to a woman named Linda Moore, Insight's managing editor, who was so degrading and foul-mouthed that no one wanted to speak to her, much less work for her. ... Kirk introduced me to a prototype of a certain kind of right-wing man, married or not, that I would encounter at the very highest levels of the movement in the years to come. ... Men who didn't follow Kirk's orders were 'prissy,' 'sissies,' 'faggots,' 'cocksuckers,' or 'fudge-packers.'"

Brock writes about Wednesday mornings in Dupont Circle at conservative strategy meetings during Gingrich's rein. Grover Norquist, a Gingrich ally who ran the meetings, "would have been a comic figure if he hadn't been so deadly serious," Brock writes.

"At the Wednesday Group sessions, Grover announced that in dismantling the 'liberal welfare state,' we would target 'the weakest parts of the empire' — legal services for the poor and government support for the arts," Brock writes.

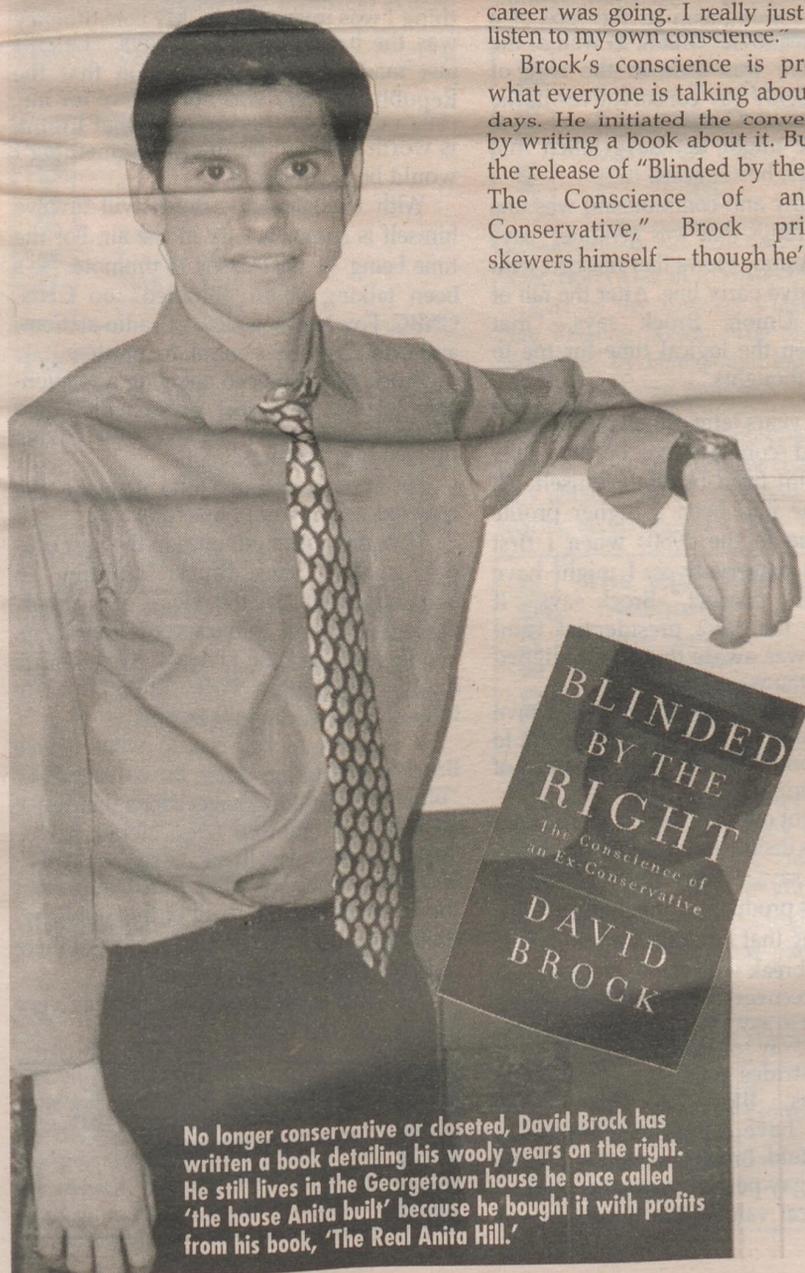
Yet in this environment, Brock thrived. At least, his career did, as did his bank account. The house the now-repentant Brock occupies is the same house he reports having bought with profits from bashing Anita Hill.

"With the proceeds from the best-selling book, I moved out of my Woodley Park rental and bought in the posh Georgetown section of the city," he writes.

The contradiction of ill-gotten gains is one of the issues that puts a crinkle into Brock's easy acceptance into left-leaning circles that might otherwise welcome Brock as a wayward son who has returned home. He does not seem bothered.

While he bills his book as a tribute to his conscience, it is not a grand apologia submitted on bended knee. Rather, "Blinded" may be a form of therapy.

➤ Continued on Page 20



No longer conservative or closeted, David Brock has written a book detailing his woolly years on the right. He still lives in the Georgetown house he once called 'the house Anita built' because he bought it with profits from his book, 'The Real Anita Hill.'

## appts.



Mauricio Canete dances the lead role in Houston Ballet's 'Peter Pan,' which ends its run on stage Sunday.

### through sunday, march 24

Houston Ballet's "Peter Pan" is on stage through Sunday. The piece is choreographer Trey McIntyre's first full-length work for the company. Based on the popular story by Sir James M. Barrie, the ballet is set to the music of Sir Edward Elgar in an arrangement by Niel DePonte. 7:30 p.m. March 22; 2 and 7:30 p.m. March 23; 2 p.m. March 24. Tickets \$11.50-104.50. Brown Theater, Wortham Theater Center, downtown Houston. 800-828-ARTS. [www.houstonballet.org](http://www.houstonballet.org).

### sunday, march 24

The 21st annual **Houston Humane Society K-9 Fun Run** raises funds for the society's work in services such as pet adoption, education and low cost spay/neuter clinic. The run at Sam Houston Park downtown includes a one-mile competitive race starting at 8:30 a.m.; one-mile non-competitive jog at 8:50 a.m.; and a one-mile non-competitive walk at 9:20 a.m. Both owners and canines are welcome to participate. The fee is \$25 through March 23, and \$30 on race day from 6-8:30 a.m. Houston Humane Society. 713-434-5535. [www.houstonhumane.org](http://www.houstonhumane.org).

