

houston VOICE

in this week's eclipse

She's been booed and kicked, off stages, but drag queen Wendy Chicago is finally a star.

PAGE 14



THIRTY YEARS OF NEWS FOR YOUR LIFE. AND YOUR STYLE.

www.houstonvoice.com

JUNE 11, 2004

SAME-SEX DIVORCE: A judge will decide case next week. **Page 3**



EMPOWER: The gay business expo opens Saturday. **Page 3**



FMA OUT OF TIME: Activists say likely no vote this year. **Page 4**



Gay persecution subject of new Holocaust exhibit

As Houstonians celebrate Pride 2004, museum unveils exhibit about homosexuals living under Hitler's Third Reich

By BINNIE FISHER

They were only numerals, three of them, but the very mention of 175 could instill fear in the hearts of gays living in Nazi Germany.

Paragraph 175 of the German Criminal Code was all the authorities needed to detain homosexuals, throw them in prison, send them to concentration camps, conduct medical experiments on them and even kill them.

A new exhibit that opens today at the Holocaust Museum Houston offers a glimpse into what life was like for gay men in Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

The story of homosexuals in Nazi Germany is told through photos and through the words of survivors like Harry Pauly:

"When the Nazis came to power, they closed the gay bars," he recalled. "Some homosexuals, especially those who were Jewish, were killed by Nazi hooligans; my friend 'Susi,' a drag queen, was stabbed to death."

Collin Keel, director of changing exhibits at the museum, said Paragraph 175 was already in force when the Nazis, under Adolf Hitler, strengthened it in an effort to eradicate gays along with others considered to be counter to the goal of creating a master Aryan race.

The Nazis considered homosexuals to carry a "contagious degeneracy" that threatened the New World Order they were building.



In Nazi Germany, an inverted pink triangle on the uniform of a prisoner meant that person had violated Paragraph 175 of the German Civil Code by being identified as a homosexual. (Photos courtesy U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum/photo illustration by Joey Carolino)

"The Nazis rewrote 175 in 1935 when the persecution began," he said.

Prior to that time, Keel said, homosexuals thrived in Germany's larger cities, frequenting gay night-

Please see **NAZIS** on Page 20



Reagan's death renews debate over AIDS policy

Activists have mixed views on former president's impact on gays, HIV

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — As the nation mourned the death of President Ronald Reagan, gay and AIDS activists this week renewed debate over whether the 40th president could have saved countless lives of gay and non-gay Americans had he responded differently to the AIDS epidemic.

Reagan's death on June 5 at age 93 of Alzheimer's disease came on the 21st anniversary of the U.S. Center for Disease Control & Prevention's first published report of gay men con-

Please see **REAGAN** on Page 5



local life

This year, Rick Taylor is counting down to Lift Off, the party that is a prelude to Houston Pride.

PAGE 8

film

A stuffy Spaniard finds trouble in the form of a 'gay for pay' Slav in 'Bulgarian Lovers,' opening June 11.

PAGE 16



The Pride Committee of Houston and
The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce
Present:

LIFT OFF

Houston's Launch into PRIDE!
A Community PRIDE Party and Dance



Featuring:

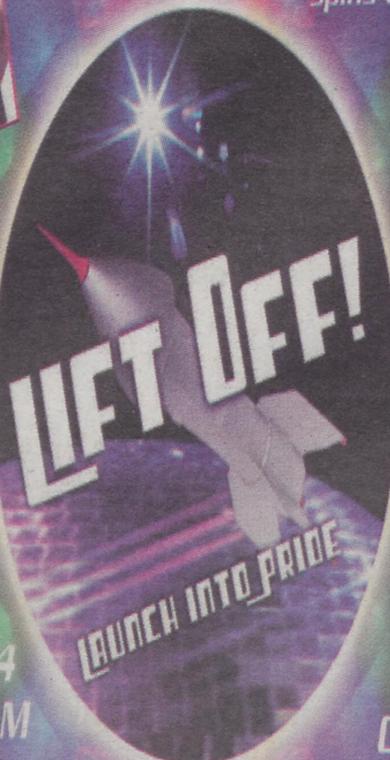
Jai Rodriguez, the Culture Guy from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" performs live at 10:30pm

DJ Mark Tarbox from Los Angeles spins at 11pm



Guest appearances by:

"Fly Boys of Flag Troupe Houston" and other celebrities.



June 12, 2004
9:30PM TO 3AM

George R. Brown Convention Center - Exhibit Hall A

Advanced Tickets available at www.pridehouston.org or www.glhcc.org or at M2M Fashion or M Liquor.

Advance tickets are \$40.00 including 2 days admission to the EMPOWER 2004 Exposition or \$50.00 at the door.

VIP Host packages available at \$125 per person (limited availability) includes an autograph party with Jai, 2 day admission to the EMPOWER 2004 Exposition and a full night of entertainment and dancing at LIFT-OFF - 9:30pm in Exhibit Hall A.

Call for details 713.523.7576 or 713.529.6979

Sponsors



GLOBO
Presents

BAILE INTERNACIONAL 2004

ORGULLO!



JUNE 25, 2004

Guest House Inn/Suites
\$49.99 Per Night
125 Airtex @ I-45N
(281) 876-7378

June 25, 2004
8pm-1am

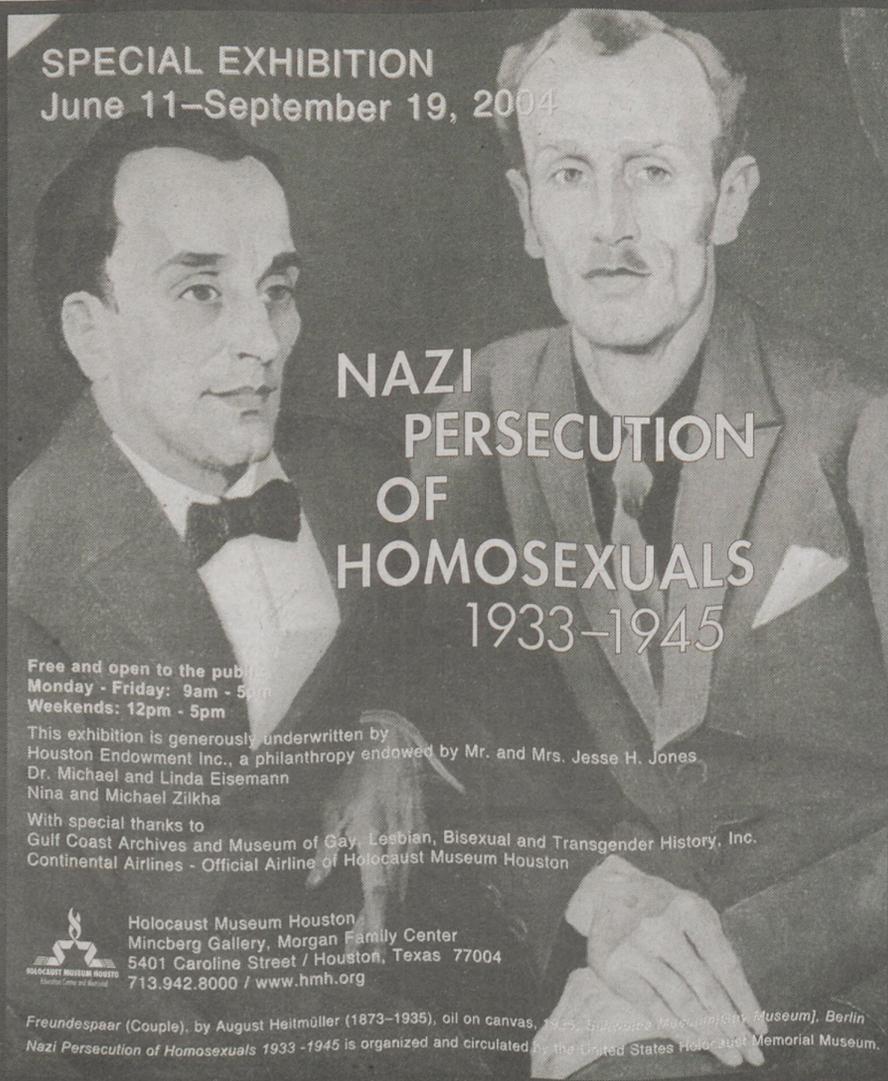
DJ:
Joe Corona

Ticket Prices: Presale \$20
At the door \$30
Table Reservation \$200 (seats 8)

For Information:
GLOBO line (713) 710-0268
Jose Silvas (713) 699-1023
Abel Rodriguez (281) 458-2387

BYOB

SPECIAL EXHIBITION
June 11-September 19, 2004



NAZI PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS 1933-1945

Free and open to the public
Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm
Weekends: 12pm - 5pm

This exhibition is generously underwritten by Houston Endowment Inc., a philanthropy endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse H. Jones, Dr. Michael and Linda Eisemann, Nina and Michael Zilkha

With special thanks to Gulf Coast Archives and Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender History, Inc. Continental Airlines - Official Airline of Holocaust Museum Houston

Holocaust Museum Houston
Minberg Gallery, Morgan Family Center
5401 Caroline Street / Houston, Texas 77004
713.942.8000 / www.hmh.org

Freundespaar (Couple), by August Heitmüller (1873-1935), oil on canvas, 1923, Holocaust Museum Houston. Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945 is organized and circulated by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

houston news

Empower 2004 won't be business as usual

Booths and seminars introduce gays to open Houston businesses

By BINNIE FISHER

If it's Empower weekend, then this must be September.

Not this year. The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce decided this year to coordinate Empower with Pride festivities. Chamber executive director Coy Tow said it made sense.

So far, it looks as though the decision has paid off.

"It's incredible," Tow said. "The show is larger than it's ever been."

The show is a two-day expo at George R. Brown Convention Center that highlights business and other resources in the gay community.

Tow said visitors to the show will have the opportunity to prowl 150 booths offering services that run the gamut: banking, autos, art, food, clothing, travel, government, nonprofits, and on and on.

In addition, seminars will be conducted frequently that concern matters of interest to anyone attending the expo.

Raul Guzman will talk about massage in the workplace, Kathy Hubbard will discuss tax benefits for adoptive and foster families, Gerald Caliendo will demonstrate how to arrange flowers for a dinner party, and George Renfro will tell those who attend how to keep from paying too much for their homes.

Doors open on Empower at noon Saturday, and the event runs from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Lift Off into Pride

The event that links Empower to Pride gets under way at 9:30 p.m. Lift Off: Our Launch into Pride features entertainment by Jai Rodriguez, the culture guy from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

Tow said there has been confusion regarding ticket prices. He said general tickets for Empower and Lift Off are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. VIP tickets that include entrance to both events, a VIP area and autograph session with Rodriguez are \$125 in advance. Day passes to Empower are \$5.

Tow said sale of VIP tickets has been brisk.

In addition to Rodriguez, Los Angeles DJ Mark Tarbox will spin for dancing beginning at 11 p.m. The Fly Boys of Flag Troupe Houston and the Power Dancers will perform throughout the evening.

Pride Committee Houston President



Empower and the Pride Committee Houston will host a party Saturday night that features Jai Rodriguez, the culture guy from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

Nick Brines said the intent was to create an event that would appeal to everyone.

"Young or old, GLBT or straight, men or women, we're trying to break the mold of a typical large dance event and create something that brings the entire community together to celebrate our Pride," he said.

MORE INFO

Empower

Noon-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Lift Off

Saturday, 9:30 p.m.-3 a.m.

George R. Brown Convention Center

713-523-7576

www.ghglcc.org

Because some may find negotiating the area around the convention center daunting, Tow said, Yellow Cab is offering help.

"Yellow Cab will be at Empower," he said. "They will be offering a free shuttle leaving on the half-hour from Meteor in the Montrose area. It's good for people who couldn't come otherwise."

Although one function of Empower is to introduce gay businesses to the gay and lesbian Houstonians, Tow said the aim is ever widening with the event.

This year, he said, it is about introducing all communities to the resources offered by nonprofits and gay and gay-friendly businesses and corporations.

He said by staging a major party along with Empower, organizers are able offer much more for a good price.

"It's a great value," he said. "This is a bargain for a big party like this, with a star like Jai Rodriguez."

Ruling expected next week in same-sex divorce

Divorce of two women has created a stir and a legal can of worms

By JOSEF MOLNAR

District Judge Lisa Millard is expected to issue a ruling as early as next week in a divorce case that an attorney said has "upset apple carts" throughout Harris County's legal community.

The case involves Linda Gail Carter, a transgender woman who is suing her wife, Constance Gonzalez, for divorce.

She's suing her for divorce? It was salacious fodder for print articles and TV segments until Millard issued a gag order in March.

None of the issues to be decided are easy. Carter, who was born a male, is seeking to nullify her marriage to Gonzalez, who was born a female.

Carter, who was born James H. Murphey, had legally changed her gender from male to female several months before she married Gonzalez in Henderson, NV, but presented herself as a man when she applied for a marriage license.

The Texas driver's she presented for obtaining a marriage license bears a photo of her as a woman and lists her sex as female. It was accepted by the clerk in Nevada (a state that also bans same-sex marriage). The marriage license was issued.

Nevada, Texas split on marriage

Nevada has since rejected the marriage, but a Texas court has determined that Carter's marriage is valid under her original gender identification.

At stake are the business, land and financial holdings Carter has amassed, including a funeral home that is currently being operated by Gonzalez and her two children.

Carter would like to see the marriage annulled, which would restore to her control of her business and other assets. She told the Houston Voice prior to issuance of the gag order, "I have not a penny, and I was a millionaire before all this started."

Millard ordered Carter to submit to genetic testing in March to determine her sex, but the results have not been released.

In court, Millard asked Carter, "Are you a male or a female?"

Carter answered, "According to doctors, both."

Observers have said the case could set a precedent for future marriages involving



A judge is expected to rule next week in the divorce case of Constance Gonzalez (left) and Linda Gail Carter.

transgender spouses.

In preliminary proceedings before associate Judge David Lemkuil, Carter's attorney, Elsie Martin-Simon, questioned whether a marriage in a state that does not recognize same-sex marriage could be valid in a state with similar laws on its books.

To that, Lemkuil asked, "Ms. Martin-Simon, this is a marriage license, isn't it?"

Martin-Simon was forced to answer, "Yes, your honor, it is."

From the beginning, Martin-Simon has called the union between Carter and Gonzalez an "attempted marriage."

For Carter, the stakes are high. If the judge determines the marriage is legal, the divorce could leave her with only half of her assets.

A decision to annul a marriage between two women could affect future cases involving transgender marriage.

Prior to the gag order, Elsie Martin-Simon said there was no other solution for the case than to argue it in divorce court. "That's the only way to settle the property issues," she said.

Whatever the judge's ruling, Christopher Bown, of Simoneaux, Nechman & Frye, said a law passed earlier this week by Britain's parliament eventually could trickle down to Texas, a state that has based its law determining gender identification on English law.

Bown said Britain has decided the previous law that determined gender based on chromosomes, was archaic.

"Parliament decided a day and a half ago that identification of a person's sex will be determined by current physical status," he said.

In other words, courts would determine a person's gender according to the genitalia they possess, Bown said.

The British law would not work in Carter's favor. She underwent hormone treatments but did not complete sexual reassignment because of health problems.

national news

Social conservatives running out of time on FMA

Activists say there may not be a vote this year

By JOE CREA

WASHINGTON — With only nine weeks remaining in the current session of Congress, activists and experts question whether lawmakers will have time to vote on the Federal Marriage Amendment — currently bottled up in Senate and House committees — before the August recess.

Congress has only two more weeks of session in June, three weeks in July and four weeks after Labor Day to vote on the FMA. With such limited time, and the Senate schedule becoming very tight — especially in light of former President Ronald Reagan's death — activists say that the longer Congress delays action, the more time people have to consider the negative impacts of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

"I think the conventional wisdom has been the Republican leadership would have a vote before the August recess at the end of July," said Christopher Anders, an attorney who heads the ACLU's Gay & Lesbian Rights Project office in Washington.

"But it is hard to see how their vote count is going to change now and seven weeks from now. It's really hard to see why they would bring it to the floor when the Republican caucus itself is split on the issue."

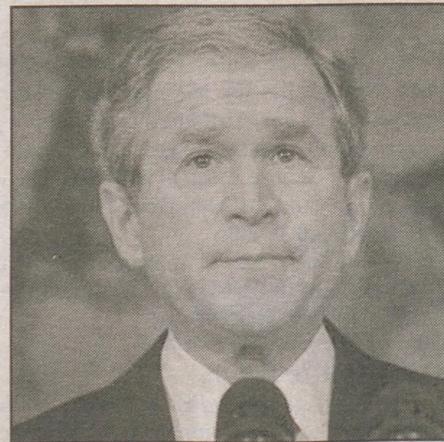
Anders said there has been no new momentum behind the FMA, especially after gay couples began to legally wed after May 17 in Massachusetts. Opponents of same-sex marriage had said the Massachusetts weddings would ignite new energy behind the constitutional ban. But according to Anders, the last co-sponsor to the Senate version of the amendment was added on May 3 and only six new co-sponsors signed onto the House version. Presently, there are 125 co-sponsors in the House and 15 in the Senate, Anders said.

"I think in general, time has been on our side," he said. "The longer people have to look at the amendment and consider the impact of marriage rights for same-sex couples, the better off we've been."

