

houston VOICE



True-man Capote?

Does new film accurately portray the gay novelist?

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Gay speaker blocked at Millions More

'Same-gender loving' man takes stage as activist snubbed

By EARTHA JANE MELZER

Cleo Manago's speech at last weekend's commemoration of the Million Man March was noteworthy in that a homosexual man addressed the crowd. Just don't call Manago gay.

Ten years ago there would have been protests if a homosexual group had participated in the Nation of Islam-sponsored Million Man March, according to Manago, of the group Black Men's Xchange, whose members identify as "same-gender loving" instead of gay, a term they consider too closely associated with white homosexuals.

This time around, homosexual groups fought over who would get to speak at the event.

Despite a conflict over which group would speak at the Millions More Movement Rally on Oct. 15, many blacks who identify as gay or as "same-gender loving" said the event demonstrated progress in overcoming homophobia within the black community.

The event's call for unity was undermined, however, by an incident Saturday, in which Keith Boykin, president of the National Black Justice Coalition, was barred from the stage in favor of Manago. Boykin had been told late last week that he would represent black gays and speak at the rally.

But when Boykin arrived prepared to participate in the "unity tapestry" section of the rally, he and NBJC vice president Donna Payne — who is also an organizer with the Human Rights Campaign — were told by Rev. Barbara Skinner, the event's program manager, that his name was not on the list.



A member of the Millions More Movement security team blocks a group of gay activists from advancing toward the rally stage. (Photo by Rudy K. Lawidjaja)

Payne said that Rev. Willie Wilson, a D.C. minister who made headlines last summer for delivering an anti-gay sermon, told her that due to a procedural problem, Boykin would not be allowed to speak.

The last-minute cancellation angered Boykin and Payne, who noted that Wilson was smirking as he told them that their group would not be speaking. The Nation of Islam, Millions More Movement officials, and Rev. Wilson did not respond to Blade inquires this week.

Manago, head of the Afro-centric Black Men's Xchange and founder of AmASSI health centers, briefly took the stage to represent the concerns of same-gender loving black people.

Most black homosexuals do not identify as gay,

Please see **MILLIONS MORE** on Page 4



Rev. Beth Stroud, who came out as a lesbian to her Pennsylvania congregation in 2003, faces an Oct. 27 hearing at First United Methodist Church of Houston.

Methodist high court to hear gay cases in Houston

Hearing next week will determine fate of lesbian minister

By ERIC G. ERVIN

The United Methodist Church's Judicial Council, the highest legal body of the religious organization, will meet in Houston next week for a hearing on two gay issues that have exposed a controversial and possibly contradictory policy for the nation's third largest denomination.

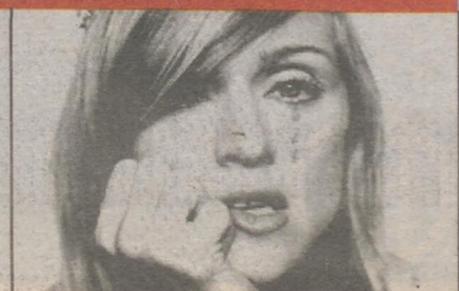
One of the cases involves Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud, who

Please see **METHODIST** on Page 4



local life
Party with a purpose to raise money for gay charities at annual Bewitched Ball.
PAGE 8

music
'Material Girl' back on top with new CD, single, video, movie and even iPod.
PAGE 15



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local news

Conference calls AIDS 'black American epidemic'

Oct. 29 event unites political, religious, healthcare leaders

By ERIC G. ERVIN

A conference next weekend at Rice University will bring together politicians, religious leaders and healthcare specialists to talk about the spread of AIDS in Houston's black population.

"AIDS Off the Radar: The Black American Epidemic" is intended by organizers to spark dialogue among the three groups and get them talking about ways to fight the spread of the disease,

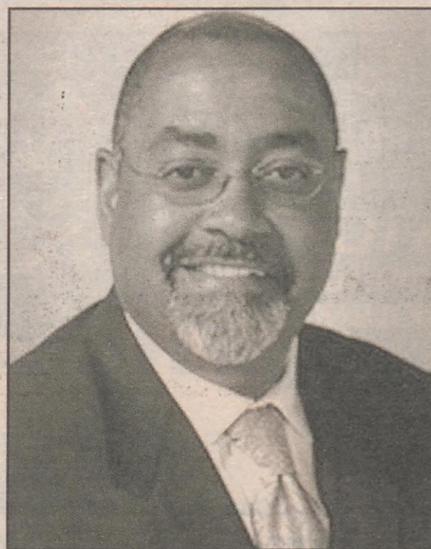
which is now the top killer of blacks between the ages of 25 and 44. The death rate from AIDS among blacks remains nearly 10 times higher than among whites.

Although blacks make up 18.5 percent of Houston's population of more than two million, they account for 56 percent of reported adult HIV cases in the city, and the figures are bound to be higher as many have not been tested. Black men who classify themselves as "down low," secretly having sex with other men while having girlfriends and wives, also increase the risk of contracting the disease.

According to figures from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, there were 21,304 AIDS cases reported among blacks in 2003, the highest number for any demographic group.

Rice University's Baker Institute Student Forum will host the event. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Organizers are also asking young people to attend.

Representatives from the Houston City Council, Houston HIV Prevention



The office of state Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) is among the groups participating in an Oct. 29 panel discussion on HIV and Houston's African-American population.

Program, AIDS Foundation Houston, Families Under Urban & Social Attack, Brentwood Baptist Church and many other organizations are also scheduled

to participate.

Three panel discussions are planned for the event with question and answer sessions afterwards. The discussions include: "The Pathology and Prevention of HIV Infection," "Why AIDS is a Problem in the Black Community," and "How to Stop the Spread of AIDS Among Blacks in Houston."

Rice graduate student and conference organizer Mark Little acknowledged that the groups involved may have different ways of dealing with the AIDS epidemic, but said all of them want to stop its spread. Little, who is black, sees the conference as a start for all of them to find solutions.

"My hope is that people who may disagree on many other things can see this as something they share in common," Little said. "At the very minimum, if these people are in the same room, see each other and make contact for future reference, this conference will help make progress toward addressing the epidemic in the black community.

"Maybe they can work toward their goal in their comfort zones and begin to feel OK working together," Little said.

MORE INFO

'AIDS Off the Radar: The Black American Epidemic'
Oct. 29, 9:45 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Rice University, Baker Hall
6100 Main St.
Free

Two Texas schools named worst for gay students

By ERIC G. ERVIN

According to The Princeton Review, two of the 10 worst colleges for gay students include Texas' Baylor University and Texas A&M University-College Station, but officials at the two schools won't comment on the rankings because they are based on students' opinions.

The two schools ranked No. 3 and No. 7 respectively on the list of top 20 "Colleges with Low Acceptance of Gays" included in the recently released 2006 edition of The Princeton Review's "The Best 361 Colleges."

"We have no response because these are student rankings," said Lori Scott Fogleman, director of media relations at Baylor.

There are 62 rankings listed in the Princeton Review report covering 361 schools, with each one identifying the top 20 schools in a specific category.

"We don't feel it is appropriate to react to such a listing, which merely reflects an editor's assessment of some unscientifically assembled opinions," said Sherylon J. Carroll, interim executive director of Texas A&M's Office of University Relations.

However, Carroll said that officials at the school value diversity and inclusiveness.

A pool of 110,000 students nationwide answered the surveys with an average of a little more than 300 participating at each school. Officials said 90 percent of the surveys were filled out online and the remaining on campus.

'Not surprised'

Baylor, located in Waco, does not have an official gay student group. Its anti-bias statement does not specifically address sexual orientation, but homosexuality is prohibited, as explained in the private school's student handbook. Domestic partner benefits are not offered to employees.

Officials at the 14,000-student Baptist school recently pulled about 500 coffee cups from a campus Starbucks because they featured a quote from gay author Armistead Maupin. The quote from the famous author reads in part: "My only regret being gay is that I repressed it for so long."

Last year, Baylor student Matt Bass was stripped of his seminary scholarship after school officials discovered he was gay. He left Baylor and later enrolled at Emory University in Atlanta.

"I'm not surprised [about the rankings] at all," said a gay Baylor student, who wished to remain anonymous. "That's not out of the ordinary for Baylor."

The student is a member of Baylor Freedom, a group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. According to group policy, members always conceal their sexual orientation when talking to the press.

Although Texas A&M, which has more than 35,000 students, ranks lower than Baylor on the list, there are still incidents of discrimination reported on campus.

Sharli'e Dominique, a preoperative transsexual displaced by Hurricane Katrina, was arrested and charged with criminal trespass at the Reed Arena shelter for using the women's shower. Charges against the New Orleans native were later dropped.

"I wasn't surprised," said Texas A&M student Christopher Danos of his school's rank. "Although it is getting better every year."

Danos, 20, is gay and president of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Aggies, a social group for students. He said he has not personally experience prejudice, but does recall an incident when a gay student was assaulted two years ago because of his sexual orientation. He added that occasionally the officially recognized gay student group would have flyers torn down.

"It's not a hostile environment unless you're vocal," he said. "It's harder for transgender students to be accepted because some of them look different and that makes people uncomfortable."

But Danos said he thinks overall Texas A&M is a great school with great people.

"People are recognizing that we do exist and we're not going to hurt anyone or change them," he said.

Texas A&M's anti-bias statement also doesn't specifically address sexual orientation, but "encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation and world." The university does not offer domestic parent benefits to employees.



Top 20 Gay-Friendly Colleges

Rank	College
1	New College of Florida
2	Macalester College
3	Wellesley College
4	Eugene Lang College
5	Mount Holyoke College
6	St. John's College
7	Bryn Mawr College
8	Lawrence University
9	Emerson College
10	Harvey Mudd College
11	St. John's College (NM)
12	Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering
13	Wesleyan University
14	Marlboro College
15	Carleton College
16	Smith College
17	Haverford College
18	Reed College
19	Bard College
20	Oberlin College

Colleges With Low Acceptance of Gays

Rank	College
1	Hampden-Sydney College
2	University of Notre Dame
3	Baylor University
4	Wheaton College
5	Grove City College
6	Univ. of Tennessee-Knoxville
7	Texas A & M Univ.-College Station
8	College of the Holy Cross
9	Samford University
10	Brigham Young University
11	Seton Hall University
12	Valparaiso University
13	Pepperdine University
14	Washington and Lee University
15	Trinity College
16	Vanderbilt University
17	Wake Forest University
18	University of Utah
19	Providence College
20	Southern Methodist University

Source: The Princeton Review Inc.

The school's Women's & Gender Equity Resource Center sponsored events for Coming Out Week this month.

