

# houston VOICE

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MAY 10, 2002

## Moms celebrate

One Houston lesbian couple is especially thankful this Mother's Day.  
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## INSIDE



Annual Pride festivities are near, and a workshop is set to help participants prepare for the parade.

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J.R. Finney, pastor of a mostly gay Birmingham, Ala., congregation, read a statement this week on behalf of a teacher allegedly fired because he was gay.

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Mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves plays a lead character in Houston Grand Opera's delightful 'Samson and Delilah.'

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## Log Cabin questions need for ENDA, angering activists, GOP lawmakers

Gay Republican group says need for job rights bill should be 're-examined'

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

Republican members of Congress who have been longtime supporters of the gay civil rights bill known as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act reacted with surprise and anger over a statement by the national gay group Log Cabin Republicans that questions the need for the legislation.

The legislation, which calls for banning employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, enjoys broad bipartisan support and is likely to pass in the Senate when it comes up for a vote this fall, according to supportive activists and Capitol Hill observers.

Republican leaders in the House strongly oppose the bill, but GOP supporters say there are enough House Republicans supporting the bill to enable it to pass if the House leadership allows it to come up for a vote.

In a commentary released two weeks ago on the gay GOP group's online newsletter, Log Cabin Executive Director Rich Tafel called for a re-examination of the premise behind ENDA, saying many of the nation's top corporations and other private employers have already adopted policies against anti-gay employment discrimination.

"I can tell you anecdotally that as I travel all over the country, I almost never hear from anyone who was fired because they were gay," Tafel wrote. "In fact, I hear almost every other issue being passionately argued but not this one."

Citing a public opinion poll showing that 85 percent of Americans believe it is wrong to fire someone because that person



Federal legislation to protect gays from workplace discrimination 'probably won't really change the lives of gay Americans,' according to Rich Tafel, executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans.

is gay, Tafel added, "So why all this energy on a bill that probably won't really change the lives of gay Americans?"

Please see ENDA, on Page 6

## 'OutLook' positive for debut of gay channel

While Viacom, PrideVision race to launch first-ever U.S. gay channel, Showtime launches gay Wednesdays

By MIKE FLEMING

As cable television masters niche marketing with specialty channels for everyone from African Americans and Christians to cooks, golfers, animation aficionados and science fiction devotees, it may have been only a matter of time before gays became the target for the big business of the small screen.

Viacom heavyweights MTV Networks and Showtime have joined forces to weigh the viability of their own gay channel with gay advisory panels across the country. At the same time, Canada's already up-and-running PrideVision looks toward the U.S., and Showtime is starting a weekly gay programming block.

A gay channel — or two — is not only deserved, but needed, said Larry Gross, author of "Up from Invisibility: Lesbians, Gay Men & the Media in America."

"It's very important to have specialized

programming, what you might call a voice of your own or a place of your own," Gross said. "That's the kind of cultural format that gay people have really never had."

The impact of a gay channel could serve a greater societal good in addition to exposing Middle America to gays, Gross said.

"The people who can most benefit from these programs are those who are isolated and vulnerable and for whom media images are almost a lifeline of support," he said. "In particular, young people who are growing up and coming to terms with an identity as lesbian or gay or transgendered for whom the media can literally become the only source of some kind of solidarity and connection."

MTV and Showtime lobbied the idea of their channel as early as 1994, but it wasn't until earlier this year that executives officially announced the proposal and started outlin-

Please see WORKPLACE, on Page 7



Shannon McDonough (left) and J.R. Anderson, hosts of 'Bump!' on PrideVision, travel the globe to bring gay human interest stories to Canadian audiences, just one program the U.S. version of the channel plans to emulate, a network official said. (Photo courtesy PrideVision)

## local news

# Planning steps up as Pride nears

Pride Committee to host parade workshop, auditions for new Pride Cabaret

By PENNY WEAVER

Early summer heat is taking hold in Houston, and plans for June's Pride celebration are heating up as well.

"It's very close. We're wrapping up a lot of details," said Troy Christensen, communications director for the Pride Committee of Houston.

The committee will host a parade workshop May 18 to help organizations and businesses plan their floats and walking units for the 2002 Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Parade.

Scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, the workshop is free and open to the public. Information will be provided for both float building and coordinating a walking/performing unit.

Several committee coordinators and other knowledgeable community members will be on hand to answer questions.

"It's grown year after year. Last year, it had a really good turnout," Christensen said of the parade workshop.



About 30 to 40 people attended the 2001 event, and this year, as in the past, those who attend will receive a large packet of information to share with their entire group, he noted.

"What we'll talk about are a lot of creative and easy ways to do a really bang-up float that won't kill your members," Christensen said. "[We'll discuss] what lightweight materials to use, what tools you'll need, and also not break the bank on it."

The committee notes that the unique nighttime parade presents lighting challenges for participants. However, the relatively cooler nighttime also gives participating groups more display and performance opportunities.

Representatives from JP Morgan Chase will be present at this year's workshop, Christensen noted, to give tips on walking/performing parade entries.

Pride Committee members said the

parade workshop continues to grow in popularity for both parade veterans and first-time participants.

The parade workshop is also an excellent time for participants to turn in their parade applications, committee members noted. Applications will be available and attendees can get answers to all of their questions about applying.

Applications are also available at the Pride Committee's Web site, and must be sent with payment by June 1 to avoid a late fee.

Houston's 24th annual Pride Parade will step off at 8:45 p.m. on Saturday, June 29, on Westheimer between Woodhead and Whitney.

Also next weekend, the Pride Committee plans auditions for the first Pride Cabaret, "Before the Parade Passes By," at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, at Masquerade Theatre, 1537 N. Shepherd Drive.

"Tickets will be going on sale very soon

Houstonians who plan to march in this year's Gay Pride Parade — such as the annual PFLAG entry — have a chance to get assistance in preparation at a May 18 workshop.

for that," Christensen noted. "It's something pretty different for us. One thing that we're trying to do this year ... is to have a different theme on each day and really encompass that idea of Pride Worldwide—this is a whole community of pride."

"Before the Parade Passes By" will be held at Alley Theatre on Friday, June 28, the night before the annual Pride Parade. Directed by Ken Williamson, the show is an official event of Houston Pride 2002 and benefits the Pride Committee.

To audition for the cabaret performance, participants are asked to be prepared to sing 16 measures from a Broadway musical.

## **Pride Parade Workshop**

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## **Pride Cabaret Auditions**

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## **Pride Committee of Houston**

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## around texas

### Dallas City Council approves measure outlawing bias against gays

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas City Council on Wednesday adopted an ordinance that prohibits discrimination against gays and lesbians in employment, housing and in public places such as hotels and restaurants. The council voted 13-2 for the measure, which was pledged on the campaign trail by new Mayor Laura Miller. Violation of the ordinance will result in fines up to \$500. The two councilmen who opposed the ordinance, Alan Walne and Mitchell Rasansky, said it would be too expensive for the city to enforce in an already tight budget year. Resansky also said the measure could be too expensive for small businesses. The ordinance exempts employers with less than 15 workers, and proponents said it would cost only \$15,000 in money that's not already budgeted. The Rev. Flip Benham, director of the Dallas-based anti-abortion group Operation Save America, spoke against the measure. "It's a travesty that breaks my heart," he said. "The city hall has declared itself as God. It's a direct attack on the word of God."

## around houston

### Stonewall lawyers elect board, hand out honors to three members

On May 3, members of the Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston (SLAGH) met to elect their new officers and board of directors. Elected to the following positions were: President Jerry Simoneaux, Vice President Sally Langston, and Secretary/Treasurer John Nechman. Elected to the board of directors were: John Adcock, Langston, Nechman, Don Rumer, Jerry Simoneaux, and Charles Kin Spain. SLAGH also dedicated and presented the following Advocacy Awards in honor of three longtime members of SLAGH. Phyllis Randolph Frye received the award for Advocacy by a Member of the Bar; Eugene M. Harrington received the award for Advocacy in Academia; and Ray Hill received the award for Advocacy by a Non-Attorney.



Houstonians Phyllis Randolph Frye and Ray Hill both were awarded honors recently by the Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston. Also honored was Eugene M. Harrington.

### Gay veterans group plans Saturday social

The Houston chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER-Houston) will hold a "meet and greet" social Saturday at Café Express in the River Oaks Plaza. Potential members do not have to be veterans to attend the event or join AVER-Houston. The group is a coalition of veterans, active duty members, reservists and civilians dedicated to overturning the military ban against gay servicemembers. The organization was previously known as the Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America, and recently changed its name to include all American veterans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. "As it was, our name (GLBVA) was not inclusive of transgender/transsexual, two-spirit and heterosexual members," said AVER President Jim Donovan. "We feel it was time to change our name to a fully inclusive name, which at the same time was not a cumbersome alphabet soup. The membership chose 'American Veterans for Equal Rights' as a descriptive, simple, yet fully inclusive name which leaves no question as to our goals and ideals." The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), based in Houston, praised the group's name switch. "As a former member of GLBVA, I am beaming with pride to hear about this change," said Monica Helms, chair of NTAC's Veteran's Affairs Committee. "Not only does the new name reflect the desire

of their members to show full inclusion, but the willingness of the organization to work on a broader scope of issues. I plan on renewing my membership, and urge all transgender veterans to join AVER."

From staff reports

## obituary

### Dean Chachere, 39, artist and DJ

Dean Chachere, 39, of Houston died Friday, May 3, 2002.

A memorial service is planned for 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 11, 2002, at Rothko Chapel, 1409 Sul Ross.

Chachere was a performance artist and a community and AIDS activist. He will be remembered as a hilarious, compassionate intellectual and cultural critic, friends told the Houston Chronicle.

As an artist, Chachere was known for his live, multimedia works. He also was a disc jockey who worked from Houston to New York City. He was a driving force behind Power Tools, a performance and dance club downtown in the 1980s.

As a community activist, Chachere led concerned citizens to protest the owner's plan to tear down the two-story Bethje-Lang Building at 316 Milam in the late 1980s. It was reputed to be the second-oldest commercial building in Houston. The owner, however, had the building razed despite the protests, the Chronicle reported.

Survivors include his mother, Fay; brothers, Guy, Allen, David and Don Jr.; and sisters Anita and Donna.