Jonathan Rauch, a correspondent for the Atlantic Monthly and writer in residence at the Brookings Institution, said the only thing he can imagine spurring new support for the FMA would be a judge striking down the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

President Bush reiterated his support for the Federal Marriage Amendment in a May 26 interview with religion reporters and editors for Billy Graham's Christianity Today, a conservative magazine and affiliated Web site.

Bush noted that he took a "strong stand publicly" on the amendment and called the FMA a "benchmark for people to rally around ... a statement from the presidency that says the country has an



President Bush said the movement to ban gay marriage in the Constitution was 'simmering' at best when it needs to be a 'prairie fire.' (Photo by AP)

alternative to that which they're seeing on their TV screens.

"But in order for a constitutional amendment to go forward people have to speak," Bush said. "Now, I'll be glad to lend my voice, but it's going to require more than one voice. It's going to require people from around the country to insist to members of Congress for starters, that a constitutional amendment process is necessary for the country. The end result is necessary. But the idea of giving people a chance to express themselves is a very important part of the constitutional process."

He added that, "the prairie fire neces-

sary to get an amendment passed is simmering at best," and said, "I'm not sure people quite understand the issue yet."

"I don't think they quite understand that which is happening in Massachusetts. ... It can affect their life," Bush said. "I've explained that several times on camera. It's going to require a lot more than a single voice explaining the issue is the best way to put it."

He noted that the marriage debate should not be politicized.

"Politicized means, put it in a context of a real process which to me will change the debate from where it needs to be," Bush said. "You don't want people making up their mind whether or not this benefits a candidate or not. You want people making up their mind on this issue about whether it benefits America — in the long term for America, I think is the best way to put it."

Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, criticized Bush's remarks saying that it was "reprehensible for the president to try to use a discriminatory amendment for political purposes."

"In the same breath he's saying he needs Americans to be pushing discrimination to their members of Congress, he's also saying this issue shouldn't be politicized," Jacques said. "The president should be focusing on voters' priorities — like the war in Iraq, the economy and jobs — not asking them to overlook these matters for the sake of a divisive amendment."

June 13th • "Freedom or Bondage...You Decide!"

Rev. Janet Parker

Please Join Us For Praise and Worship at our Sunday Morning Service
And Experience the Love of God!

Church Service begins at 10am and nursery is available for small children. Shepherd Groups meet during the week for prayer and bible study, contact church office for information.

Visit Our New Improved & Larger Nursery/
Children's area

**Maranatha
Fellowship**
Metropolitan
Community Church

"Building Community Through Compassion"



Look for our Float in the Gay Pride Parade!...We welcome you to work with us in creating our float for the parade.
Just call for time and location.

3333 Fannin, Suite 106, at 10AM

Church office 713-528-6756 • E-mail maranatha@ev1.net
www.maranathamcc.com

**Resurrection
Pride**

Join Us As We Celebrate
Pride As Big As Texas!

Wednesday Uplift Service
Wednesday, June 23rd, 7 PM

Noche Espiritual (Spanish) Service
Saturday, June 26th, 7 PM

Sunday Pride Services
Sunday, June 27th, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church
2025 W. 11th. St. ~ Houston, TX ~ 713-861-9149
www.resurrectionmcc.org

news cover story

Reagan first said 'AIDS' in public in 1985

REAGAN, continued from Page 1

tracting a rare form of pneumonia in Los Angeles — the first identified cases of an illness that would later be named AIDS.

Gay critics — including New York playwright and AIDS activist Larry Kramer — recalled the horrifying early years of the epidemic, when friends and loved ones in New York and San Francisco started dying from Pneumocystis carini pneumonia and Kaposi's Sarcoma, ailments that were linked to an impaired immune system.

"There was no research into our health. Even as we were dying like flies," Kramer wrote in a column to published next month by the Advocate. "How could he not have seen us dying? The answer is he did see us dying and he chose to do nothing."

Reagan's supporters have called such criticism unfair, saying the Reagan administration sought to grapple with a puzzling new disease as scientists and public health officials scrambled to learn how best to respond.

On the gay rights front, officials with the gay group Log Cabin Republicans joined other gay leaders in praising Reagan for taking a lead role in opposing a 1978 anti-gay ballot measure in California known as the Briggs Initiative, which sought to prevent gays from teaching in public schools.

Reagan, who served as governor of California from 1967 to 1975, was credited with helping to defeat the initiative at a time when he was preparing his 1980 run for the presidency. Political pundits noted that Reagan ignored advice by some conservative supporters to stay away from the controversial "homosexual" issue, which they warned would alienate conservative Christian voters.

"Whatever it is, homosexuality is not a contagious disease like the measles," Reagan wrote in a September 1978 statement opposing the initiative. "Prevailing scientific opinion is that an individual's sexuality is determined at a very early age and that a child's teachers do not really influence this."

Patrick Guerriero, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, and Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group, issued statements praising Reagan for taking a stand against the Briggs Initiative, which was named after an anti-gay California legislator.

Reagan slow to act on AIDS

But Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, raised concerns about Reagan's handling of AIDS and gay issues during his presidency. Foreman released his views in the form of an emotional letter to Steven Powsner, a close friend who died of AIDS in 1995. [Please see column on page 59].

Foreman states in his letter that he feels for Reagan's family and friends, who are grieving over the loss of a loved one. But he said he is also "not able to set aside the shaking anger I feel over Reagan's non-response

to the AIDS epidemic or for the continuing anti-gay legacy of his administration."

Added Foreman, "AIDS was first reported in 1981, but President Reagan could not bring himself to address the plague until March 31, 1987, at which time there were 60,000 reported cases of full-blown AIDS and 30,000 deaths."

Foreman's comments reflect the views of a large number of gay and AIDS activists who say Reagan's passing prompted them to revisit the early AIDS years, unleashing memories that have taken the form of an emotional roller coaster.

Much of the discussion has centered on when Reagan first spoke publicly on AIDS. Critics for years have denounced the former president for not making a major public speech on the subject until March 1987, when he appeared at a Washington, D.C., ceremony held in conjunction with the Third International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C.

Supporters point to White House records showing that Reagan first spoke publicly on AIDS at a September 1985 White House news conference. Reagan's comments came in response to a reporter's question about whether he would support a massive government research program on AIDS similar to the U.S. space program's effort to land a man on the moon.

"It's been one of the top priorities with us," Reagan said. "And over the last four years, and including what we have in the budget for '86, it will amount to over a half a billion dollars that we have provided for research on AIDS."

Edmund Morris, author of the 1999 authorized Reagan biography, "Dutch," stated in the book that Reagan once said this about AIDS: "Maybe the Lord brought down this plague" because "illicit sex is against the Ten Commandments."

That quote was challenged by at least one book reviewer, who said Morris admitted to making up Reagan quotes.

In his authoritative book, "And The Band Played On," the late gay journalist Randy Shilts has been credited with persuading many government scientists and



An AIDS protester wears a Ronald Reagan mask dressed as the Grim Reaper during a 1987 protest over the lack of research funds devoted to the illness. (Photo by Doug Hinckle)



Nancy Reagan is comforted by Rev. Michael Wenning at former President Ronald Reagan's casket earlier this week. (Photo by Bryan Chan/AP)

officials to speak frankly about how the Reagan administration handled AIDS in the early years.

Shilts reported that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, which detected the first cases of AIDS before the disease was named, regularly struggled for more funds to conduct crucial research to track the disease. Shilts said other government scientists and public health officials at the National Institutes of Health spurned the CDC.

Ignoring gay civil rights?

On the gay rights front, gay leaders have criticized Reagan for ignoring gay civil rights issues during his two terms as president and for appointing a cadre of anti-gay, religious-right advocates to key administration jobs.

Among them were Patrick Buchanan, the anti-gay commentator and newspaper columnist who served in the White House communications office; William Bennett, who served as secretary of education; and Gary Bauer, who served as White House domestic policy adviser.

Reagan also drew strong objections from gay activists and African-American civil rights leaders when he named an anti-gay black minister, Sam Hart, as chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Hart led efforts to oppose a gay civil rights bill in Philadelphia, his hometown.

The commission, although only an advisory body, had played an historic role in promoting civil rights laws since the 1960s. Critics charged Reagan with stacking it with conservative ideologues.

Still, Reagan's own views on gays are undetermined.

In his column submitted to the Advocate, AIDS activist Kramer speculated that Reagan's failure to act to curtail the AIDS epidemic may be due to hostility toward

homosexuality brought about by speculation that his son, Ron Reagan Jr., may be gay. Ron Reagan Jr. has said he is not gay and that the rumors were an insult to his wife.

"I suspect by now Ron Reagan Jr. actually believes he is straight," Kramer wrote. "By now he may very well be. He may very well have been all along. He just looked so suspicious, and of course it was this suspicion that, one way or the other, is what caused his father to murder so many of us."

Reagan's stepdaughter, Patti Davis, took strong exception to this assessment in an essay she wrote for Time magazine last year.

'Benign neglect' on gay rights

Yet, while social conservatives within the administration pushed hard for advancing the religious-right agenda, Reagan himself never spoke out against gays in a speech or public document and never spoke in favor of the anti-gay positions of the religious right.

Veteran D.C. gay activist Frank Kameny, who is among the nation's founding gay civil rights leaders, said Reagan appeared to take a posture of benign neglect when it came to gay issues.

Similar to other Republican administrations, a number of closeted gays worked in the White House and administration during the Reagan years, and in some cases they did not conceal their sexual orientation at work, according to gay Republicans.

D.C. gay Republican activist Bob Kabel served from 1982 to 1984 as White House special assistant for legislative affairs.

"My being gay came out in my FBI background check," Kabel said. Also revealed in the background investigation was his domestic partner, Kabel said. "No one ever raised any objections to my living arrangement."

One development that appeared to contradict Kabel's experience surfaced in 1984, when the White House revoked the security clearance of a gay stenographer who had been employed by a company retained by the White House to transcribe Reagan's news conferences and speeches.

Gay link to Iran-Contra

Another gay man who had access to the Reagan White House in a prominent capacity was Carl "Spitz" Channell. A protégé of the late gay conservative leader and fundraiser Terry Dolan, Channell founded the National Endowment for the Preservation of Liberty, a front group used to raise illegal funds for the Nicaraguan Contras.

Under the direction of then White House official Oliver North, Channell used his organization as a vehicle for wealthy conservative donors to pay for arms for the Nicaraguan Contras, according to a report by U.S. special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh. The fund-raising took place after Congress enacted a law banning the United States from providing financial or military support to the Contras.

THE JEWISH GAY AND LESBIAN SOCIAL GROUP

"Your Mother Would Be Proud"

Join us for what's hot, hip & happening in Houston's Gay & Lesbian Jewish Community. A homo-neurotic mix of music & conversation at Meteor. Don't miss this exclusive event.

Meteor
Tuesday, June 15, 2004
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

2306 Genesee @ Fairview in Houston
\$10.00 cover fee



This first gathering, is for couples as well as singles.
It is an opportunity to meet our community.



A new group sponsored by the JCC Singles Connection
For more information call Judy: 713.729.3200 ext. 3299



BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (UCC)

Sunday Traditional Worship	9:00 AM
Sunday School (All Ages)	10:30 AM
Wednesday Celebration Worship	6:00 PM

Come and experience for yourself "The Church with Open Arms!"

1107 Shepherd Drive @ Center Street
Houston, TX 77007 • 713-861-6670
www.bethelhouston.org

A CONGREGATION OF THE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Stonewall Democrats of Houston



Defending your GLBT rights

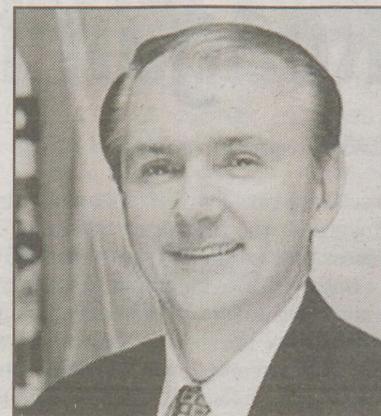
CALL 713.854.8773



national news

Missourians to vote on gay marriage in August

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — In a victory for the Democrats, Missourians are scheduled to vote in August — not in November — on a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. Under pressure from Missouri's Supreme Court, Republican Secretary of State Matt Blunt agreed last week to put the measure on the ballot this summer. The Democrats did not want the contentious issue to get tangled up in the November general election. Political observers said the gay marriage amendment would draw lots of conservatives to the polls and give a boost to President Bush and Blunt, who is running for governor. In a 6-1 decision June 3, the state Supreme Court did not directly order Blunt to put the issue on the August ballot, but said he should. Shortly after the ruling, a Blunt spokesperson said the secretary of state would follow the court's wishes. Democratic Gov. Bob Holden had called for an August vote shortly after legislators passed the proposed amendment.



Democratic Missouri Gov. Bob Holden's call earlier this year to put a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage on the August ballot in the state was realized last week after the state Supreme Court sided with the governor.

Calif. student sues over ban of anti-gay T-shirt

POWAY, Calif. — A Christian student who believes homosexuality is wrong is suing Poway Unified School for barring him from wearing a T-shirt expressing an anti-gay message, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported last week. "I was appalled that my school would take such a controversial issue and only allow one side to be heard," Tyler Chase Harper, 16, told the Union-Tribune. Alliance Defense Fund attorney Robert Tyler said Harper's T-shirt did not constitute hate speech and that he should not have been punished by the school for wearing it, the newspaper reported. The slogan "Homosexuality is Shameful" and a reference to Romans 1:27 in the Bible were printed on the shirt, the newspaper stated. Harper wore the shirt on the school's annual Day of Silence, which draws attention to discrimination and harassment against gay students, the Union-Tribune reported. Harper wore a shirt the next day that stated, "Be ashamed" and "Our school embraced what God has condemned."

Mich. mayor officiates at mass gay wedding to show support

FERNDALE, Mich. (AP) — Nearly a dozen gay and lesbian couples pledged their love and commitment Saturday in a symbolic marriage ceremony officiated by the mayor of this Detroit suburb. A handful of protesters silently lined the sidewalk in front of City Hall, where the couples and Mayor Robert Porter gathered under a blue and pink banner that proclaimed: "To love, honor and be recognized." The ceremonies carried no legal weight, but were part of the weekend's Motor City Pride festival in Ferndale. In two decades, the city of 22,000 has gone from being a struggling, working-class town to a vibrant center for metropolitan Detroit's gay community. "I can't stop quivering," said 41-year-old Melvin Rodgers Berta, clutching the ringed hand of his partner of three years. "It's just like the day we met," added Leroy Berta, 46. Rev. Mark Bidwell, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church, joined Porter in performing the marriage ceremonies. However, no marriage licenses were issued because only the county can issue them.

Judge rules against N.M. clerk who wanted to marry gays again

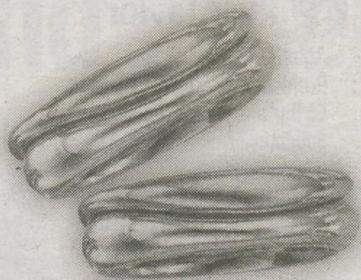
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — State District Judge Louis McDonald said Wednesday that the Sandoval County clerk still is temporarily prohibited from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Attorney Paul Livingston contended that the temporary restraining order against his client, clerk Victoria Dunlap, should no longer be in effect. Dunlap issued 66 licenses to same-sex couples on Feb. 20. She stopped when state Attorney General Patricia Madrid issued a letter saying the clerk's actions were illegal. Dunlap tried again in March, but the county and Madrid's office were hit with a temporary restraining order. Dunlap, who lost her election to a seat on the county commission, announced last week that she intended to begin marry gay couples again because the temporary restraining order could not remain in effect forever.

Coors disavows former chairman's position against gay marriage

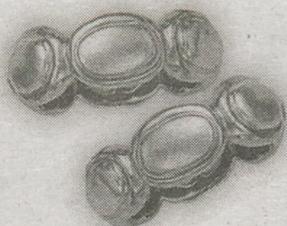
DENVER (AP) — Coors Brewing Co. distanced itself last week from its former chairman, saying his political support for a constitutional ban on gay marriage does not reflect the company's position. Republican Senate candidate Peter Coors said during a primary debate two weeks ago that he agreed with the Federal Marriage Amendment proposed by two Colorado Republicans, Sen. Wayne Allard and Rep. Marilyn Musgrave. On June 3, Coors Brewing issued a statement making it clear that Peter Coors' views are his own. "We do not support discrimination against the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender community, via legislation or otherwise," company CEO Leo Kiely said in a statement. Observers have said Coors needed the votes of party conservatives at last weekend's state party convention, and note that his primary opponent is conservative former congressman Bob Schaffer, an outspoken opponent of gay marriage.

From staff and wire reports

For Adam
and Steve



For Anna
and Eve



*Because in the beginning,
they only had one choice.*

OFFICIAL JEWELER OF MISS CAMP AMERICA!

THE
GALAXIE JEWELERS
We Create the Unusual



2511 Sunset Blvd. (near Kirby)
713.521.2511
2001 MCAF Diamond Star Award



TheGalaxieJewelers.com



This expression brought to you by the Houston Voice Classifieds

WHATEVER YOU NEED...WHENEVER YOU NEED...

By phone or on the web, placing a Houston Voice Classified
is so easy it has people smiling.*

*Though not necessarily idiotically.