MORE INFO

The Princeton Review
'The Best 361 Colleges: 2006 Edition'
www.princetonreview.com/home.asp



news

Va. minister refused to let gay man join church

METHODIST, continued from Page 1

was defrocked and later reinstated after revealing a lesbian relationship to her bishop and congregation. The second case concerns Rev. Edward Johnson, a Virginia minister who refused membership in his church to a gay man.

The two cases represent an apparent contradiction in bylaws for the church. Although practicing homosexuals are barred from being ordained as ministers, gay men and lesbians are not banned from joining, according to the church's Book of Disciplines.

Stroud, 35, said she first revealed her sexual orientation while attending Bryn Mawr College, where she earned an undergraduate degree in 1991. In 1996, she earned a master's of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

"I felt called to the ministry at an early age," Stroud said.

Stroud started working at the First United Methodist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia in 1999 as an associate pastor.

Stroud's case began in April 2003 when she revealed in a sermon to members of the Germantown church that she was a lesbian and in a committed relationship with Chris Paige. The couple has been together almost five years.

"I didn't want to be in the closet anymore," Stroud said. "I felt it was holding me back in my faith."

Stroud said the Germantown church's members, who are known for welcoming



Soulforce, a group that advocates for gay religious issues, demonstrated in support of Rev. Beth Stroud when she went on trial in December 2004 in Pughtown, Pa. (Photo by Jacqueline Larma/AP)

gays, have supported her throughout her fight. Members of the congregation belong to the national United Methodist movement Reconciling Ministries Network, which advocates full inclusion of gay men and lesbians into the church.

Incompatible teachings

Stroud was formally charged with engaging in "practices declared by the United Method Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings." She stood trial Dec. 1-2, 2004, before retired Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel and 13 ordained church members serving as jurors. The jurors voted 12-1 to convict Stroud and 7-6 to take away her credentials. Jurors were only allowed

to consider whether Stroud was a "practicing homosexual," not if the law violated the church's constitution.

Stroud appealed the decision to the church's Northeast Jurisdiction Committee on Appeals, which held a hearing April 28.

The four ministers and five lay members of the committee voted 8-1 to overturn the conviction, requiring the church to reinstate Stroud's credentials.

The committee's ruling centered on two points concerning the Book of Disciplines: The church's failure to define two terms — "status" and "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" — and the phrase "because homosexuality is incom-

patible with Christian teaching."

The church appealed the committee's ruling, setting up an Oct. 27 hearing at the Westchase campus of the First United Methodist Church of Houston.

Stroud said she has chosen not to perform the sacraments until a final ruling. She said it's hard, especially during times when the sacraments are celebrated and on holidays such as Christmas and Easter.

"It's certainly very sad," Stroud said. "I am looking forward to the end of the process, whether I win or lose, but most importantly I hate to see the church practicing discrimination."

"I feel confident that the church would make improvements as it did for other issues in the past," she said, citing changes in acceptance of women and minorities.

Church member rejected

Johnson, former pastor of South Hill United Methodist Church in Virginia, was suspended June 13 for one year after refusing to admit a gay man to his church. Johnson appealed the decision, which will also be heard by the council next week.

Rev. W. Anthony Layman, retired district superintendent for Johnson's region in rural Virginia, told the Associated Press that he confronted Johnson in January about the incident.

Based on Layman's complaint, the church's Virginia Conference voted 418-114 to approve Johnson's suspension.

Johnson could not be reached for comment by press time.

BMX leader says crowd reacted warmly to speech

MILLIONS MORE, continued from Page 1

Manago told the Blade, because much of the lingo of the gay rights movement — including the pink triangle and the Greek-derived words "lambda" and "lesbian" — is Euro-centric and does not affirm the identity of black people.

Some black gay activists were angered that no openly gay figure was part of the rally lineup.

Since Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam announced early this year that he wanted all types of black people to be represented at the Millions More Movement event, the National Black Justice Coalition, a national black civil rights organization, had been trying to find a role.

Concerns over how black gay groups would participate intensified this summer after Rev. Wilson, who also served as executive director of the Millions More Movement, delivered his controversial sermon in which he told his congregation that lesbianism were taking over and destroying the black family. Wilson also made disparaging and graphic comments about gay and lesbian sex.

The comments, coming from a key

leader of a major black political event, concerned black gay activists, who redoubled efforts to influence the rally and held a series of meetings with Farrakhan and Wilson. Based on those meetings, Boykin, who worked in the Clinton administration and writes occasional columns for this newspaper, said he understood that he was invited to address the MMM rally.

Politics or anti-gay bias?

Manago stressed that political differences, and not anti-homosexual bias, was behind the fact that BMX and not NBJC had been chosen to represent black homosexuals at the event.

He said that his group was chosen to take part in the rally because it was important to march organizers that the speaker be not just homosexual, but homosexual, black, progressive and involved in community organizing. Manago said that BMX has been a local organizing committee and involved in organizing with the MMM since August.

Though BMX might fall below the radar of mainstream gay organizations, Manago said, the group has existed since 1989 and has been holding debates and panel discussions in the black community

as part of an effort to address black anti-homosexual attitudes.

Between unemployment, incarceration and police brutality, the black community has experienced an assault on black manhood, Manago said. As a result, some are hypersensitive about manhood and can react with abusive, "homophobic" behaviors when they feel threatened.

Manago said his group has had success in addressing these phenomena through discussion and community involvement.

Ray Daniels, the NBJC communication director, told this newspaper earlier this month that his group strongly opposed the possible selection of a BMX spokesperson to represent black gays because the group was separatist and accused black gay groups of being stooges for a white power structure.

The next week, after an angry response from Manago, Daniels sent the Blade a letter apologizing for his "misstatement" of NABJ's position, although the group later submitted a list of possible speakers to Farrakhan that did not include anyone from BMX.

Manago refused to accept Daniels' apology, responding, "For two decades now I have endured lies, unparalleled viciousness and deception regarding me and my

work coming from the ranks of black gay identity advocates."

"One of the many reasons I'm not involved in what is clearly and continually the black-faced white puppetry called 'gay black' is this very tendency," he added. "So easily people among this group allow themselves to be used by white gay agendas. Familiar with this tendency, when alerted of [Daniel's] comments, I experienced not an iota of surprise."

Black gays march together

Boykin and Payne — surrounded by media who had been alerted to the tension over whether there would be a gay speaker — joined the "We Are Family" unity rally in Freedom Plaza on Saturday. About 80 people gathered for the black gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender event.

The mood was upbeat; people periodically clapped and burst into song and rainbow flags waved. They seemed unsurprised by news that Boykin had been turned away from the podium. At the Freedom Plaza event, Boykin delivered the comments he had intended to deliver at the main rally. He said he had planned to offer an olive branch to organizers.



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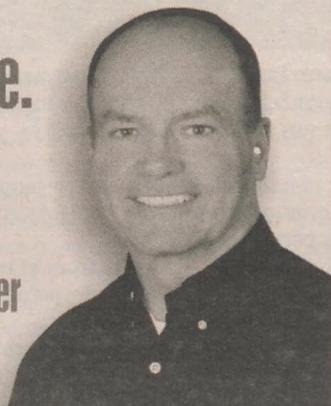
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national news

Bi-national couple separated by politics

Ordeal underscores immigration difficulties for gay couples from different countries

By PHIL LaPADULA

Wayne Brown and his partner Ricardo Espindola were enjoying a ride through the colorful, desert landscape of central New Mexico. It was about 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 22, 2004, the second day of their vacation. An Annie Lennox CD played as the car ticked off the miles on the way to the day's destination: Carlsbad Caverns.

But they never made it there.

About 60 miles from the Mexican border near the town of Alamogordo, their car was stopped at a roadblock. A Homeland Security agent leaned in the window and asked Espindola, "Are you an American citizen?"

"Being the honest person he is, Ricardo immediately answered, 'No,'" Brown recalled.

Espindola is from Argentina and had overstayed his six-month visitor's visa. He had been living in the U.S. for about two and a half years.

The officers ordered the car to pull over and Espindola to get out. As he stepped out of the car, he was surrounded by several Homeland Security agents, he said.

"They seemed to be taunting and goading him," Brown said. "They were saying things like, 'You're a very muscular guy. You must be on steroids.'"

Brown, who works as a crisis clinician at a mental health facility, said he tried to "de-escalate" the situation. "I asked them, 'Please have some compassion. This is my family.'"

Both men were asked their HIV status, Brown said, and replied that they are HIV negative.

Brown, a Canadian citizen, had just secured a green card after spending five years working in the United States. He was in the process of wading through the paperwork and legal requirements to sponsor Espindola as his spouse under a new Canadian program that allows for the sponsorship of a same-sex partner if a couple can prove they have been in an intimate, committed relationship.

The couple would have to live in Canada but could spend up to six months of the year in the United States.

But that plan faded as Espindola sat in a cell in El Paso awaiting deportation. He was incarcerated for 45 days. Brown hired a lawyer who pleaded to allow Espindola to depart voluntarily and return to Argentina, but those requests were denied.

'Choking my screams'

Five days after Espindola was taken into custody, Brown's lawyer, Sandra Lambert, wrote a letter to immigration officials in El Paso describing Espindola as a person of

good character who had no criminal convictions or any prior immigration violations.

The letter noted that Espindola was the "beneficiary of a family-based petition" in Canada to immigrate there with Brown in the near future. They even included fingerprints and documents from an FBI background check that had been conducted on Espindola in preparation for his Canadian sponsorship.

The letter noted that Espindola had funds available to purchase an airline ticket to return to Argentina. Brown had offered to pay Espindola's airfare. Espindola's Argentinian passport was mailed along with the letter to prove his citizenship.

But the Homeland Security Department denied Espindola's request for voluntary departure.

In an e-mail from Argentina, Espindola described his 45-day ordeal as "sleepless nights, choking my screams on a dirty, smelly pillow."

Even as Brown was told to leave the facility, Espindola noted that a straight woman was allowed to "be in her boyfriend's company and be embraced and comforted" at the holding facility.

Espindola described the detention camp as a harsh place.

When Espindola was finally released in the wee hours of one morning, he spent 35 hours on planes that made six stops all over South America. He finally arrived in Buenos Aires to discover that his luggage had been lost.

Since the passage of the Patriot Act in 2003, border patrols now have the authority to conduct random checks within 100 miles of the Mexican border. Prior to 2003, such checkpoints were only set up on the border.

Harassment 'not tolerated'

Bill Strassberger, public affairs spokesperson for the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security, said officials have the authority to take someone into custody and hold them if their immigration paperwork is "out of status." He said such detentions usually occur when someone's visa has been expired for a long period of time.