From staff reports

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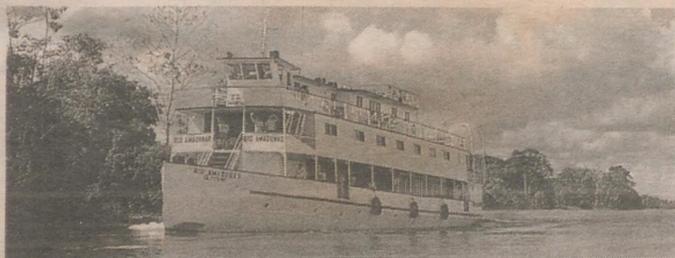
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## national news

# Gay teacher sues Ala. school board

Closeted man claims he was fired for being gay

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a first-of-its-kind federal lawsuit this week on behalf of an unidentified gay Alabama public school teacher who claims he was fired because of his sexual orientation.

The fired teacher is identified in the case only as "Joe Doe" because "he is now teaching at another public school in Alabama where he remains closeted," said Eric Ferrero, public education director for the ACLU's Lesbian & Gay Rights Project.

In an unusual twist, the defendant is also anonymous in the lawsuit filed Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

The six-page complaint filed on Doe's behalf names the defendants as "An Alabama Board of Education, Board Members A, B, C, D and E, and the Superintendent of the Board's School District."

Alabama's state Board of Education "has no idea which board the ACLU is suing," said Tom Salter, communication manager for the Alabama Department of Education.

"It could be any one of them," Salter

said. "We just know it is not the state board because when we got wind of the suit this morning, our attorneys called the courthouse and court personnel were able to inform the attorneys that it wasn't us."

Alabama has 67 different county education districts, and an additional 61 city education districts.

A decision from the court was expected Thursday on whether it would accept the anonymous lawsuit, said Leslie Cooper, ACLU staff attorney.

"We think the law is on our side in taking certain safeguards to protect John Doe's identity," she said.

The ACLU held a press conference Wednesday in Montgomery to announce the Alabama case. The plaintiff was not present, but sent a written statement which was read aloud by J.R. Finney, pastor of Birmingham's mostly gay Covenant Metropolitan Community Church.

"I know I'm a good teacher," the statement said. "My bosses know it, and my students and their parents know it. I've always understood that the bargain here is that I do my job and do it well, and that I keep my private life private."

"I did that, and it didn't matter. I lost my job anyway," the statement said.

Doe worked as a teacher for two years for the undisclosed Alabama school district, during which he created new educa-



J.R. Finney, pastor at Birmingham's Covenant Metropolitan Church, read a statement by an anonymous gay teacher at an ACLU press conference May 8. 'I kept my private life private. ... I lost my job anyway,' the teacher said.

tion programs, worked long hours, tutored students before and after school and received excellent job evaluations, according to Ferrero.

There were no complaints in his file, according to the suit.

"He received an excellent job evaluation from the principal one day, and literally the next day was fired by the superintendent," Ferrero said.

Cooper said the teacher "has been told directly by school personnel that he was

fired because he was gay."

Doe was "extremely closeted," Ferrero said. "Although he lives with his partner of eight years, he brought female dates to school functions, and frequently talked about his ex-wife and kids to give the impression he was heterosexual."

The teacher hired to replace Doe was not certified, and the school superintendent refused to provide Doe with a reason for his dismissal, the suit claims.

"The defendants' conduct therefore violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution," the suit argues.

"Bottom line, it's unconstitutional to fire someone because they're gay," Ferrero said.

Neither the state of Alabama nor the federal government have laws prohibiting job discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Alabama State Board of Education also does not have a policy banning anti-gay job bias.

Jennifer J. Smith can be reached at [jsmith@sovo.com](mailto:jsmith@sovo.com)

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## national news

# GOP staffers fear comments undermine efforts

ENDA, continued from Page 1

Sources familiar with Republican co-sponsors of ENDA, speaking on condition that they not be identified, said the Tafel statement and similar statements released by Log Cabin earlier this year undercut years of work by moderate Republican lawmakers who have taken political risks to back ENDA.

"This is catching people off guard," said one GOP House staff member.

"This undermines our efforts to build support for this at a time when we actually have a chance to pass it," said another GOP staffer.

Katie Levinson, press secretary for Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.), one of the lead sponsors of ENDA in the House, declined to comment on the Tafel commentary, but said Shays remains a strong supporter of the bill.

"In Congressman Shay's opinion, this legislation is vital and continues to be of the utmost importance," Levinson said. "We have seen no evidence in a shift in employment practices to a degree sufficient to indicate that discrimination against gays and lesbians no longer exists in the workplace."

Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.), another long-time ENDA supporter, also believes the need for ENDA remains strong and continues to call on his Republican colleagues to

support the legislation, said Foley press secretary Kirk Fordham.

"I would invite Log Cabin to take a more constructive step to advance ENDA," Fordham said.

## LCR says Dems have made ENDA 'political'

Log Cabin spokesperson Kevin Ivers said Log Cabin continues to support ENDA. But he said the group believes gay Democrats and Democratic senators and House members are more interested in using ENDA as a political issue in the upcoming election than in seeing it pass.

"The only way this can become a law is if all sides come together and reach a compromise," Ivers said. "What we're saying is, we're in a different political world now. Bill Clinton is no longer president. So continuing with the same strategy is not going to move this bill."

Ivers dismissed charges by gay Democrats that Log Cabin is attempting to downplay the need for ENDA to soften reaction from gays to the position on the bill by President Bush and Republican leaders in Congress. The president has said he opposes sexual orientation discrimination, but as a candidate he declined to support ENDA. He opposed gay civil rights legislation in Texas during his



A spokesman for Florida Congressman Mark Foley, a Republican supporter of workplace protection for gays, said he would 'invite Log Cabin to take a more constructive step to advance ENDA.'

tenure as that state's governor.

Republican leaders in the House have vowed to block ENDA from coming up for a vote, even though House Republican supporters believe there is a large enough coalition of Republicans and Democrats to pass the bill.

Steve Elmendorf, the openly gay chief of staff for House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.), characterized as "a total lie" the claim that Democrats would sacrifice ENDA for partisan political gain in the election.

"ENDA was put together in a compromise to build bipartisan support, which it did," Elmendorf said. "There has never been any sign by the Republican leadership to ever reach out for a true compromise. In fact, the Republican leadership, for the most part, is not passive on this. They are actively working against the bill."

"And that is what's most appalling," said Elmendorf. "You have a bipartisan majority in both houses that is ready to pass this bill."

Ivers, calling comments by Elmendorf "predictable," said many Republicans believe it is more than a coincidence that Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) decided to bring ENDA to the Senate floor just before the 2002 congressional elections. Ivers said Republican leaders view the timing as an attempt to "stonewall" on an ENDA compromise and then blame Republicans for its defeat.

Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, the national gay political group that has led lobbying efforts on behalf of ENDA, said the bill's supporters are open to any "reasonable" compromises the Republican leaders choose to offer. Stachelberg and GOP supporters of ENDA, including Shays and Foley, say the bill has already been changed several times in Republican-proposed compromises.

During a Senate markup hearing last

month, Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), the ranking Republican on the committee with jurisdiction over ENDA, said he plans to introduce an amendment to allow states to exempt themselves from ENDA. Supporters say such an amendment would "gut" the bill, making it a useless exercise.

When asked if Log Cabin would support such a compromise, Ivers said Log Cabin favors leaving it to the opposing sides to work out an agreement. He said Log Cabin stands by Tafel's statement questioning the need for ENDA.

In his statement, Tafel pointed to an HRC press release reporting widespread support among Fortune 500 corporations for non-discrimination employment practices toward gay workers.

"Ironically, nothing makes the case more strongly against federal legislation, one might argue, than HRC's own press release," Tafel said in his statement. He suggested that gay Republicans consider creating a national job bank for the relatively small number of gays fired due to anti-gay discrimination.

"If a gay person is working for the 15 percent who support firing gays," Tafel said, "chances are they don't want to win in court, they want a new job where they can be themselves."

Among those challenging Tafel's assessment this week is Arizona State Rep. Steve May, an openly gay Republican from Phoenix and member of Log Cabin Republicans. May recently was picked as chair of the Arizona House's influential Ways & Means Committee.

"Rich Tafel makes an important point that there are other issues that may affect the lives of gays more than ENDA," May said. "But I think the premise of federal non-discrimination legislation is critical. We need this legislation as long as there are bigots who decide who gets to work and who doesn't. That's unjust, and that's why we need this."

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## national news

## Networks seek input from gays across the nation

CHANNEL, continued from Page 1

ing plans to cable and satellite distributors.

Viacom officials remain mum on specifics such as a name and a potential launch date for the channel. Some media outlets have reported that the channel will be offered early next year.

The meetings in cities across the country should not be characterized as scientific focus groups, but forums for "early feedback to learn more about the interests, expectations and needs" of gay Americans, said Bob Witeck, partner in Washington, D.C.-based Witeck-Combs Communications, which is handling some public relations for the gay channel.

"We are really not in a position to elaborate on the business plans for the proposed new gay channel," he said. "We're grateful for the many positive responses and keen interest received thus far."

Several participants in last week's Atlanta session said officials from the networks would maintain an advisory panel if the channel hits the air.

Witeck said Thursday that, so far, no meetings are set to gather feedback from gay Houstonians regarding the proposed channel.

"They would like to. There's no plan at the moment," he said.

Officials consider Houston a good market for the channel, Witeck noted, and likely will gather input from local residents at some point.

## A new 'OutLook'?

The idea of a gay channel has captured national attention in both gay and non-gay newspapers. But details on the Viacom venture are slim.

But members of a focus group recently gathered in Atlanta offered some clues after last week's session, including the working title of the channel — OutLook.

Viacom officials would not confirm any details, cautioning that the aspects of the proposed channel are "tentative."

"No specific details were available on whether and when the gay cable channel itself will be operational," Witeck said.

News reports have suggested that the new channel could be ready for launch as early as the first quarter of 2003.

While the advisory meetings are informal sessions for information gathering, executives also floated some programming ideas, according to participants in the May 1 meeting.

One topic centered on the networks' plan to provide the channel expressly as entertainment, not as an advocacy effort for gay civil rights, participants said.

## Late-night differences

Programming possibilities for the Viacom channel include gay movies, public affairs talk shows and a documentary fashioned after A&E's "Biography" that would

feature stories of gay figures, according to participants in the Atlanta meeting.

