



### INSIDE



Michael Wilson says being gay provides him with greater sensitivity as a director. The former Alley AD returns to Houston to stage 'The Carpetbagger's Children.'

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Two of Jim Nixon's America Online screen names recently were dropped because AOL said 'bottomnotboy' and 'hghtsbutchbottom' violate its terms of service. AOL has since restored the accounts, but Nixon still believes the incident happened because he is gay.

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Storyteller Ray Hill will premiere his new performance piece, 'A Stroll Through GLBT History with Ray Hill' June 18 as a benefit for the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

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## Baptists won't debate gay issues

As two major denominations gear up for annual conventions, gay rights activists prepare to take on anti-gay teachings

by ERIN O'BRIANT

Gay Christians have struggled for decades to make inroads in mainstream Protestant denominations.

That struggle could be highlighted twice this month, as members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Southern Baptist Convention hold their annual meetings.

The Presbyterian General Assembly will likely be marked by debate over ordination of out gays, as members of the gay-inclusive Covenant Network of Presbyterians face off with the anti-gay Confessing Movement.

At the Southern Baptist Convention, no internal discussions of gay issues are planned. But Soulforce, the gay spiritual group led by Rev. Mel White, will hold a "jazz funeral" in hopes of convincing Southern Baptist leaders to meet with them and condemn violence against gays.

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Soulforce protested the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., last year and the gay spiritual group plans a 'jazz funeral' during the SBC meeting in New Orleans next week.

## Anti-gay petition drive still short on signatures

Houstonians For Family Values hoping to get referendum on November ballot

by D.L. GROOVER

It's been almost four months to the day, Feb. 14, when conservative business man and unsuccessful candidate for mayor and City Council, David Wilson, formed his political action committee, Houstonians for Family Values.

This grassroots movement, designed to counter City Council's consideration of same-sex health insurance benefits for city employees, must gather 20,000 signatures of registered Houston voters to place a referendum on this November's ballot.

HFFV's amendment to the city charter would bar the city from providing benefits to anyone but employees, their spouses and their dependent children, as well as prevent any privilege in promotion, hiring or contracting on the basis of sexual preference. It also allows the city to do business with entities who don't have same-sex benefits or policies.

HFFV has completed two mailing drives to get its requisite signatures, but hasn't succeeded in its goal as yet. Wilson has until Aug. 15, but he's counting on Aug. 1 as his "drop dead date."

"We're over three-fourths of the way there in signatures right now," Dave Wilson said this week. "We'll see how this one goes. Regrettably, the direct mailing company got behind and didn't get it out as early as we wanted. We were trying to get it done two weeks before, but they fell behind. So be it."

But another reason for the slow response that many assumed would have been a slam dunk knowing Wilson's political savvy was the harsh reaction from his own conservative troops who allied against him in late February. Led by such heavy political hitters as City Councilman Rob Todd; Steven Hotze, chair of the Conservative Republicans of Harris County; Gary M. Pollard, chair of the Harris County Republican Party; and Paul Bettencourt, Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector; this group sent out their own letter campaign asking voters not to sign Wilson's petition.

Singling out the timing, the content, and

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David Wilson says he's collected more than 15,000 signatures supporting his push for a November referendum. The petition is for an amendment to the city charter that would deny gay city employees domestic partner benefits and would virtually prohibit the city from adopting a non-discrimination policy.

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## Issue 1076

# houston voice

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# AOL bumps gay screen names

## Accounts restored after Houstonian complains of discrimination

by KAY Y. DAYUS

If America Online is your Internet service provider, you might want to check your screen name to be sure it doesn't contain a word that violates AOL's "terms of service," or you may have your account canceled as recently happened to Houston's Jim Nixon.

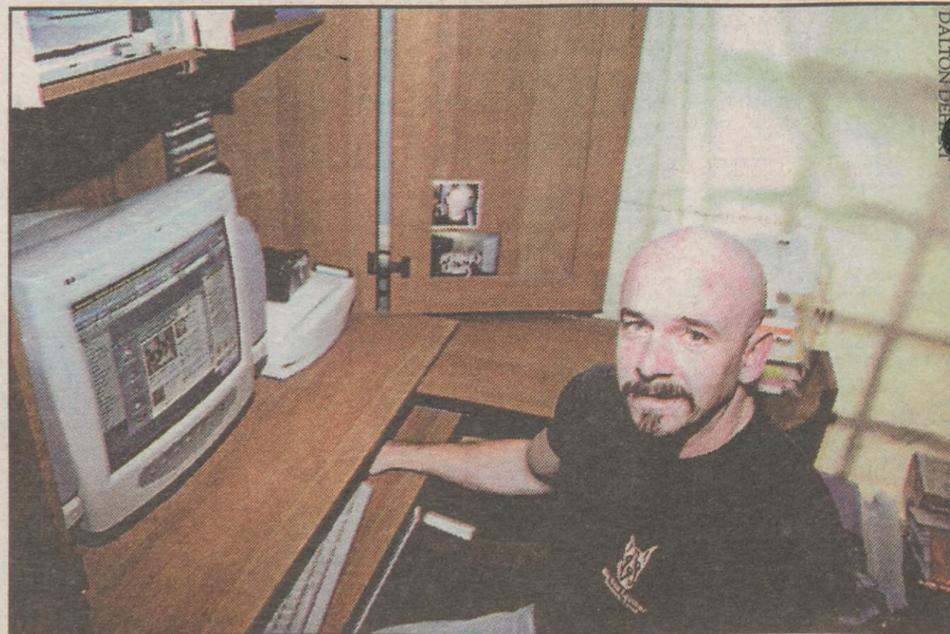
Although Nixon's accounts were finally restored, he spent two anxious weeks of being locked out of his e-mails and much frustration with AOL staffers as he tried to find out exactly which word or words were offensive.