HOUSTONVOICEclassifieds



PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD NOW! CALL 877 863 1885
OR PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT WWW.HOUSTONVOICE.COM

Expect a great deal.

**PRE-OWNED SPECIALS
OVER 150 TO CHOOSE FROM!**

'01 SATURN L200 SEDAN Well Equipped! Stk#P2267.....	\$9,995	'03 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER White, Must See! Stk#P2318.....	\$20,995
'03 CHEVROLET CAVALIER 3 To Choose! Stk#P2272.....	\$9,995	'04 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE Loaded! Stk#P2348.....	\$22,995
'97 JEEP WRANGLER Must See! Stk#4807B.....	\$10,995	'01 FORD F150 LIGHTNING Black, Must See! Stk#4733B.....	\$23,995
'03 DODGE STRATUS 2 To Choose! Stk#P2346.....	\$10,995	'02 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE Jack Roush Edition! Stk#4974A.....	\$23,995
'03 CHEVROLET MALIBU 3 To Choose! Stk#P2234.....	\$10,995	'03 CADILLAC DEVILLE 6 To Choose! Stk#P2310.....	\$24,995
'00 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE SSEI White, Must See! Stk#4790A.....	\$11,995	'03 CADILLAC CTS Luxury Package! Stk#P2263.....	\$28,995
'03 BUICK CENTURY 2 To Choose! Stk#P2259.....	\$11,995	'02 GMC YUKON XL DENALI 2 To Choose! Stk#4860A.....	\$33,995
'03 NISSAN SENTRA Automatic, Stk#P2347.....	\$11,995	'01 BMW X5 Silver, Stk#40056A.....	\$34,995
'01 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO Nicely Equipped! Stk#2019PA.....	\$12,995	'04 CADILLAC SRX Low Miles! Stk#P2360.....	\$34,995
'01 ISUZU RODEO Low Miles! Loaded! Stk#40024A.....	\$12,995	'02 CADILLAC ESCALADE AWD Black, Fully Equipped! Stk#P2282.....	\$39,995
'03 SATURN ION-3 SEDAN Only 3K Miles! Stk#P2302.....	\$12,995	'02 CADILLAC ESCALADE EXT Must See! Stk#P2361.....	\$39,995
'03 NISSAN ALTIMA 4 To Choose! Stk#2118P.....	\$15,995	'03 CADILLAC ESCALADE DYD System! Stk#P2165A.....	\$41,995
'02 HONDA ACCORD COUPE Black, Stk#4982.....	\$16,995	'03 MERCEDES BENZ E320 Must See! Stk#4792A.....	\$43,995

**BAD CREDIT? NO CREDIT? BANKRUPTCY?
SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE!**

Stewart

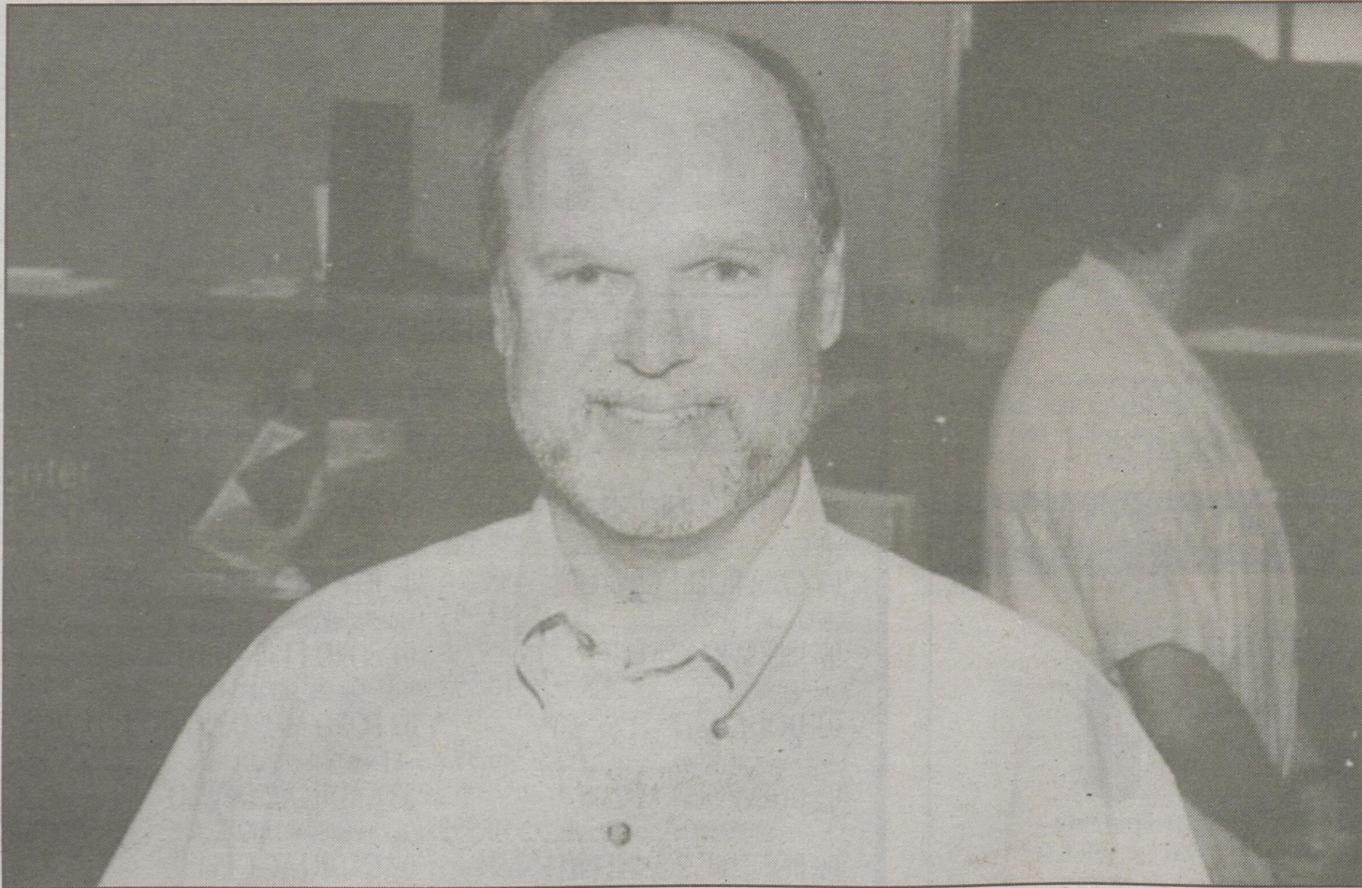


Cadillac

Main at McGowen • Midtown • 713-874-0900

www.stewartcadillac.com

All prices+TT&L W.A.C. Vehicles subject to prior sale.



Small business owner Rick Taylor is chairing Empower 2004, which has moved from September to June to coincide with Pride and is helping launch the annual festivities with a Lift Off party feature 'Queer Eye's' culture guru Jai Rodriguez. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

Taking care of business

Rick Taylor became involved with Empower to take care of his own business, now he's taking care of others by chairing the event

By CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Rick Taylor is in countdown mode these days.

In any other year, as chair of Empower, the annual business expo staged by the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, Taylor would be counting the minutes until the doors open Saturday at George R. Brown Convention Center.

This year, he's also counting down to Lift Off.

i MORE INFO

Empower
Saturday and Sunday, noon-6 p.m.
Lift Off
Saturday, June 12, 9:30 p.m.-3 a.m.
George R. Brown Convention Center
713-523-7576
www.ghglcc.org

The 7th annual Empower expo starts at noon, and this year, the event features something in addition to 150 booths representing gay and gay-friendly businesses and organizations.

This time, Empower features Lift Off, a party with a DJ and big name entertainment in the form of Jai Rodriguez, the "Culture Vulture" from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

Rodriguez, in addition to being the culture guru on "Queer Eye," is also an actor, a singer and dancer who most recently starred in the lead role of "Zanna" in the off-Broadway musical hit "Zanna, Don't!" He also has performed on Broadway as "Angel" in the Tony Award-winning musical "Rent." For Lift Off, he's expected to perform from his upcoming CD with a coterie of backup dancers.

Taylor is one of the reasons Rodriguez is coming to Houston. "Every year we add

something new," he said. "We're looking for this to be a big event."

When it was decided that Empower would be moved from September to June to coincide with Pride festivities, Taylor said, planners realized something was needed to link the events together.

"We started brainstorming with Houston's Pride committee to move Empower to June — we always did it in September for National Coming Out Day," Taylor explained. "We thought we should partner with Pride, and Pride was looking for something we could do as a kickoff party for Pride month."

Since gay men and lesbians love a party, it was decided that the two organizations should partner to throw the party to end all parties.

"It's a 50/50 deal," Taylor said. "We've already set up Empower. We're taking a portion of that hall. We have board members from each organizations jointly handling the staffing for the event."

The hope is that Lift Off will draw a segment of the community that hasn't participated in Empower in the past.

As far as Empower is concerned, Taylor said, "It's more than a business event, it's a community event. We try to

i Rick Taylor

Age: 50
Residence: Northwest Houston
Birthplace: Native Houstonian
Education: University of Texas at Austin (Marketing)
Occupation: Owner of Premier Fine Flooring
Personal: Single
Pets: two miniature pinchers
Tidbit: Belongs to a monthly dinner group

hit a broad breadth of our market. It's designed for the organizations reaching out to the GLBT community."

Finding new friends, customers

A friend convinced Taylor to participate in Empower four years ago. "It was great. It was really neat to see — how can I say this — I had not been aggressive about going after the community or been out publicly. And this was a coming out for me."

Taylor had been out for years, but Empower convinced him to target the gay and lesbian community as a market for his own flooring business.

"I got a great response from the booth," he said. "I got even more response the next year. I generated almost \$40,000 from the contacts I met there. It was a great way to meet new professionals outside the network of a bar."

Taylor's involvement with Empower didn't end with his company booth at the expo.

"I continued my involvement and got elected to the board and was elected secretary and then vice-president," he said. "So I volunteered to help chair the event and I've done it for three years."

At first, participation in Empower was all about growing his own business. It evolved into helping others grow.

"At some point you wake up and realize there's something else you need to do," Taylor said. "You've taken all these years and never given back."

Empower isn't just about businesses finding new customers and clients. It's about introducing the gay and lesbian community to the resources that are available.

"We have something for everybody, whether it's spiritual, health, and entertainment," Taylor said. "No matter what you're looking for, we try to plug into that. We're having educational seminars. We have the business booths. We have non-profit booths. JP Morgan Chase is helping our children's booth. So we appeal to everyone in the community."

Involvement goes beyond just gay-owned businesses. Among the sponsors of this year's event are Continental Airlines, Countrywide Financial, Echelon, Shell Oil, JP Morgan Chase and Wells Fargo.

"Cause it's not just about gay business," Taylor said. "It's about GLBT friendly businesses."

local life

The prom that was and other things



Hunky young models helped kick off DIFFA's Dine Out, Chip In fund-raiser at Cabo and other Houston Restaurants. (Photos by Dalton Dehart)



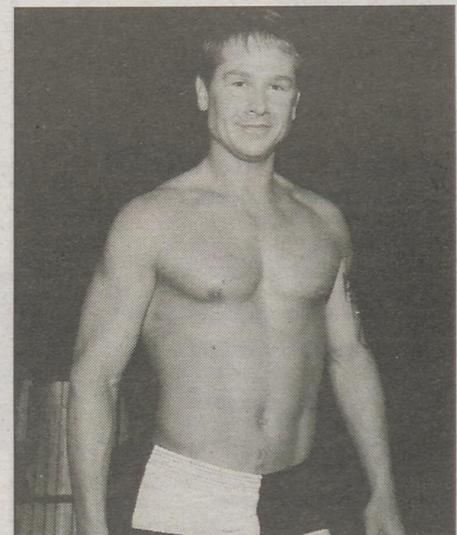
Scottie Scott mimics Rosie the Riveter as Liz Walden looks on at the Rainbow Health Fair staged by the Lesbian Health Initiative.



King Ivan and Queen Kristina pose for photographs at the H.A.T.C.H. prom.



Glynda McGinnis and Bobby Bass helped Art League Houston's Healing Art Outreach Program raise money at Wells Fargo -River Oaks.



Sean Nemeth, promotions director at Meteor, models swimming trunks during a fund-raiser for Montrose Clinic.



Congratulations are in order for the Doc's Jocks, who won the Lone Star Softball Classic championship.

What's better than a great hotel? Free* gas to help get you there!

San Antonio
from
\$39.95

New Orleans
from
\$49.95

Austin
from
\$39.95

Book now and we'll give you up to \$30 back towards a free tank of gas!

1-800-76-HOTELS

hotels.com
BEST PRICES. BEST PLACES. GUARANTEED.

No purchase necessary. Ends 7/13/04. *Restrictions apply - see rules for details.

EDITORIAL & PRODUCTION

Executive Editor CHRIS CRAIN

Editor BINNIE FISHER

Correspondents BRYAN ANDERTON, ADRIAN BRUNE, LOU CHIBBARO, JR., JOE CREA, MUBARAK DAHIR, LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN, MIKE FLEMING, MATTHEW HENNIE, PHIL LAPADULA, RYAN LEE, BRIAN MOYLAN, KEVIN NAFF, KEN SAIN, RHONDA SMITH, CHRISTOPHER SEELY, STEVE WEINSTEIN, ANDY ZEPPER, CYD ZEIGLER

Contributors JOHNNY HOOKS, JOSEF MOLNAR, JASON VICTOR SERINUS, MUBARAK DAHIR, J.A. CHAPMAN, AND ARJAN TIMMERMANS

Photographers DALTON DEHART, KIMBERLY THOMPSON

Production JOEY CAROLINO, RAY BERG, RONNIE GANDHOK, IRMA ALLEN

Webmaster ARAM VARTIAN

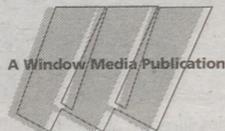
SALES & ADMINISTRATION

General Manager JASON WILSON
jwilson@houstonvoice.com

Account Executives
DONA BOZKA - dbozka@houstonvoice.com
JENNIFER HOLLAND - jholland@houstonvoice.com
DAVID TRUONG - dtruong@houstonvoice.com

Classified Sales / Office Administrator
JOHNNY HOOKS - jhooks@houstonvoice.com

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media • 212-242-6863



Publisher- WINDOW MEDIA LLC
President- WILLIAM WAYBOURN
Editorial Director- CHRIS CRAIN
Corporate Controller- BARNETTE HOLSTON
Art Director- ROB BOEGER
Director of Operations- MIKE KITCHENS
Director of Sales- STEVEN GUERRINI
Director of Classified Sales- NATHAN REGAN
Chief Financial Officer - PAM AYRES
Marketing Manager - RON ROMANSKI



CHARTER MEMBER

Established 1974 as the *Montrose Star*.

500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 529-8490
Fax: (713) 529-9531
www.houstonvoice.com

Contents copyright 2004
Office hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays

To submit a letter

Letters should be fewer than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for content and length. We will withhold names upon request, but you must include your name and phone number for verification. Please send mail to Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006; fax (713) 529-9531 or e-mail to editor@houstonvoice.com. Opinions expressed therein do not reflect those of the *Houston Voice*.

All material in *Houston Voice* is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced without the written consent of *Houston Voice*. The sexual orientation of advertisers, photographers, writers and cartoonists published herein is neither inferred or implied. The appearance of names or pictorial representation does not necessarily indicate the sexual orientation of that person or persons.

Houston Voice accepts unsolicited editorial material but cannot take responsibility for its return. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any submission. All rights revert to authors upon publication. Guidelines for freelance contributors are available upon request.

Forum

editorial

Adolf Reagan?

Is Ronald Reagan the grandfatherly figure mourned by millions or a heartless bigot who disregarded the fate of so many gay men struck down by AIDS?

By CHRIS CRAIN

IF YOU KNOW A GAY MAN over the age of 45, then you probably heard something this week that would truly shock the average American, straight or gay.

You most likely heard a sense of satisfaction, and maybe even outright pleasure, at the news of Ronald Reagan's death. If you heard any disappointment at all, it might well have been that the former president wasn't aware enough of his own suffering during his decade-long decline due to Alzheimer's.

In a common reaction from the over-45 set, Act Up founder Larry Kramer relates in an essay for the *Advocate* titled "Adolf Regan" how he reacted when *People* magazine called for a quote on Reagan's death.

"I wish he had died before he was elected" is what I told them," writes Kramer.

The outspoken gay playwright and AIDS activist goes on to compare Reagan with Hitler and blames the former president for the entirety of the AIDS epidemic, calling him a murderer. Not even wife Nancy and son Ron Reagan Jr. are spared Kramer's rage.

"I wonder what it feels like to be the son and the wife of a man responsible for over 70 million people so far becoming infected with a virus that has killed over half of us so far?" he asks. "I wonder what it felt like while [Reagan] was alive to ponder this?"

That sort of anger would be jarring enough were it not juxtaposed against days of televised images of Americans deeply saddened by Ronald Reagan's passing. The press coverage, on television and in print, has focused almost entirely on the accomplishments of the Reagan years and the warm personality of the man himself.

Hour after hour of Reagan coverage on CNN and Fox News made no mention at all of the AIDS epidemic, even when the anchors on screen were gay (albeit closeted). The *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* published exhaustive profiles of the man and his presidency, again making no mention at all of the AIDS issue.