But no erotica.

PrideVision, a Canadian cable channel with plans to launch a U.S. version as early as this fall, includes late-night erotic films for both gay men and lesbians.

The Canadian-based network doesn't shy away from the fact that "sex sells," said Bruce Clawson, vice president of Canadian programming.

"We include those programs based on audience feedback and a strong message that one of the common denominators in gay life is sexuality," Clawson said. "Just like straight sexuality is part of media coverage, so it is with gay people's lives."

It's that sexuality that concerns the conservative Parents Television Council, which actively opposes any gay TV channel in the U.S., said L. Brent Bozell, the organization's president.

"This is a move to promote the homosexual lifestyle to the public," Bozell said. "Far from being under-served, gays have been pampered and catered to, seemingly everywhere you turn you find the gay character, the gay theme, the gay argument inserted and so often for no reason other than to placate the gay community."

Parents Television Council has started a letter-writing campaign and keeps members updated through e-mails.

## 'Full steam ahead'

Despite opposition, both PrideVision and Viacom are moving forward, though neither has fully secured cable or satellite providers to air their channel.

But Showtime isn't wasting time in warming up its audience to gay programming. On May 22, the network will air a gay programming block on Wednesdays on Sho Too, part of the network's "Showtime Unlimited" package.

In addition to "Queer as Folk" episodes, Showtime will air the animated series "Queer Duck" and bring in new talent for comedy sketches. Gay-themed movies will also be included, said Stephanie Gibbons, senior vice president of advertising and promotions at Showtime.

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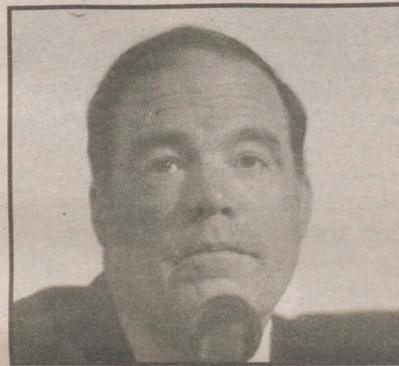
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## around the nation

### Mass. Senate president asked to block marriage ban

BOSTON — Activists want the president of the Massachusetts state senate to prevent a bill banning gay marriage from reaching a vote, the Boston Globe reported.



Gay activists are pressuring Thomas F. Birmingham, president of the Massachusetts state Senate, to prevent an anti-gay marriage ban from seeing a vote.

Senate President Thomas F. Birmingham will set the agenda when the state legislature meets for a constitutional convention on June 19. If 25 percent of House and Senate members vote in favor of the marriage ban for two years in a row, it could go on a statewide ballot as early as 2004. In addition to banning gay marriage in the state, the legislation could also take away domestic partner benefits and bereavement leave. Birmingham appears to be leaning toward allowing the vote, according to the Globe. "I'm exploring ways to stop it," Birmingham said, calling the measure "wrong-headed and wrong-hearted." "[But] I also think that we're sent here to vote on things." The group supporting the ban, Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage, vowed to call attention to Birmingham's actions if he stalls the vote.

### Ind. city won't support gay confab over Boy Scouts

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — The deputy mayor of Bloomington said the city will no longer support a gay youth conference after learning the event is being pitched as a counterpoint to a Boy Scouts conference the next week, the Bloomington Herald-Times reported. Sponsored by Indiana University's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Student Support Services Office, the Sexual Minority Youth in the Heartland Conference — targeting professionals who work with gay young people — is set for July 19-21. The Boy Scouts of America, which won a U.S. Supreme Court victory upholding its right to ban gay members, will hold its National Order of the Arrow Conference in Bloomington on July 27. Deputy Mayor James McNamara sent a letter to organizers of the gay event saying the city opposes the Scouts' gay ban, but will not support the gay youth conference after learning it is a "shadow or counter conference" to the Boy Scouts. "The city cannot countenance scapegoating good kids for decisions they have not made," McNamara, who is gay, wrote in the letter. Conference organizers said their event would not interfere with the Boy Scouts in any way.

### Conn. governor says he will sign just-passed gay bill

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Gay rights advocates hugged in the gallery of the state Senate Tuesday night after senators voted overwhelmingly to extend certain legal rights to gay couples. The bill allows a person to legally designate another person to make medical decisions and end-of life choices, such as organ donation and life support. The bill also allows for private visits in nursing homes and requires employers to allow emergency phone calls from the legally designated person. The measure also requires that the General Assembly's Judiciary Committee study same-sex marriage and civil unions later this year and issue a report. "This is a matter of basic decency and fairness," said Sen. John McKinney (R-Fairfield). A spokesperson said after the vote that Gov. Juon G. Rowland expects to sign the bill.

### Provincetown coach fired after anti-gay slurs

PROVINCETOWN, Mass. — Nicola Nasuti, coach of the South Shore Christian Academy baseball team, has been dumped after allegedly making anti-gay remarks following his team's 15-3 loss to Provincetown High School on April 25, the Cape Cod Times reported. Nasuti allegedly lisped remarks during final handshakes. After Provincetown assistant coach Marty Menangas, a police officer, informed Nasuti that the town has a law against hate crimes, "(Nasuti) said 'I'll show you a real hate crime,'" Police Chief Schuyler Meyer said. Nasuti told the Cape Cod Times his accusers are being too sensitive. "It was all about their kids showing up our first-year program," he said. "It was over the baseball game and nothing else." Officials with the Christian school said they have asked Nasuti, a volunteer with a son who attends the school, not to coach the team in the future.

### National frat evicts Mich. members over anti-gay slurs

EAST LANSING, Mich. — The national leadership of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity voted May 1 to evict members at Michigan State University due to anti-gay T-shirts worn by some members of the group, according to State News, the campus newspaper. The action caps a month of controversy sparked by an incident in which some students pledging the fraternity wore pink, sleeveless T-shirts bearing homophobic statements to two residence hall cafeterias. The slogans included "I like little boys," "Capt. Gay Sex," and "Fag hairstylist." The national chapter temporarily suspended the MSU group's charter on April 10; Pi Kappa Phi's national council voted unanimously last week to evict all members of the chapter. "I think the action was appropriate and warranted considering the ongoing actions of the chapter," said Stephen Whitby, assistant executive director for the national fraternity. The group will be restarted on the campus with new members in the fall.

From staff and wire reports

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## police beat

### Charges dismissed against AIDS activists in Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO — A judge dismissed 27 misdemeanor and felony counts against controversial AIDS activists Michael Petrelis and David Pasquarelli on a technicality May 2, according to the San Francisco Examiner. The two men were accused of criminal conspiracy, stalking and making criminal threats to employees of the San Francisco Chronicle and the



Charges against San Francisco AIDS activists David Pasquarelli (left) and Michael Petrelis, accused of stalking newspaper employees, were dropped last week on a legal technicality.

Department of Public Health. Pasquarelli still faces two felony and three misdemeanor charges in a related case involving University of California San Francisco employees. The original judge in the preliminary hearing was reassigned to another trial, causing a violation of procedure and delaying the case while the activists were in jail, said Mark Vermeulen, Pasquarelli's attorney. The district attorney has refiled the charges and a new date will be set. "If they suffer another dismissal, it's gone," Vermeulen said. The activists, known for their confrontational tactics, were released from jail in February after spending 72 days in jail.

### Convicted killers want divorce behind bars in Pa.

EASTON, Pa. (AP) — The marriage of a jailed Easton-area couple convicted of killing the woman's female lover apparently is coming to an end. Michelle Hetzel, 20, and Brandon Bloss, 26, are behind bars for the slashing death last year of Devon Guzman, 19. Hetzel was having an affair with Guzman while married to Bloss, according to court testimony. Hetzel grew angry when Guzman refused to leave her own live-in lover, and Bloss was becoming fed up with Guzman's interference in his marriage. In June 2000, Guzman's body was found curled up in the back seat of her own car. Her throat had been slashed, and the scene was set up to look like a suicide, police said. Two months later, Hetzel and Bloss were charged with the crime. A jury found both Hetzel and Bloss guilty of first-degree murder. The two could get life in prison when sentenced. A judge has rejected the couple's appeals.

### Bystander shot during dispute between lesbian couple in Fla.

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — A woman was shot in the stomach April 28 after interceding in a confrontation between an estranged lesbian couple outside a church during Sunday worship. One of the former partners was shot in the hand. The shootings occurred in the Holy Cross Metropolitan Community Church parking lot after the couple attended an earlier service. Andrea Cobb, 61, was charged with two counts of attempted murder and remains in jail without bond. Nancy Browning, also a church member, underwent surgery for the stomach wound she received after getting between Cobb and Joyce Anderson, who was treated for her hand wound and released. Rev. Sandy O'Steen of MCC had been counseling the couple since their recent breakup. Ron Swiger was conducting an HIV screening when he heard the first shot and saw Browning step between the two women. "She was saying, 'Don't shoot, don't shoot. If you're going to shoot, shoot me,'" Swiger said. "Then, 'Bang!' She shot her."

### Judge sentences Ore. lesbian to life in double homicide

BEND, Ore. (AP) — A judge sentenced a woman to two life terms after she pleaded guilty to killing her domestic partner and her partner's son. Judge Michael Sullivan sentenced Randy Joseph Stewart, 62, on May 3 in the March shooting deaths of Helen Rodriguez, 56, and Rodriguez's son Felipe Rodriguez, 31. "With this sentence, you will die behind bars, as it should be," Sullivan said. Stewart told police she shot the two in late March after the son argued with his mother about buying a car, according to a search warrant affidavit. After the shooting, Stewart drove to a police station and called 911 to report that there were dead people in her trailer. Stewart and Rodriguez had been partners for about 20 years and lived together. The victims' relatives sobbed during sentencing and urged Sullivan to impose a harsh penalty.

### Gay student beaten, then suspended by N.J. school

HILLSBOROUGH, N.J. — The sexual orientation of a 17-year-old high school student might have motivated four classmates to assault him in the school cafeteria, authorities told the Courier News. Scott Lipich, a sophomore, sustained a fractured nose and a chipped tooth after he was punched several times on April 30, police said. Authorities believe a 16-year-old boy — who allegedly used anti-gay epithets during the assault — instigated the attack. Those involved could face criminal charges, including a high penalty because of the suspected anti-gay motivation, a prosecutor said. The school district suspended the 16-year-old and three other accused attackers. School officials and students said the instigator has verbally harassed the victim since September. Students passed around fliers about a protest over the incident. "Violence in the school is unacceptable, everyone should be treated equally," read the flier. Lipich, the victim, was suspended for 10 days on May 3 when he walked out of a meeting about the protest with the principal.