### sunday, march 24

Irish tenor **Anthony Kearns**, one-third of The Irish Tenors group popular on PBS, performs at Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House. He first came to public attention when he won Ireland's "Search for a Tenor" competition in 1993. He has since performed on Irish television's "Late, Late Show" to widespread acclaim. Tickets: \$16.50-57, with group and senior discounts. 7 p.m. Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, Galveston Island, TX 77550. 800-821-1894. [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com).

### sunday, march 24

Archway Gallery hosts "Paint by Number" with artist Linda Darke Swaynos, who paints large abstract acrylics on canvas. The show runs through May 4, and an opening reception for the artist will be 5:30 to 8 p.m. March 30. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Archway Gallery, 2013 West Gray. 713-522-2409. [www.archwaygallery.com](http://www.archwaygallery.com).

### upcoming

The Christmas Songfest organization will sponsor a "Kindred Spirits Reunion." Everyone is invited to rekindle memories of the 1980s, when *Kindred Spirits* was in full swing, providing a classy, upscale environment for men and women to socialize. The club also worked to bring HIV awareness, education and support in the community. Staff from Keys West will pour refreshments, and a DJ will provide music for the event. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Bering Memorial United Methodist Church/HIV Medical Services. Tickets: \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. 8 p.m. Saturday, March 30. Edwin Hornberger Conference Center, 2151 W. Holcombe Blvd. For more information, call House of Coleman at 713-523-2521.

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### Tuesday



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### Wednesday

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### Thursday

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### Friday & Saturday

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### Sunday-Our Double Header!

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Join us at the bar anytime for \$2.50/glass house wine with each appetizer!



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# Is Brock finally getting it right?

> Continued from Page 19

"The credibility question," says Brock, before a pause. "The only way of answering it is the way I did it in the book. At this point, if [readers] are interested, they can make up their own minds. If they don't care, that's fine, too. The story I tell in my book is a lot bigger than me."

"Part of the recovery process was writing the book," Brock explains, pointing to a past he says he largely regrets. "It was a good experience in that it helped me to understand what I had done and why I'd done it. On the other hand, it forced me to live in the past."

The past that Brock reconstructs is one of cold wars, communism, Ronald Reagan, and an utter lack of openly gay Republicans. Brock posited that were it not for his anti-communism in the face of a fact that there was little in the way of organized openly gay conservatives in the late 1980s, his path might have been much different. He might not have fallen into such extremes, he suggests.

"I think [my anti-communism] was one of the only things that was genuine," says Brock of his public views that meshed with the conservative party line. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Brock says, "that would've been the logical time for me to have second thoughts."

Though he didn't have those second thoughts till years later, Brock posits that a less closeted conservative culture may have kept him from burying himself. "If the gay issue had been a higher profile political issue in the 1980s when I first came to the conservatives, I might have recognized the conflict," Brock says. "It wasn't until the 1992 presidential campaign that I was aware that I had aligned myself with the wrong side."

Brock's apparent disgust with his own past is so thorough, that he cannot point to a single accomplishment from that era of which he is proud.

"When I got out of college, I spent about a dozen years inside the conservative movement," Brock says. "I can't think of anything I did that was productive or helped anyone. The only thing that I'm happy about is that I was able to break with the movement and get on with recovery at a relatively young age. ... I have to say the whole period was a very difficult way to learn things."

Further, strides made by openly gay conservatives, like the Log Cabin Republicans, have come too late to keep Brock in the fold. Brock is certainly not the first nor last gay person to express conservative political values. But he was never

Brock's apparent disgust with his own past is so thorough, that he cannot point to a single accomplishment from that era of which he is proud.

able to dance to the same beat of organized, openly gay conservatives.

"During the early and mid '90s, when I was really at the height of the conservative world, I considered the LCR to be too moderate," Brock recalls.

"What they were doing, trying to modify the party from within, was not something I was interested in. My constituency was the harder right," he says. "Later, I just made a personal decision that the Republican Party was not a place for me. [The LCR's work] is an effort that I think is worth making, but it's not something I would be involved in."

With what, exactly, Brock will involve himself is somewhat up in the air. For the time being, he has a book to promote. He's been talking about "Blinded" on CNN, CNBC, Fox News, a slew of radio stations, and even Comedy Central, for starters.

Brock has also been enjoying a relationship for the past year or so with James Alefantis, whom he credits with having opened him up emotionally.

He's even gone out a little, no longer the closeted wallflower of a decade ago.

"I've only been out once in the past couple weeks," says Brock, pointing to demands created by the release of the book. "I went to Cobalt, to the second floor there. People had seen the Howard Kurtz article in the Washington Post. Strangers were interested in reading the book."

It remains to be seen to what degree Brock's reputation may be salvaged by "Blinded." But amid suggestions that Brock should keep himself sequestered in his "posh Georgetown" home, he seems relaxed.

"I feel a sense of relief, a cleansing from the act of confessing to all of this publicly," Brock concludes. "I couldn't really get there until the book was published."

And that's peace of mind he may very well take to the bank.

INFO

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# out on the aisle

THEATER LISTINGS

## 'Billie' comes to town

'Billie Holiday' starts at Theatre New West; 'Full Gallop' finishes run at Stages this week

by PENNY WEAVER

### 'Billie Holiday: Colors of My Soul'

In celebration of the recent Grammy award for Best Historical Album to Lady Day for "The Complete Billie Holiday on Columbia 1933-1944," Theatre New West presents "Billie Holiday: Colors of My Soul" opening tonight. The piece is a new and revised production that was presented at Houston's Rockefeller in 1991. It will again star Anne Le Sear, a recording artist who has also portrayed Tina Turner and Aretha Franklin in the off-Broadway musical, "Beehive." Many songs and monologues have been added to this production to complete the theatrical experience. Director Joe Watts, artistic director at Theatre New West, also wrote original dialogue for the presentation.

on stage

### 'Billie Holiday: Colors of My Soul'

8 p.m. March 22-April 13,  
Fridays & Saturdays  
Tickets: \$20  
Theatre New West  
1415 California St.  
713-394-0464