Finally on Wednesday, four days after the Reagan's death, stories began appear-

ing on the darker side of Reagan's tenure in office, including his administration's aching slow response to the epidemic and the president's failure to even address the issue in public for years, until tens of thousands had died and even more were known to be infected.

SO WHICH IS THE REAL REAGAN? THE strong yet grandfatherly figure adored and mourned by the American public? Or the heartless bigot who callously disregarded the fate of those struck down by AIDS, or who even welcomed their fate as just punishment for the sin of homosexuality?

As is often the case, the truth appears in the gray between the black and white portraits of the ex-president.

Some of Reagan's advisers clearly did dismiss an aggressive response to a disease that was attacking unpopular, outcast populations like homosexuals and IV drug users. Others in the Reagan White House viewed AIDS, like everything else, through a harsh ideological lens, and the virus was seen as the natural byproduct of abhorrent and immoral sexual behavior.

C. Everett Koop, the surgeon general at the time, was heard later to complain that it was these ideologues who blocked access to the president to discuss the seriousness of the situation. As on so many other issues including Iran-Contra, Reagan was poorly served by his detached management style.

Still, the former president's personal views on homosexuality and AIDS were relatively accepting for the time period and his age bracket, and clearly did not reflect the hatred alleged by Kramer and others.

Years in Hollywood apparently led to pleasant, or at least neutral, exposure to gay people, and Reagan spoke out when many others wouldn't to help defeat an anti-gay initiative in 1978, two years after his first run for the White House and two years before his second. Can anyone imagine a serious GOP candidate for president doing that today, a quarter-century later, even though gays are far more accepted?

WHAT WAS MISSING FROM THE Reagan response to AIDS — in addition to information about the seriousness of the epidemic — was compassion. George W.

Bush may have coined the phrase "compassionate conservative," but he long ago betrayed that promise. Recently, it was Reagan's widow Nancy who more clearly fit the bill.

Just weeks before her husband died, Nancy Reagan publicly called for an expanded commitment to stem cell research, which shows promise in the treatment of Alzheimer's and a number of other horrific medical conditions. She did so over the objections of the anti-abortion zealots who still lionize her husband as their first great champion in the White House.

And yet where was that compassion in the 1980s for those infected with the AIDS virus and their loved ones? It's a familiar pattern for conservatives to become compassionate — and depart from long held conservative positions — once an issue affects them in a very personal way.

After James Brady was shot in the 1981 assassination attempt on the president, the former press secretary and his wife became leading gun control advocates.

Colin Powell, one of Reagan's national security aides, declared himself a Republican but remains in favor of affirmative action because he appreciated how it benefited himself and others. And yet in 1993, the same Colin Powell led the military's opposition to President Clinton's pledge to end the ban on service by gays in the military.

It is that inability to find compassion for other people — rather than outright hate or even indifference — that is responsible for Reagan's AIDS failure.

The raw anger still felt all these years later by many older gay men at the mere mention of Ronald Reagan's name is as much about the scope of their loss, which is unimaginable to those of us who weren't there to see it, as it is a considered judgment about the U.S. government's response to the epidemic.

Because Reagan said nothing for so long and said too little when he finally did, and because his administration failed to act more aggressively, precious time was lost in research and prevention. No amount of rosy press coverage or warm personal remembrances can remove that bloody stain from the Reagan record.

We owe it to those who died to insist that Americans not forget that failure, especially when the current "compassionate conservative" in the White House is repeating his predecessor's mistakes, listening too much to ideologues who have hijacked AIDS prevention efforts to serve their own political ends.



@ Chris Crain is executive editor of *Houston Voice* and can be reached at ccrain@houstonvoice.com.

viewpoint MATT FOREMAN



Steven, I know for a fact you would be alive today if the Reagan administration had mounted a response to the AIDS epidemic.

Open letter to my best friend

DEAR STEVEN,

I so much wish you were here today to tell me what to do. You would know if it's right to comment on the death of former President Ronald Reagan, or if I should just let pass the endless paeans to his greatness.

But you're not here. The policies of the Reagan administration saw to that.

Yes, Steven, I do feel for the family and friends of the former president. The death of a loved one is always a profoundly sad occasion, and Mr. Reagan was loved by many. I have tremendous empathy and respect for Mrs. Reagan, who lovingly cared for him through excruciating years of Alzheimer's.

Sorry, Steven, but even on this day I'm not able to set aside the shaking anger I feel over Reagan's non-response to the

AIDS epidemic or for the continuing anti-gay legacy of his administration.

Is it personal? Of course. AIDS was first reported in 1981, but the media reported that President Reagan could not bring himself to address the plague until March 31, 1987, at which time there were 60,000 reported cases of full-blown AIDS and 30,000 deaths.

I remember that day, Steven. You were staying round-the-clock in Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital caring for Bruce Cooper, your dying partner of over 15 years. It was another 41 days of utter agony for both of you before Bruce died.

During those years of White House silence and inaction, how many other dear friends did we see sicken and die hideous deaths?

IS IT PERSONAL? YES, STEVEN. I know for a fact that you would be alive today if the Reagan administration had mounted even a tepid response to the epidemic. If protease inhibitors had been available in July of 1995 instead of December, you'd still be here.

I wouldn't feel so angry if the Reagan administration's failing was due to ignorance or bureaucratic ineptitude. No, Steven, we knew then it was deliberate.

The government's response was dictated by the grip of evangelical Christian conservatives who saw gay people as sinners and AIDS as God's well-deserved punishment.

Remember? The White House Director of Communications, Patrick Buchanan, once argued in print that AIDS is nature's revenge on gay men. Reagan's Secretary of Education, William Bennett, and his domestic policy adviser, Gary Bauer, made sure that science — and basic tenets of Christianity, for that matter — never got in the way of politics or what they saw as "God's" work.

Even so, I think I could let go of this anger if this was just another overwhelmingly sad chapter in our nation's past. It is not. Steven, can you believe that the unholy pact President Reagan and the Republican Party entered into with the forces of religious intolerance has not weakened, but grown exponentially stronger?

Can you believe that the U.S. government is still bowing to right-wing extremists and fighting condom distribution and explicit HIV education,

even while AIDS is killing millions across the world?

Or that "devout" Christians have forced the scrapping of AIDS prevention programs targeted at HIV-negative gay and bisexual men in favor of bullshit "abstinence-only-until-marriage" initiatives?

Or the shameless duplicity of these same forces seeking to forever outlaw even the hope of marriage for gay people?

Or that Reagan stalwarts like Buchanan, Bennett and Bauer are still grinding their homophobic axes?

NO, STEVEN, I DO NOT PRESUME TO judge Ronald Reagan's soul or heart. He may very well have been a nice guy.

In fact, I don't think that Reagan hated gay people. I'm sure some of his and Nancy's best friends were gay.

But I do know that the Reagan administration's policies on AIDS and anything gay-related resulted — and continue to result — in despair and death.

Oh, Steven, how much I wish so much you were here.

Matt

Editors' Note: On Nov. 20, 1995, Steven Powsner died of complications from AIDS at the age of 40. He had been president of the New York City Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center from 1992 to 1994.

@ Matt Foreman is executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and can be reached at mforeman@nglftf.org.

viewpoint JAMES KIRCHICK



It's time the gay rights movement at home began focusing on the fate of gays in those countries where the treatment is still brutal.

Gays abroad need our help

IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR STRUGGLES over gay marriage, the Boy Scouts and sodomy laws, it is easy to develop blinders when it comes to what might initially appear to be peripheral causes. Surely, the past five years have been the most eventful in the gay rights movement with acceptance reaching an all-time high.

If current trends are any indication, the American gay rights cause should even be concluded within the next several decades. Gay marriage will eventually become reality across the country, and legal discrimination will come to an end.

This will not, of course, erase homophobia from society; no more than the Civil Rights Act of 1964 erased racism toward blacks. But equality for people of

all sexual orientations in the United States will at the very least be written into law, thus realizing the accomplishment of the modern gay rights agenda.

But throughout the world, gays face barbaric oppression that is almost medieval in nature. Up until Afghanistan was liberated in late 2001, the Taliban would regularly flatten gays with massive stones.

Robert Mugabe, the dictator of Zimbabwe, has cracked down on gays and publicly labeled them "worse than pigs." Egypt imprisons homosexuals, and Saudi Arabia beheads them.

We have a responsibility to stand up for gay rights not just at home, but abroad. Gay Americans have a special responsibility to speak out, for our nation has always served

as a place of refuge for the oppressed.

Having achieved economic success and to a large degree, mainstream acceptance, it would be all too easy to rest on our laurels. Many gays in this country are ambivalent about the indignity of their inferior status, choosing to lead closeted or apathetic lives.

This attitude must change not only for the sake of gay rights in America, but for fellow gays living outside this country's borders.

WE COULD TAKE SOME LESSONS FROM American Jews on how a domestic civil rights cause can effectively turn its focus to the international scene. For many years, national Jewish organizations spent a great deal of effort on domestic concerns, encouraging pluralism and denouncing discrimination against religious and ethnic groups.

Once Jews became largely accepted, international issues like global anti-Semitism and Israel became the *raison d'être* of American Jewish groups. This is not to say that American Jewry once ignored Israel, but talk to American Jewish leaders today about what concerns them most and you will almost always hear about international anti-Semitism and Israel.

When faced with decisions to fight nativity scenes on town commons or Islamist terror against Israeli civilians, American Jews have wisely made the latter crisis a priority.

This is not to suggest that the United States should traipse around the world invading nations that do not live up to our standards of gay tolerance. But there are many things that the United States can do, short of

military action, to support gay rights abroad.

EMPLOYING THE MORAL AUTHORITY of the United States against our enemies, much like Ronald Reagan did against the Soviet Union, is something that left-leaning gay leaders are loathe to do. But it is undeniable that America stands on the side of human dignity: Compare our record with those states that actively persecute gays.

Withholding economic aid to repressive nations is another possibility, along with affording asylum to gays fleeing repressive states. Once gays in this country achieve full marriage equality and win the fight to erase discrimination from the books, non-profit gay money, which is quite plentiful, should be devoted to making gay rights a central part of the American international agenda.

These domestic victories are closer than many gay activists imagine them to be, and so national gay organizations would do well prepare for future battles.

With the current rapid progress, we are emerging more strident than ever in our demands for fair treatment, and these successes have empowered a new generation of gay activists. What agenda these future leaders set is impossible to predict, but advocating the use of American power to aid gay people abroad is a noble start.

@ James Kirchick is a sophomore at Yale University and a columnist for the Yale Daily News; he can be reached at james.kirchick@yale.edu.



*You don't
need to fly
south to
Escape*



*Find your perfect
weekend getaway on
Galveston Island*

Richard F. Abston
Specializing in Historic Residential Properties
409.761.0263
rabston@charnagraberrealtors.com



Pets To Love

a non-profit center



- Professional Grooming
- Boarding Facility
- Emergency Care
- Rescue services
- Pet Adoptions
- NO KILL Shelter

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation or volunteering your time to allow Pets to Love to continue providing rescue services and the NO KILL facilities for abandoned animals.

Pets to Love • 713-726-1124
11022 South Post Oak Rd. Houston, TX 77035

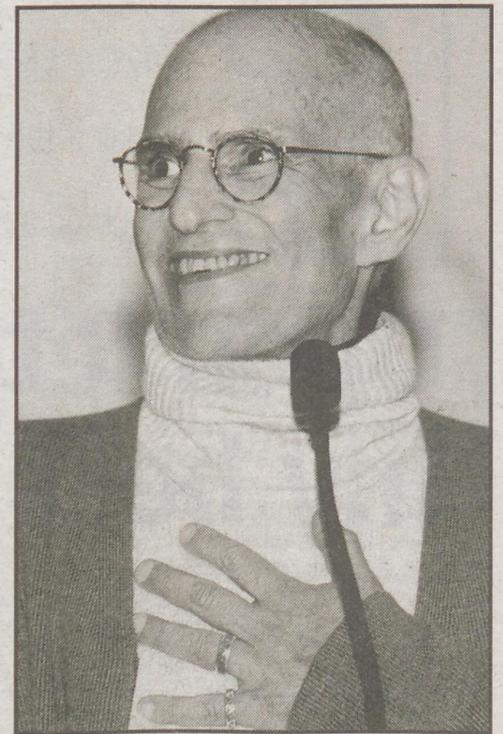
on the record

"Our murderer is dead. The man who murdered more gay people than anyone in the entire history of the world, is dead. More people than Hitler even. ... Gays were as hated under Reagan as Jews were under Hitler."

Gay playwright and ACT UP founder Larry Kramer, in a column titled "Adolf Reagan," blaming former President Reagan for not responding to the AIDS epidemic and for hating gays because he worried his own son, Ron Reagan, Jr., was gay (Advocate, July 6)

"President Reagan's inspirational vision for America relied on optimism, hope and an enduring faith in individual freedom. This is a great loss for the nation."

Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director Patrick Guerriero, who also said Reagan "will go down in history as one of our nation's greatest presidents" and praising the former California governor for opposing a 1978 anti-gay initiative (Press release, June 7)



"The number of people dying was horrific. The disease was very visible — people were suffering and wasting. It was a very volatile environment, there was so much anger at the government for not paying attention."

San Francisco AIDS activist Rene Durazzo, remembering the "chronic death" that energized protests against the Reagan administration (Associated Press, June 9)

"The political powers-that-be in Virginia want to tell homosexuals that they are not welcome. That Virginia, far from being open to the changing attitudes about homosexuality, is firm in its antipathy toward homosexuals."

Editorial on Virginia's Marriage Affirmation Act, which prohibits recognition of civil unions and any other "partnership contracts" entered into by gay couples (Hampton Roads Daily Press, Newport News, Va., June 8)

"[Homosexual sodomy] tears at the fabric of society, contributes to the breakdown of the family unit, and leads to the spread of dangerous, communicable diseases."

Texas GOP platform, which opposes the legalization of sodomy and supports only "traditional" marriage as "a God-ordained, legal and moral commitment only between a natural man and a natural woman" (Associated Press, June 4)



"That's not quoting Scripture either. ... I'm just basing it on my human — I s'pose I should be basing it on Scripture also, but I'm basing it on human accepted norms."

Whakahuihui Vercoe, 75, the newly appointed bishop of the Anglican Church in New Zealand, who said he has a vision of a world without homosexuality (New Zealand Herald, June 5)

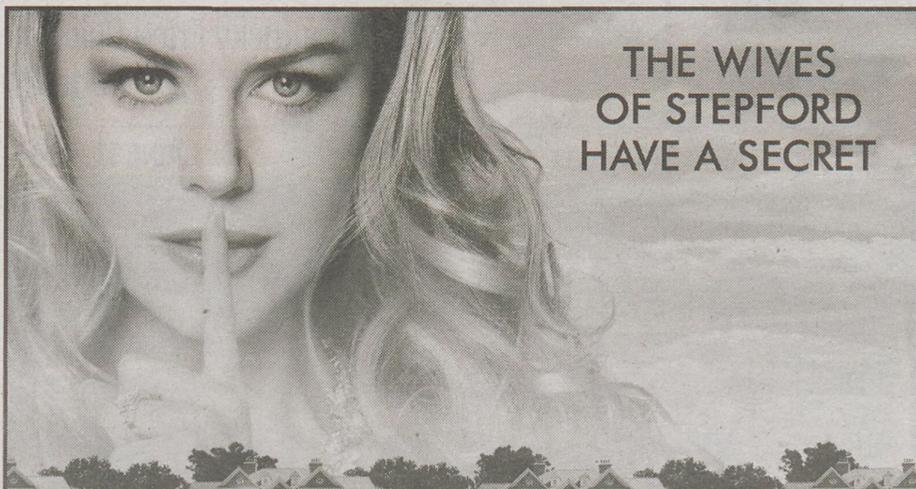
"This parade is not only ugly, it's also a provocation. ... Even people distant from Jerusalem must grasp that this is a sacred city for the Jewish people, and the world as a whole. This isn't Paris, and it isn't London."

Uri Lupolianski, mayor of Jerusalem, the day after the city's annual Gay Pride parade held downtown (Ha'aretz, Tel Aviv, June 6)

"For \$2,500, donors can spend an evening with Terry and a performer who had led the movement to degrade our modern culture. Porn hotlines and bisexual erotica. Who knew Terry was so kinky?"