From staff and wire reports



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Issue 1124

# Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

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## editorial

# How not to win our civil rights

In a stunning example of doublethink, Log Cabin says corporate support means ENDA isn't necessary, as if that means other employers won't discriminate.

By CHRIS CRAIN

**W**E'VE ALL HEARD the jokes — how being a gay Republican is an oxymoron, along the lines of a Nazi Jew. For the most part, these curt dismissals come from the politically correct crowd, who are about as tolerant of dissent as they accuse most Republicans of being.

But if ever a group seemed determined to prove the slurs about it are true, it's the Log Cabin Republicans. The mission of the country's largest gay GOP group is "to work within the Republican Party for the equal rights of all Americans, including gay men and women." You wouldn't have known it from the recent meanderings of Rich Tafel, the group's long-time executive director.

Even as a Senate committee was passing on for full Senate consideration the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, Tafel was sending out a statement to Log Cabin members, questioning whether workplace protection for gays is really necessary.

In almost Orwellian fashion, Tafel cited support for ENDA among the general public, as well as non-bias policies in place at many Fortune 500 companies, as somehow evidence that the legislation isn't needed.

"I can tell you anecdotally that as I travel all over the country, I almost never hear from anyone who was fired because they were gay," Tafel wrote. "In fact, I hear almost every other issue being passionately argued but not this one."

Putting aside for the moment the long odds that a lesbian fired from her job would be showing up for a personal appearance by Rich Tafel, there are so many fallacies to the Log Cabin position that it's hard to know where to begin.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, even those gay employees working at Fortune 500 companies with strongly worded non-discrimination policies don't actually enjoy legal protection, unless they live in one of the several dozen jurisdictions nationwide that have enacted workplace bias laws.

Many of those companies, while willing to give lip service to employee diversity, would never have adopted non-discrimination policies if they had the force of law. In almost every court to address the issue, such policies have been found to be aspirational statements, and nothing more. You can't sue a company for violating them.



Then there are those many thousands of gay employees who work for companies, some Fortune 500 but most not, that won't even adopt a policy saying they don't intend to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. And it only seems elementary that the law is needed to protect gays at these companies, even more so than at the many that have happily proclaimed themselves welcoming to gay employees.

Tafel insists that ENDA "probably won't really change the lives of gay Americans," but that betrays a shockingly

limited view of the effect non-discrimination legislation would have in the workplace and beyond.

Many of those gay Republicans who don't complain to Tafel about being fired for being gay have never really tested their employers on the subject because they work with two feet firmly planted in the closet. The same holds true, of course, for many other gays, who must live and work under entirely different conditions than their heterosexual coworkers, unable to acknowledge their loved ones, often forced by circumstance to lie and deceive.

If those closeted employees knew they had the protection of the law, they would be more likely to live and work openly as gay men and lesbians. It is a fundamental precept of the gay movement that almost nothing can have a more liberating impact on the lives and happiness of gays than coming out, and yet Log Cabin would discount that impact entirely.

And then there is the impact that more openly gay employees would have on their coworkers, and on society at-large, not to mention the symbolic effect of enshrining civil rights protection for gays at the same level as existing protection on the basis of race, gender and religion.

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, principled reasons for even gays to oppose legislation like ENDA. Plenty of libertarians — of the lowercase and capital "L" variety — and more than a few Republicans oppose almost all forms of government regulation of business.

But Log Cabin hasn't chosen that path. Instead, its leadership has turned ENDA into a political football, all while hypocritically accusing other gay rights leaders and Hill Democrats of doing exactly that. To Tafel and the current LCR leadership, still smarting from their decision to back John McCain in the 2000 primaries, backing away from ENDA is a way to curry favor with the Bush administration, which would rather not have to deal with the legislation.

Recent history — particularly on the farm bill and campaign finance reform — demonstrates that this president is every bit as capable as his predecessor at blowing with the political winds. If ENDA passes, he may well sign. If it doesn't, Log Cabin will have come one step closer to becoming the joke that many already make of it.

@ Chris Crain is executive editor of the *Houston Voice* and can be reached at [ccrain@window-media.com](mailto:ccrain@window-media.com).

viewpoint ELLA TYLER



Petty infighting among gay rights activists only stalls the overall movement for equality

# Divided, we stumble

"How do liberals form a firing squad?" "In a circle."

I heard this joke 25 years ago, and it was too close to true to be very funny. Those were the brief days when liberals dominated the Democratic Party and Democrats won elections, so we fought each other.

I thought about it not long ago, while watching some Republican primary fights, and smiled. However, if or perhaps when we can substitute "queers" for "liberals," there is nothing to smile about.

Intramural political wars begin when it looks like there's something to fight about, and that's what makes them so dangerous. Winning a battle or two is not the same as winning a war, and there are many, many more battles in the fight for civil rights for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and/or transgenders.

These domestic quarrels divert our time, attention and energy from the real fights against the real foes.

Equally as important, we cannot afford for our best and brightest, our reliable and hardworking or even our occasional participants to decide that it is more rewarding to grow roses than to be a political activist.

These battles discourage participation from new activists who want to do something constructive.

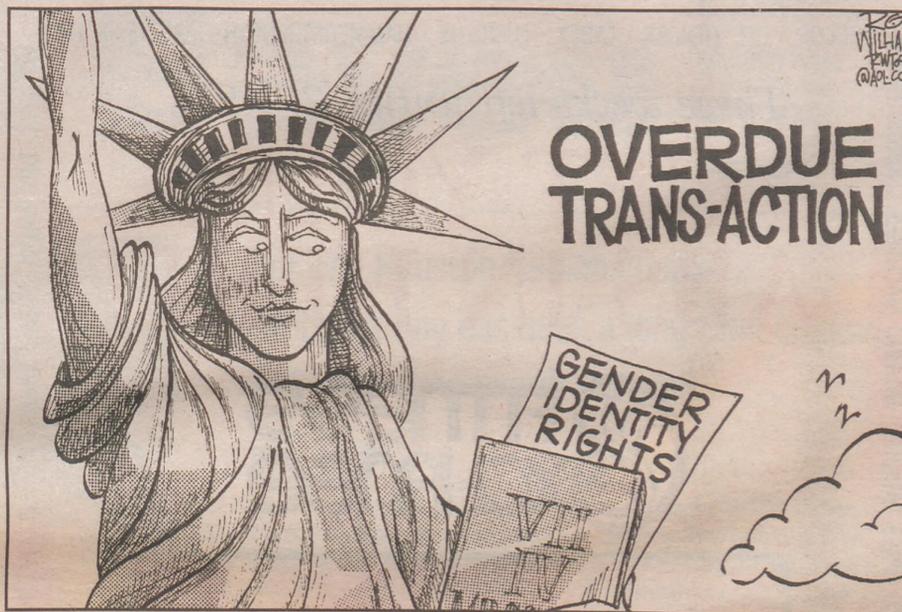
Even more dangerous than the fights in or among the various political houses of political activists, are the ones that take aim at the non-participants. "Empty-head-

ed gym bunnies who don't care about anything except themselves," I've heard them called. Well, maybe, but isn't the quest for votes about appealing, at least in some part, to a voter's self interest? If you don't have at least one reason why a gay person, brainy or not, should vote in a particular election, it's time to work on the message.

The warning signs that you are being recruited to join a firing squad, and the target is one of your own, include words like "He's not really a suitable representative of our community," "What are her motives?", "Who does he think he is?", and the ever-popular, "She's forgotten where she came from." A vague defense of the subject usually ends the matter, at least as far as you are concerned. Unless, of course, you pick up the phone to tell the subject of the discussion all about it.

Whenever the discussion involves raised voices and/or words like "bitch" (or worse), or statements that the previous statement is "stupid," it is time to call the question, adjourn the meeting, or put the microphone in your pocket and walk out. Nothing positive will be accomplished. If this happens frequently in an organization, it may be the end of the group, especially as far as women members go. I know very few women who think arguing is an enjoyable pastime, although some men regard it as a sport.

This is not to say that there is not room



for legitimate (or even illegitimate) differences of opinion over issues, tactics, and candidates. Movements and organizations can usually survive these. Expressions like "We'll have to agree to disagree on this one," "That's not my fight," and "I committed to X a long time ago," go a long way toward maintaining relations.

One of the difficulties of the gay rights movement is that it encompasses a broad range of issues. If occasionally expressing a different opinion from the popular opinion on an issue costs someone his or her credentials as a gay rights activist, there won't be many gay rights activists around.

I think it is particularly divisive to expect enthusiastic support on an issue that someone doesn't care about or an issue that doesn't address his or her concerns. A case in point is that some people are indignant that some transgenders do not support passage of the Employment Non Discrimination Act because transgenders are left out. It's unfair to say "half a loaf is better than none" to the people who are on the "none" side of the equation, and then expect them to be happy.

The problem is not confined to politics or gay groups. Just as I began writing this piece, I saw the new book "Anyway" by Kent M. Keith, who authored "The Paradoxical Commandments." One of them is "If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway."

If you're the target, ask yourself, "Is this honest criticism? Do I need to do something differently?" If not, and Keith's book hasn't helped you, Billie Carr, the "godmother" to Texas' liberal movement for many years, says, "Just leave 'em where Jesus flung 'em."

One of the virtues of politics and of the gay rights movement is that there are many ways to participate, especially in a place like Houston.

If you don't like one candidate or group, there are plenty more to choose from.

@ Ella Tyler is a freelance writer for Houston Voice and a longtime political activist in Houston. She may be reached via editor@houstonvoice.com.

## Ethan Encore

by eric orner

<p>It's 4AM Do you know What your cat is doing?</p>	<p>4:00 am Spring to life in middle of night. Leap thru house for twenty minutes like kitty-gone-totally-mad.</p> 	<p>4:20 am Really get into Yowling.</p> 	<p>4:35 am EATING NOISY. Kitty tag clanging against Bowl.</p> 
<p>4:45 am Pick Fight with jade plant.</p> 	<p>4:59 am Want under covers. No wait, not Enuff air, want back out. No wait, Want under again.</p> 	<p>6:30 am Wish HE would be a bit more sensitive To fact that SOME people are trying to get a Little sleep around here. Nerve.</p> 	

## on the record

"I have to never, ever run out of this."