### 'Full Gallop'

Stages Repertory Theatre's return engagement "Full Gallop" runs through March 28. Originally presented in fall 1999, the play stars Sally Edmundson as the legendary fashion icon Diana Vreeland, former editor-in-chief of Vogue. Directed by Rob Bundy, the wildly popular production portrays the audacity and tenacity of the self-made Vreeland, who became the arbiter of fashion in the United States and possibly the Western world.

on stage

### 'Full Gallop'

Through March 28  
Tickets: \$35-\$75  
Stages Repertory Theatre  
3201 Allen Parkway, Suite 101  
713-527-0123  
www.stagestheatre.com

### 'The Misanthrope'

A French classic from the master of French comedy comes to Houston via Main Street Theater's production of Moliere's "The Misanthrope." The piece opened March 21 and runs through late April. Jef Johnson takes the role of Alceste in the translation by Richard Wilbur. Alceste is doomed to be sensible, direct and, above all, brutally honest in his bitter opposition to the superficiality and hypocrisy of society. This approach brings him trouble, and



Sally Edmundson stars as legendary fashion icon Diana Vreeland in 'Full Gallop,' which runs through March 28 at Stages Repertory Theatre.

creates an entertaining play for local audiences. There is no performance on March 22. "Pay What You Wish" performance is Sunday, March 24.

on stage

### 'The Misanthrope'

Through April 21  
7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays  
& Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays  
Tickets: \$20-30  
Main Street Theater  
2540 Times Blvd.  
713-524-6706  
www.mainstreettheater.com

### 'The Short Life of a Mosquito'

Part of the Country Playhouse's New Play Reading Series, "The Short Life of a Mosquito" by Houstonian Jody Radoff will be presented one time only in a rehearsed reading. At age 25, Buzz is trying hard to get past one-night stands and separate lust from passion. He is one of three characters in the play about a trio of childhood buddies now sharing an apartment in New York City.

on stage

### 'The Short Life of a Mosquito'

5 p.m. March 24  
Free admission  
Country Playhouse  
12802 Queensbury  
713-467-4497

### 'The Perfect Party'

A comedy by A. R. Gurney, "The Perfect Party" tells the story of Tony, who invites a critic from the New York Times to review his perfect bash. His wife and best friends are there to ensure everything goes perfectly, but this is a hilarious play about life's imperfections.

on stage

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## dish

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

### Network trumps cable coming out

It seems that Hollywood executives might be nervous about the recently announced gay cable channel that MTV and Showtime are spearheading. While a television channel all our own similar to Canada's PrideVision would be great, the way things are going with gay television shows these days, we may not need a whole channel when we have several that are willing to cater to us.

Variety reports that NBC is paying \$300 million to keep "Will & Grace" on the air until May of 2005. NBC Studios, the in-house studio that produces the gay-centric sit-com, will get \$4 million an episode to produce the show. Even if the show is cancelled after the 3-year contract expires, it will have lasted seven years on the air.

"Will & Grace" has been the biggest comedy hit of the last four years," NBC president Jeff Zucker told Variety. "And in this year when it's faced intense competition, it remains the second-highest-rated comedy. The show is just hitting its stride." This new deal makes "Will & Grace" the fourth most expensive series at the network, behind "ER" (which has an openly gay character), "Friends" and "Frasier."

Hopefully with this influx of cash, the series might be able to afford actors to play Jack's and Will's boyfriends.

#### Rupert calls the shots

David Kohan and Max Mutchnick, the creators of "Will & Grace," will also be busy working on 13 episodes for an unnamed sit-com for the peacock network. Originally, the team was going to produce a show about two straight couples and a gay couple. However, that idea has been scrapped, and now the duo is working on a show about a producer who arrives at a failing morning talk show. While all of the main characters on the behind-the-scenes comedy (imagine "Murphy Brown," but more desperate) are straight, according to sources close to the show, there will more likely than not be some gay supporting characters.

Rupert Everett has landed at NBC as well, where the gay actor will play a gay leading character. Variety reported that NBC is paying more than seven figures for Everett, whose show was the subject of an inter-network bidding war. Though NBC was the victor, there have been some troubles getting the show off the ground. According to gossip columnist Romeo San Vicente, Everett wasn't happy with the show's concept — a gay British diplomat who is forced to move into a mansion on D.C.'s Massachusetts Avenue, otherwise known as Embassy Row. The show has been pushed back from its fall 2002 starting date to become a midseason addition. NBC has ordered 13 episodes of the series. Everett was reportedly looking for writers who could fix his problems with the show, and a complete overhaul of the concept may be expected when the show finally hits the air.



Rupert Everett

#### Gay is the way

NBC signed out actor Nathan Lane to do a sitcom for them a good four years ago, and the actor is ready to come back to the small screen, but this time with rival network CBS. The E network, according to the New York Post, has ordered a pilot of a show called "Life of the Party," in which Lane plays Charlie Lawrence, an openly gay politician who used to be a movie star. He's like Ronald Reagan, but younger, gayer and with a better memory.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is already backing this star vehicle. "Charlie's sexual orientation is presented matter-of-factly. There's no dramatic coming-out scene," said Scott Seomin, GLAAD's media director. "Both Nathan and the script are extremely funny — and I love the idea of a gay congressman." Has anyone told Seomin about Barney Frank or Tammy Baldwin?

With two of the three networks getting behind big gay projects, ABC is sure to follow. Though Ellen may be off the air, and other groundbreaking gay shows (like "Six Feet Under" and "Queer As Folk") remain on paycable channels, there will still be plenty of opportunities to see quality gay shows on the networks. So break out the bunny ears, because even without cable, in network TV these days, gay is the way.

Nathan Lane



Thanks to a Showtime-MTV joint effort, American viewers may be getting an all-gay channel, similar to Canada's up-and-running PrideVision.

—E-mail editor@houstonvoice.com

# eating out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Papillon a downtown gem

French restaurant's foods, service imperfect, but overall a delight

by TRAYCE DISKIN

While the downtown renaissance has brought a handful of establishments that emphasize quality cuisine as much as hip urban atmosphere — such as Liberty Noodle, Sake Lounge and Saba Blue Water Café — Houston diners have also seen their share of the overpriced, mediocre and downright pretentious.