Barry Rubin, executive director of the Nebraska state Democratic Party, criticizing a fund-raiser for Republican Congressman Lee Terry to be held at a Madonna concert (Associated Press, June 7)





THE WIVES OF STEPFORD HAVE A SECRET

The Stepford Wives

NICOLE KIDMAN MATTHEW BRODERICK BETTE MIDLER CHRISTOPHER WALKEN FAITH HILL AND GLENN CLOSE

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND DREAMWORKS PICTURES PRESENT A SCOTT RUDIN/DE LINE PICTURES PRODUCTION A FRANK OZ FILM NICOLE KIDMAN "THE STEPFORD WIVES" MATTHEW BRODERICK BETTE MIDLER CHRISTOPHER WALKEN ROGER BART FAITH HILL AND GLENN CLOSE MUSIC BY DAVID ARNOLD SUPERVISOR RANDALL POSTER EXECUTIVES RON BOZMAN KERI LYN SELIG READ THE NOVEL FROM HARPER COLLINS BASED UPON THE BOOK BY IRA LEVIN SCREENPLAY BY PAUL RUDNICK PRODUCED BY SCOTT RUDIN DONALD DE LINE EDGAR J. SCHERICK GABRIEL GRUNFELD DIRECTED BY FRANK OZ

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
SEXUAL CONTENT, THEMATIC MATERIAL & LANGUAGE
For rating reasons, go to www.filmratings.com

StepfordWives.com

STARTS FRIDAY, JUNE 11

AMC MEYER PARK 16 S. Post Oak at S. Loop 281-319-44MC	AMC KATY MILLS 20 At Katy Mills Mall 281-319-44MC	CINEMARK THEATRES HOLLYWOOD - USA 2010 E. Bathway 8 713-475-0081	CINEMARK THEATRES TINSELTOWN - JACINTO CITY East Fwy. @ Holland 713-330-3946	CINEMARK THEATRES WEBSTER 18 I-45 @ NASA RD. 1 281-332-8400	CINEMARK THEATRES KATY W. Grand Pkwy. N. 281-371-8000	AMC DEERBROOK MALL 24 U.S. 59N & 1960 East 281-319-44MC	AMC FIRST COLONY 24 Town Ctr. & First Colony Blvd. 281-319-44MC	MAGIC JOHNSON THEATRES NORTHLINE MALL I-45 & Crosslammers St. 1-800FANDANGO	EDWARDS CINEMAS HOUSTON MARQ'E 23 N. of Katy Fwy. @ Sloop Rd. 800-FANDANGO (371)	EDWARDS CINEMAS GREENWAY GRAND PALACE N. of SW Fwy. on Westloop 800-FANDANGO (370)	ALAMO DRAFT HOUSE WEST OAKS MALL 1000 West Oaks Mall 281-556-5200	LOEWS THEATRES EASTON COMMONS Rt. 6, S. of 290 1-800FANDANGO	LOEWS THEATRES SPRING I-45 & Holzworth 1-800FANDANGO	AMC WILLOWBROOK 24 Hwy 249 @ 1960 281-319-44MC	AMC STUDIO 30 2940 Duvivole 281-319-44MC	AMC GULF POINTE 30 1455 & Beltway 8 281-319-44MC
---	---	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--

James Knapp Artistic Director Beth McConnell Principal Accompanist

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston Presents

Platinum Pride

Music of Our Heritage & Sir Elton John's Greatest Hits

ELTON

The Ultimate 25th Anniversary Celebration!
Sunday, June 13 ~ 3 pm
Friday, June 18 ~ 8 pm

Worham Center ~ Cullen Theater

www.gmch.org

1.800.494.TIXS

Or Online at boxofficecity.com




Fort Lauderdale Real Estate

ANDY WEISER

Put Coldwell Banker's Top Producer to work for You

954-560-9667




www.AndyWeiser.com



Join Now For Only \$50!

Call for details. Some restrictions apply.

Weight Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Cybex * Hammer Strength * Nautilus * Free Weights 	Cardio Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Precor * Life Fitness * Cybex * Life Cycle
Group Fitness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Yoga * Step Aerobics * Spinning * Boot Camp 	Personal Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Weight Loss * Strength Training * Core Training * Flexibility

4040 Milam St. Houston
713 524-9932 www.FitnessExchange.cc
Located between Richmond & Alabama in Montrose



WOW!

you've found your pot 'o gold!

1-bedrooms starting at \$599!
1 month free with a 13-month lease!
2 weeks free with a 6-month lease!
\$99 total move-in special!

1111 Post Oak Blvd
Houston, Texas 77056
713-877-1982
Mgmt: Greystar • Area: Galleria

eclipse

GAY HOUSTON NIGHTLIFE, ARTS & CULTURE

www.houstonvoice.com



Kick the bucket
Drag queen Lady Bunny
joins PETA to protest
Kentucky Fried Chicken.
Page 21

JUNE 11, 2004

Miss Chicago has finally arrived

She's been booed and tossed off stages, but drag queen veteran Wendy Chicago has survived and now stars in a new documentary

By DON MAINES

*"I guess a drag queen's like bein' a oil painting! You gotta stand back from it to get the full effect."
— Arnold in Torch Song Trilogy*



ALT ZIPPRIAN HAS SPENT YEARS standing back and watching veteran Houston female impersonator Windy Chicago perform, but it was the audience reaction that didn't add up.

"People were really mean to her," he said. "They booed her and snubbed her."

Still, she captivated Zipprian, who longed for others to see what it was that made her a star.

He hopes the documentary he recently finished about Windy Chicago (who spells her name "Wendy" now that she's going to be on the silver screen) will help others see what he sees when it premieres at 8 p.m. Friday, June 18, at the Axiom.

Like any drag show, it probably won't start on time. But when the lights finally do go down, Windy Chicago will have truly arrived. At age 70, she will now be "movie queen Wendy Chicago."

After what she calls a stunning career in which she began as a beautiful, young stripper in the French Quarter, Miss Chicago spent 30 years climbing the ladder to the rooftop at Mary's, a cocktail in one hand, stabilizing her stilettos to keep from dropping vodka on her sparkling bugle-beaded dress.

Tipsily teetering a rung at a time, Miss Chicago pauses to adjust her blond bouffant wig before finally reaching the "stage" to announce her arrival.

"Miss Reardon drinks a little bit," she slurs her words



Please see **WENDY CHICAGO** on Page 22

Houston drag queen, **Wendy Chicago**, 70, is the subject of a new documentary. (Photo by Mark Johnson)



A GLOSSY EDGE: Sex and danger commingle in Spain's engrossing 'Bulgarian Lovers.' Page 16

TRIBAL CHA-CHA: DJ Abel Aguilera has released a double mix 'tribalicious' CD. Page 17



©2004 R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Offer and website restricted to smokers 21+.

Discover the difference.

*A cigarette that may present less risk of cancer, chronic bronchitis and possibly emphysema.**

* Eclipse is not perfect. For instance, we do not claim that Eclipse presents smokers with less risk of cardiovascular disease or complications with pregnancy. As everyone knows, all cigarettes present some health risk, including Eclipse.

eclipse

No lingering odor. 80% less secondhand smoke.
The difference is worth discovering.

eclipse.rjrt.com

Log on to find retailers near you and get a special introductory offer.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Smoking Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.

BOX, MENTHOL BOX: 4 mg. "tar", 0.1 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette by FTC method, as modified by RJRT to accommodate the unique design of Eclipse. For more product information, visit www.rjrt.com.

SHOW YOUR
VOICE
SHOW YOUR
PRIDE

**houston
voice**

with **KARAOKE**
hosted by Jason
Wilson of the
Houston Voice

Pride Party!
at **CABO**

Montrose Location
1111 Westheimer
713-942-2226



Tuesday, June 22
7-9 p.m.

**DON'T MISS THESE
GREAT FOOD and
DRINK SPECIALS**

2 Tacos for \$6 (7-9pm)
\$2 Draft Beer
\$2 Martinis
\$2 Well Drinks
\$3 Margaritas



film STEVE WEINSTEIN



European politics is seen through
the lense of a love affair between
Europe's 'haves' and 'have-nots'

Spanish flyover

IN THE MIDST OF THE SECOND GULF War and a presidential election, we provincial Americans have barely noticed another event that may well, in the larger scheme of things, prove to be even more momentous: The former Soviet Bloc national — the have-nots — will join the prosperous European Economic Union — the haves.

Eloy de la Iglesia, a gay Spanish filmmaker who predates Almodovar, has returned after 15 years to direct "Bulgarian Lovers," a brilliantly engrossing gloss on European politics seen through the tiny lens of a love affair.

Daniel makes the perfect embodiment of contemporary Madrid: prosperous, overeducated and perfectly content in an amorphous and meaningless, if well paying, job. He lives in a blandly comfortable apartment that could stand in for any one of hundreds such that dot La Chueca, Madrid's answer to Houston's Montrose.

He has an intimate circle of friends, going to sag in their middle age, queeny, preening and equally contented with their lot.

For a walk on the wild side, these men befriend Bulgarian immigrants. The swarthy Slavs offer a touch of life on the edge of respectability, but at a safe remove from any real danger — that is, until Daniel hooks up with Kyril (Dritan Biba).

Despite his cautious nature, Daniel falls head over heels for the sexy, passionate Kyril, even though he knows that this is strictly a gay-for-pay situation. Like other Bulgarian expatriots, Kyril ekes out an existence hustling — for cigarettes, food, a place to sleep and wearable money (that is, gold jewelry). To get it, they sell their bodies, steal cars or traffic in bomb-making radioactive uranium. Whatever can be sold, is sold.

Soon enough, Daniel finds himself enmeshed in a sinister underground cabal of Eastern European arms dealers who want to use Daniel for his government connections.

If all of this sounds like heavy going, de la Iglesia directs with a remarkably light hand. Obviously influenced by the giddy surrealism of his more famous compatriot, de la Iglesia employs candy colors almost Pointillist in its detail. The gorgeous cinematography evokes Truffaut's 1970s films.



Spain's 'Bulgarian Lovers' uses homo sex as a metaphor to comment on the changing nature of the European Union.

SPANISH CINEMA, SPAIN ITSELF, HAS undergone a remarkable resurgence in the past several years. Under Almodovar's omniseual umbrella, actors like Antonio Banderas and Penelope Cruz have become international stars.

This film brilliantly reflects the pent-up energy of contemporary Madrid. If the Castilian men and architecture aren't quite as sexy as their Catalonian counterparts, Madrid offers an internationalism than its provincial rival, Barcelona.

Kyril certainly oozes sex appeal; if he's no Banderas, he's certainly easy on the eyes. And to answer the question I know that's on your mind: Yes, there is frontal nudity, rather tasteful, actually.

Unlike the obligatory sex scenes in today's Hollywood, where tanned, toned and colorless Californians dart at each other like gila monsters, the sex here is genuinely passionate. More importantly, like musical numbers on Broadway, the sex scenes are there to further the plot.

But de la Iglesia keeps his eye firmly on the changes that are roiling Europe. When Daniel flies Kyril and his girlfriend to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, we see the city through his cosmopolitan eyes in a running first-person narrative.

Kyril points out that his winsome cousin is the only remaining young relative left in Sofia: "Paris, Berlin, London — they're all gone," he says matter-of-factly. (The cousin, no fool, quickly sizes up the situation and moves in on Daniel.)

Later, when Kyril and his now-wife visit Daniel's family estate, they film home movies of his parents' silverware as though they were shooting porn — which, in a sense, they are. "Socialism is a horror," Kyril tells Daniel.

For their part, Daniel and his friends get to experience just enough intrigue to spice up their comfortably humdrum bourgeois lives. "Danger is such a turn-on," one friend says.

i MORE INFO

'Bulgarian Lovers'
Opens today
Angelika Film Center
501 Texas Ave.
713-333-FILM

music ARJAN TIMMERMANS



Fresh off the No. 1 success of 'Cha Cha Heels,' DJ Abel Aguilera's new CD is an ode to the famous 'Alegria' dance parties in New York.

Love the cha-cha

AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS IN THE music business, DJ Abel Aguilera has become one of the circuit's most trend-setting gay DJs. But the King of Cha-Cha House remains humble. Beyond all the fame and recognition, Abel cares only about two things. "My love is for the music and the fans," he said.

Several of Abel's remix projects are currently topping the Billboard dance charts. Most notably, he has another club hit with "Cha Cha Heels," a collaboration with longtime production partner Ralph Rosario as the Rosabel duo.

On June 8, Tommy Boy Records will put out the double mix CD "Alegria," Abel's musical ode to the famous dance party at New York's Crobar.

Abel has been in the dance music industry since the early eighties. In 1982, after he moved from New York to Miami, he got his big break when he started a radio mix show in Miami. In the years that followed, he held DJ residencies at several South Florida clubs.

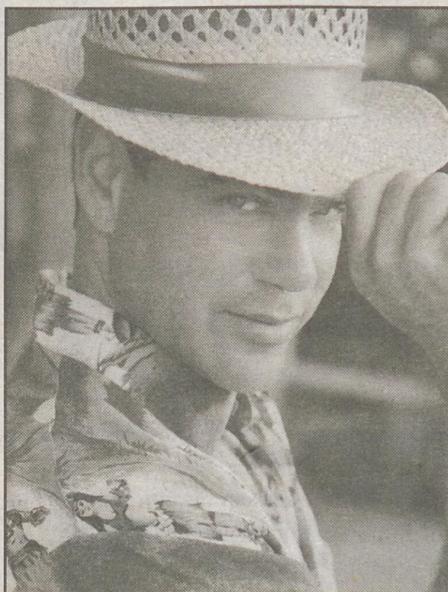
Gay audiences started to take notice of the DJ in 1992 when he spun at Paragon in South Beach during the White Party weekend. "I remember that well," he said. "I played at that party three nights in a row. All three nights were 12-hour shifts."

He rapidly developed a core gay following when he was asked to be the resident DJ at Salvation in South Beach. He remained spinning at this popular circuit hotspot for another six years.

He said the secret to his success has mostly to do with his mentality about fame and fans. "I have no attitude, I play with my heart and I'm myself. At the same time, I know my fans and I know what they want."

The competition is fierce in the gay DJ arena, but Abel has kept up with the pack by developing his own unique style and techniques. "All the major DJs have a signature style that is hard to compare," he said. "You can't compare me to Junior, Danny, Victor or Peter. It is like comparing Britney to Madonna."

He explained that he and his collaborator, Ralph Rosario, came up with their signature cha-cha style that resonated instantly with gay audiences. "It is simple. You gotta give them cha-cha," he said.



DJ Abel Aguilera has released a new CD of his remix favorites.

"In other works, it is tribal beats with some Latin influences. It can't be dry all the time."

"Sometimes we like to describe our style as tribalicious house music," he smirked.

CURRENTLY, ABEL IS A RESIDENT DJ for the famous Alegria party at Crobar in New York. The event has quickly become a club phenomenon in the progressive Manhattan nightlife scene.

Abel said the success of the party can be credited to the fact that people "leave their attitude at the door and just release."

Abel revealed that Alegria is one of his best the residencies equivalent to his days at Paragon and Salvation. "I'm finally welcomed back home in New York without an attitude. Alegria is a place where I can be myself. It feels like a cocktail party in my own living room."

Abel has packed his passion for Alegria on a new remix record. The double mix CD features a "Peak Hour" set and an "After Hours" set. Remixed versions of some Alegria classics are included such as "Don't You Want My Love" by Rosabel, "Waiting For Alegria" by Ghana Saunders, "Push The Feeling On" by Nightcrawlers and Rosabel's newest club hit "Cha Cha Heels."

Tommy Boy Records asked Abel to create the album and Abel was eager to record it. "It was a way to give back to my fans," he said. "I demanded to do a double CD, because you can't summarize Alegria on just one CD."

MORE INFO

'Alegria'
DJ Abel
Tommy Boy Records, 2004
www.tommyboy.com

Theatre Under The Stars
Presents

ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST-LOVED MUSICALS

OLIVER!

"Dickens' epic on a scale never before dreamed of"

—DENVER POST

"The cast is outstanding"

—HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"Everyone's asking for more!"

—DAILY MAIL, LONDON

June 2-20

713.558.TUTS www.tuts.com

Groups of 15 or more enjoy special discounts. Call 713.558.8888.



Audio Described Performance: Sunday, June 13 at 2:00pm
Open Captioned Performances: Sunday, June 13 at 7:30pm and Thursday, June 17 at 8pm

Hobby Center for the Performing Arts



Houston Chronicle
chron.com

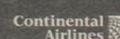


AIG

AMERICAN GENERAL



BANK ONE



Stuck without
your programmer?