Gay author **David Sedaris**, on what he thought after his first bump of crystal meth (New York magazine, April 29)



"I couldn't get out of bed, and when I wasn't in bed, I was curled up in a ball on the floor crying. It was like 'Lady Sings the Blues'! I remember thinking, 'Oh my God, I'm a drug addict.' I thought I was an artist, but I was really a drug addict."

Gay author **David Sedaris**, on his withdrawal from crystal meth (New York magazine, April 29)

"I will borrow that handbag from Margaret Thatcher, bang it on the table and say I want my money back."

**Pim Fortuyn**, the openly gay Dutch politician assassinated on May 6, whose right-wing party had been expected to win the second-most number of seats in the upcoming Dutch parliamentary election, based in part on a platform of opposing further European integration

"The world is not remotely ready for a gay James Bond."

**Rupert Everett** on the necessary heterosexuality of Agent 007 (Toronto Sun, April 29)

"My friend [out actor] **Alan Cumming** and the guys always want to go to girls bars, and I have to say, 'You don't understand. I'm Elvis in a girls bar.'"

Rocker **Melissa Etheridge** on going out in New York City (New York magazine, April 29)

Q: How old is **Steve Kmetko**, handsome co-host of E! News Daily, and is he single? — **Jenny Thorvaldson**, Fort Collins, Colo.



A: Kmetko is 49 and single. (Sorry, Jenny, he's also gay.) The handsome host jokingly attributes his youthful onscreen persona to "great makeup and lighting." Kmetko also tells us he's not involved with anyone right now, because his TV gig leaves little time for relationships other than with his three terriers.

"Walter Scott's Personality Parade" (Parade magazine, April 28)

"Try and be openly gay in Nebraska, and island life is a piece of cake."

"Survivor: Marquesas" contestant **John Carroll** (Lincoln Journal Star, April 20)

"He was someone I trusted completely. But I was too young to understand that what I was involved in was destructive and would damage me for years to come. ... I suffered a great deal because of the events that I have described: confusion, deep shame, fear, guilt and ongoing depression."

**David Prunty**, who at the age of 16 almost two decades ago, had a sexual relationship with a Roman Catholic priest who visited him in the hospital, where he was being treated for depression. He later had sexual relationships with three other priests and entered the seminary himself, before quitting and suing the church (Evansville Courier & Press, Evansville Ind., May 5)



"I'm just trying to remind people, 'I'm funny, pay attention to that part. Forget about the whole gay thing.'"

Comedian **Ellen DeGeneres**, talking about her current stand-up tour (National Post, Ontario, Canada, May 2)

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**DINING:** Yearning for France? Café Toulouse offers a romantic atmosphere with worldly tastes. **Page 15**

**THEATER:** Look no further than the Houston Grand Opera for the best show this season — 'Samson and Delilah.' **Page 17**



HOUSTON VOICE

MAY 10, 2002

PAGE 13

# Out on the Bayou



For one Houston lesbian couple, Mother's Day has been a long time coming, but more than worth the wait

By KAY Y. DAYUS

Every day, not just Mother's Day, is special to Rev. Janet Parker and her partner, Julie Lindenberg, two lesbians who tried very hard to have the children they so desired. It took a while, but eventually they were successful — so successful, in fact, that they are now expecting their third child.

Parker, minister of the Maranatha Fellowship MCC, and Lindenberg have been together for 15 years and have two children: Hannah, almost 5, and Nate, 3. Lindenberg is expecting the couple's third child this fall.

Samuel is expected to join the happy family at the beginning of September. Parker says they know he's a boy because of an ultrasound and so they already chose his name. They are both eagerly awaiting his appearance.

## Moms at last

After being together for about seven years, the couple began to seriously discuss the possibility of children, but they wanted their own.

"We decided Julie would be the biological mother because she's 11 years younger than me," says the young and happy-looking Parker. Her office is sprinkled with photographs of their two children at various ages. She is obviously the proud mother — or, one of them.

Not only do the children have two mothers, but they also have two fathers. One is Ernest Trevino, the biological father, and the other is Scott Ulrich, his partner of 13 years.

And what's even better for Hannah and Nate is that they have three sets of proud grandparents. Only Parker's mother is non-accepting of the arrangement amongst the four, who all live in Meyerland. Not together, but only about a mile apart.

"My father is deceased and my mother is non-accepting," says Parker wryly. But, she adds, the youngsters still have plenty of TLC. "The three sets of grandparents are supportive and accepting. They provide a good extended family for the children."

Parker thinks her mother may have been more approving of the situation if she were the biological mother instead of her partner. Parker is, however, the legal guardian of the children and she obviously could not love them more had she given birth herself. Her face literally glows when she talks about them.

She says it was easy to obtain guardianship and that the

TOP: Rev. Janet Parker (left) and her partner, Julie Lindenberg, play at home with Hannah, almost 5, and Nate, 3. Lindenberg is expecting the couple's third child this fall. RIGHT: The family includes the children's two dads Ernest Trevino, the biological father, and his partner Scott Ulrich.



Please see MOMS on Page 14

## out on the bayou

# Children worth the wait for Houston couples

MOMS, continued from Page 13

judge was nice.

"He congratulated me and said he hopes my parenting experience is great, and then said, 'Have fun with your children,'" she recalls happily.

The road to having the children was a rocky one. The couple tried for several years before having Hannah. They first tried artificial insemination using a sperm bank, but that did not work out.

"Julie has polycystic ovaries and it wasn't easy for her to conceive. We had tried for years," says Parker.

At that point, they decided to look into adoption. Then their endocrinologist said perhaps they should attempt to have a baby through the invitro process, which is expensive. But these women were determined to have children.

"It costs about \$10,000 in Houston, but we found it was about a third cheaper in Bedford, Texas, with Doctor Doody. He has helped a lot of people who have had trouble conceiving," says Parker.

Next, they needed a donor, and, after careful thought, approached their good friends Trevino and Ulrich.

"When Janet and Julie first asked us, we were surprised. And then Ernest and I talked about it for some time and decided it was a great idea. And, it's been wonderful," says Ulrich.

They both went for testing, both will-

ing to be the donor. But it turned out that Trevino "had the best swimmers," or higher sperm count, he said. He became the donor.

"It worked first time and each time since," says an enthusiastic Ulrich as the children yell in the background. It is the men's weekly night over at Lindenberg's and Parker's home to see Hannah and Nate.

"Both our families are great. We take them to San Antonio to see Ernest's family and to see their cousins. I have no regrets. It far exceeded my expectations of having kids," says Ulrich.

Trevino says the children are a "blessing from God. It's a dream come true."

When he came to terms with his sexual orientation, the saddest part was that he would have to give up his dreams of having children, he recalls. "It was always in the back of my mind that I wanted to have children," Trevino says, and Parker and Lindenberg gave him the opportunity.

Trevino has lived in Houston for some time and his parents did not know he was gay. In fact, for them it was a double whammy. He broke the news about being gay and that he was about to become a father at the same time.

"I said, 'I'm gay and I'm going to have a child.' They looked at me and said, 'Are you serious?'" Trevino recalls.

But his family is supportive.

"My parents have certainly accepted Scott and the kids and Janet and Julie. It was the answer to a prayer," he says gratefully.

Trevino is out at work, and when he told his coworkers about Hannah, they threw a baby shower for him.

After Hannah and Nate, "We pretty much decided two is enough," says Trevino. But, as he got a little older, he and Ulrich thought it might be nice to have another.

Lindenberg was thinking along the same lines. She and Trevino share the same birth date, year and all. Maybe that's why they think alike.

Lindenberg says she "had to twist Janet's arm for this one." She also says that she was at first carrying twins but one of the fetuses died at eight weeks of pregnancy. Perhaps it was for the best, she says, adding that Samuel will definitely be her last child.

She always wanted children, even as a little girl, Lindenberg recalls. When she and Parker met, she told her right from the start that she wanted to be a mother. And that was okay with her partner, but she didn't want to actually give birth to the children.

"Janet didn't physically want to have children, but she's a great mom. She's a natural," says Lindenberg proudly.

The kids call Lindenberg "Mommy" and Parker, "Momma Jenny." Trevino is

"Daddy" and Ulrich is "Poppy." Both men go over to the Lindenberg/Parker home once a week to see the children and put them to bed, and they have them at their own home every Friday night and Saturday.

According to all parents, the children are very comfortable with two mommies and two daddies and they are accepted in school and in their neighborhood.

Only problem is, says Parker with a twinkle in her eye, "They sometimes think I'm their grandmother when I'm in the park with them."

And although Parker didn't physically have the children, she couldn't be any closer to them.

"When Hannah was born, we were expecting a boy, even though we hadn't been told that. And when she came out, I cried, 'It's a girl,' and Hannah turned and looked at me. She knew my voice. I had been talking to her all the time Julie was pregnant."

In late autumn, Parker, Lindenberg, Hannah and Nate are going on a Disney cruise with Lindenberg's parents and her siblings. They are all celebrating her parents' 50th wedding anniversary. What about Samuel, who will have made his entry into the world by then?

"We are seriously thinking of leaving him with the guys," says Lindenberg.

After all, they are his fathers, and they are good at changing diapers, too.



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**dining** KATHREEN LEE

Café offers quiet, romantic setting for mostly well-presented French-inspired cuisine

# Romance a la Toulouse

About 50 miles north of the border of Spain, the city of Toulouse in southern France boasts all the qualities of France's cultural and culinary richness without the teeming and garish tourist traps of Paris. Although not on the usual vacationer's itinerary, Toulouse, with a booming aeronautics industry and the second largest university town outside of Paris, offers its residents and visitors a high quality of life with a quiet urban hustle bustle, picturesque environment, and good food rich with multiethnic influences.

And this is exactly what Café Toulouse, an intimate neighborhood bistro nestled in Houston's Tanglewood area, attempts to offer its patrons.