Papillon, a French eatery run by the team behind Rice Village's Mi Luna and downtown's Mia Bella and Zana, manages to defy all these categories.

Its ambience is more interested in elegance and style than trendy sleekness, with its spacious dining room softly lit and accented with looming but unobtrusive abstract canvases painted in deep reds and blues. I loved how the kitchen was visible through a long, narrow window so one could catch glimpses of the activity without feeling intruded on by the noise and activity.

Inside the back hallway that leads to the restrooms further down, I couldn't help but linger by the open kitchen doors and savor the intoxicating smells which foreshadowed a meal truly worth raving about.

Papillon serves French bistro cuisine but with a continental, and worldly flair that makes other "fusion" menus appear clumsy. The care and quality can be found in the smallest details, from the herbed garlic butter that accompanies the bread to the complementary scoop of Tuna Tatare appetizer that appeared as we were perusing the innovative menu.

Obviously, the teaser worked, as I immediately ordered a full appetizer of the Thon Tatare (\$8), which featured a tower of tiny cubes of sashimi tuna tossed with green onions and honey-sweetened soy. The Mussels (\$8) were a little on the small side and stewed in a white wine broth which suffered from an overdose of vinegar. However, the fresh tomatoes, herbs and crumbled feta were a pleasant distraction from the more acidic-tasting shellfish on the bottom of the heaping pile.

The Covina in Truffle Sauce (\$26) sounded irresistible, and the fish alone was. A white, oily and tender fish, the Covina soaked up the buttery sauce gorgeously and the herb and pepper seasoning complemented the light browning. The sauce itself, however, was too buttery and kept me from eating the nearly drowned brussel sprouts.

The Filet de Bouef (\$28) was served in a beef veal-based demiglace. While the "beef on beef" approach may sound a bit overwhelming, the demiglace held the

subtle essence of veal with the perfect consistency that drew out the fresh delicacy of the juicy beef. The bed of grilled vegetables blended well with the steamed brussel sprouts, which gave the tender dish a welcome contrast in texture.

It's difficult to choose from the list of

The care and quality can be found in the smallest details [at Papillon].

desserts, but I recommend you indulge in the decadence of the Chocolate Soufflé (\$8). The generous heaping of vanilla bean ice cream sinks into the crumbly chocolate, transforming each bite into an explosive mingling of texture and flavor. For something lighter but no less savory, try the Crepes Stuffed with Mango Ice Cream (\$6).

We waited long stretches of time between courses, and wine, water and coffee weren't as efficiently executed as one would expect from an otherwise professional and knowledgeable staff. More than once, however, the sous chef and staff wandered from table to table, inquiring after the meals — and there didn't seem to be a disappointed palette in the house.

Even better, Papillon sits in the center of the theater district, a block's walk uptown from the Alley. Go after a show or an Angelika flick so you can savor the style and exquisite substance that make Papillon a rare gem in the heart of downtown.



**FOOD FILE**

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Service:

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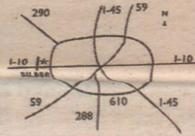
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# homefront

## Home work extends to city

'Keep Houston Beautiful' starts, but now is not a time to neglect a variety of areas at home

by ELLA TYLER

Saturday is Keep Houston Beautiful Day. The Keep Houston Beautiful organization is managing a variety of clean up and beautification projects all over the city.

There will be clean up projects in each city council district and the at-large council members will be part of the volunteer crew to pick up "bandit" signs. Kickoff is at 9 a.m. at Eleanor Tinsley Park, along Buffalo Bayou.

If you miss the fun on Saturday, this is the first of a series of projects spearheaded by Keep Houston Beautiful. Visit its Web site at [www.houstonbeautiful.com](http://www.houstonbeautiful.com) for more information about upcoming events and to find out how it can help you organize your own neighborhood clean up. This group organizes litter pick ups, tree plantings, graffiti prevention projects and more.

I have high hopes for these projects. Not just because they will make our city more beautiful — or less ugly, depending on how you feel about the city — but because events like this are the closest thing we have to a rain dance. This one will provide the rare opportunity to rain on elected officials and probably a local celeb or two.

Our rainfall is significantly below normal for the year, and although it is not yet a serious problem for lawns and established plantings, newly planted areas must be watched carefully. I am afraid that I have lost a rose bush I transplanted last month and barely escaped losing the plants that are still in pots waiting to be put in the ground.

The cool weather and cloudy days keep plants from using too much water but make it easy to forget that we have not had any significant rain since the Trail Riders got here in early February. Bless 'em; we really needed that rain, too.

Until it gets warmer, don't let new plantings and container gardens dry out and give plants that are actively growing, such as roses and vegetables, an inch of water per week. Use a rain gauge. When temperatures get higher, into the 90s, everything might need supplemental water. And, of course, always water several hours before you apply fertilizer, insecticides or fungicides.

Around-home chores sometimes

have to go by the wayside when special events come up. I recently spent two weeks at the Fiesta on Kirby, managing an early polling location. It was an interesting, though exhausting, experience. I particularly enjoyed seeing the diversity of customers and looking at the variety of foods.

I'm now trying a new diet that may break me of my eating-out habit and get me to spend more time at home in the kitchen. For years, I've eaten 90 percent of my meals out, even though I know how to cook. The diet plan allows lean meat, two eggs, lots and lots of vegetables and two servings of fruit per day. It can be done at restaurants, but why try?

I bought myself a little George Foreman grilling machine. It is wonderful. I cooked a salmon steak in just a few minutes and then grilled some zucchini, which, surprisingly, took as long as the fish even though it was much thinner. This success sent me back to the meat counter, where I bought serving sizes of several other things to cook on the grill. It had never occurred to me that you could buy just a half pound or less.

Our rainfall is significantly below normal for the year, and although it is not yet a serious problem, newly planted areas must be watched carefully.

Some of these little appliances are worth having and some are not. Before you buy one, consider what you would use it for and see if another appliance that you already have would do the same thing. When you look at your instruction book, you will find that many of them are multi-taskers.

For example, my grilling machine will also make grilled cheese sandwiches (not that I'll ever get to eat one ever again) so I don't need sandwich maker. The bread machine also makes quick breads. Even if an appliance is not very expensive, it does require storage space, so think ahead there, too.