VISUAL BASIC
ACCESS
PYTHON
ASP
COLDFUSION
DREAMWEAVER



GO!
systems

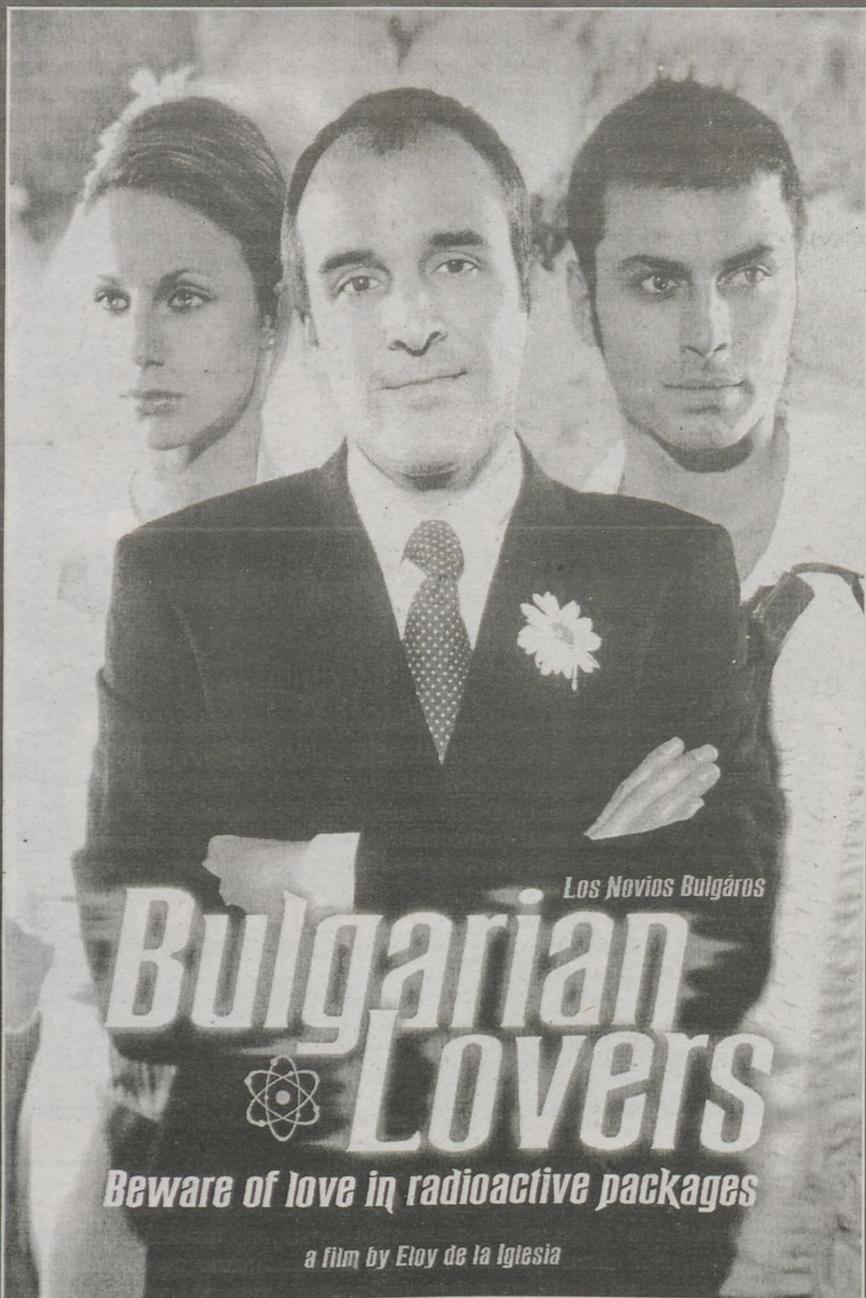
Web development
Programming / Databases
Web and software implementation

WWW.GOSYSTEMSUSA.COM

713.523.5845

"SUPERBLY ACTED!
Observes the interplay of sex, power,
and money with a cool, amused attitude
and a fine sense of social detail."

— **STEPHEN HOLDEN** *THE NEW YORK TIMES*



TLA
RELEASING
 www.tlareleasing.com



ANGELIKA FILM CENTER

STARTS JUNE 11

510 TEXAS AVENUE HOUSTON, TX 713.333.FILM

NOCHE

COCINA Y BAR

THE RICH FLAVORS
 OF DEEP MEXICO

RIGHT IN THE
 HEART OF HOUSTON!

2409 MONTROSE AT HYDE PARK
 713-529-8559
 www.nocherestaurant-houston.com

LUNCH AND DINNER
 SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
 SUNDAY BRUNCH

SCREEN ACTING CLASS

next actor 713 532 2867
 www.nextactor.com
 6420 Richmond Ave, Suite 605, Houston

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Psychic Reader & Advisor
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SUFFERING? DEPRESSED?
 ★ • Specializing in business
 ★ • Reuniting Loved Ones & Money
 ★ • Ms. Elaine Will Advise you wisely & Explain Fully and Will Give You Peace of Mind.

713.520.1042
 4714 Fannin St. \$5.00 Special! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

appts.

**SATURDAY
 JUNE 12**

The Houston Pride 5K Fun Run & Walk, an official event of Pride Committee Houston, gets underway at 7:30 a.m. at Sabine Street and Allen Parkway. The greater Houston community is invited to participate. Water will be provided along the way, and awards will be presented at a post race party. www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k.



Ruthie Foster performs at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. at the Mucky Duck, 2425 Norfolk. Foster's songs are a hybrid of blues, gospel, roots and folk music. Critics have compared her to Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin. 713-528-5999.

**SUNDAY
 JUNE 13**

It's Gay Men's Chorus of Houston Day, so proclaimed by Mayor Bill White, in honor of the group's 25th anniversary. The Chorus performs "Platinum Pride: Music of Our Heritage and Sir Elton John's Greatest Hits." at 3 p.m. today and again at 8 p.m. June 18 at Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 501 Texas. Houston City Controller Annise Parker will present the mayor's proclamation during this Sunday's performance. 800-494-8497.

**MONDAY
 JUNE 14**

"Radical Harmonies," a documentary by Dee Mosbacher, chronicles the women's music movement that gave birth to an alternative music industry that survives today. Featured in the film are pioneers Meg Christian, Holly Near and Ronnie Gilbert along with contemporary artists such as Indigo Girls and Melissa Ferrick. The event is free and starts at 7:30 p.m. at 1415 California. www.txtriangle.com.

**THURSDAY
 JUNE 17**

"Conversations at the CFA" from 6-8 p.m. will feature Shannon Schrader, MD, from the Schrader Clinic, talking about "the ABCs of Hepatitis in people with HIV." The program takes place at the Center for AIDS, 1407 Hawthorne. RSVP is required: 713-527-8219, ext. 109, or floyd@cenerforaids.org.

**FRIDAY
 JUNE 18**

Meet the Pride Parade Grand Marshals, Jerry Simoneaux, Sonna Alton and Sue and Jim Null, at 7 p.m. in the lobby of the JP Morgan Chase Building, 707 Travis. The event features hors d'oeuvres and music by DJ Limey. Dress is professional with jeans and shorts discouraged. www.pridehouston.org.

Unhinged Productions' "Free Will and Wonton Lust," described as a comic romp, takes the stage at Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, at 8 p.m. Cost is \$20. www.u-p.org.

dining J.A. CHAPMAN

A Houston favorite has had a complete makeover, but inside, diners are finding the down home fare and Greek specialties are as scrumptious as ever.

Same old Harry's

DINING AT HARRY'S RESTAURANT IS like visiting an old friend — one who has had some work done and looks better than you remembered.

Since 1948, restaurant patrons have been flocking to the corner of Tuam and Bagby for quality homestyle cooking, first from Gene's Café and then Harry's Restaurant. The original ramshackle building was a favorite hole-in-the-wall, but eventually the structure became difficult to keep going.

Last year, Johnny and Patricia Platsas, who have owned Harry's for the last 10 years, decided it was time for a change. They tore down the rickety old Harry's and put up a sleek, new stucco building. Harry's Restaurant was reborn.

The new Harry's blends in with other modern structures in Montrose and Midtown. Inside it's bright and cheerful, with peach colored walls, tall arched windows, ceiling fans and plenty of seating.

A room in the back, which is available for events, has a Western theme, harkening back to both of the original Gene's and Harry's. A bar with modern lighting serves wine and beer and there's a new deck with outside seating.

Harry's is known for its home cooking. Food is prepared fresh daily and served from the cafeteria line. Each day of the week has a set menu. With an entrée you get two vegetables and your choice of bread.

Mondays and Thursdays are "Thanksgiving" at Harry's, when turkey and dressing (\$6.79) are on the menu. This dish is a house specialty and worth a try. The dark meat is served from the steam table, but the white meat is carved from the turkey when you order it. The traditional cornbread dressing with sage and the cranberry jelly conjure up memories of Thanksgiving dinners gone by, and a heaping plate of this treat is large enough to share.

Besides traditional American home-style favorites, like chicken and dumplings, meatloaf and chicken fried steak, Greek dishes, reflecting the owners' heritage, are also on the menu.

Pasticho (\$6.99), a lasagna-like dish, consisting of layers of ziti noodles and spiced ground beef all topped with a cream sauce that hardens slightly in the oven, is a hearty treat.

ALSO GOOD IS THE SPINACH PIE, OR spanakopita, a vegetable choice one day. Spinach and feta cheese layered in filo dough creates this classic, which remains impressively crisp despite being served from the steam table.



Vegetables change daily, depending on what's available. On one visit, the green beans were disappointingly chewy, but the mustard greens were a joy. Cooked in a bit of olive oil, they were light and tender, with that distinctive mustard bite.

Your choice of bread comes with each meal. The jalapeno cornbread muffins were moist with just the right amount of heat, while the yeast rolls were light, fluffy and tall, just like they should be.

Desserts vary daily. The coconut pie (\$1.79) had a mild coconut flavor with crunchy, toasted coconut shavings on top of the meringue. Less successful was the banana pudding (\$1.99), which was doused in too much cinnamon and topped with soggy vanilla wafers.

Harry's Restaurant opens at 6 a.m. on weekdays and 7 a.m. on weekends for breakfast. At breakfast, meals are ordered from the menu and served at tables. It's hard to beat the breakfast special of two eggs, two strips of bacon and two hot cakes (\$4.95). The scrambled eggs were light and fresh, the bacon substantial and the hot cakes tall and fluffy. The coffee is good and refills are frequent. It's a great way to start the day.

Service at Harry's is friendly and efficient. Servers keep a close eye on the tables, refilling glasses regularly and clearing dishes quickly. Johnny Platsas frequently comes out from the kitchen to chat with his customers.

Despite a facelift, Harry's Restaurant is still the same friendly neighborhood place it has always been



Harry's Restaurant

318 Tuam at Bagby
713-528-0198

Food: 10 10 10 10
Service: 10 10 10 10
Comfort & Aesthetics: 10 10 10 10
Value: 10 10 10 10 10
Scene: 10 10 10

☞ = Stay home and eat cereal
10 10 = Well, if you really must
10 10 10 = Fine for all but the finicky
10 10 10 10 = Worth more than a 20-minute drive
10 10 10 10 10 = As good as you'll find in this city

GLBT Night
Tuesdays at
Cabo Montrose

LIVE BOILED CRAWFISH
Tuesday Night Special
11lb \$3.99,
21lb \$7.99
5:30-8:00pm

KARAOKE NIGHT

Drink Specials
all evening
\$2 Martinis, \$2 Well Drinks
\$2 Draft Beer, \$3 Margaritas
Live DJ-Great Music
Door Prizes
Join your friends
for the fun!

You could be
"THE VOICE"
of Cabo Montrose!
Claim the weekly title!
Win fabulous prizes!

hosted by
houston VOICE

Century 21

Resort Sales &
Vacation Rentals

800.527.7333-12200 FM 3005-Galveston TX- bayreef.com

Each Office is Independently Owned And Operated

ALL DAY EVERY DAY

ALL THE NEWS
FOR YOUR **Life**
AND YOUR **Style**
AT YOUR **Speed**

houston VOICE

houston news

Nazis accused gays of 'contagious degeneracy'

NAZIS continued from Page 1

clubs and living more openly than they dared after the code's revision.

The story of Richard Grune, whose artwork is a visual representation of the persecution of homosexuals, is also recounted in the exhibit. He was arrested in 1934 and imprisoned for being a homosexual.

After his release, he was arrested again and sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Transferred to another camp in 1940, he managed to escape shortly before liberation.

One-third of gays arrested

Of the estimated 350,000 gay men and lesbians living in Germany during World War II, Keel said, about 100,000 were arrested for being homosexual.

Thousands died in captivity either through forced labor programs that were so intense and debilitating they led to death or through the Nazi's systemic campaign to eliminate those considered undesirable.

Though most who died were gay men, Keel said, five women were known to have died in captivity because they were identified as lesbians. One of them was Henny Schermann.

Schermann, a 24-year-old Jewish shop girl living in Frankfurt, was arrested in 1940 and deported to the Ravensbrueck concentration camp for women.

Written on the back of her prisoner



The painting "Freundespaar (a couple)," is among the items featured in a new exhibit at Holocaust Museum Houston about the Nazis' persecution of homosexuals. (Photos courtesy U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum)

identification are these words: "Jenny (sic) Sara Schermann, born February 19, 1912, Frankfurt am Main. Unmarried shopgirl in Frankfurt am Main. Licentious lesbian, only visited such [lesbian] bars. Avoided the name 'Sara.' Stateless Jew." She was gassed at Bernberg in 1942.

For the most part, Keel said, the Nazis didn't pay much attention to lesbians. In a state that glorified blue-eyed, blond-haired, muscled men, women didn't matter.

When the concentration camps were

liberated at the end of World War II, Keel said, there was no liberation for homosexuals. Paragraph 175 remained in force.

No liberation for homosexuals

"At the liberation in 1945, the homosexuals remained in prison to serve out their terms," Keel said. "They weren't given any reparations for what they had been through."

It wasn't until 1995, 40 years after the war's end, that homosexuals murdered by

i MORE INFO

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945
Holocaust Museum Houston
5401 Caroline St.
713-942-8000
www.hmh.org

the Nazis were recognized.

"On the 40th anniversary, a monument was set up in Germany for homosexual victims of the Holocaust," Keel said. "In 2002, the German parliament pardoned all homosexuals."

With a hint of sarcasm in his voice, Keel added, "It only took 60 years."

The exhibit in Houston is on loan from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. "We've never done an exhibit about this topic," Keel said.

Museum organizers are encouraging Houston gays to see the exhibit for an alarming look at the terror homosexuals in Germany experienced at the hands of right-wing fanatics.

"Homosexuals have long been targets of systematic hatred and discrimination. These images and the stories they tell document a horrible time in the history of mankind and remind us that prejudice still exists in both subtle and overt ways even today," said Coy Tow, executive director of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce.

Seawall & 31st Street
UNDERCURRENT
OPEN 12 Noon till 2AM

MAY 2004
21ST - 23RD: Bear Watch V
23RD: Misty Valkiez Final Benefit
28TH: Keith's & Marvin's Anniversary Celebration, Drink Specials
30TH: Fairy Best BBQ Cook-off

JUNE 2004
Gay Pride Month
Show Us Your Pride
(Check Website for Events & Schedules)

JULY 2004
4th of July Celebration
(Check Website for Events & Schedules)

Special Events Hosting
Daily Drink Specials
Happy Hours 12noon-8 P.M.
Party till 2:00 A.M.
Upper & Lower Sun Decks
The Best Gulf View Pool
Hot Men

3102 Seawall Blvd.
Galveston, TX 77550
(409) 750-8571

undercurrentgalveston.com

Great White Pools Inc

New Construction & Remodeling

Houston. Hot. Pool. AAhhh....

CALL STEVE
Office: 281.213.3130
Cell: 713.498.7749
Fax: 281.304.4517

SCHMERLER AGENCY

FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP

Great Car Insurance!

713.661.7700

For Auto, Home, Renters Life, Health, Business Insurance and much more.

6575 W. Loop South, Ste. 185
Bellaire, TX 77401
www.SchmerlerAgency.com

Ray Jeffrey Jason Rob

dish

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

Kicking the bucket

Lady Bunny won't eat at KFC, David gets squeaky clean, and Marlene Dietrich gets a new life

Some might say that a drag act can be cruel, but Wigstock founder and drag doyenne **LADY BUNNY** opposes cruelty to chickens.

The cross-dressing superstar and comedian, who was recently seen on "Sex and the City" and in **BRITNEY SPEARS**'s MTV special, has signed up with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to protest **KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN**.

PETA says that the company treats the chickens, that later become so finger-licking good, cruelly, by using a painful de-beaking process and scalding them while they're still alive. Lady Bunny and PETA were scheduled on June 4 to reveal a new ad campaign that targets the company and promotes a related Web site, www.KentuckyFriedCruelty.com.

KFC's own Web site says, "We are monitoring our suppliers on an ongoing basis to determine whether our suppliers are using humane procedures for caring for and handling animals they supply to us."

The always-colorful PETA, with its attention-grabbing antics and inventive protests, and the colorful Bunny, with her huge wigs and retro costumes, seem like a good fit. Celebrities such as hip-hop mogul **RUSSELL SIMMONS**, **PAMELA ANDERSON**, **PAUL McCARTNEY**, **RICHARD PRYOR** and civil rights advocate **DICK GREGORY** have also spoken out against KFC.

While Dish tries not to get too political, she has to admit that the ad is a hoot.

Dirty David

That **DAVID** is certainly one dirty boy. For a change, Dish isn't talking about **DAVID GEST**, though.

She means Michelangelo's famous statue, a gay icon and one of the world's oldest testaments to naked male beauty, standing in the Galleria dell'Accademia in Florence, Italy.

David recently got some enhancements, the New York Times reports, and not the kind of "male" enhancement that all your junk e-mail promises. On May 24, the statue's new look was unveiled, after a \$500,000 restoration and cleaning.

"I would call the result 'less gray,' but I hope it's not too white," restorer Cinzia Parnigoni told the New York Times. She used distilled water

Sometimes Big Bright Packages Contain Dirty Little Secrets

Famous drag queen **Lady Bunny** is the latest to support PETA's crusade against Kentucky Fried Chicken.

applied through a compress of cellulose pulp on top of Japanese paper to clean the statue.

In other instances, parts of the 500-year-old statue had to be restored. In 1527, when David stood outdoors in the Piazza della Signoria, the lower half of the statue's left arm was broken off during a riot. At the time, it was reattached with a metal bar and a mixture of lime and sand. That mixture turned a different color than the rest of the statue over the years, and was replaced with fresh plaster, rendering the break imperceptible.

Also, in 1991, an unstable artist wielding a hammer smashed a toe on David's left foot, which had to be replaced.

Playing a diva

Oscar winner **GWYNETH PALTROW** has signed on to produce and possibly star in a movie about the life of screen legend and lesbian icon **MARLENE DIETRICH**, Reuters reports. After becoming famous as a cross-dressing singer in the film "Blue Angel," the German-born Dietrich was reported to have had affairs with both men and women.