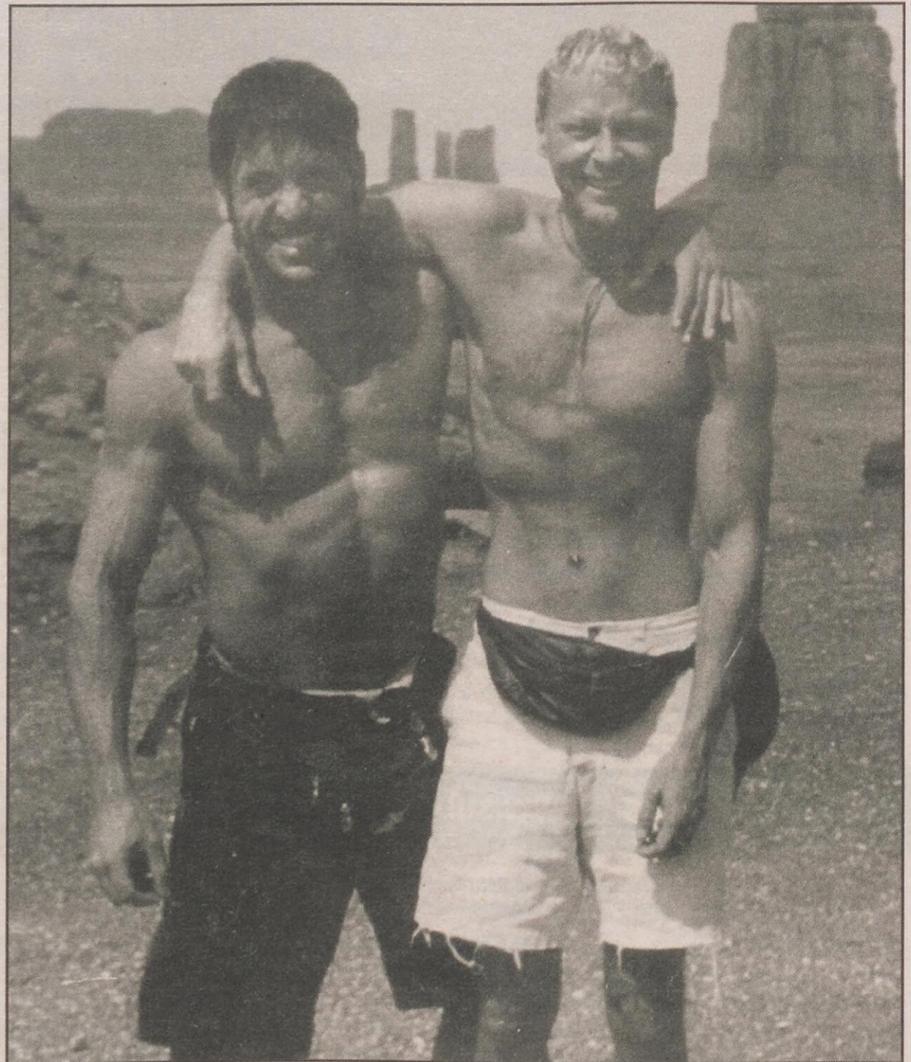
"If they have a six-month visa and are in the seventh or eighth month, they would probably just be sent back," Strassberger said.

But Strassberger said harassment and inappropriate comments by border agents "are not tolerated."

"We would encourage anyone [who has experienced harassment] to file a complaint with the Department of Justice," Strassberger said.

Gay activists who deal with immigration law and the difficulties faced by bi-national couples say the hurdles faced by same-sex couples are tremendous.

"Much of the detention policy in the United States is irrational and is not making the U.S. any safer," said Victoria Neilson, legal director of Immigration Equality, a group that fights for immigration rights for gays and lesbians and offers assistance to



Ricardo Espindola and Wayne Brown were on their way to see Carlsbad Caverns before being stopped at a random border patrol 60 miles from the Mexican border. Espindola, an Argentinian who had overstayed his visa, was detained 45 days and deported.

gay bi-national couples. "Many people with no criminal records are being detained for long periods of time."

Neilson said she hears from bi-national gay couples who are in desperate situations every day.

"There are people living under the radar screen, people going back and forth to their countries of origin in order to retain their legal status, and U.S. citizens who leave the country permanently to be with their partners," Neilson said.

Couples head to Canada

Same-sex bi-national couples living in the United States have "few options" because they can't marry, which is one of the primary methods for a foreigner to obtain legal status in the U.S., Neilson noted.

She said Immigration Equality has received "an increasing amount of calls" from people seeking information about immigrating to Canada since the government there legalized gay marriage.

"It's becoming a more attractive option [for gay bi-national couples] to leave the U.S. and live in a country that recognizes their relationships," Neilson said.

Immigration Equality is currently lobbying for passage of the Uniting American Families Act. The bill would

allow American citizens to sponsor their same-sex partners the same way heterosexual spouses sponsor their partners.

The bill's lead sponsor in the U.S. House is Rep. Jerald Nadler (D-N.Y.). It is being sponsored by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) in the U.S. Senate.

According to Neilson, 17 nations currently have laws granting immigration equality to same-sex couples. Brown thinks those countries that don't are "breaking up families" and causing needless mental and physical suffering.

Espindola said he "dared to dream a better life" because there are so few opportunities in Argentina.

Despite the deportation ordeal, Espindola said, "I love America, always will." He said he was most thankful that America gave him the opportunity to "find love with my partner, Wayne, my chosen family."

In his work as a mental health counselor, Brown said he has counseled other bi-national couples. But one day last September it all hit home for Brown on a dusty road in the desert of New Mexico.

"You just don't think you will be randomly stopped one day and your life turned upside down," he said.

The two men are now planning to move together to Canada.

national news briefs

Jury rejects Texas prison rape suit

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (AP) — Six prison officials were found not liable Tuesday in a federal lawsuit claiming they violated a gay convict's constitutional right against cruel and unusual punishment by ignoring his pleas for protection from inmate rapes. Roderick Keith Johnson, 37, had sought unspecified damages against the Texas Department of Criminal Justice officials at the Allred Unit near Wichita Falls, where he was housed for 18 months for burglary. "I think the trial will have made a difference even though it didn't go our way," said Johnson's attorney, Margaret Winter. "I really think it's been a wake-up call to public officials in Texas." The jury of six men and six women deliberated nearly eight hours over two days. Johnson, whose nearly four-year prison term ended in 2003, testified that prison gangs forced him to be their sex slave while the officials never investigated his reports of abuse or kept him in a safer area for vulnerable inmates. Johnson is gay. The defendants and other prison employees testified they could not substantiate Johnson's half a dozen or so rape claims because he changed his stories or there was no medical evidence. They said Johnson usually seemed upbeat in prison, wearing tight pants and flirting with a corrections officer.



Roderick Keith Johnson sued Texas prison officials, claiming they failed to protect him from being sexually assaulted.

Popular doll-maker targeted by conservative activists

NEW YORK (AP) — American Girl, manufacturer of a popular line of dolls and children's books, has become the target of conservative activists threatening a boycott unless the toy maker cuts off contributions to a youth organization that supports abortion rights and acceptance of lesbians. The protest is directed at an ongoing American Girl campaign in which proceeds from sales of a special "I Can" wristband help support educational and empowerment programs of Girls Inc., a national nonprofit organization that describes its mission as "inspiring girls to be strong, smart and bold." American Girl, whose often-patriotic products have long had a loyal following among conservatives, issued a statement last week defending its support of Girls Inc. and assailing the protest campaign. "We are profoundly disappointed that certain groups have chosen to misconstrue American Girl's purely altruistic efforts and turn them into a broader political statement on issues that we, as a corporation, have no position," the statement said. The Mississippi-based American Family Association, in a campaign launched early last week, is urging its members to demand that American Girl halt support for Girls Inc., which it called "a pro-abortion, pro-lesbian advocacy group." The Pro-Life Action League, a Chicago-based anti-abortion group, also is targeting the toy maker.

Log Cabin Republican leader hit with pie during speech

DURHAM, N.C. — Speaking at the University of North Carolina last week, the head of the Log Cabin Republicans was the focus of a sweet protest, the Herald Sun reported. Patrick Guerriero, president of the gay GOP group, was about halfway through his speech at UNC when an unidentified person threw a pie at him. His suit was spattered with the pastry, although Guerriero largely avoided the flying pie.

Gay Village Voice editor alleges sexual harassment

NEW YORK — In a federal lawsuit filed last week in U.S. District Court, a former editor at the alternative weekly Village Voice alleges he was sexually harassed and subjected to numerous crude comments about his sexual orientation before being fired last year, the Smoking Gun reported. Richard Goldstein, 61, who was dismissed from the paper last year after 38 years working there, alleges that Donald Forst, Voice editor, routinely made lewd and insulting comments about Goldstein and other workers. The remarks allegedly involved gay men, lesbians, and a pregnant worker, among others, Goldstein said. Known for his coverage of gay issues and editing the Voice's annual "Queer Issue," Goldstein also alleges in the suit that the newspaper engaged in age discrimination by firing many of its older workers in recent years. He seeks more than \$1 million in damages, plus a severance payment for alleged breach of contract. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission closed its investigation of Goldstein's claims three months ago, stating it was unable to prove that the Voice violated any laws.

Utah superintendent warns board not to ban Gay-Straight Alliance

PROVO, Utah (AP) — Provo City School District Superintendent Randy Merrill has warned the school board that trying to ban the new Gay-Straight Alliance club at Provo High School would get the district in legal trouble. "If you deny this particular club, you will go to court," he told the board last week. As a result of the Gay-Straight Alliance application, the district is considering a policy that would establish guidelines for clubs. Among other things, it would require parental consent for students to participate in extracurricular clubs. The board may vote on the policy at its November meeting. Provo High senior Kaisha Medford, who led the effort to found the club, said about 50 students have expressed interest.

From staff and wire reports

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Octavio Barrios, M.D.

'Bewitched' for a good cause

Cancer fight evolves into holiday fund-raising ball

By ELLA TYLER

Halloween has always been a favorite holiday for Hillary Woest, organizer of the Bewitched Ball, set for Oct. 28.

In 1999, the day became especially happy for her, coming two days after her doctors decided that she was in remission from recurrent malignant melanoma.

Woest had a party to celebrate, and another one the next year, and then the celebration became so big she turned it into the Bewitched Ball, a fund-raising benefit for local charities.

Woest blames Tim Brookover for the transformation.

"He was telling me how much the Lesbian & Gay Community Center needed funds, and I decided to use my party to help out," she said.

The fourth annual ball takes place at downtown's historic Magnolia Ballroom. It will include silent and live auctions, food and costume contests. There will be a cash bar and free valet parking. Singer-songwriter Whitney McCray performs from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"She has such a lovely voice, I'm really happy she's going to be there," Woest said.