I think I'll cook as much as I can on the grilling machine. It seems safer. I sprayed a pan with cooking spray and put it on the fire, and then decided it needed a bit more spray. So when I sprayed, everything went up in flames, which were fortunately short lived and didn't hurt me or anything else. Events like this contribute to my preference for eating out.

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## Maranatha Fellowship MCC

Maranatha Fellowship MCC is on the Move!

Sunday Morning Services At Our New Location & Time:

**3333 Fannin, Suite 106, at 10AM**

For more information, call the church office 713.528.6756

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

March 24<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday "What a Parade Can Lead To!" Rev. Janet Parker  
March 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday "What Does it Take For You to Believe?" Rev. Janet Parker

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

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

For more info...  
713-528-6756 or email

Maranatha  
Fellowship



"Building Community Through Compassion"



The Reform Church  
of Galveston, Texas

Join us for our  
11 a.m. Sunday Mass  
starting in mid-April

Father Tom Martin  
pastor

3712 Broadway  
Galveston, Texas 77550  
409.765.8500

# community calendar

## saturday, march 23

### every saturday

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

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

**Dignity mass.** 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community** (Community Awareness for Transgender Support) Board of Directors meeting, 1-4 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

**Resurrection MCC.** Services. 9 and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in 2-5 p.m. • STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys) meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## monday, march 25

### every monday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## tuesday, march 26

**Bi-Net Houston.** Men's meeting. 7 p.m. 713-476-4380.

**Houston Outdoor Group.** Monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m., Don and Ray's. 713-522-7809.

### every tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

## sunday, march 24

### every sunday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**wednesday, march 27**

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

**every wednesday**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Spiritual Unlift service.** 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston, 7:30 p.m. • 713-524-3818.

**thursday, march 28**

**every thursday**

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

**Free HIV Testing.** By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

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

**FrontRunners.** Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

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

**HIV Art Therapy Program.** 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

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

**Lambda Skating Club.** 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

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

**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

**STD exams & treatment.** Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

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

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

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

**friday, march 29**

**Good Friday Service.** 10 a.m.. Stations of the Cross followed by a communion service. Kolbe Project, 1030 Heights Blvd. 713-861-1800. www.kolbeproject.org.

**every friday**

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

**Freelance Art Classes.** By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Light breakfast provided. 713-523-9530.

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

**Govinda Yoga Club.** Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.

**Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting.** 713-942-7002.

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

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

**Lesbian & Gay Voices.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Card Players Club meets every fourth Friday of the month, 7 p.m. Call Jimmy: 713-864-7299 or 281-437-0636 • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

**volunteer/self-help**

**Gay & Lesbian Help Line.** For gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Staffed by volunteers of all ages. 6-11 p.m. Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 888-340-GLBT.

**Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston.** Volunteers offer a friendly ear to callers in need of information, nonjudgmental support, crisis intervention and questioning youth, emergency shelter and advocacy services to crime survivors who may need someone to accompany them to a hospital for medical attention or assistance in filing a police report. 713-529-3211

**Montrose Counseling Center Permanent Endowment, Inc.,** a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is looking for an attorney who wants to give back to the community by providing pro bono legal counsel to its Board of Directors. Attorneys with estate planning or real estate experience are encouraged to respond. Please send a letter of inquiry with your resume/CV to: Montrose Counseling Center Endowment - LC, Attn: Executive Director, 701 Richmond Avenue, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713.526.4367. No phone calls.

**Peer Listening Line.** Youth only. Staffed by GLBT youth for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday. 800-399-PEER.

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

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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you should BE COMING to me.  
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professional services directory!

# houston classifieds

Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at 11 a.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### JEFF HUNTER

\$25 reward for information leading to successful contact with Jeff Hunter of Stafford, Texas. Call 713-468-6565.

### DAY SHELTER

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

### MR. PRIME CHOICE

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

## AUTOS FOR SALE

### 1996 BMW Z3

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

## EMPLOYMENT

**PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR.** The director of public policy is responsible for coordinating the policy initiative of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC). Demonstrated public policy experience (youth and/or LGBTQ experience preferred) at the federal level, exceptional written and verbal communications skills, and a strong commitment to grassroots multi-issue organizing are essential.

**YMSM OF COLOR HIV SPECIALIST.** The specialist will be responsible for supporting the implementation of NYAC's HIV/STD prevention education programs and technical assistance for youth-service providers and YMSMs of color. Demonstrated experience working on issues impacting young men who have sex with men and working within communities of color experiencing health disparities are essential. Applicants should also have an applied knowledge of organizational and program development as they relate to youth, LGBTQ populations, and/or communities of color.

Applicants must be committed to social justice and working with and for LGBTQ youth in an anti-racist environment. Please send cover letter, resume, and writing sample to: NYAC, PPD or YMSM Review, 1638 R Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009. No calls. People of color, transgender people, women, young people, and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. Please visit our web site at [www.nyacyouth.org](http://www.nyacyouth.org) to download job descriptions. Application Deadline: March 15th.

## HOUSEKEEPER

Full-time live-in housekeeper wanted for large home in the Caribbean West Indies • Private room & bath with AC & TV and stipend included along with WC Medical • Prefer mature, responsible adult • Some cooking and gardening experience a plus, but not required • Fax letter of application and resume to 340-772-9499 include e-mail • Position opens June 1, 2002 • [sundance3710@hotmail.com](mailto:sundance3710@hotmail.com)

## STREET OUTREACH EDUCATOR • PT

Educate the Houston GLBT community • Bilingual a plus • Experience in HIV/AIDS education preferred • TDH grant funded position • 10-20 hours per week • Great job for student or recent grad • Mail or fax: Director of Education • AIDS Foundation Houston • 3202 Wesleyan Annex • Houston, TX 77027 • Fax 713-623-4029 • No earn what you are worth • Experienced grant research and development agent needed to target private foundation funding • AIDS Housing • % commission position • 713-521-1613.

## SONOMA

Now hiring all positions • Apply in person • 1415 California • Mon-Fri • 1-4 pm.