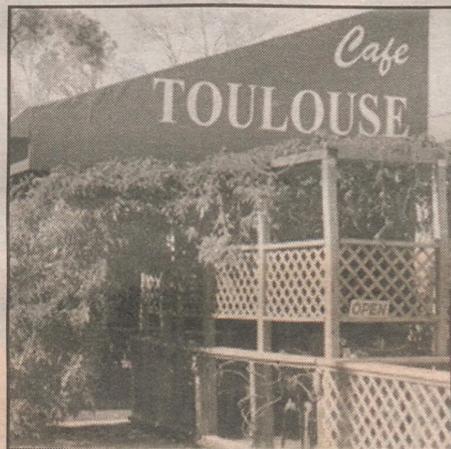
Hidden within a small street behind a short strip mall, Cafe Toulouse is flanked by an abundance of large oak trees and a dabbling of residential homes. The restaurant's outdoor seating capacity exceeds its meager indoor table counts, and the charming vine-covered canopy ensures the diners a scenic and relaxing dining experience. Although the dense ivy curtain darkens the covered patio, the flickering of candlelight creates a soft and intimate atmosphere perfect for a cozy date.

On a hot sultry summer day, I would recommend a cold Gazpacho as an afternoon snack to enjoy out on the cool and shaded veranda.

While Cafe Toulouse does not offer any dishes that are distinctly French in origin, it does offer a diffuse array of cuisine types including Mexican, Italian, Cajun, Mediterranean and Spanish. Appetizers range from the typical (and somewhat bland) Grilled Chicken Quesadillas (\$5.99) to the Pomodori (\$5.99). Fresh mozzarella and Parmesan cheese and vinaigrette dressing accent the more subdued flavors of the Roma tomatoes and breadcrumbs to create a tangy appetizer.

Café Toulouse also offers a range of salads, from Mecom Salad (\$8.99), a traditional Greek salad topped with chicken strips, to the more complicated Salade Nicoise, a blend of sliced potatoes, green beans, tomatoes, red onions, black olives, sliced boiled eggs and white tuna chunks.

The Cajun influence is primarily evident in the various catfish and crawfish dishes such as the Grilled Catfish Po-Boy (\$8.99), one of the less expensive fares available. The Chicken with Spicy Crawfish (\$13.99) stands out as an exceptional entrée choice. Large pieces of crawfish prepared in a spicy white wine sauce drape the sautéed chicken breast. The supple crawfish mingles well with the more firm and



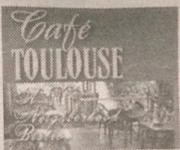
succulent chicken and provides a rich and creamy texture to contrast the tender white meat.

The Pasta de Toro is also another delightful entrée choice where calamata olives and fresh sautéed spinach, mushrooms and tomatoes seasoned with olive oil and garlic seasoning provide the perfect light and festive topping for the equally blithe angel hair pasta. On a hot sultry summer day, I would recommend a cold Gazpacho (\$2.50/cup) as an afternoon snack to enjoy out on the cool and shaded veranda.

Despite the array of cuisine types available and considering the vast dessert possibilities within French cuisine, the dearth of any appealing post-repat delights were rather disappointing. Grocery store bakery selections such as strawberry cake or key lime pie were the meager choices available. A fresh fruit sorbet would have been the perfect cool treat to cleanse our palate after a hearty meal, but we were to go without.

With the sweltering summer weather rolling in and the mosquitoes still held at bay, Café Toulouse's picturesque outdoor dining deck combined with its appetizing fares would make an enchanting evening for anyone looking for a quiet and romantic night out.

**Café Toulouse**  
5750 Woodway  
713-977-6900



Food: ●●●●●  
Service: ●●●●●  
Value: ●●●●●  
Scene: ●●●●●

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## sports LEE DAVIS

From rugby to skating, softball to tennis, a wide range of sports usher in the summer season



Houston Mayor Lee Brown (center) and Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Quan (second from left) met with owner Robin Howington and members of the Houston Energy the day the team was honored for winning its second national championship in the Women's Professional Football League. The Energy is holding try-outs for new players from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 11 and 18 and June 1 at the Pearland Dad's Club. For details, call 713-926-7677, or visit [www.houstonenergyfootball.com](http://www.houstonenergyfootball.com).

## Variety — the spice of life

### ACES

The Houston Tennis Club sponsors various weekly events to cater to the busy schedules of gay Houstonians.

For those with free time during the day, meet at 9 a.m. on Mondays in Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. If evening schedules are better for you, join the Tennis Club from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Memorial Park on Mondays or Fridays. For more information, contact the Houston Tennis Club at 713-692-2701 or via e-mail at [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com).

### BATTERS UP!

The Montrose Softball League's schedule for May 12, with all games played at the Houston Sportsplex (South Main at South Post Oak), is:

- 10 a.m. — Rich's v. BRB/Lobo; Brick's v. Outpost
- 11 a.m. — Outpost v. BRB/Lobo; Swingers v. Trojans; Rich's v. Brick's
- Noon — Jagermeister v. Trojans; Texans v. Bolts; Comets v. Meteors
- 1 p.m. — Comets v. Chaos; Swingers v. Bering; Texans v. Bandits
- 2 p.m. — Jagermeister v. Hurricanes; Meteors v. Swallows; Bolts v. Doc's Jocks
- 3 p.m. — Doc's Jocks v. Bandits; Hurricanes v. Bering; Swallows v. Chaos

Games scheduled for May 19 will be played at the Cullen Fields, just north of I-10 West off of Barker-Cypress. The schedule is:

- 10 a.m. — Meteors v. Chaos; Brick's vs. BRB/Lobo; Outpost v. Rich's
- 11 a.m. — Force v. BRB/Lobo; Comets v. Swallows; Rich's v. Meteors
- Noon — Force v. Outpost; Brick's v. Chaos; Swallows v. Texans
- 1 p.m. — Jagermeister v. Bandits; Doc's Jocks v. Trojans; Comets v. Swingers
- 2 p.m. — Jagermeister v. Bering; Hurricanes v. Bolts; Swingers v. Texans
- 3 p.m. — Doc's Jocks v. Hurricanes; Bandits v. Bolts; Bering v. Trojans

### CLEAN, FRESH AIR!

Like the outdoors? Think this is not a sporty type of group? Find out for yourself by contacting the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG). The group meets every Saturday for a Memorial Park walk and holds a variety of other activities year-round. For the weekly walk, meet in front of the Tennis Center. For more information, call Jimmy at 713-864-7299.

General meetings are held every Tuesday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Contact Don

and/or Ray at 713-522-7809 for information or log on to [www.absentmind.net/hog](http://www.absentmind.net/hog).

### TURKEY HERE

New bowling seasons have and will begin as announced recently by Michael Figliola. On Sundays at 7 p.m. at the Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd, competition between four-person mixed teams (men/women) runs for 16 weeks. These started as of May 5. Contact Tom O'Dell at 713-861-1187 or 713-220-5700, ext. 331.

Mondays better for you? Again at Palace Lanes, the Montrose Monday Night Men, comprised of four man/woman teams, runs 16 weeks, bowling at 9 p.m. Contact Tom O'Dell at the above numbers. Also, bowlers can join the 6:45 p.m. Monday Night Women's league at Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarneff, running for 16 weeks. Contact Pat at 281-437-6218.

On Wednesdays 6:30 p.m., enjoy the Wednesday Night Mixers at Palace Lanes. This unique mix is made up of five-person mixed teams, also running 16 weeks. Contact Tom O'Dell at the above numbers for more information.

My all-time favorite has to be the I Luv Luci Duos: two-person mixed or same teams competing for 12 weeks at 9 p.m. at the Dynamic Lanes. Contact Tom O'Dell at the above numbers or Michael Figliola at 832-251-9813. (Thanks for the e-mail Michael).

### CONTACT (FOR REAL)

The Houston Women's Rugby team practices every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Westland YMCA. If you enjoy full contact sports and a real good time, contact Kay at 713-208-1529 for more information.

### BLISTERS

Like the thrill of adventure, the agony of defeat (get it?)? Join the Frontrunners Running Club every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Yea — I'll be there as soon as I discover the way to cushion my pumps! Call 713-522-8021. Seriously, someone e-mail me. I'd love to join you and take pictures as you all run away!

### RINK AROUND THE COLLAR

Now this I could really take part in. The Lambda Skating Club meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Tradewinds Skating Rink. For more information or directions, call 713-410-7215 or e-mail [www.lambdaroll.org](http://www.lambdaroll.org).

## theater RICH ARENSCHIEDT

'Samson and Delilah' sexy and delicious  
at Houston Grand Opera's final offering

### Opera an audience's delight

The scrumptious mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves enters the stage through Parthenon-like doors and sings something in French. Loosely translated, I think it means, "Welcome to the operatic version of Cecil B. DeMille's 'Ten Commandments.'"

Houston Grand Opera's last offering of the season, Camille Saint-Saens' biblical monolith "Samson and Delilah," is manna from heaven for music lovers.

Kudos to production designer Nicholas Joel for this show originally created for the San Francisco Opera. This work has it all: Hebrew slaves, nasty philistines, a hirsute hero, an Amazonian temptress, a bacchanal, a ballet and blazing torches alight onstage. Every so often, HGO remembers what the "G" in its middle name stands for: Live opera is like decorating a Christmas tree — there's no such thing as too much tinsel.

The quality of singing matches the production values bit for gilded bit. Graves, last seen here in 1994 in Bizet's "Carmen," vamps up the stage as another of opera's great seductresses in a role that is perfectly suited to her. While some of her high notes sounded tentative on opening night, in subsequent performances she displayed brilliant color in her upper range. Her second act opening aria was so effective it could have justly been titled "C'est moi quicompes" or "It's all about me!" This woman sings, moves and acts with total conviction and control.

Tenors who have to sing in French are usually best heard at a distance — like somewhere adjacent to the Astrodome. However, HGO's pick for Samson, Russian Sergei Larin, is perfect for the part. This guy sounds like someone who trained as a baritone and woke up one morning only to discover that he had gained an additional octave to his vocal range. His rich, rounded sound is always properly placed, never once nearing the annoying nasal cavity.

He and Graves always seem respectful of each other vocally, neither competing with the other. Both are sure of their respective interpretations and the audience benefits from a wonderful "give-and-take" style between them.