McCray's performance will be followed by music and dancing, although planning that part of the evening was not without difficulties this year.

After the Houston Women's Festival was washed out by Hurricane Rita, organizers rescheduled the event for Oct. 29, leading Woest to move the Bewitched Ball from that evening to Oct. 28 so women could attend both events.

"[Hurricane] Rita made everything

harder this year, including the fact that when the event was rescheduled, we lost our disc jockey," Woest said. "We're still working on that — we thought we had someone lined up, but she mentioned this week that she doesn't have equipment."

"I don't know what else we're going to have," Woest said. "Ticket sales and contributions are slow this year because of Rita, but every other year people have start getting excited about the party about now, and start calling and offering to do things. Last year, a fortune teller called at the last minute. Just today, we found out that Don Carlos Catering will provide the food."

Despite the problems with the disc jockey, Woest said holding the ball a day earlier should prove a positive change for fans of the event and the Women's Festival.

"Now the ball will be the beginning of a whole weekend of fun," Woest said.

"Guys are welcome at the ball too, and then they can go play at all the fabulous parties at the bars on Saturday," she added.

Beneficiaries based on need

Hurricane Rita isn't the only event making organizing the Bewitched Ball a challenge this year. With a more packed schedule, Woest finds herself juggling many tasks at once while also planning for the event.

"The first years I did this, I owned my own business, but this year I'm teaching and going to graduate school, so it's hard to balance my time," she said.

Woest is also single this year, but admits it makes spending time to get the party organized easier on her conscience.

"I don't feel torn or guilty about the fact that I am missing in action during the month of October," she said. "Even when doing good for others, it's hard to know you're subjecting someone you care about to hardly seeing you at all for that length of time."

This year's proceeds benefit AIDS Foundation Houston's Camp HOPE, Bering Omega, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church Wellness Ministry, and the Leisure & Arts Promoting Healing/Athéna Art Project Partnership for Women's Programs.

"It's based on need, and I want it to be gay/gay friendly," Woest said. "AIDS Foundation and Bering Omega are big, but with all the funding cuts, any contribution helps; and the Wellness Ministry and Leisure Arts are both

new and small, so any contribution helps."

Woest said her best fundraiser made about \$2,200 after expenses.

Woest, who is founder of Leisure & Arts Promoting Healing, chooses the beneficiaries herself. The inspiration for the organization stems from her illness.

"It's a very small effort, but we provide materials and instruction so adults with serious illnesses can have a 'play day' like kids do," she said.

'Live every moment'

Woest's cancer, one in which the skin keeps producing melanomas, is rare and difficult to treat, she said.

"They told me I had a 15 percent chance of seeing 25," she said. "It took three different kinds of chemotherapy to finally find one that worked."

"It was really scary," Woest said. "For the first month, I acted like an ass. I was freaking out — here I was, 24 years old, and I'm going to die."

She didn't tell her family for six weeks.

"Then I decided that if I only had a 15 percent chance to live, I didn't want to spend my time acting out and keeping people at a distance," Woest remembered. "So I sought out friends and started to live every moment. I'd go to the beach, or drive to Austin and sit on Mount Bonnell and drive back. I had always been very responsible and congenial, but I spent some time just being a kid."

Woest said she also began meditating and painting. "I had painted before, but I was always very self-critical, so I just let myself have fun and my work got better."

Surprising the doctors, Woest turned 30 years old in March.

"There's no way I could have done it except for the people in my life," she said.

For her fifth anniversary last year, when she was considered cured, she held only a small party. "I had about 50 people at the house. I just wanted to embrace the people who got me through this," she said.

Auctions planned

Susan Serice, a volunteer with Leisure Arts, is helping Woest organize the Bewitched Ball. She is collecting silent auction donations, and says partygoers can bid on art, massages "and I'm working on getting some flying and horseback riding lessons donated too."

Some of the donors will auction off their gifts themselves. One of the items to be auctioned off is a two-hour play 'day' with Hillary and Susan. "I helped



Singer-songwriter Whitney McCray performs at 8 p.m. at the Bewitched Ball, a fund-raising event founded by cancer survivor Hillary Woest (bottom).

with an art class this summer, and it is a very interesting project, so I'm glad I have the chance to help support the group," Serice said.

Serice said she is looking forward to the party and has already decided on her costume.

"I've decided to go as Kelly Clarkson," she said. "People tell me I look sort of like her, so I've decided to go all out and have a friend fix my makeup and hair like in one of her videos."

Woest said one of the reasons she loves Halloween is because her mother always made her "any costume I wanted."

She has picked out her costume this year, but isn't telling what it is — at least not on the record.

i MORE INFO

Bewitched Ball

Oct. 28, 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.
The Magnolia Ballroom
715 Franklin at Milam
Tickets: \$30 advance; \$35 door
Students: \$20 advance; \$25 door
\$36 ticket includes Women's Festival
www.bewitchedball.org

Houston Women's Festival

Oct. 29, noon - 10 p.m.
Jones Plaza, Downtown Houston
Tickets: \$12 advance; \$15 door
www.hwfestival.org

out in houston

(Photos by Dalton DeHart)



The cast and crew of the hit musical 'Chicago' unwinds after their performance at Artista Restaurant during a 'Cast and Friends' party. The performance was part of Theatre Under the Stars' Out in Tuts event, a special night targeting gay men and lesbians. Dance Force Houston, a local dance group at The Collins Compound, treated the cast to a high-energy performance.

Empress Chanel Cartier (Sean Carter) and Emperor Mar Cohen rule at the Imperial Court of Houston—Space City Empire 2005 event.

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Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

OCTOBER 21, 2005

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editorial

Out, out damn celebs!

From Anderson Cooper to Jodie Foster, it's time for the rich and famous to stop playing games and start answering 'the question.'

By KEVIN NAFF

n

ATIONAL COMING OUT Day came and went last week without any public declarations from celebrities or other public figures long rumored to be gay, but who simply refuse to

acknowledge their sexual orientation.

It's a long and varied list, from A-list Hollywood celebrities to popular television anchors to prominent politicians.

These closet cases choose to hide and deceive — and to protect their incomes and images — at the expense of contributing important weight and star power to the gay civil rights movement.

When rich, famous, wildly successful Americans refuse to acknowledge their sexual orientation, they contribute to keeping us at the margins of society and send a message that homosexuality is somehow shameful.

There is nothing more ridiculous than a public figure refusing to reveal whether he or she is straight — no heterosexual person would deny being straight.

ANDERSON COOPER MAY BE THE most ubiquitous personality on cable television these days. Popping up on a best-dressed or most-beautiful-people list, profiled in magazines or penning a column for *Details* magazine, Cooper gets a lot of ink. But in all the fawning stories about his good looks, sartorial smarts, family wealth and status as one of TV's biggest rising stars, one key detail is always missing.

Cooper, the popular CNN anchor, coyly refused to answer "the question" in a recent lengthy profile in *New York* magazine. Though long rumored to be gay — he once suggested he is gay in comments made at a GLAAD Media Awards event — Cooper chooses the closet over honesty.

"The whole thing about being a reporter is that you're supposed to be an observer and to be able to adapt with any group you're in," Cooper told *New York* magazine, "and I don't want to do anything that

threatens that."

Does he believe that female and African-American reporters lack credibility to cover stories since their minority status is showing? Should any heterosexuals who let it slip that they're married to someone of the opposite sex be kept off the air, or does his rule apply only to gay journalists?

(Note to Cooper: I have been a journalist for as long as you have and being open about my sexual orientation has never cost me a job, a story, a source or a promotion.)

Cooper isn't the only well-known TV personality hiding his sexual orientation. Shepard Smith, who hosts a popular program on Fox News and received widespread praise for his work covering Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, also dodges questions about his sexual orientation.

Smith once chatted me up in a New York City gay piano bar, bought me drinks, and invited me back to his place. When I declined, he asked me to dinner the next night, another invitation I politely refused.

We sat at the bar chatting and drinking martinis until 3 a.m., our conversation interrupted only when he paused to belt out the lyrics to whatever showtune was being performed.

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, MUCH BIGGER stars that remain in the closet. Jodie Foster's recent film "Flightplan" spent two weeks atop the box office charts. She, too, continues to refuse any discussion of her private life.

Incredibly, even Sean Hayes, who plays the flamboyantly gay character Jack on NBC's "Will & Grace," won't say whether he's gay. Maybe when his hit show ends its run this year and the acting roles dry up, Hayes will muster the "courage" to appear on the cover of the *Advocate*.

Ironically, Hollywood and New York are regarded as two of the most liberal places on earth. And yet those who inhabit some of the highest positions of visibility and power in those communities remain in the closet.

It's the same story in Washington, D.C., where with a few rare exceptions — Reps. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.) and Jim Kolbe (R-

Ariz.) — lawmakers and their most senior advisers dodge and weave when asked about their sexual orientation.

Congressman Mark Foley (R-Fla.) became the poster child for closet cases when he refused to answer questions about whether he is gay. In 2003, the *Express Gay News*, a Fort Lauderdale paper affiliated with the *Blade*, and an alternative weekly in West Palm Beach published stories saying Foley is gay.

Foley refused to confirm or deny the paper's report. He later ended his bid for the U.S. Senate, citing family reasons.

When Rep. David Dreier's (R-Calif.) name was floated as a replacement for indicted House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, then promptly withdrawn, speculation swirled that anti-gay conservatives had quashed his promotion because of rumors Dreier is gay. Dreier has similarly refused to answer "the question."

THANKFULLY, THERE ARE A HANDFUL of out public figures giving us visibility. Rupert Everett, Rosie O'Donnell, Ellen DeGeneres and Melissa Etheridge come to mind, proving that living an honest life doesn't mean the death knell for a career in the public eye.

The biggest sleeping asset in the fight for full gay equality lies in the shadows of the closet. When we live openly, we force those around us to reconsider their negative views of homosexuality. That's when the stereotypes give way to understanding and real change occurs.

No Human Rights Campaign ad campaign in the "red states" can produce the impact of gays who live in those states actually coming out.

How can we expect the construction worker making \$20,000 a year to come out when the rich and pampered are still hiding in the closet? How will gays living in Peoria find the fortitude to live honest lives, when the gay denizens of New York and Hollywood won't?

No one is asking Anderson Cooper to wear a pink triangle on the air or Jodie Foster to ride with the "Dykes on Bikes" contingent. Simply acknowledging the truth — whatever it is — would be enough.

We need role models and spokespeople to boost visibility, increase understanding and, most importantly, to inspire those living less privileged lives to come out and stand up to those who would deny us the right to marry, to adopt children and to go to work free from the prospect of legal discrimination.