Paltrow and her producing partners persuaded DreamWorks SKG to buy the rights to the book "Marlene Dietrich" by the late film star's daughter, Maria Riva, but no production schedule has been set yet.

Peter Riva, Dietrich's grandson, says he's thrilled that Paltrow might portray his grandmother.

"She has the stillness required in an aristocrat," he said, "and the ability to plumb the depths of character without too much emotion, which was Marlene's trademark."

Dietrich died a recluse in 1992 at age 90.



Marlene Dietrich



Michelangelo's David

Where Memories Are Made.



Couples Weekend
June 4-6, 2004

Love. MARRIAGE. Life.

Celebrate your togetherness, fun Events, Seminars, Wedding Expo and A PROVINCETOWN WEDDING

Get your schedule and register online at www.ptown.org

provincetown BUSINESS GUILD

Call 800.761.0186 for your Free Guide to Ptown



Funded in part by the Provincetown Tourism Office

WWW.PTOWN.ORG

RAISE A RUCKUS.
WIN A RUCKUS.

On Saturday, June 19th at 4pm, You could win a new 2003 Honda Ruckus from Stubbs Cycles Southwest.

Bring this ad in to Stubbs and register today!*



HONDA
PERFORMANCE FIRST™
STUBBS
SOUTHWEST
CYCLES

10% off** parts and accessories purchase with this ad!

Bring this ad to Stubbs Cycles SW, register to win the new Honda Ruckus and get 10% off any in stock parts and accessories purchase.

*You must be 18 years or older to enter. No purchase necessary. If not present, winners will be notified by phone and/or mail.

**10% off not valid on any existing sale items.

8200 Southwest Freeway • 713-772-7771
(Beechnut S. Gessner exit)

@ Send comments, suggestions to Dish@houstonblade.com

honda.com ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING. NEVER USE THE STREET AS A RACE-TRACK. OBEY THE LAW AND READ YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL THOROUGHLY. For rider training information or to locate a rider training course nearest you, contact the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at 1-800-446-9227. Ruckus and Performance First are trademarks of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (1/04)

eclipse cover story

Film uncovers universal truths in life of C-list drag queen

WENDY CHICAGO, continued from Page 14

(referring to the star of Paul Zindel's play about an alcoholic, "And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little.")

When she has performed, more often than not, the crowd has booed and heckled.

"I have fallen off stages. I have been thrown off stages," she admits in the film.

Audiences have reacted with hostility for many reasons, among them that she often forgets words.

When she does forget, the music carries her until that point where she might remember what song she is singing and what city she is in.

A true original like no other

Zipprian first saw Miss Chicago in the 1980s. "She blew my mind. She was so different from the others."

Where today's drag queens want to be Shania Twain or Celine Dion, Zipprian said, Miss Chicago is nobody other than Miss Chicago.

"She would go out and just be Windy," he said. "She didn't know all the words, but she was in the music."

And then, there was the booze. "She tends to be tipsy. She admits it in the film," Zipprian said.

Zipprian went wherever Miss Chicago performed and winced as the audience booed.

"Absolutely. They booed her," Zipprian said. "Whenever I saw her perform, she would be the object of derision, and I thought she was a great artist, albeit accidentally."

Zipprian (who close friends call "Zak") is a saint to have delved beneath the surface of a C-list drag queen and found some universal truths. He conceived and directed the film.

With what he calls "a cheap Sony camera," Zipprian shot "30, 40, 50 hours of raw footage" yet employed only one special effect: the heart and soul of a man who enjoys performing as a woman. It is the highlight of his life.

Miss Chicago says it best, "This is my life."

"When I am good, I am really good, and I know it," she adds. "And it makes me feel good."

Zipprian and his editor/co-producer, Mark Johnson, whittled 18 to 20 hours of footage into a 20-minute film in which Miss Chicago narrates her own story.

When the film is shown at the Axiom, home of Infernal Bridegroom Productions, admission will be \$10.

The show will include Miss Chicago performing three songs, music from the

i MORE INFO

'Wendy Chicago,' the movie
Friday, June 18
8 p.m.
Axiom
2524 McKinney
713-522-8443

band Magic Bullet and sketch comedy by the Brazosport Little Players.

A second show is planned for midnight if the demand exists.

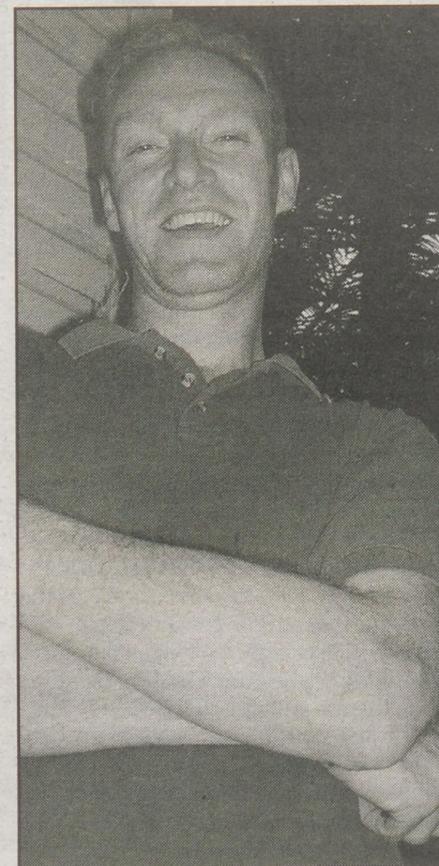
Zipprian and Johnson hope their film will be invited to the next Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, and after that, perhaps Sundance, Cannes, who knows?

He insists that he didn't do it for fame or fortune. He did it for Miss Chicago.

"Nobody ever films the low-rent drag queens," he said. "Wendy's been doing drag since 1952. I thought I owed it to her."

Zipprian suggests that if viewers become intrigued by the person they see in Wendy Chicago, the best way to get to know her is over some stiff cocktails.

"You'd really get some good stories out of her if you take her to the 611 for \$1 vodka drinks," he advised.



Walt Zipprian conceived and directed the documentary on Wendy Chicago.

SAND 'N' SEA
PIRATES BEACH

First in Real Estate Sales
and Vacation Rentals
on West Galveston Island.

Family Welcome

13706 FM 3005,
at the entrance to Pirates Beach
Galveston, TX 77554
www.sandnsea.com
409.737.2556 • 800.880.2554

10 miles for less than \$20!

Your time is valuable. So don't waste it hunting for a parking space (and paying exorbitant downtown parking fees) during a night on the town.

Designate United Cab as your driver.

You'll get door-to-door no-hassle service at a very reasonable price.

United Cab

- 24 hour service 7 days a week
- advance reservations accepted
- all major credit cards honored

Next time your mom needs a ride to the doctor, or your teenager needs a ride home from school, **call United Cab.**

See why thousands of Houstonians trust us with their "precious cargo!"

(713) 699-0000

brady's corner

BRAD PIT TROY
NOW PLAYING

"IT WASN'T AS HOMER-EROTIC AS THE BOOK..."

Get results and raise your profile.
Call 713.529.8490 to place your ad in the professional directory!

ALL MALE NAKED VACATION

August 20-29, 2004 - Pocono Mountains, PA

Information and Registration
www.GAYNATURISTS.org

GNI
Gay Naturists International

Gay Naturists International
PMB #F5
1007 N. Federal Hwy
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
Phone: 954.567.2700
e-mail: gni@gaynaturists.org

Theme Parties
200+ Activities
2 Pools and Lake
Fitness / Sports / Trails
Vegetarian Meals Available
Nightly Contests and Shows
4 to 10 Day Packages Available

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

Be sure... Earn up to a \$250.00 Rent Rebate

www.IWantMyRentRebate.com

We do it all!
Lawrence Construction
Remodeling • New Construction
713-205-7016 • 936-563-4179
Lawrence Gilstrap
serving Houston's gay community for 15 years

David Lewis Images

events
headshots
portraits NYC

now offering video services

713.240.5508
www.davidlewisimages.com

if your hair isn't BECOMING TO YOU, then you should BE COMING TO ME.

DON GILL STUDIO 911
713-521-0911
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

HAIR DESIGNS FOR ROMEO & JULIET

THE ROMAN
Frank Teeter
2602 Whitney
713.522-8576
713.522-2263

"Everyone gets personalized, individual service"

BILLY RIVERS
TRAINER

Form is Everything!

281-629-9878 pager

"I'VE GOT YOU COVERED"

HEALTH. DENTAL. VISION.
LIFE INSURANCE.

"I'll come to your home/office if you can't come to meet me."

Brent Brock | Your HSA Pro
cell | 832.498.9911 office | 281.357.4945
toll free | 888.291.0233
healthyamerica.us

TELL THEM YOU FOUND THEM IN

THE DIRECTORY

Dig In!
HoVo Restaurant Listings

houston voice

CLASSIFIEDS

Visit houstonvoice.com to place your ad. Up to 25 words only \$12.50 per week. 50¢ each additional word. Fax toll-free 1.888.409.6768, or call toll-free 1.877.863.1885. Deadline for online ads: 8am Wednesday. For other submissions: 5:30pm Tuesday.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

FT. LAUDERDALE REAL ESTATE

By Area Native
Rob Rose



24 Years Experience
(800) Rob - Rose
762-7673

Search Area M.L.S. From Top-Ranked Website
www.southfloridahome.com

FORT LAUDERDALE REAL ESTATE by area native Rob Rose. 24 yrs experience. Visit Rob's top-rated website at www.southfloridahome.com or call (800) ROB-ROSE, ext 201. www.southflorida.com

EARN UP TO A \$250.00 RENT REBATE!
www.IwantMyRentRebate.com



MOVING TO ATLANTA?

Let my 17 years of experience find the perfect house you can call "HOME". **Stephen Cooper**, The Midtown Group, Inc. Your Atlanta Real Estate Specialist. (404) 685-9166 www.atlantamidtowngroup.com

SALE / HOUSTON

MONTROSE BLVD HIGHRISE. 2 BR, 2 BA. Breath-taking view on 8th flr overlooking downtown. Appt only \$158,900. Ex security (713) 819-5355.

RENT / HOUSTON

1111 Post Oak

See our ad in this paper for our great leasing specials on our fabulous floor plans. 1111 Post Oak Blvd. Houston, TX 77056. (713) 877-1982

HOUSTON HEIGHTS DUPLEX 1 BR, 1 BA, CAC, deck, carport, small pet OK. \$700/mo + sec dep. Water paid (713) 686-2075

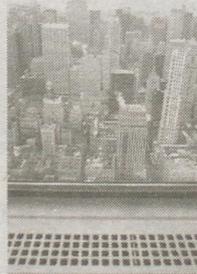
LINDALE 10 minutes to town. 2 BR, 1 BA brick cottage, DR, carport, fenced yard, garage w/workshop, faux flr, hwdwd flrs, CAC & heat, 3 ceiling fans, tile kit, WD, appliances avail. \$875/mo + dep. (713) 862-2849.

MIDTOWN / MUSEUM Huge Victorian Duplex, arts & crafts style. 3 BR, 1.5 BA. 10ft ceilings, carpets & hwdwd s. All appls, WD, fenced, 1,700 sq ft. \$1,000/mo Dan (713) 526-8634.

MONTROSE 1 BEDROOM 1 bath apartment. Quiet neighborhood. Hardwood floors, washer & dryer on site. \$595/mo + deposit. Pets ok with deposit. Call Jason. (713) 529-8490.

STUDIO APARTMENT Heights area efficiency, garage apt. Minutes to downtown, Montrose and Galleria. Access to yard, WD, storage space. Quiet neighborhood, near bus. \$550/mo incl utils. (713) 476-9193.

RENT / COMMERCIAL / EVENT SPAC



BEAUTIFUL EMPIRE STATE BUILDING Office for 1 year sublet, 600 sqft, includes phone system, large open space, high ceilings, sunny & bright, amazing views, 69th floor. For more info or to schedule a viewing, contact (212) 594-8181 ext 101

SHARE / HOUSTON

290 & 34th Unfurnished BR & priv BA in TH w/ pool. \$420/mo + (\$50 deposit) incl elec, SATV, ph. GM preferred. Howard (713) 681-3114

NEAR MED CENTER Priv BR/BA, kit & laundry priv. quiet neighborhood. Mature, stable F preferred. Smoker OK. (713) 291-4255. Murielplace@aol.com.

OAK FOREST Professional GWM, 48, seeking housemate to share a 2 BR, 1 BA in quiet Oak Forest (610 & TC Jester area). Cable TV, fenced backyard, BR unfurnished. \$500 dep, \$500/mo. (281) 831-9378.

COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

ANNOUNCE YOUR UNION The Houston Voice is proud to announce the addition of a "Commitment Ceremonies" category to our Classified listings. When making arrangements for your Union, don't forget to include the most important aspect of all...announcing the date. Publishing your union is easy & simple. Call (877) 863-1885 ext 223 to put the finishing touches on your ceremony.

HEART TO HEART WEDDING CHAPEL Let us preform your commitment ceremony for 30 of your closest then you plan the reception at your location. Small & romantic. Visit our website www.heartweddings.com or call (713) 329-9166.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITES

AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY!! Learn to earn \$100k+/yr working from home P/T. Not multi-level marketing. Free info (800) 652-1036.

START YOUR OWN Simple Home Business! Earn \$500 Plus A Day! No selling! Not mlm! Only \$3,500 reqd. Want more info? Call: (800) 495-0291

EMPLOYMENT

FACULTY SCHOLAR INTERN Program

Houston Community College System is committed to providing an educational environment that meets the needs of our students. With an enrollment of 55,000, HCCS is organized into five regional colleges (Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, and Central) that serve a culturally, ethnically, and economically diverse student population. HCCS has established a Faculty Scholar Intern Program, which will offer Faculty Interns the opportunity to develop teaching skills and gain experience in a community college setting.

We are now recruiting for the following:
Job Req# 000410 - Faculty Scholar Intern/Art
Job Req# 000408 - Faculty Scholar Intern/Biology
Job Req# 000406 - Faculty Scholar Intern/Developmental English
Job Req# 000409 - Faculty Scholar Intern/Developmental Math
Job Req# 000407 - Faculty Scholar Intern/Speech

Each intern will work closely with an Intern Mentor up to a maximum assignment of two (2) years. Preferred candidates will have little or no prior college level teaching experience; however, the faculty interns must meet the minimum education requirement for teaching in that discipline. Prefer bilingual skills (English/Spanish)

Prior to completing the online application, please review job requisition for comprehensive position details and requirements. Applications are accepted online only. Please view the HCCS web page: www.hccs.edu and proceed to Jobs@HCCS. If you need assistance, please call (713) 718-8565.

HCCS seeks to provide equal employment/educational opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS

THE LOVETT INN Distinctive lodging & catering accommodations. Corporate meeting rooms, banquet facilities, jacuzzi suites, pool & hot tubs. Near downtown, museums & medical center. (713) 522-5224 or (800) 779-5224. View our website at www.lovetinn.com

TRAVEL / U.S.A.

NEW ORLEANS FRENCH QUARTER A Delightful guesthouse in the French Qtr. with fully furnished condos, pool, kitchen/bath and 15 gay bars nearby. www.Roberhouse.com stay@roberhouse.com

DC GuestHouse Elegant Victorian mansion built in 1867. Logan/Convention Center location. Blks away from world class dining & diverse entertainment. Gay owned & operated. Call (202) 332-2502 www.dcguesthouse.com

FT LAUDERDALE INTERCOASTAL Paradise 1 & 2 BR fully furnished condos avail, weekly or monthly. Pool, cable tv, DSL, 5 min walk to ocean. www.holidayisleyachtclub.com or call (954) 566-3206

MOOSE MEADOW LODGE Vermont log home, Waterbury. Gay-owned, luxurious Adirondack-style B&B on 86 acres. Premier site for civil unions & romantic getaways. (802) 244-5378. www.moosemeadowlodge.com

NEARBY GETAWAYS

CENTURY-21 BAY REEF REALTY Family owned & operated company, serving Galveston's West-End Real Resort Rentals,

Sales, & Leasing needs since 1985! Call us first for lasting professional service. www.bayreef.com (800) 527-7333.

BUY / SELL

8 DIFFERENT BLENDS! SPECIFICALLY made to provide a pleasant, effective, LEGAL smoking alternative! Purchase 1 gram of each blend? \$8 to GREEN LEAF P.O. Box 1908 Alief TX 77411-1908 Details only? \$1 & S.A.S.E

VEHICLES



FOR SALE! 2 SEA DOO'S 1998 2 seater, 1996 3 seater. Pair: \$8,000.00 w/galvanized trailer. Call for SPECIAL DEALS! Jason (713) 524-5400.



RESTORED 1966 FORD MUSTANG w/ 289 V-8. Cherry Red, black leather interior, A/C & heat, new radio manual brakes, power steering, new wheels and tires. \$12,000 OBO. (713) 523-0069.

www.OffLeaseAuto.com

Your best "NEW CAR" alternative. Log on & save Thousands!! Jags, Mercedes, Land Rovers & many more. Contact Will @ 1 (888) 227-7799

FINANCIAL SERVICES

QUICK START FINANCIAL

Get a quick start on credit repairs. We provide immediate help with home loans, small business loans, personal loans, & consolidation loans. Call Us Toll Free 1 (888) 278-3138.