Completing the ensemble is American bass-baritone Greer Grimesly as the High Priest of Dagon. Though his character development gets the short end of the stick by the composer, Grimesly accomplishes believability, hairdo and all. As with others in the cast, he avoids vocal pitfalls usually associated with this type of "big bad wolf" role and delivers a well-balanced sound complemented by effective placement of vocally styled anger, something that only the best Wagnerian can accomplish.

While some singers may play this character as the typical one-dimensional operatic villain, Grimesly has the audience wondering, "Does he love her too?" Given his contempt for Samson and his manipulation of Delilah, it would seem so.

Artistic elements of this production per-



Tenor Sergei Larin and mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves portray the title characters in Houston Grand Opera's excellent "Samson and Delilah." The production ends its run this weekend. (Photo by Winnie Klotz, Metropolitan Opera)

petrate excess at every opportunity. Director Eric Vigie has members of the HGO chorus writhing and crawling all over the place (some accomplishing this better than others). They resemble a hoard of humanity, which is exactly what is called for.

The choristers always seem to sing better when there's a bunch of stuff on stage; in this case there was junk everywhere — and they were super. The orchestra responded well to the flamboyantly articulate conducting of Philippe Jordan.

As overblown as it is, this production has the best "fit" of any this season. Usually, even with the best opera companies, there is one element in each production that is mismatched. Whether it's the short tenor in tights adoring the soprano old enough to be his mother or one chorus member inadvertently costumed to resemble a lemon drop with a pituitary problem, something is usually out of whack.

In this case, everything works. The singers' vocal timbres and abilities jive, their characters actually resemble biblical ones, and they all move and act with a truly dramatic style.

HGO General Director David Gockley delivered a pre-curtain plea for donations prior to each of the performances I attended. He tastefully lamented the financial plagues that have hit all of the local arts organizations lately, asking the audience to tithe more than the 125 denari they already spent for a good seat.

In spite of this, I felt like standing up and shouting, "I don't care if you have to sell your children — I want the singing, the sets, the fire and the costumes next season too!"

At any price, this opera is worth it. Get a ticket, even if you have to convert to Judaism to do it. Hurry up — the show only runs through Sunday. This "Samson and Delilah" will bring down the house.

### 'Samson and Delilah'

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by Oliver Mayer



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Sunday, May 12, 2002  
9am and 11am



Rev. Dr. Belinda Windham is a former Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Taylor, Texas, and St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Houston. She currently serves the Presbyterian Church (USA) nationally, as an elected member of the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee of the Office of the General Assembly.

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May 12 "Worthless Guilt About Things That Don't Apply" Rev. Janet Parker

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Community Church*"Building Community Through Compassion"***The Reform Church  
of Galveston, Texas****We would like to extend  
an invitation for all  
to come worship with us.****Father Tom Martin, pastor****3712 Broadway  
Galveston, Texas 77550  
409.765.8500****SATURDAY, MAY 11****Houston Outdoor Group.** Breakfast at LePeep Restaurant, 3810 Farnham. 9 a.m. David M., 713-868-7991.**Kolbe Breakfast.** Held the second Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. Kolbe Project, 1030 Heights Blvd. 713-861-1800. www.kolbeproject.org.**Gulf Coast Transgender Committee.** Meeting. 713-780-4282.**EVERY SATURDAY****All-Spanish Worship Service/Culto en español.** 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-9403 or 713-861-9149.**After Hours.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m.-3 a.m. 713-526-5738.**Dignity mass.** 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. at Viviana's. 713-830-3000.**Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club.** 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.**Houston Outdoor Group.** Memorial Park walk. 9:30 a.m., meet in front of tennis center. Jimmy, 713-864-7299.**Houston Wrestling Club.** Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.**Resurrection MCC.** Noche Espiritual, Spanish language worship, 6 p.m. 713-861-9149.**Q-Patrol.** Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.** Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in, noon-4 p.m. • Texas Association for Transsexual Support, 3 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.**SUNDAY, MAY 12****EVERY SUNDAY****Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group.** 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103**Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.** Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.**Community Gospel.** Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.**Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist.** Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.**Emerson Unitarian Church.** Adult education, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. Lunch at noon. www.emersonhou.org.**First Congregational Church (Memorial).** Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education, 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.**First Unitarian Universalist Church.** Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch at 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 9 p.m.-midnight at Club Inergy. 713-830-3000.**Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston.** 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930.**Grace Lutheran Church.** Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.**Houston Mission Church.** Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m.-noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com**Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church.** 10 a.m. service. 3333 Fannin, Suite 106. 713-528-6756.**Rainbow Riders.** A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.**Resurrection MCC.** Services, 9 and 11 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School, 10 a.m. Children's service, 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.** Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 7:45 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 8:55 a.m.; Education hour, 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist, 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.**Sunday Brunch.** For HIV-positive men. Price-fixed buffet. 11 a.m. Riva's, 1117 Missouri St. Paul, 713-880-0690. e-mail: PoznFubb@aol.com.**The Women's Group.** Meeting and discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.**Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Adult discussion, 9:45 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.**Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County.** 502 Church St. Service, 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.**Unitarian Fellowship of Houston.** Adult forum, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in, 2-5 p.m. • S.I.S.T.E.R.S. (Sharing Inner Strength Through Encouragement & Realistic Support), 2 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.**MONDAY, MAY 13****EVERY MONDAY****AIDS Mastery.** 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight. Keys West. 713-830-3000.**Frost Eye Clinic.** Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.**gayDAR.** Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.**Gay Fathers/Fathers First.** Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom, 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydadshouston/**Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.** Open rehearsals, 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.**Grief & Divorce Support Groups.** 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, ext. 208.**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.**Kolbe Project.** Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.**Queer Voices Radio Show.** 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • HEAT (Houston Employees' Affinity Team), monthly meeting of organization for GLBT City of Houston employees, 6:30 p.m. • Human Rights Campaign Political Action Committee meets on the second Monday of the month, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.**TUESDAY, MAY 14****Houston Area Bears.** Dineout at Mama's, 6019 Westheimer. 7:30 p.m. 713-867-9123. www.HoustonAreaBears.com.**PFLAG-Houston.** Meeting. 713-867-9020.**EVERY TUESDAY****Bering Support Network.** Lunch Bunch Gang, 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.**CPR Classes.** 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.**For Mature Audiences Only.** Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.**Gay Men's Process Group.** 7 p.m. 3316 Mount Vernon. 713-526-8390.**Gay youth.** New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.**Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous.** Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.**Houston Women's Rugby Team.** No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.**HTGA.** Support group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. No partner needed. Beginner 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.**WEDNESDAY, MAY 15****EVERY WEDNESDAY****Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.** Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Various support groups, 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.**Bible Study.** Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.**Free HIV Testing.** Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Mary's; 9 p.m.-midnight at Ripcord; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJs; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.**Houston Pride Band.** Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-524-0218.**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com**Lesbian Literature Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.**Spiritual Uplift service.** 7 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.**THURSDAY, MAY 16****Bi-Net Houston.** Mixed gender meeting, 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.**Gulf Coast Archives & Museum.** Meeting. 713-227-5973.**EVERY THURSDAY****Community Gospel.** Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.

# appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at The Outpost; 8 p.m.-midnight at Brazos River Bottom and Cousins; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

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

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

**GLOBAL.** Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston-Central Campus. Weekly meeting, 6 p.m. e-mail: [nguyen0023@hotmail.com](mailto:nguyen0023@hotmail.com).

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

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

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

**Lambda Skating Club.** 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. [www.lambdaroll.org](http://www.lambdaroll.org). 713-410-7215.

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

**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. No partner required. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

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

**Spanish Charla Conversation Group.** Café Agora, 7 p.m. E-mail: [charlahouston@msn.com](mailto:charlahouston@msn.com). 713-416-7203.

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop in 6-9 p.m. • Mayoral Liaison Community Roundtable, monthly discussion open to all GLBT Houstonians, hosted by Janine Brunjes, 7 p.m. • Monthly board of directors meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. [www.hlgcc.org](http://www.hlgcc.org).

## FRIDAY, MAY 17

**Houston Area Bears.** Bear Watch 3 begins at Paradise Guest House in Galveston. Registration, 7-9 p.m. Social, karaoke, auction at Blvd. Bar, 10:30 p.m. Continues with activities on Saturday and Sunday. 713-867-9123. [www.HoustonAreaBears.com](http://www.HoustonAreaBears.com).

## EVERY FRIDAY

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Meatrack; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJs and at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontenniscb@aol.com](mailto:houstontenniscb@aol.com)

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

**Mishpachot Alizim.** GLBT Jewish congregation. Sabbath services at 8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Baby Barnabys, 602 Fairview. Monthly study groups with Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood. Mishpachot Alizim, P.O. Box 980136, Houston, TX 77098. 866-841-9139, ext. 1834.

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. [www.hlgcc.org](http://www.hlgcc.org).

## VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

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

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

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Volunteers perform a variety of critical tasks which include staffing the information desk during drop-in hours; helping with Center programming and events; working on community outreach efforts, fund-raising and publicity. 713-524-3818.

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

**Scholarship foundation.** The Amethyst Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, seeks two executive board members and ASF Community Event volunteers. The group provides college scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. 210-372-2020. [www.amethystscholarship.org](http://www.amethystscholarship.org).

To list an event, call 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail [editor@houstonvoice.com](mailto:editor@houstonvoice.com). Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

## SPECIAL STARTS FRIDAY, MAY 10

**"Cinderella, the Real True Story"** is being performed by Bering Drama Ministries. The cast includes a PFLAG parent, and the show is G-rated. Tickets: \$10. All proceeds benefit Bering Support Network for persons living with HIV/AIDS, their loved ones and caregivers. Playing May 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday shows. 3 p.m. Sunday shows. May 11 show is a special PFLAG night. 713-526-1017.

## SATURDAY, MAY 11

**Houston Poetry Slamoff** will be held to determine who will represent Houston in the 2002 National Poetry Slam. \$5 entry fee. 7 p.m. 4401 La Branch at Wheeler. 713-299-4996. E-mail: [southmorehouse@hotmail.com](mailto:southmorehouse@hotmail.com).

## SATURDAY, MAY 11

Adults only **"May Day"** event hosted by Brotherhood of Pain offers demonstrations on safe techniques for activities such as flogging, bondage and whipping. 1-5 p.m. Ripcord, 750 Fairview.

## THIS WEEKEND

**"Grand Gala Opening Celebration"** at the new Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. May 10-12. Building dedication ceremony, facility tours, special performances and free open house. Hobby Center, 800 block of Bagby at Walker. [www.thehobbycenter.org](http://www.thehobbycenter.org).