Shame on the rich and famous closet cases who have let us down.

@ Kevin Naff is managing editor of the *Washington Blade* and can be reached at knaff@washblade.com.



viewpoint CLEO MANAGO

Louis Farrakhan chose me to speak because he wanted a homosexual who affirmed black people culturally.

Same-gender love at Millions More

THE MILLIONS MORE MOVEMENT rally last weekend on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., was historic for same-gender-loving, gay and lesbian-identified and bisexual black people, and for gay people generally.

At the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March, I had the honor of addressing the massive crowd specifically as a same-gender-loving man of African descent.

Flanked by John-Martin Green and Leo Singleton — two leaders of the Black Men's Xchange in New York City — I proudly represented our organization. From the momentous MMM podium, I eagerly shared BMX's purpose: to affirm, unify and educate SGL people, and a diverse black community.

"As we plan for the political and economic strengthening of our communities, so that the framework is not vulnerable to inter-group conflict, we have to take care of our people," I said. Because movements are made up of people.

ALONG THE LINES OF MINISTER Louis Farrakhan's brilliant MMM plan, I

suggest there be mental health and restoration intervention for black people — because many of us need it.

We need cultural affirmation courses because many of us do not know who we are. We need healing opportunities particular to the black experience that explicitly acknowledge our diversity, which would include same-gender-loving sisters and brothers, non-religious folks, powerful women, people who are differently-abled physically, and others loyal to black unity, life and success.

I discussed the importance of acknowledging and affirming SGL and bisexual folks as part of the healing necessary for the black family.

I said more, but with more than 100 speakers ahead of me, my presentation was short. I had planned to discuss SGL sisters, black masculinity conflict, ways of resolving HIV/AIDS, the importance of nurturing black children and allowing them to blossom into who they really are, including when they are same-gender-loving.

There was not enough time. In closing, as I bid the audience affection and

respect, we received rousing applause and love in response.

Upon leaving the platform, we were mobbed with accolades from Dr. Maulana Karenga, the creator of Kwanzaa, Kwame M. Kilpatrick, the mayor of Detroit, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, and various members of the Nation of Islam.

"Thank you, brother," said one well-wisher. "You gave me something important to think about."

"That was powerful, man," said another. "Keep up the great work, and thank you for presenting."

Throughout the day, all I received was positive energy.

A PARTICULARLY MOVING MOMENT came when I happened upon a crowd of brothers and sisters clad in beautiful black BMX T-shirts. These were BMX members, and heterosexual allies, who had taken a chartered bus to the event. They had gathered together in front of the stage in support of our presentation. We were all proud.

Brothers and sisters from the crowd, including some mothers and fathers with children, approached our group to congratulate us, and congratulate me on my talk.

Also wonderful was the pride-filled and dignified smiles on the faces of BMX

members and allies who realized that everyone approaching us knew we were homosexual and bisexual men. And this did not prevent us from being embraced.

Heterosexual and SGL individuals, couples, family members and the press asked to take photographs with us, and we did. Never once were we knowingly disrespected, or frowned upon.

This time, a decade after I was originally scheduled to speak at the first Million Man March, the Millions More Movement organizers had actively sought the involvement of same-gender-loving and bisexual black people.

But it was important to the Nation of Islam that everyone invited also affirmed black people culturally, politically, behaviorally and intellectually. With this in mind, Minister Farrakhan, as advised by powerful people within his organization, chose the Black Men's Xchange to represent at the historic event.

All things are possible with black people, through love, cultural resonance and a respectful approach to our challenging issues. Most importantly, "self-love is its own reward."

@ Cleo Manago founded the Black Men's Xchange and spoke at last weekend's Millions More rally; he can be reached at cleomanago@aol.com.

THE

Q What do you think is the importance or significance of organizations like Gay Men's Chorus of Houston and Bayou City Women's Chorus?



Music has the power to bring voice to every dimension of the human spirit. Gay Men's Chorus of Houston and Bayou City Women's Chorus is a committed musical family determined to change the world through singing.

James Knapp, 47
Houston
Artistic Director
of Bayou City Arts



Gay Men's Chorus of Houston and Bayou City Women's Chorus are not only organizations that bridge the gap in the city of Houston regarding awareness of all cultures and lifestyles, but it provides a unique opportunity for men and women already bonded by a unique way to express themselves through the universal language of music. What a joy life is.

Kenneth Clayborne, 43
Houston
Music teacher



Gay Men's Chorus of Houston and the Bayou City Women's Chorus show the greatness that can be achieved when we embrace the diversity within our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Richard Hudkins, 58
Houston
Treasurer



The groups represent our community in all its diversity and greatest gifts of talent.

Tom Crow, 63
Houston
Hair stylist



They help bring the gay and lesbian community to the people of Houston with a rich and positive voice.

Paul Schenk, 46
Seabrook
NASA Geologist

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Interviews and photos by Dalton DeHart

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DOOM GENERATION, TOTALLY F**ED UP AND THE LIVING END

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on the record

"Unfortunately, it's the crossroads where Katrina meets Rita. I always knew I was against same-sex unions."

U.S. Sen. David Vitter (R-La.), on how the city of Lafayette has become a refuge for hurricane victims (Baton Rouge Advocate, Oct. 13)



"I've always wanted to marry Elton John."

Singer Barry Manilow at the Society of Singers' annual Ella Awards (Reuters, Oct. 10)

"I couldn't have married you, Barry. There would have been too much fuss in front of the mirror."

Singer Elton John's reply at the same ceremony (Reuters, Oct. 10)

"Over time, Out [magazine] has made one thing clear: Pretending to be gay is kinda cool; actually being gay kills not only showbiz careers but circulation numbers, too."

Gay columnist Hank Stuever, on the plethora of gay-for-pay actors who appear on the cover of Out magazine (Washington Post, Oct. 16)

"I think they would be great — and I'm including my granddaughters and my grandson. It's hard to know where his inclination is. He's 16 months old."

Lynne Cheney, conservative wife of the vice president, on whether her two daughters, one of whom is openly gay and the other married with kids, should run for office (Time magazine, Oct. 24)

"That depends how drunk I get. Seriously, I'm very comfortable with my sexuality and whomever I want to date."

David Nieves, a contestant on last season's "Strip Search" VH-1 reality show, on whether he is gay; Nieves is opening a gay bar in Dallas (Dallas Voice, Oct. 14)

"They are perverse, self-centered and morally deprived individuals who are spreading their psychological disease into every area of our lives. Homosexual rights activists and those that defend them, are just as immoral as the pedophiles, drug dealers and pimps that plague our communities."

Rev. Stephen Boissin, in a letter published in the Red Deer Advocate in Alberta, Canada; the Alberta Human Rights Commission is investigating him for inciting hatred (Toronto Globe & Mail, Oct. 17)

"You're very perceptive ... because that does happen, even in the most innocent of places. ... You have to watch out for children's programs today as well because they'll slip it in there."



Tim Wildmon, radio host of the Christian broadcasting network American Family Radio, responding to a caller complaining about gay content on cable networks HGTV and Animal Planet (Media Matters, Oct. 11)

"It could end up restricting entry into the priesthood to heterosexuals, which is a de facto extension of the existing teachings. Even worse, it would place homosexuals into the position of hiding their orientation, lying and suppressing their identity or not entering the church."

R. Scott Appleby, a professor of religious history at the University of Notre Dame, on a forthcoming Vatican statement on gays and the priesthood (Associated Press, Oct. 14)

"Most priests are gay, you know."
Madonna, in a clip from her new tour documentary "I'm Going To Tell You A Secret"

eclipse

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When in Rome
Lesbian relationship
on new HBO show
seems too easy.
Page 16

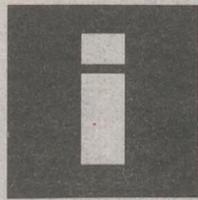
OCTOBER 21, 2005



cult of personality

NEW FILM REKINDLES INTEREST IN LIFE OF GAY WRITER TRUMAN CAPOTE

By KATHERINE VOLIN



IT'S HARD FOR A FIGURE LIKE Truman Capote to ever die.

The gay writer passed on in 1984 after years of alcohol and drug abuse, but the legacy of his unforgettable persona is currently enjoying a major revival, thanks to several recently published books and a new film that is already generating Oscar buzz.

A book of his letters, "Too Brief a Treat" edited by his biographer, Gerald Clarke, was published in December of last year. A graphic novel called "Capote in Kansas" came out in July. "Capote," a film about his experience writing "In Cold Blood," his landmark non-fiction novel, opens in D.C. on Friday, Oct. 21, and yet another film about Capote is due to be released next year.

It's the sort of hubbub and recognition that would have excited Capote, well known for his love of celebrity and public attention.

Publicly, Capote was vivacious, witty and charming. But it was his private side — wounded, alcoholic and depressed — that has captivated the writers and filmmakers exploring his life.

"What I liked about Capote was his split between his public and private lives," says Bennett Miller, director of "Capote," which stars Phillip Seymour Hoffman in a much-talked-about turn in the title role. "All of that personality belied a lonelier and more desperate person."

Capote grew up in what biographer Clarke describes as an "unpleasant" environment. His mother was an alcoholic who verbally abused him before abandoning him to the care of his elderly cousins.

"His mother gave him a lot of grief over being gay," Clarke says. "A lot of grief. She was an alcoholic, and when she would get drunk she would say 'You're a fag, you're a fag.'"

Capote's charm and fame led him to repress the negativity of his upbringing as he approached adulthood, however.

What is also intriguing about the differences between Capote's public and private selves is that, according to biographers, there is seemingly no parallel discord regarding his sexual orientation.

"[Capote] did not have it in his constitution to be in the closet," says Miller, a sentiment that Clarke echoes.

"He couldn't hide it," Clarke says. "When he grew up, which was in the early '40s, at a time of great homophobia, he fit many of the stereotypes of the homosexual. He had a high-pitched voiced, somewhat effeminate

mannerisms and didn't hide it."

Clarke's 2001 book, "Capote: A Biography," relays an anecdote of Capote reading at the University of Florida, at which a student asked, "Are you a homosexual?" According to the account, Capote paused and then replied, "Is that a proposition?"

Clarke says that Capote's first published novel, 1948's "Other Voices, Other Rooms," published when the writer was just 23, is a subtle account of coming out.

"If you read that, it really is a coming out story," Clarke says. "The word homosexual was not used ... but it's an elegant story of a boy, a young boy, discovering his sexuality."

Clarke also points to Capote's famous novella, "Breakfast at Tiffany's," published in 1958 as a story of a young girl and her gay friend.

"There's no romance [in the book], as there is in the movie," Clarke says, referencing the 1961 Audrey Hepburn classic. "Truman's character in 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' was really like Truman. He was sort of asexual in the book. They don't go off in the sunset together at all."