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needs a customer service assistant. Must be very proficient with Microsoft Word. Responsibilities include correspondence, filing, and general office clerical duties. We are looking for strong written and verbal communication skills, plus a stable background and good references. Please call Rob at 713-661-7700 or [www.schmerleragency.com](http://www.schmerleragency.com)

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

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Furnished rooms in Montrose from \$295/week • For single, quiet person • Free cable tv, breakfast, parking, maid service • With queen bed, kitchen, & laundry access • Montrose Inn • 408 Avondale • 713-520-02061

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### BODY MAGIC

Swedish • Sports • Deep Tissue • Montrose • In/Out • 10a-10p • Dan 713-529-8787

## Q Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	
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60						61				62			63	64	65
66						67						68			
												71			

## "TRIBES"

### Across

- Messing around the "Will and Grace" set
- James Baldwin work
- Lez in lipstick
- Leaves quietly, with "out"
- Tyler of "Queer as Folk"
- "A Chorus Line" tune
- With 61-Across, "Two Tribes" band
- Sometime label of David Bowie
- What a man may be made of, in Oz
- How some like it
- Margaret who studied New Guinea tribes
- Song in "Jesus Christ Superstar"
- Large phallus painter
- A word from Verlaine
- Gets hard
- One of a party host's nuts, perhaps
- Chose not to swallow
- Billions of years
- Yellow Brick way and others
- "Krippendorf's Tribe" director
- Portrayal of Mary and son
- \_\_\_\_ bit (small amount)
- In need of BenGay
- At a rock-bottom price
- Stiff hair
- "Till There \_\_\_\_ You"
- Xena portrayer

- "Lesbians Ignite" and "Queers Bash Back"
- Tori who sang "I am not from your tribe"
- Where a trucker parks his bottom
- Short guy under J. Edgar?
- "Losing My Religion" band
- See 17-Across
- Part of a Stein line
- Lesbian Bianca's mom on a soap opera
- Utensil for giving Oliver "more"
- 069-69-0069, e.g.
- Opportunity for Glenn Burke
- Wash out

### Down

- Dept. of "Don't ask, don't tell"
- Organ pleased by Bernstein
- Org. that promises to be "morally straight"
- Part of a "fashion-able" name
- Orally appealing, perhaps
- She had no heterosexual parents
- Love-making sound
- Stick your protuberance where it doesn't belong
- Like Feniger's vinegar
- Etheridge album "\_\_\_\_, I Am"
- Points to what's to come
- Prepared for safe sex
- Audrey of "That Touch of Mink"
- Destitute
- They work with your stones
- \_\_\_\_ Pinafare"
- Comic caveman Alley \_\_\_\_
- Tammy Baldwin, for one
- Island glad-hand word
- The Indigo Girls "\_\_\_\_ Mia"
- Knocks out
- Gets sum
- Pansy Division's "I Can't \_\_\_\_"
- James who won a suit against 3-Down
- Capable of cold-cocking you
- Shiny part of the Little Bear's tail
- Needing to be set straight
- Charlotte of "Facts of Life"
- You can't be straight or lesbian without this
- Cowboy's job in "The Boys in the Band"
- What King Edward II used to sock it to Piers Gaveston?
- Indian term of respect
- Like countries that bear arms against each other
- Cherrie Moraga's mouth
- \_\_\_\_ and Sympathy"
- Caesar's lang.
- Rene Auberjonois role
- Gershick's "Gay \_\_\_\_ Girls"
- One of Freddie Mercury's pair

Answers on Page 29

**ALVIN HALL**  
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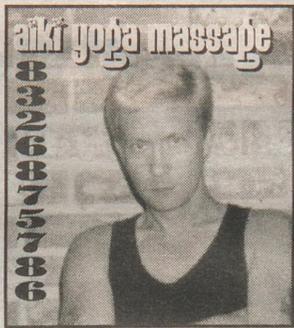
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21st annual Houston Humane Society K-9 fun run and SpokesPet contest • March 24 • Sam Houston Park • 713-434-5535

**ADOPT A PET**  
Pets can bring energy to any household. To adopt an animal in need of a home, contact the Houston Humane Society at 713-434-5555.

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**\*HOT\* BODYBUILDER\***  
**\*\*\*HANDY MAN\*\*\***  
Fix, paint, repairs and other duties in your home by gorgeous body builder in a G-string • Professional auto detailing and water fountain cleaning services also available. Call Joseph @713-526-8634 • Mobile 281-687-3735.

**M2M BODY GROOMING**  
Body Waxing • Clippings • Coloring • Personal grooming by Dale. Waxing specialist & licensed Cosmetologist. Private location in Montrose. Call 713-529-5952 for appointment.

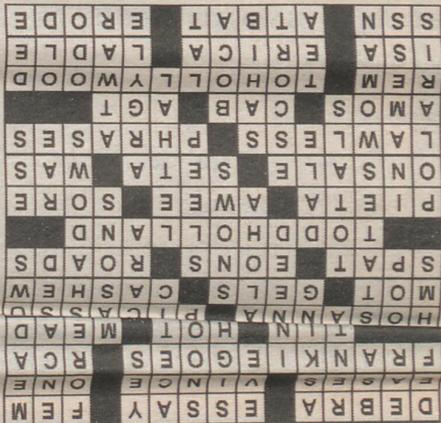
**ROOMMATES**  
GM seeks responsible roommate to share 2b • 2.5 ba • Townhouse in Montrose • \$400/mo. + half of the utilities • Smoking OK as long as it is on the patio • Available March 15 • 713-523-9297.

**SEEKING**  
**SPACE SOUGHT**  
Very intelligent HIV+ metaphysical writer needs clean, quiet, supportive space to finish book • 713-226-2259

**VOLUNTEERS**  
**STEVEN'S HOUSE**  
Seeking caregivers for transitional housing program for HIV+ adults • Must have high school diploma and experience as a caregiver • Contact Ms. Straham @ 713-522-5757 or fax resume to 713-522-1910

**WANTED TO BUY**  
**CASH FOR BOOKS**  
713-659-5266

**You can E-mail Your Classified Ad**  
Send your ad to Carolyn Roberts at croberts@houstonvoice.com along with your name, address, and phone number, and your credit card information with billing address.