LEADING FINANCIAL INSTITUTION approving small business, mortgage personal & vehicle loans. Immediate response. Give us a call at (866) 228-7382

DEBT CRISIS! CONSOLIDATION is the key to personal loans, mortgages, & other financial services. Available up to \$500,000. Low interest. CALL TOLL FREE: (866) 834-6795

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



REFI with the STRAIGHT GUY!
New Homes or Refinancing
David E. Hooks
Senior Loan Officer
Challenge Mortgage
281-569-2000 x 106
281-924-5182 cell

GRAPHIC ARTS DESIGN



VIVAGRANDE GRAPHICS XPRESS

- ✓ Customized postcard design
 - ✓ Corporate or Band logo design
 - ✓ Business card design
 - ✓ CD cover design
 - ✓ Display advertising design
- You have to be seen to be heard!
www.vivagrand.com / (917) 304-4556.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

EAST LONDON remodeling and home repair

NEED IT BUT DON'T SEE IT? ASK!!

Kitchens and Baths Our Specialty
Sheetrock & Crack Repair
Painting • Roofing • Decks



Community Committed!
Quality Directed with Design, Style, Innovation and Service.

FREE ESTIMATE
713.248.7174

CLEANING SERVICES

HOUSE CLEANING Experienced housekeeper for top quality maid service. Apts, homes, offices. References avail on request. (281) 492-8460.

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW! Friendly Service! Free Estimate! Residential/Storefront/Commercial.
The Window Washer. (713) 947-1325.

PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEO

DAVID LEWIS IMAGES Events, headshots, portraits. New studio location. (713) 240-5503 or www.davidlewisimages.com.

MASSAGE

MASSAGE
Full Body Relaxation
manmassage.net
713.942.2399

- Montrose location
- 7 days/evenings
- VISA/MasterCard
- Outcalls welcome

Ryan Fugate
R.M.T., N.M.T., II Reiki T.



Professional
Massage Therapy

9 years clinical massage experience
Sessions tailored to individual

Swedish
deep tissue
neuro-muscular
Sports & Reiki

Now offering
HOT STONE
massage!

For Appt. call: 713 269 7926

The Lion's Den
Stress Reduction at its best
Let Us Get Our Paws on You
SPECIAL SUMMER RATES

Don't wait...
Treat yourself!!
Dan and/or David
available for appointments
(713) 529-1090

TOUGH ON STRESS

brick bishop
massage therapy
713
725
9739

rob morgan
massage therapy
713-899-9526
#TR37934

BEST MASSAGE
Best Massage 2002 & 2003
in Houston by Triangle Readers

MASSAGE
by rail

NATIONALLY CERTIFIED THERAPIST
PREFERRED 1.5 HOURS...\$75
1 HOUR...\$60

1st Visit - 20% Discount!

Jacuzzi Before and/or After Massage
Available in Private Tropical Setting
(Houston)

CALL 832.524.7700
OR 713.527.0400

MASSAGE IN MONTROSE

- Swedish
- Deep Tissue
- Relaxation

JOEL 713.397.8808
RMT 34440

A MAN'S TOUCH

Ultimate Swedish
Massage for Today's
Business Man.
Single & Tandem
"4 Hands" Massage.
Body Waxing &
Body Cuts Available!

MALE LOPEZ
281-844-7456

and associate
KENTON LITTLE

832-577-2905

mlopez@wf.net

jason college guy

- therapeutic • swedish • sports
- deep tissue • myotherapy
- relaxation therapy

NEW Steam Room!!!
Montrose Studio
713-524-5400
www.jasonrmt.com

REWARD YOURSELF
A NICE TOUCH/RELAXATION
OF BODY AND MIND BY
LEE
832 978-7017
CENTRALLY LOCATED
7 DAYS/EVENINGS
OUTCALLS WELCOME

BODYWORKS BY LOU RMT
Specializing in Swedish, Aromatherapy & Deep Tissue.
Rates: \$60/hr. In/Out. (713) 204-2885.
http://hometown.aol.com/bodyworksbylou

BODY STRESS RELIEF Montrose location. In/out. Priv, discreet. Dan (713) 529-8787.

SWEDISH MASSAGE BY PATRICK Relaxation, Myotherapy, deep tissue. \$60/1.5hrs; \$50/hr. (RMT #024589) (713) 739-0087. (713) 501-9852, deeptissueaman2@aol.com.

HEALTH / FITNESS

SHAPEWORKS
Personalized weight loss with healthy results. Lose weight, reshape your body. RESULTS IN 7 DAYS! Free Shape Scan Analysis. Call (301) 681-6067. www.reshapeyourbody.com

BODY / SOUL

MANSCAPING MEN'S WAXING & clipping. Priv location in Montrose. Call Dale (713) 529-5952 for appt.

ESCORTS

YOUNG, HOT, SEXY MALE All the Way Guaranteed Fun!
Versatile. Incall/Outcall. Hotel/residence. Cash/CC. 24/7. Private Escort. Not an agency. Zach. (281) 920-5281.

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

GOOD MORNING, BRAD. JEEZ, KYLE... WHOEVER'S IN THE SHOWER SURE IS TAKIN' A LONG TIME. ACTUALLY, WHO IS IN THE SHOWER? EDUARDO LEFT EARLY FOR WORK... LANCE IS IN ATLANTA... IT'S GOTTA' BE RICHARD, THEN. WELL, NOW, KYLE... IF YOU HAD INSTALLED ONE OF THOSE LOCKER ROOM STYLE GROUP SHOWER STALLS LIKE I RECOMMENDED, THIS MYSTERY WOULD BE SOLVED. RICHARD?! IF YOU'RE NOT IN THE SHOWER... WHO IS?!

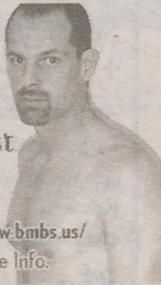
I'M AFRAID I'M THE CULPRIT. HUH? JEFF OLSEN?! IN THE FLESH! I'LL SAY. MY FLIGHT GOT IN LATE LAST NIGHT, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE Y'ALL UP. I STILL HAVE MY KEY, SO I LET MYSELF IN. MIND?! OF COURSE HE DOESN'T MIND! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH WE'VE MISSED THOSE HAIRY PECS? THOSE FIRM BICEPS? THAT BULGING- I GET THE PICTURE! AND I MISSED YOU TOO, RICHARD. BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

HOW LONG ARE YOU HERE FOR, JEFF? UNTIL SPRING TRAINING STARTS. AND, YES... I'M STILL THE ONLY OPENLY GAY BASEBALL PLAYER... IN THE MINORS OR THE MAJORS. THEN I'M OFF TO WHATEVER TEAM I GET TRADED TO THIS YEAR. UNLESS YOU'VE COME OUT PUBLICLY YET, BRAD? UH... NO. I HAVEN'T. HE DID FINALLY HAVE GAY SEX, THOUGH. OH, DID HE? JEEZ, RICHARD! WAIT'LL YOU HEAR THE DETAILS! COULD I MAYBE GET SOME BREAKFAST FIRST?

ADULTCLASSIFIEDS

BODYWORK

DAVID

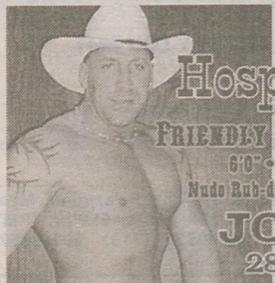


Absolutely the Best Erotic Rub Downs

For Rates and Times

Visit My Web Site At <http://www.bmb.s.us/> or Call 713-868-4704 For More Info.

Texas Hospitality
FRIENDLY BODYBUILDER
 6'0" Massage & Stripping
 Nudo Rub-downs! Well Endowed!
JOSEPH
 281.687.3735



MONTROSE MASSAGE Great Hands. Beautifully endowed. Stress reduction at it's best! SPECIAL SUMMER RATES. Experience the MAGIC. (713) 526-1804.

FOR A CLOSE & PERSONAL shave or rub, call me!
Jason (281) 498-4394

MASSAGING GUNNS! Deep tissue full body relaxation. Handsome muscled hunk. IN/OUT 24/7 SW by Galleria businessmen/travlers. Nick (713) 303-4941. <http://hometown.aol.com/erotcmssg9/>

Brad • Young College Student
 • Massage/Model
 • In/Out - 24/7
 281-658-1199



How to place a Classified ad:

BY WEB: www.houstonvoice.com

By e-mail: classifieds@houstonvoice.com

By fax: Fax completed order form and credit card information to Houston Classifieds, 888-409-6768.

By phone: Call in with completed order form to 877-863-1885.

By mail: Mail completed order form with payment to Houston Voice Classifieds, 500 Lovett Blvd, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77006.

In person: Bring completed order form with payment to the Houston Voice offices (M-F, 9-5 pm) 500 Lovett Blvd, Suite 200, Houston.

Ad policy: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

DEADLINES: 8am Wednesday for online submissions only.
5:30pm Tuesday for all other submissions.

BARELY LEGAL

MALE OR SHE-MALE ESCORTS

713-526-1531



IN/OUT CALLS • 24/7

www.BarelyLegalEscorts.com
Selective Hiring

Toys aren't just for Boys!
Free limo rides
From Chances Bar to the store, the second Tuesday of every month. Call Heidi for more info.



713.944.6010 • www.eros1207.com

1207 Spencer Hwy
(take I-45 S., exit left on College)



EVERY THURSDAY
WET & WILD
JOCKEY REVUE
SHOW AT 11PM!

EVERY SUNDAY
JOIN JODY FOR
LIVE SINGING
SHOW AT 11PM!

AMATEUR
STRIP CONTEST
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
HOST ROXANNE COLLINS
ALWAYS HOT MEN!



EJ's HOUSTON

2517 RALPH @ WESTHEIMER • HOUSTON • 713.527.9071

bitch session

Got a bitch? Call 1-800-858-8088 or e-mail bitch@houstonvoice.com

These are real bitches, sent in by real readers about gay life's little annoyances, and the big ones, too.

I HATE THE FACT THAT I fucked up and now girl doesn't trust me at all. And now that I'm ready to settle down, she is acting stupid.

WHOOPTIE-DO, ANOTHER Pride season is upon us. Another yearly excuse for vain gay guys to strut around half naked and hook-up with each other. Have you ever wondered why Pride is so meal-oriented? It's because Pride is really just another excuse for gay men to whore around.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE a student and probably can't

afford the "best in life" right now. But do us all a favor and spend your money on an actual cologne. The street corner Avon you poured over your head screamed nothing less than "flaming queen in training"!

THIS IS TO THE SO-CALLED manly man lover who calls us queens. Just to let you know many of us don't have to be called a man by picking the hair out of our teeth after sex with our lovers.

WHY IS IT THAT THERE ARE gay men who claim to be straight when it's so damn obvious to everyone they're gay? Everybody

No offense, but it's awfully hard to care about marriage when I can't even get a guy to keep a second date!

knows. Now come out to yourself. Life will be so much easier.

DO DINGY AISLES, LONG lines, and limited customer service make you hesitate to shop at Home Depot? Now there's another reason: their CEO is a major fund-raiser for President Bush. Remember, there are other big box retailers and your neighborhood hardware store, too.

HOW IS GAY RIGHTS STRUGGLE any different than the black struggle for civil rights? We were both discriminated against for being different — race or sexual orientation.

HEY, AGEIST DUDE! JUST because I'm 50 and wear a party shirt from the 80s does not mean I'm trying to look younger or that I need to "act my age." I'm just wearing something that reminds me of a fun time, and that also fits with current retro fashion. Besides, I don't have to try and

look attractive; I already am!

MY BITCH IS WITH DRAG queens who say they're going to start their show at 9:30 p.m., but it doesn't start until 10:20. That's bullshit. These drag queens need to start their shows on time, dammit.

TO THE GUYS OUT THERE WHO believe in open relationships and want to get married: You have no idea of what wedding vows mean. To love, to honor, to cherish in sickness and in health. Nowhere does it say "to play with others." Stop trying to come up with excuses to cheat.

TO THOSE WHO SAID THE Bible says gay marriage is illegal: The Bible isn't the final arbiter of this situation.

WHY IS IT THAT SO MANY people who say they do professional massage are really sex workers in disguise? Licensed massage does not include touch-

ing my sex organs. That's not good bedside manner

HERE'S TO ALL THE FAGS who think they have to introduce every drunk and every AIDS-infecting whore to unsuspecting dykes. We don't want your garbage.

EVER NOTICE HOW MANY lesbians seem to need to shoot down gay men to feel good about themselves? It happens far more often than the reverse.

WHAT IS IT WITH ALL THESE women at gay clubs? You gay bois with your harems of hags just love to shout your lack of success: "I can't make it with beautiful women; and I can't make it with men; so I'll surround myself with fat, ugly hags."

I HATE IT WHEN TRICKS FIRST mention their partnered status by saying, "Oh you just came on my boyfriend's pillow."

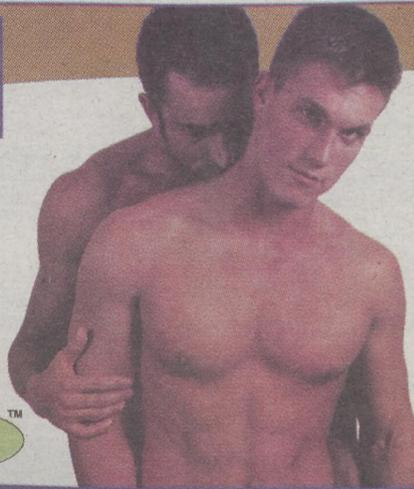
AT 34 I SHOULD BE USED TO Americans by now, but I'm stunned to read of a preference for mutilated penis by gay men. Circumcision has nothing to do with hygiene. It is a mutilatory removal of a dense-nerve sensory area intended to diminish the pleasure of sexuality.

MEN
Local • Live • Now
Houston 713-595-9952
817-289-1234 214-379-7979
210-933-1234 512-735-5002
Call Toll FREE 1-800-777-8000

FREE TRIAL
Use Code: 1693

interactive male

1-900-446-1212 (\$1.99/min) 18+ www.InteractiveMale.com



The Hottest Calendars for 2005
Providing the GLBT community with quality products since 1993

10% CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Boys of Summer
NOON
TAG ERIKSSON
Gulp Moments!

AND INTRODUCING PROVOCATEUR
Sensual, studio imagery dedicated to the art and culture of men & women.

PROVOCATEUR
Boys
PROVOCATEUR
PROVOCATEUR

18 new calendars available late June at your local retailer or online

10percent.com amazon.com For wholesale inquiries 800-650-5963

AMAZON and AMAZON.COM are registered trademarks of Amazon.com

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have you been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder (Manic Depression) and are feeling depressed? The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston is conducting a research study in the Clear Lake area for individuals diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder (Manic Depression). You may qualify for a research study if you suffer from such symptoms as:

- Feeling sad or blue most of the time
- Feelings of worthlessness or hopelessness
- Excessive or inappropriate guilt
- Changes in appetite and weight
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Lack of energy or fatigue
- Trouble concentrating

Eligible participants will receive study related office visits, study medication, and laboratory tests at no cost.

For more information, please call 1-866-780-6663. All calls will be kept confidential.

UTMB
Behavioral Health Research Center
The University of Texas Medical Branch

THE PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON PRESENTS

STAR BALL

PRIDE AS BIG AS TEXAS

houston pride weekend 2004

OFFICIAL PRIDE WEEKEND EVENTS

FUEL

FRIDAY, JUNE 25 OFFICIAL PRE-PARADE PARTY
GRAMMY AWARD WINNING PRODUCER AND REMIXER

dj hex hector

dj justin stephens

BOAKA BAR/MERCURY ROOM
1008 Prairie @ Main | 713.225.6372 | Doors Open 9pm - 3am
\$15 Advanced Tickets | Produced By M2M Entertainment Inc.

Pre-Parade Festival

SATURDAY, JUNE 26 4pm-8:30pm

Featuring food and beverage vendors, Cabo's Grill beer garden & the M2M Entertainment Dance Music Tent
with fresh new Texas DJ talent | Intersection of Westheimer & Yoakum

Houston's Original Night Time GLBT Parade

SATURDAY, JUNE 26 8:45-11:30pm

THE LARGEST PRIDE PARADE EVENT IN THE SOUTH

Parade emcees' Maria Todd (104 KRBE) & Kofi
Lower Westheimer, from Woodhead to Whitney • VIP Bleacher Seating Available

STARBALL

SATURDAY, JUNE 26 OFFICIAL POST-PARADE PARTY
THE MAIN EVENT & LARGEST PRIDE PARTY IN HOUSTON

dj warren gluck & pat hodge

International Dance Diva

CLUB GO

2001 Commerce Street @ Chartres | 2 Blocks North Minute Maid Park | 281.657.0781 | Doors Open 10pm-4am
\$25 Advance Tickets | Produced By M2M Entertainment Inc.

Spoiled Boyz Urban Cowboyz

SATURDAY, JUNE 26 OFFICIAL AFTER-PARTY

dj dawna montel

performance artist dynasty & dj chris ill

OPUS

412 Main Street @ Prairie | 713.222.OPUS | Doors Open at 3:30am
\$25 Advance Tickets | Produced by Spoiled Boyz

Advance Tickets Available at M2M Fashion, M's Liquor and on-line at www.pridehouston.org
Pride Packs also available including Parade VIP Bleacher Seating & 3 Official Pride Parties

For Complete Event Info: www.pridehouston.org, www.spoiledparties.com or 713.529.8979