Thomas Dukes, professor of English at the University of Akron, says that Capote helped establish the "quintessential homosexual writing style of the period."

Dukes characterizes the style as "a sensitive hero, male protagonist, closeted by the standards of today, but coded. There would be the sensitivity to the environment, to feelings, particularly with close relationships with women, and you see that in his writing — everything from the 'Glass Harp' to 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' — particularly in his short writing," Dukes says.

Truman Capote in 1948, a year after his debut novel, "Other Voices, Other Rooms," was published. Capote's biographer, Gerald Clarke, says that semi-biographical "Other Voices, Other Rooms" is a coming out story of a young boy. (Photo by AP and Attila Dory/Sony Pictures Classic)

"IN COLD BLOOD" WAS PUBLISHED FIRST AS a series in "The New Yorker" in 1965 and then as a book in 1966.

While true crime stories are immensely popular today, "In Cold Blood" helped firmly establish the new genre. The book was revolutionary and an immediate popular success. A New York Times headline announced that Capote had made \$2 million off "In Cold Blood," an amazing amount for any book, but particularly for a seri-

Please see **CAPOTE** on Page 19

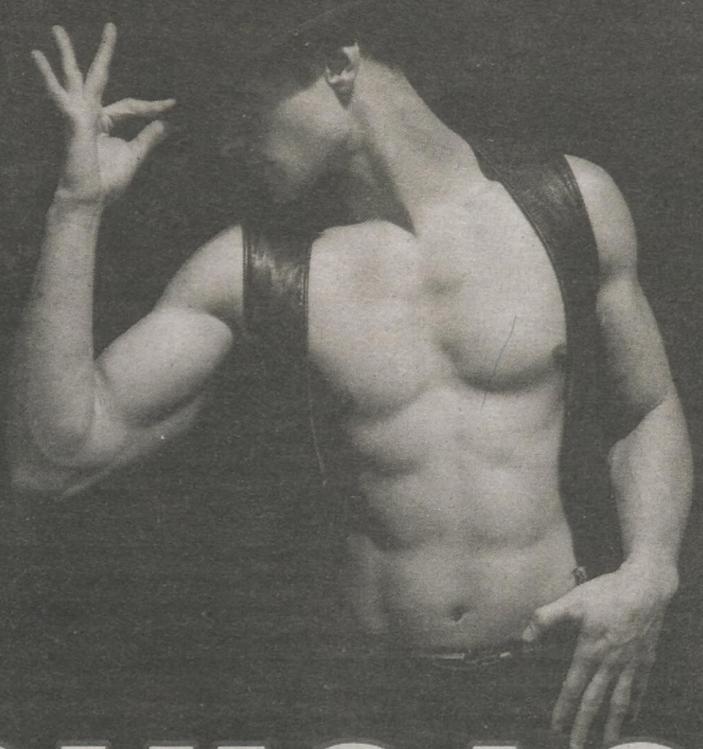


'FAITH FOR BEGINNERS': Acclaimed gay author explores culture of struggle. Page 17

GROOVING AGAIN: Author Terry McMillan finalizes divorce from gay husband. Page 18



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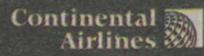
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nitelife JOHNNY HOOKS



Gay fans cheer Astros, Babs releases comeback CD, and exhibit remembers the woman who would be queen.

Houston gets World Serious

WHILE JR'S WAS CELEBRATING ITS 23rd birthday Wednesday night, it was the city of Houston that got the present. Our Astro's are going to the World Series! The first World Series ever played in Texas!

With the final out, Meteor exploded as if Proposition 2 had been defeated, JR's had more men hugging and kissing than "Brokeback Mountain" and downtown looked like Mardi Gras. As the city gears up for games 3, 4, and 5 to be played here and the mega-party it will bring, gay boys and girls have lots of ways to celebrate our Astros' win.

SPEAKING OF AMAZING COMEBACKS, everyone has been talking about Barbra of late with her new CD out. Here's your chance to celebrate her gazillionth number one. Friday, Oct. 21, at **Guava Lamp**, HotGG's old school friend, DJ **Chris Allen**, spins "Guilty Pleasures."

From 11 p.m. on you can get your hands on albums, samplers, posters, and postcards. It's been 25 years since she first worked with Bee Gee Barry Gibb on "Guilty" and now they are back.

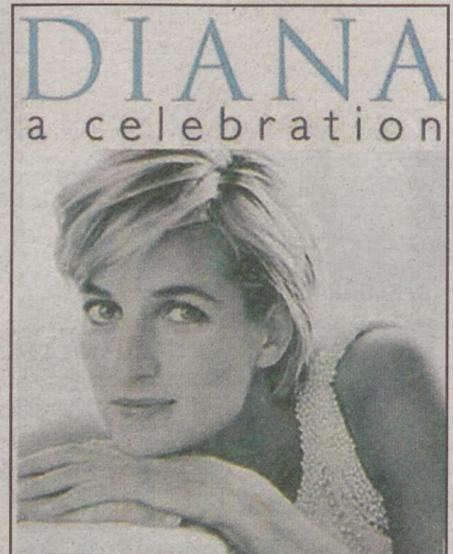
Chris also sent over a remix of **Madonna's** new song "Hung Up" from her forthcoming album "Confessions on a Dance Floor." Miss Madge Ka-blah-blah finally returns to her darkened roots, with an album of fabulous dance tunes. Yay! Check out more from Allen at www.djchrisallen.com and hear his music at www.myspace.com/djchrisallen.

NOW ONTO A REAL QUEEN. WELL, she would have been had she lived. Better than Lady Cornhole or whatever they're calling Camilla (now that's a good costume!) these days. The **Houston Museum of Natural Science** is proud to present "Diana: A Celebration" opening Oct. 21.

This exhibit simply must be seen to be believed. Of course no picture of a princess is complete without a tiara and other items of glamorous jewelry. See her Tiara Gallery! The Royal Wedding Gallery features her wedding dress and its 25-foot train — surely, the crowning jewel of this exhibition.

Diana loved clothes, and we loved (almost) everything she wore. The Style & Fashion Gallery features 27 outfits from the early 1980s to her last public engagement. Other galleries spotlight her passing, her humanitarian work and more. Houston Museum of Natural Science is located at One Hermann Circle Drive. For information and tickets call 713-639-4629.

DON'T FORGET THESE TWO "MUST see" events this weekend. **Halloween**



The late Princess of Wales is remembered in an exhibit opening Oct. 21 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Magic presents "Desperate Montrose Housewives" on Saturday, Oct. 22, and Sunday, Oct. 23, in Zilkha Hall at the **Hobby Center for the Performing Arts**.

In true Halloween Magic style, the neighbors on Wisteria Lane are in for a bumpy ride, thanks to their promise of being an "equal opportunity offender." But all in jest of course! This year, Bree Van de Kamp, Fairview's most celebrated hostess, plans a dinner party like no other but despite elaborate planning and attention to every detail, her plans go awry.

"Desperate Montrose Housewives" will combine the music, the dancing, the hi-jinks and the sarcastic wit that past shows have been known for. See www.halloweenmagic.org for tickets.

SEE NAKED MEN! GOT YOUR attention? Well don't forget the debut of the new 2006 calendar, "Shadows," from **David Lewis and Rob Tomlin** on Saturday, Oct. 22, at **Meteor** from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. A cash bar will offer happy hour prices and there will be a silent auction. Models from the calendar project will be on hand to greet guests. The calendars sell for \$10.

THE BACON IS BROKEN! PLEASE help out **Richard Lyders**, a Houston actor who suffered a major injury during Hurricane Rita, Sunday, Oct. 23, from 4 to 9 p.m. at the Axiom, 2524 McKinney.

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

music KEVIN NAFF



With a new album, tour documentary and even her own custom iPod, Madonna may just be more fabulous than ever.

'Hung up' on Madge

A MADONNA FAN'S CUP RUNNETH OVER these days, as the 47-year-old gay icon and queen of pop prepares to unleash a series of projects sure to please her loyal subjects.

First up is the release of a new single, "Hung Up," a catchy dance track that Madonna has described as "future disco." The single was officially released this week, though Internet spoilers leaked the song last week, prompting radio stations to play it early.

It features an Abba sample from the 1979 hit song "Gimme Gimme Gimme" and light-hearted lyrics that are a welcome departure from the heavy-handed "American Life," which was the lowest-selling Madonna record ever. The video will premiere on VH1 later this month.

Abba's songwriters, Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus, told the U.K. newspaper Telegraph that "Hung Up" marks just the second time Abba has agreed to allow its music to be sampled.

"We get so many requests from people wanting to use our tracks but we normally say 'no'.

... We said 'yes' this time because we admire Madonna so much and always have done. She has got guts and has been around for 21 years. That is not bad going," Andersson told the paper, adding that the Abba pair agreed to Madonna's sampling request only after striking a lucrative copyright deal that gives them a significant share of royalties.

ALL OF THE SONGS ON THE UPCOMING new album, "Confessions on a Dance Floor," due out Nov. 15, are reportedly danceable. The pop chameleon has embraced a flame-haired disco persona this time out, which seems to be resonating with fans — the album is already No. 1 on the Amazon.com pre-order chart.

According to Madonnalicious.com, the authoritative site for Madge news, other singles on the new album include, "Get Together," "Sorry," "Future Lovers," "Let It Will Be," "Forbidden Love," "Jump," "How High," "Isaac," "Push," "Like It Or Not," and a tribute to her former home-

town, "I Love New York."

But the album and new single aren't the only projects keeping Madonna busy these days. She's also set to release the long-awaited documentary of last year's "Re-Invention Tour," called "I'm Going To Tell You A Secret," which airs Friday, Oct. 21 at 10 p.m. on MTV and will be repeated on VH1 and the new gay network Logo next week.

The documentary features footage of Madonna as she prepares for her world tour. Unlike her last behind-the-scenes concert film, the critically acclaimed "Truth or Dare," this latest effort will probably focus more on matters of family and faith than fashion and sex.

In other news, Madonna has embraced iPod, with an array of her videos now available for \$1.99 download on the new iPod video device from Apple. There's reportedly even a customized Madonna iPod Nano in the works that comes pre-loaded with her entire back catalogue of songs. Oh, and it's pink.

At 47, Madonna is busier than ever with a new album, tour documentary and more treats for her countless gay fans.

AND WHAT'S A MADONNA CD release without a little controversy? In interviews in the U.K. and with

Newsweek, Madonna is starting to sound like that other big gay icon, Mommie Dearest.

She tells Newsweek that she's the disciplinarian at home with 9-year-old Lourdes and 5-year-old Rocco. The kids are not allowed to watch TV ("it's trash"), read magazines or, apparently, ingest milk or ice cream.