Answers to Q puzzle on page 28

Houston  
Voice

**Classified Order Form Fax: 713-529-9531, Phone: 713-529-8490**

**TO PLACE AN AD:**  
**IN PERSON:** Bring completed order form with payment to Houston Voice offices (M-F, 9-5:30 pm) 500 Lovett, Suite 200. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to Houston Voice Classifieds, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX, 77006. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 713-529-8490.  
**BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 713-529-9531. **BY E-MAIL:** croberts@houstonvoice.com  
**AD POLICY:** Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

**Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 11 a.m.**

**1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY**

**FREE:** Call for guidelines  
 \_\_\_ HIV Services & Education  
 \_\_\_ Volunteers  
 \_\_\_ Non-Profit Organizations  
 \*First 20 words

**INDIVIDUAL RATE \$10:**  
 \_\_\_ Announcements  
 \_\_\_ Auditions  
 \_\_\_ Employment-Seeking  
 \_\_\_ Pets-Free or Lost & Found  
 \_\_\_ Roommates  
 \_\_\_ Personal Web sites

**BUSINESS RATE \$18:**  
 \_\_\_ Auto Repair  
 \_\_\_ Business Opportunities  
 \_\_\_ Entertainment  
 \_\_\_ Help Wanted  
 \_\_\_ Help Wanted-Seeking  
 \_\_\_ Home Improvement  
 \_\_\_ Items For Sale  
 \_\_\_ Licensed Massage  
 \_\_\_ Moving Services  
 \_\_\_ Professional Services  
 \_\_\_ Real Estate For Rent  
 \_\_\_ Real Estate For Sale

**Call 713-529-8490 for other categories**

**2 WRITE YOUR AD**  
Please print clearly

**CATEGORY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# OF ISSUES:** \_\_\_\_\_

Giant or Bold Headline – Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**TEXT:** \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3 TOTAL YOUR COST**  
CALL FOR DIRECTORY AD RATES

**INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS**  
Up to 20 words for \$10.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: \$10.00

Additional words \_\_\_\_\_ x 50¢: \_\_\_\_\_

Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) \_\_\_\_\_

**Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ # of issues

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BUSINESS RATE ADS**  
Up to 20 words for \$18.00 per week.

Additional words \_\_\_\_\_ x 75¢ per word (per week): \_\_\_\_\_

Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) \_\_\_\_\_

**Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ # of issues

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Charge to my  AMEX  MC  VISA

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



WINDOWMEDIA, LLC

parent company to:

*Houston Voice* - Texas

*Southern Voice* - Southeast

*Washington Blade* - Washington D.C.

*New York Blade News* - New York

*Eclipse Magazine* - South

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

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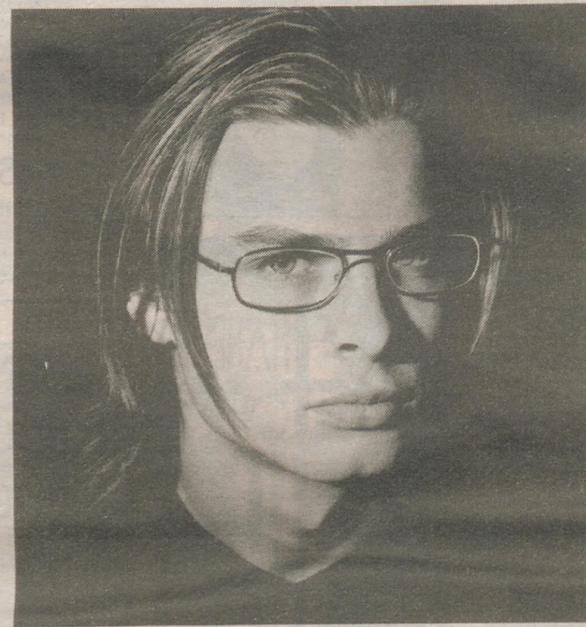
Attn: Jim Nixon-Regional Sales Manager

c/o Houston Voice/Eclipse magazine

500 Lovett Blvd, Suite 200 • Houston, TX 77006

fax 713-529-9531 • E-mail: [jnixon@houstonvoice.com](mailto:jnixon@houstonvoice.com)

## Uncensored Visions



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Did you ever wonder why it is that old fart Andy Rooney gets a special place on "60 Minutes" to whine about whatever in life is pissing him off this week? And why is it that only drag queens get to read our beads in front of an audience, spouting off whatever idle thought passes through their addled brains?

Isn't it about time that you got your chance to step up on the stump, speak your bitch, and snap a few snaps?

Well now's your chance. Beginning in next week's eclipse, there will be a special space for your weekly BITCH SESSION. Whatever the topic, and whatever your take on it, just call toll free from wherever you are, and let 50,000 queers know what you think.

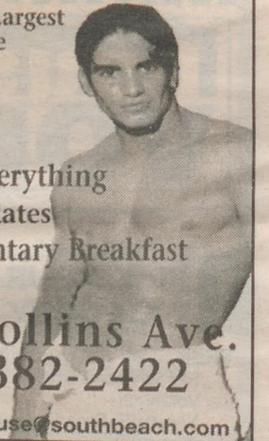
**GOT A BITCH?**  
call 1-800-858-8088

or e-mail  
[editor@eclipsemag.net](mailto:editor@eclipsemag.net)

# Bitch Session

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800-382-2422

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HoVo RESTAURANT LISTINGS

**Dig In!**

**HOUSTON VOICE**

# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

## March 22-28



### ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

The full moon falls in your house of love on March 28. If you feel extra vulnerable, go with it. You don't need to be defensive just because you really want someone. A Pisces wants you, too.



### TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

Mars in your sign makes you a real powerhouse. Just be careful not to get into power struggles with those who are smaller and weaker (in spirit) than you are. Be kind, sweetie. A Leo is strongly affected by your moods.



### GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Mercury, your ruler, finishes up a stint in your career house. It's time to put your writing skills to work for you. You can make more money if you really put your ideas out there. Don't fritter away your brilliance. A Sag sees your true colors (including your darker shades...).



### CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

Mars transits your house of friends in late March and brings sexual tension between you and your little pals to the surface. Keep your sense of humor, and keep your pants on. But do indulge in a few harmless make-out fests with a Taurus.



### LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

Yes, you are a drama queen. You're the original one. So work your flair to the nth degree, dear. This is your week to get attention from all the wrong people in all the right ways. A Libra wants to be your No. 1 paramour.