## FILM FRIDAY, MAY 10

**"Aberdeen"** with Charlotte Rampling. A daughter tries to fulfill her mother's dying wish. 9 p.m. Also plays May 11, 15 and 16. Tickets: \$6. Rice Cinema, Rice University Campus, Entrance No. 8, University Boulevard and Stockton Drive. 713-348-4853. [www.ruf.rice.edu/~cinema](http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~cinema).

## SATURDAY, MAY 11

**"Sunset Boulevard"** directed by Billy Wilder, starring Gloria Swanson and William Holden. An aging silent-film star hires a down-on-his-luck screenwriter to help engineer her comeback. 7 p.m. Also plays May 12. General admission: \$5. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. 713-639-7515. [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org).

## GALLERIES THROUGH MAY 30

**"Crossings,"** an exhibit based on the collaboration of artists and writers presented by WIVLA, Women in the Visual & Literary Arts. Now open. CG Jung Center, 5200 Montrose Blvd. 713-524-8253.

## MUSIC SATURDAY, MAY 11

**"Beethoven's Missa Solemnis"** is part of the Houston Symphony Classical Season and Shell Favorite Master Series. Tickets: \$25-80. 8 p.m. May 11, 2:30 p.m. May 12, 8 p.m. May 13. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, 615 Louisiana St. 713-224-7575. [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).

## SATURDAY, MAY 11

**"I've Got my Standards...Now and Then"** by Houston-based actress/cabaret singer Deborah Boily plays several times this month. 9 p.m. May 11, 17 and 18. 7:30 p.m. May 12 and 19. Ovarions, 2536 Times Blvd. 713-522-9801. [www.deborahboily.com](http://www.deborahboily.com).

## SUNDAY, MAY 12

**Houston Sinfonietta** presents a concert including selections "Suite for Strings" by Janacek and "Rhapsodie Espagnole" by Ravel. Free admission. 3:30 p.m. St. Michael's Catholic Church, 1801 Sage Rd. 281-497-6574 or 281-376-3292.

## DANCE/PERFORMANCE ART SATURDAY, MAY 11

**"Happiness"** by performance artist Laurie Anderson is presented by the Society for the Performing Arts at the Wortham Center's Cullen theater. The event explores Anderson's take on the evolution of behavior, the meaning of justice, and more. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$26-35. 713-227-4SPA. [www.spahouston.org](http://www.spahouston.org).

## SATURDAY, MAY 11

**"Swan Lake"** will be presented in free performances by Houston Ballet. 8 p.m. May 11 and 12. Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. 713-284-8350. [www.houstonballet.org](http://www.houstonballet.org).

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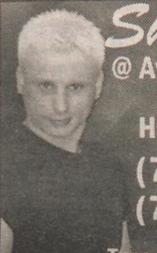
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# houston classifieds

Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at 11 a.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!!

Now accepting applications for the 2003 LUEY Pin & Poster contest • More info call Bob @ 713-521-7254.

### AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON & TUTS

Present legendary film star TONY CURTIS in "Some Like It Hot." In the NEW Hobby Center for the Performing Arts • More info brown@afhouston.org • Call Wendy Brown @ 713-623-6796 ext. 249.

Wild flowers and German beer • Trip to Fredericksburg • 281-437-0636.

### FOOD EMERGENCY HOU. HUMANE SOCIETY

The cupboards are bare at HHS. They need puppy and kitten food • Any kind • Any quantity • Drop donations at 14700 Alameda Rd. or send monetary donations to:

Houston Humane Society  
PO BOX 450428  
Houston, Texas 77245-0528  
For more information call 713-434-5555.

### DAY SHELTER

Needs new or used clothing and shoes in good condition • Contact Etalia or Ruth at 713-528-5667 • 402 Pacific

### MR. PRIME CHOICE

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

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Guaranteed Money • We are looking for young (18-25 preferred male/she-male) attractive upbeat escorts • All-American, Latin and Asian a plus • Must be reliable and ready to make money in a safe professional environment • No experience necessary • If you are ready for financial security, call us today and start today. 11am to 9pm, 7 days a week • 713-526-1531.

Resurrection MCC Seeks Interim Gospel Ensemble Director. Previous musical direction, will work with pianist/arranger, knowledge of African-American worship music and styling. Part-time position. Contact: Mark Unbehagen - 713-861-9149 ext. 110.

### HOUSING ASSISTANT

Transitional housing program seeks part-time house assistant • Knowledge of HIV and chemical dependency issues preferred • Must be able to work a flexible schedule • Fax resume to Brian Jones @ 713-522-2674.

### ARE YOU THAT SPECIAL NURSE?

Adult day care for non-critical HIV patients seeks full-time nurse weekdays, occasional hospice work, nights/weekends • Pleasant work place in Montrose • Competitive salary and good benefits • Psych/rehab experience • Spanish speaking • RN preferred, but will consider all applicants • Pick up application at Bering Care Center, 1427 Hawthorne.

### MIDTOWNE SPA

Looking for cashiers and floor managers  
• Houston 3100 Fannin  
• Dallas 2509 Pacific  
• Austin 5815 Airport  
No phone calls please!

### FREE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

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

## FOR SALE/RENT

### WESTBURY

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## OFFICE FOR RENT

Second floor office available at Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center • 803 Hawthorne • 14' X 12'6" • Nonprofit GLBT organizations preferred as tenant partners, but all inquiries welcomed. Call Tim Brookover @ 713-524-3818

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## Q Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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### "WHERE'S THE PARTY?"

#### Across

1. First name among lesbian writers
5. Shout before Nellie
9. Some band members blow them
14. End of the answer to "Who are you seeing?"
15. They rise to show drag-queen thighs
16. Not straight
17. Continent of Margaret Cho's parents
18. The Brass Key and the Chelsea Pines
19. Veronica of "Sotto, Sotto"
20. Site of the LPGA "Dinah Shore Classic"
23. Many, many moons
24. Ready to rub you the right way
25. Like Kate Moss or Calista Flockhart
27. "Trying Hard to Hear You" author Scoppettone
30. Tickle pink
32. "The African Queen" author
33. Pansy Division's "Sidewalk \_\_\_\_"
35. Maupin stories
38. Straight line
39. Site of International Mr. Leather
41. Top score for Patty Sheehan
42. Word in '60s club names
44. Merrill who played with Dick Sargent in "Operation Petticoat"
45. Suffix with refer

46. Get ready to shoot off again
48. Cather's "The Troll \_\_\_\_"
50. Complexion of a Vincent Price character
52. Missing lubricant
53. Land of O. Wilde
54. Site of the Black Party
60. Rent
62. Alternate date?
63. Scroll at Beth Chayim Chadashim (var.)
64. Like sex with a historian?
65. What Washington couldn't tell
66. Creature in a "Star Wars" sequel
67. Does without oral gratification
68. Cause of the Tin Woodsman's rust
69. Ginsberg's "Nagasaki \_\_\_\_"

13. Sharon of "If These Walls Could Talk 2"
21. Title for Alec Guinness
22. Danny Pintauro's concern at Stanford
26. Room type
27. Felder or Teasdale
28. With mouth wide open
29. Site of Southern Decadence
30. Charlton Heston film epic
31. Like some meat
34. Elton John Broadway musical
36. \_\_\_\_ homo
37. James Baldwin's "The Evidence of Things Not \_\_\_\_"
39. Cammermeyer and others
40. S&M demand?
43. "Queer as Folk" styling goo
45. Made a pup tent, e.g.
47. Stuff from your shaft
49. Where to find a bear pair
50. Rice dish for Kemal Atatürk
51. "Spartacus" venue
52. Rutstein of Disappear Fear
55. "Oh, \_\_\_\_ a Beautiful Mornin'"
56. David Hyde Pierce's alma mater
57. State that decriminalized sodomy in 1976
58. Perry of Metropolitan Community Church
59. Uses the tongue too much
61. Posed for Berenice Abbot

Answers on Page 21



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## astrology JILL DEARMAN



### My Stars!

May 10-16



#### ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

This is a good time for you to force a few issues in your relationship. You have a stronger sense of what you need. Now is the time to ask for those things ... loudly. A Virgo will hear you and comply.



#### TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

The moon and Uranus make a challenging square to your Sun on May 19. You need to make some healthy changes in your personal life, or you'll keep fighting the same losing battle. Now is your time to be master of your destiny, darling. An Aquarius will push you in the right direction.



#### GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Pluto is moving in retrograde through the love area of your chart. For God's sake, change your corrupt ways, darling. Or at least get more practical about your bizarre proclivities. A Cancer may actually be able to give you what you need if you beg for it nicely.



#### CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

Several planets in your mystical 12th house could induce a spiritual breakthrough for you this week. Go with it, darling. You can create a whole new way of life — from within. An Aries can help you interpret the signs of the universe.



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

This is the right week for you to force your hand in a business matter — with charm and grace, naturally. You are a great influence on your subordinates, darling. An Aquarius loves to take orders from you.



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

Career matters have a life of their own this week. It's up to you to make snap decisions. You've been thinking about the pros and cons long enough! A Pisces can help you.



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

The Sun in your serious-relationship sector could bring you new paramours. Your task is to choose one. You are spreading yourself too thin, dear. Try sharing all of yourself with another Libra.



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

A strong dose of Scorpionic transformation is called for in your primary relationships, dear one. A bunch of planets in your 8th house are pushing you to be all that you can be. Discipline and strong choices are called for — all while you're feeling so weak! Give over to your more evolved self — and to a Cancer.



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

This is a hard time for you to make a sacrifice in your love life, but that is exactly what you need to do. Decisions are encouraged. Wishy-washiness will only bring you grief. Another Sag understands you more than you realize.



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

This is an excellent week for you to make a pact with yourself. Pick a date to make a sweeping and positive change in your day-job situation. Then stick to it. A Libra will hold you to your high standards.



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

May 19 is showdown day, honey. You could be confronted by an old friend/nemesis. To this day, you still may not be able to find out if this person is for you or against you. You are usually the catalyst. This week you are surrounded by catalysts. A Gemini plays a big role.



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

Family situations could come to a head, and you need to head off a crazy relative at the pass. You're the peacemaker, so resist the urge to implode! A Virgo will support you during familial insanity.

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

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