(No word on whether the kids are allowed to sneak a peek at any of mama's TV appearances this week.)

And if you really want to send the Maternal Girl into a fit of rage that would make Joan Crawford proud, then dare to leave your clothes on the floor. When Lourdes violates the no-clothes-on-the-floor rule, Madonna says she confiscates the clothing until Lourdes earns the frocks back with chores.

This Madonna-thon is what we've come to expect — luscious new photos of Madonna inhabiting a new persona, a press tour filled with shocking new revelations about her private life and, most importantly, hot dance beats.

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television BRIAN MOYLAN



The nonchalant lesbian love affair between two upper-class women on HBO's historical drama seems too good to be true, and it is.



Octavia (Kerry Condon, left) and Servilia (Lindsay Duncan) seem to enter into a sexual relationship without much thought about the consequences. (Photo by Franco Biciocchi/HBO)

When in 'Rome'...

ONCE, DURING A SAME-SEX commitment ceremony, a gay friend of mine leaned over while the vows were being exchanged and said, "Is it just me, or does this just not feel like a real wedding?"

At the time, I shushed him so that we wouldn't disturb the ceremony, but I thought about his comment for days. He was right — it didn't feel the same. After years of many religions, some governments and mainstream society in general telling us that gay and lesbian relationships won't last, aren't worthy of recognition and are inferior to heterosexual relationships, it's no wonder that some of us feel that way.

The scribes behind HBO's popular new series "Rome," which airs Sundays at 9 p.m., want us to think that long, long ago, in an empire far, far away, things were not always that way. In the episode that debuted Sunday, Oct. 9, Julius Caesar's great niece Octavia (Kerry Condon) and his former lover Servilia (Lindsay Duncan) surprised viewers by starting a sexual relationship.

No, it wasn't surprising that this sexually graphic show portrayed two women kissing — or getting really hot and heavy on the Oct. 16 episode — but that these two women, both fresh out of failed relationships with men, so blithely enter into a same-sex relationship without first considering the consequences.

For many modern Americans, such a step requires much hair-pulling angst, waffling uncertainty and eventually a tentative acceptance. That these two could embrace without worrying about the implications is just staggering.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS SHOW THAT Octavia and Servilia's nonchalance is right on for the times, especially for two people of the upper classes. The culture had a free-wheeling attitude about sexual

expression, including a creation myth that says the creator Prometheus got drunk when forming the sex organs, which is what accounts for the varied expressions of gender and orientation.

It's generally believed that the Romans, like the Greeks, were familiar with homosexuality and allowed for its expression in certain relationships — like older men with younger men and aristocratic men with their slaves. On "Rome," Caesar's bitchy niece Atia (Polly Walker) is pleased when she (erroneously) thinks her teenage son Octavian (Max Pirakis) has taken Caesar as a lover.

Not much has been written about lesbian relationships, but there are classical accounts of both sexual and romantic relationships between women.

WHILE IT'S NICE TO IMAGINE A SOCIETY where same-sex relations are so glibly accepted, something about it just seems too easy. It's like Octavia and Servilia's love would be that much stronger if they had to make significant risks to pursue it. Or maybe we just aren't used to seeing lesbian love depicted onscreen without the complications of religious intolerance and societal wrath closely attached.

The women's relationship is central to the episode that airs on Sunday, Oct. 29, and is tested when they are both faced with the fallout from their past relationships with men. Without giving too much away, let's say it's hard for them to hold their feelings for each other in high esteem when faced with their more socially condoned love for men. Like all of us, they finally have to fight to determine their true feelings.

Even in such a permissive society, Octavia and Servilia are still leaning across the pew whispering that theirs isn't a real relationship. While it's sad to see that this ancient paradise couldn't last for gay television audiences, it's another reminder that, even after thousands of years, we have to fight even harder for the world and each other to accept our relationships as valid.

MORE INFO

'Rome'
 HBO
 Sundays at 9 p.m.

books GREG MARZULLO

Gay author **Aaron Hamburger** talks about creative inspiration, the Israeli gay scene and living the literary lifestyle in Rome.

A Roman holiday

AARON HAMBURGER, 32-YEAR-OLD GAY author of "Faith for Beginners," says it was an epigram from a friend that inspired his first novel.

"I had a friend in Israel who said to me, 'To live — it's enough,'" he says. This quote becomes a central theme for the novel's characters who struggle to find their place in a culture of suffering.

The fruit of this inspiration hit the stores on Oct. 11, and Hamburger will be promoting the work with a series of readings and signings across the country. Unfortunately, no stops are scheduled yet in Texas.

Hamburger is currently living in Rome after winning the prestigious Rome Prize from the American Academy of Arts & Letters, which gives emerging artists, scholars, architects, musicians and writers a place to work in the Italian capital for a year.

The author's first work was a collection of short stories titled "The View from Stalin's Head," which received excellent reviews.

Following up that stunning debut, "Faith" shows the Michaelson family on their trip to Israel from Michigan after Jeremy, a gay college student, overdoses on pills and liquor. His mother Helen drags him and her terminally ill husband to the promised land in an attempt to reconnect familial bonds.

Mother and son experience transformational love affairs and eye-opening looks at their Jewish and Palestinian neighbors.

LIKE THE FAMILY IN THE NOVEL, Hamburger traveled to Israel in 2000 to research a proposed book about Israeli gay culture.

"When I got there, no one was really interested in talking about the community. They said, 'We have more important things to worry about,'" he says.

At the time, all of Israel was consumed with then Prime Minister Ehud Barak's trip to Camp David. After receiving sage advice from his friend, Hamburger decided to be a tourist for the rest of his trip.

"The book came out of that experience," he declares.

Although the novel contains a major gay character, Hamburger identifies more with Helen, Jeremy's mother.



Aaron Hamburger, author of 'The View from Stalin's Head,' will promote his new book 'Faith for Beginners' with a series of readings and signings.

"She was a character that I felt a close sympathy with. Jeremy I had to get to know," he says.

Helen is very concerned with living the status quo, but she also yearns to experience all life has to offer.

In the novel, Hamburger writes of her, "...somewhere, muffled by all these sad stones and grains of sand, by the sounds of ice tinkling in cold cappuccinos and the cameras flashing and the watches ticking their lives away, she sensed a real heart full of life, beating impatiently to be recognized. Find me, it said. Know my name and all will be well."

JEREMY IS BRASSY, UNRESTRAINED, and yet still a child. Like many of the novel's characters, he comes to Israel wanting the country to fulfill preconceived notions, but the nation's stark reality reveals darker underpinnings.

Hamburger writes about Jeremy's perceptions of the Israeli bourgeois and the Palestinian underclass, "Jeremy felt his heart race as he thought of the shining limestone city up the hill scrubbed pink for spoiled American tourists. ... And down here in this valley, just a few yards from the [Wailing] Wall, these poor innocent villagers scratched for their survival in a festering garbage dump."

Hamburger cites the country's endless cultural complications as part of the difficulty in unraveling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"How do you create trust in an atmosphere of war?" he asks.

i MORE INFO

Aaron Hamburger
'Faith for Beginners'
Random House
www.aaronhamburger.com

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Missin' her groove

McMillan's divorce,
Boy's operatic dramas
and lesbian love for Bea

TERRY McMILLAN, best-selling author of "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," is finally divorced from her significantly younger gay husband **JONATHAN PLUMMER**. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, the couple has been fighting it out in court since June over a pre-nuptial agreement and, like most breakups, it got ugly.

Plummer said he signed the agreement under pressure at the time of their marriage. McMillan said the entire marriage was a lie that should have been annulled on the grounds that Plummer defrauded her by not acknowledging he was gay.

At the end of it all, the commissioner hearing the case ruled that Plummer's challenge of the pre-nup was not going to fly, but the lawyers from both sides reported that Plummer received about \$50,000.

McMillan claimed she was "deeply offended for being portrayed as a homophobe ... particularly when my insulting comments were directed solely at and privately to my husband."

What comments, you ask? How about this one:

She put out a bottle of Jamaican hot pepper sauce for Plummer, a native Jamaican, and wrote on it: "Fag Juice Burn Baby Burn."

At least she qualified it all by saying, "I do not hate my husband for being gay. I do not hate anybody (except **SADDAM HUSSEIN**)." Well, it's good to know that Plummer isn't as bad as a renegade autocrat.

Strangely, though, her final missive to her ex was a copy of "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" inscribed with the following words, "You made me sick these last eight or nine months and I hope you rot in hell."

Dish shudders to think what she'd write in Saddam Hussein's copy.

Fat lady sings

Speaking of **BOY GEORGE**, **EUAN MORTON**, who played the now-in-a-big-mess pop star in the **ROSIE O'DONNELL** funded musical "Taboo," is moving on to new projects.

Playbill reports that Morton will play leading roles in two new operas, one written by **TONY KUSHNER**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning gay playwright behind "Angels in America," and one by

MAURICE SENDAK, children's author of "Where the Wild Things Are."

Kushner's "Comedy on the Bridge" centers on a group of people trapped on a bridge between rival armies.



Author **Terry McMillan**, who says she is not homophobic, is finalizing the divorce of her gay ex-husband.

"Brundibar," Sendak's work, is about an evil organ-grinder, played by Morton, who fights with two children trying to raise money for their sick mother. Both pieces are due in New York in 2006.

Dish is very curious to see the shows, especially to find out what kind of organ Morton is grinding.

Boob tube

Girl, you know big brother is watching, but now he's watching what you're watching, and it's not "Big Brother." Simmons Market Research recently released a survey about gay television-watching habits and some of the results are downright shocking.

Twenty-five percent of the 19,000 gay men and lesbians surveyed picked Bravo's "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" as their top show. You mean we're still watching that? Coming in a surprising second was Comedy Central's "South Park." Dish can see Cartman worrying about his manhood right now.

In terms of cable networks, gay men are most likely to watch — in this order — Comedy Central, Discovery, Spike TV, A&E, Bravo, Sci-fi, CNN, Lifetime, Fox News Channel (must be the Log Cabin folks) and HGTV.

The real kicker is that lesbians watch "Golden Girls" in much greater numbers than the general population. Yes, you heard Dish correctly: lesbians, not gay men. Is there some secret Sapphic symbology in this TV classic that no one else knows about?

Regardless, Dish is happy that **BEA ARTHUR** kicks Xena's ass.



Bea Arthur

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Woop Woo, Woo Hoo Hoo; Woop Woo, Woo Hoo Hoo

People do Stupid Things!

"Eloy always looked for love in all the wrong places. What he got was mood-swings, acne at 33 and shrinking testicles. Eloy is still looking in all the wrong places (he is a man after all, he can't help himself) but, now he wears protection."