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

The full moon on March 28 falls into your house of money. If you invest well, you can put a nice little summer vacation fund in place over the next several weeks. Work extra hard to have extra dough later. An Aries wants to work your bod.



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

The Sun makes a sweet aspect to Neptune this week. Socializing and creative/artistic endeavors blend well together. You are the person who makes beautiful things happen. An Aries makes you feel beautiful.



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

Day-job matters may require a few adjustments. Make sure your schedule suits your nature, darling. You may have to put extra thought into how to make a living. You'll be glad you did, come the summer. A Taurus wants to come before this summer.



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

Mars is transiting your very physical sixth house and making you very sexually creative — but paranoid, too. Examine all your feelings and longings. You need to use your powers of analysis to pull yourself out of emotional paralysis. A Gemini can help.



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

The full moon this week (on March 28) could make you feel torn in two directions. You can figure out how to balance work and love. You just need to work harder at it. A Libra may pull you into one extreme situation this week. Tread carefully, but do tread!



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

The full moon on March 28 falls into your adventurous ninth house. You actually can expand your boundaries even more, in love. You are above rules. But hold onto your integrity, darling. Only you know how to define it for yourself. A Virgo wants to understand how your mind works.



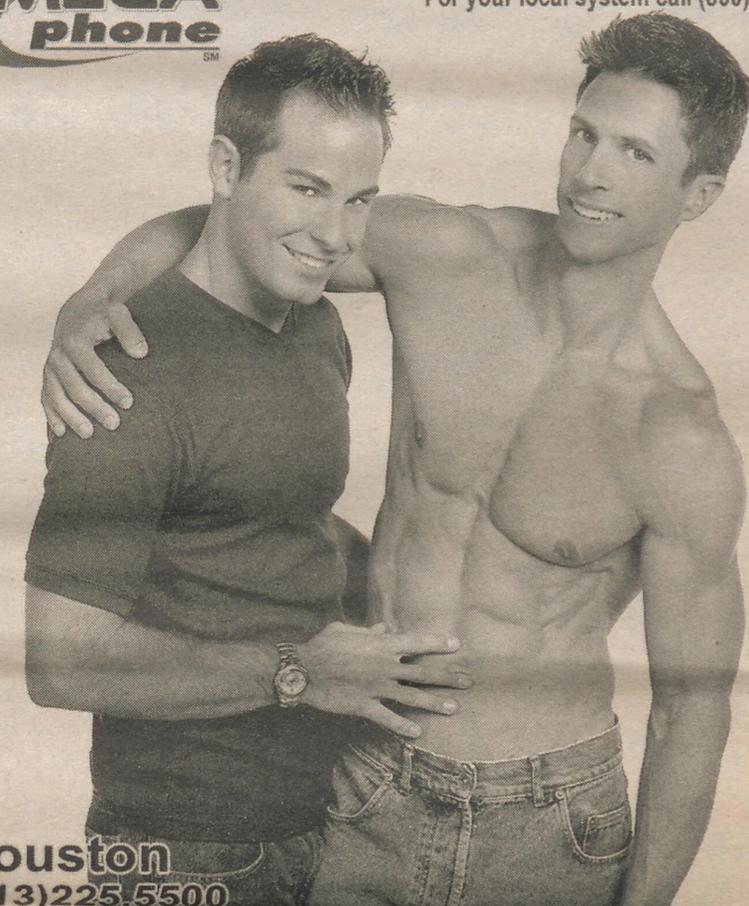
### PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

Okay, you need to chill out, Pisces. You are driving yourself mad with your obsessive fantasies. Pick one to act out on (in a nondestructive way, por favor), and then shut up! A Scorpio wants action, not talk.

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



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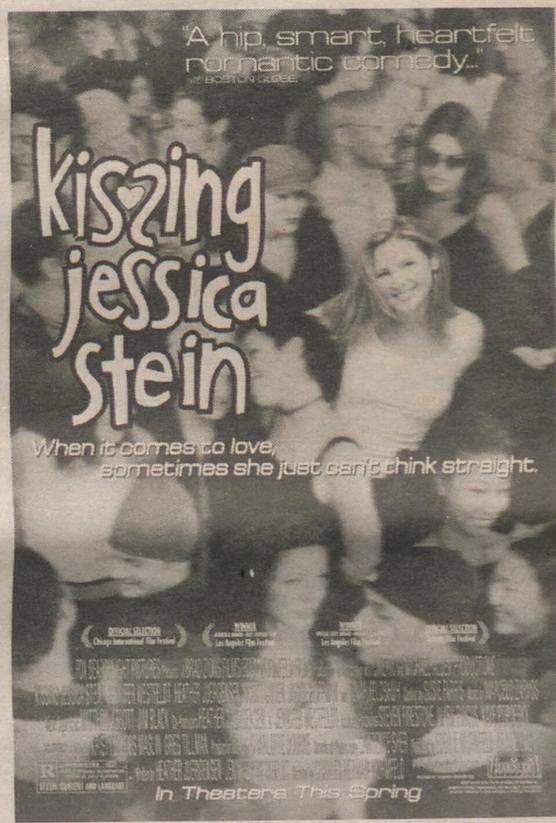
## Go see a free screening of "Kissing Jessica Stein"

courtesy of  
**Houston Voice**

It's at 7:30 p.m. on  
Tuesday, March 26  
at Landmark  
Greenway Theatre

Pick up tickets at:  
**Houston Voice office**  
500 Lovett Blvd.  
Suite 200  
Houston, TX 77006

Tickets are given on a first-come first-served basis, now through March 26. Limit two tickets per person.



A hip, smart, heartfelt romantic comedy.  
When it comes to love, sometimes she just can't think straight.

In Theaters This Spring

*Alleluia!*

*Alleluia!*

*Alleluia!*



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11 am

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Theatre  
in Hermann Park

*Join us for*  
**HOLY WEEK!**

Noche Espiritual  
Saturday  
March 23, 7pm

Palm Sunday Service  
March 24, 9 & 11am

Wednesday Worship  
March 27, 7pm

Maundy Thursday Service  
March 28, 7pm

Good Friday Service  
March 29, 7pm

Noche Espiritual  
Saturday  
March 30, 7pm