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eclipse

New film rekindles interest in life of Truman Capote

CAPOTE, continued from Page 13

ous novel in 1966. Critics adored the book as well, with the New York Times calling it a "masterpiece."

It tells the story of the seemingly random 1959 killings of a wealthy Kansas farm family, a story Capote was drawn to in its first incarnation as a one-column story on page 39 of the New York Times. Capote, with his best friend, "To Kill A Mockingbird" novelist Harper Lee, immediately went to Kansas to uncover the story.

Capote was particularly interested, Miller says, in "the notion of writing an article about a loss of innocence. Not, 'Oh, boy, who did that?' but 'How does this [crime] affect this town?'"

Capote gained access to killers Perry Smith and Dick Hickock, who murdered the family in a botched robbery attempt. Smith was a magnetic character to Capote, particularly because the two of them had similar backgrounds, biographers say.

"He had an emotional bond [to Perry]," Clarke says.

Although some have claimed that Smith and Capote had a sexual relationship, Miller and Clarke deny it vehemently.

"I will tell you with a good amount of certainty that nothing sexual transpired between them," Miller says. "The notion that Capote would risk everything for a blowjob is ridiculous. Also, I don't think there's much history of Capote going for the dangerous type. He was very strangely attracted to milquetoast. Ordinary men, like heterosexual men who worked in banks, with no particular élan or anything."

The film "Capote" focuses on the years Capote spent researching and writing "In Cold Blood." Although the autobiographical nature of film is sometimes downplayed in favor of entertainment, "Capote's" director says the film is accurate.

"I'm comfortable with the fact that we treated this story with veracity," Miller says.

Miller says that in the film Capote's sexual orientation is important because it establishes him as an interloper.

"He's an outsider and that is critical to the story, the same way that Perry's an outsider," Miller says. "What attracted him to Perry ... was that he saw himself, to the point of profound sympathy for this mass murderer."

Other than showing Capote as an outsider, "Capote" focuses little on the role of Capote's sexual orientation. The film approaches it much like Clarke says Capote himself did, as obvious, but unspoken.

Although the film makes it clear that Capote is gay, the subject is not directly mentioned. Capote's longtime boyfriend, Jack Dunphy, is shown living with Capote throughout the film, expressing concern over Capote's long tenure in Kansas and generally acting like a boyfriend, but he is never addressed as such.



Truman Capote at notorious nightclub Studio 54 in New York City on January 7, 1978. Capote's abuse of alcohol and prescription drugs reached its zenith in the '70s and '80s, until his death in 1984 at age 59. (Photo by AP)

"IN COLD BLOOD" EVENTUALLY LED to Capote's destruction.

Miller says Capote was finished by the time he completed "In Cold Blood" and finally headed home.

"His life's over," Miller says. "He's destroyed himself."

Clarke says the harrowing nature of becoming emotionally involved in the murders and murderers pushed Capote over the edge.

"Because of this awful childhood of his, he'd really been walking on this tightrope for years and years and nobody knew it," Clarke says. "He didn't know it. He didn't have the stability that a happy childhood might have brought him, so [after experiencing] something as traumatic as 'In Cold Blood,' he never got back on."

"In Cold Blood" brought Capote even more fame. As he had always desired, he befriended a host of celebrities, which he used to his advantage when creating the invitation list for the famous Black and White Ball. The 1966 ball, with guest of honor Katharine Graham, was heralded as the party of the century, and Capote was front and center.

He became a popular talk-show guest, once again using his convivial nature to his advantage.

"He was the quintessential gay male talk show guest," Dukes says. "[He] would be campy and in a sense play the role of the court jester, which is something I think he did very well."

Despite his love for celebrity friends, Capote destroyed many of those friendships he had worked so hard to cultivate in his unfinished book, "Answered Prayers," a gossipy, backstabbing account of his friends' secrets.

After that, his history of prescription drug and alcohol abuse only worsened, until the strain of his addiction wore out his body in 1984. He died alone shortly before his 60th birthday.

Dukes credits gay literature fans as having maintained Capote's literary legacy, despite Capote's seeming determination to destroy it.

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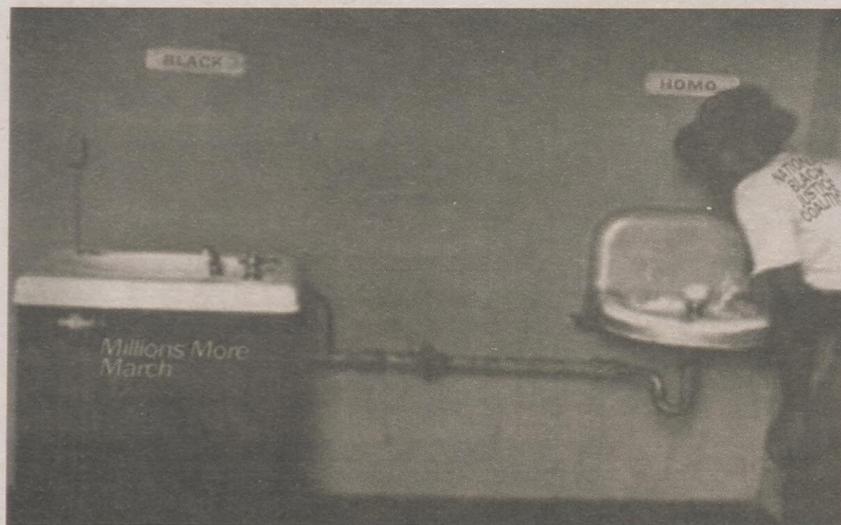
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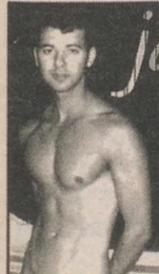
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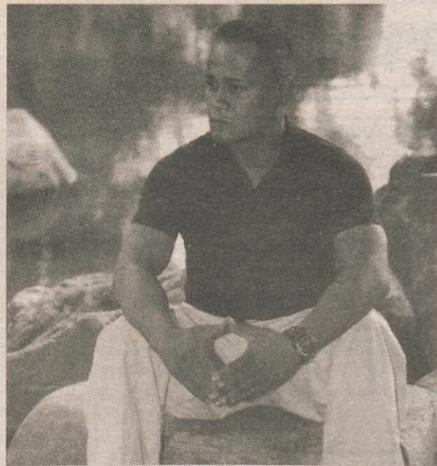
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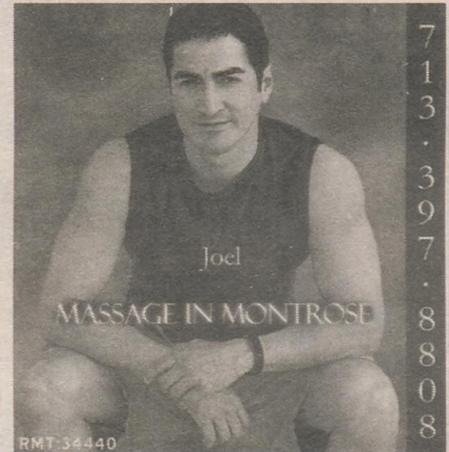
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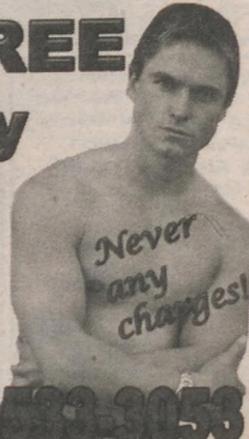
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IT'S NOT NARCISSISTIC UNLESS YOU fantasize about masturbating while you are making out with your partner.

WHAT'S WITH THESE 20-SOMETHING girls in our gayborhoods? They march down our sidewalks three abreast, a phalanx in flip-flops and ponytails, and expect everyone to get out of their way. When others approach, it should be single file, please!

I'VE LOVED FEET SINCE I WAS IN THE third grade. Nowadays everybody is either wearing flip-flops or gawking at guys who are. But they don't even seem to know why. It's the feet, people! And I was here first.

TO THE GUY WHO CALLED ME A "cat-eating Asian twink": Thanks for proving I can do better.

SINCE WHEN IS BEING FAT IN A Speedo about being yourself rather than just a distasteful choice? Speedos are meant to show off your best assets, not accentuate your worst.

OK, SO YOU'RE CONTENT BEING your super-extra-large self. Luv ya for it. Kiss kiss from your community. But if fat is so fabulous, then why do so many men with Hindenburg waistlines chase after buff guys?

GAY MARRIAGE WILL REMOVE MANY hot men from circulation and make it even harder for me to steal them. I'll have to play the mistress, and he may never leave the bitch because of what he stands to lose through divorce.

GAYS WILL GET THE LAST LAUGH ON homophobic Christian terrorist Eric Rudolph if he isn't set apart from the prison population. His good looks will have him perpetually fighting off unwanted attention.

WHY DO SOME CONSIDER IT RACIST to have "All-American" in my online profile? I think anyone of any race can be nice, honest, wholesome and have a positive attitude.

WHY WORRY IF OTHER COUPLES handle their finances jointly or separately? Most couples I know who keep their money separate aren't afraid to pay more of their share.

LET'S SEE, YOU'RE VAPID AND shallow, you broke my heart, and you make three times as much money as I do. So don't complain when you have to buy me dinner. You got the better end of the deal.

I JUST MOVED TO WHITE TRASH-VILLE. So why does it seem that the smaller the town, the bigger the drama?

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

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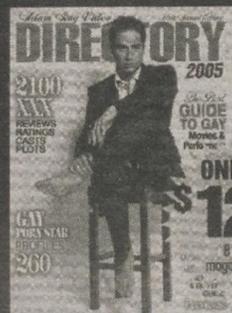


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SAVE THE DATES!



Plan now on attending the DMC Worldwide
"LEGEND OF ZORRO"
Event on November 9th, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$75.00
and includes:

"LEGEND of ZORRO" inspired
MEXICAN FIESTA, featuring leading Mexican restaur-
ants from the Houston area. **MARIACHI BAND**,
DANCERS, Mexican and
a ZORRO themed **COSTUME PARTY**.

Fashion show featuring
surprise superstar **LATINA ICONS FASHION LINE**.

TRIP TO MEXICO for
the winning ZORRO costume.

As well as a Treasure Hunt
and a muy caliente Disco!
Open Bar Provided by UV Vodka



Then on
NOVEMBER 15TH, 2005

Calling all Muggles!

A Harry Potter Inspired
Themed Party
at Magic Island!

Begins at 5:00 p.m.

With a Hogwarts Class Room
Theme in Diagon Alley!

de Medici & Castillo Public Relations
www.dmcworldwide.com