According to Nixon, AOL staffers with the Community Action Team told him via a memo on May 5 that his screen names "bottomnotboy" and "hghtsbutchbottom" were not acceptable.

Nixon said he then received another e-mail from AOL stating that a file on his Web site, houstonmisfits was "inappropriate under the Terms of Service agreement."

Accordingly, AOL removed the offending file and warned Nixon that if further infractions occurred within six months of the memo, "it may result in termination of your account without the chance of reactivation."

Nixon says he fails to see what was



Two of Jim Nixon's America Online screen names were unceremoniously dropped by the Internet service provider because they were deemed to violate AOL's terms of service. AOL has since restored the accounts, but Nixon still believes the incident happened because he is gay.

wrong with the file. "It was a photograph of four misfits bending over with their behinds to the camera, but they were fully clothed," said Nixon. However, AOL claimed the photograph was "an example of inappropriate content."

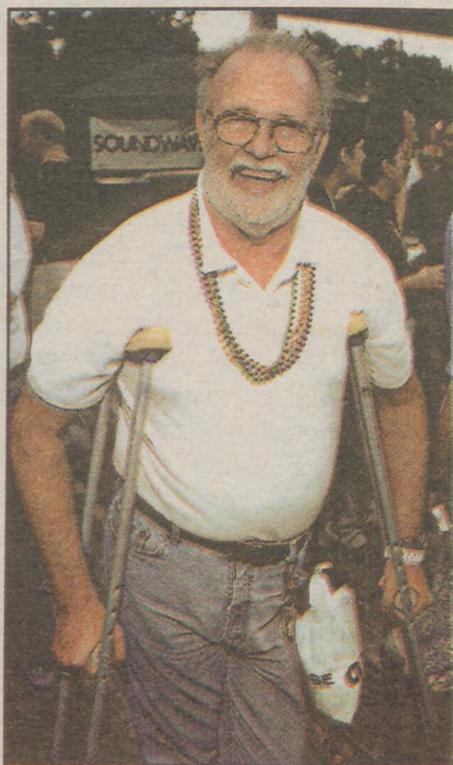
AOL's TOS agreement in part says that members will not use screen names that "contain language of a sexually explicit/vulgar/obscene or gratuitously

violent nature..." or that "victimize, harass, degrade or intimidate an individual or individual group on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation. Hate speech is unacceptable anywhere on the service."

Nixon said he immediately telephoned AOL's customer service and reached a staffer by the name of Julie. He did not get

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# A queer by any other name...



Storyteller Ray Hill will premiere his new performance piece, 'A Stroll Through GLBT History with Ray Hill' on Monday, June 18 at 7:30 at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

## HLGCC hosts first-ever name-off to help celebrate Pride

by ELLA TYLER

The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center has planned several special events to celebrate Pride Month, including its first "What Did You Call Me" name-off.

"The name-off is an attempt to apply a sense of humor to resolve the confusion about what we call ourselves," Tim Brookover, president of the Community Center said. Official ballot forms, offering a variety of options such as "GLBT," "Just plain gay," "Queer," "Artistic" and "Fill in the blank" are available at the center until June 24. Entries cost \$1 and proceeds benefit the center.

A panel of judges will assess the entries and name the best and the funniest, Brookover said. "The winners will be announced in the newsletter and on our new Web site," he continued.

"I am delighted to announce that our Web site at [www.hlgcc.org](http://www.hlgcc.org) is up and running," Brookover said. "We are still adding features to the site, but Community Center

News is available now."

The site is being designed by Joel Anderson of Tiburon Systems, Brookover said.

Ray Hill will premiere his new performance piece, "A Stroll Through GLBT History with Ray Hill" on Monday, June 18 at 7:30. Admission is \$10 and will benefit the center.

Parade Eve, Friday, June 22, will be celebrated with a wine-and-hors d'oeuvre open house for the community at 7 p.m. Roy McCarthy, a local veteran of the 1969 Stonewall rebellion, will discuss his experience there. After McCarthy speaks, the 1996 film "Stonewall," a fictionalized account, will be shown.

"All of us at the community center are thrilled and honored that Roy approached us about speaking at our Parade Eve event," Brookover said. "I invite other Stonewall veterans who live in the area to join us as our guests that evening."

Theatre New West's June 28 performance of its new production, "Key West," will benefit the center. The performance will be at the TNW stage at Sonoma, 1415 California. Admission is \$25. Also, Hollywood Frame Gallery will host a benefit screening of "Tootsie" on Saturday, June 30, 8 p.m.

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Because where I go  
from here is up to me.

**Think Ahead.  
Plan Your Future With VIRACEPT®.**

**Because it's strong and effective.** Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.\* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

**Because it's easy to live with.** VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

**Because it saves future options.** When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

**VIRACEPT®**  
nelfinavir mesylate  
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit [www.viracept.com](http://www.viracept.com).

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## VIRACEPT®

(nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

### Information for Patients

about VIRACEPT® (Vi-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human

Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

**Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT.** Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

#### WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

**VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs** such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Efavir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

#### DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

#### WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

**Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT.** You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

**If you are pregnant:** The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**If you are breast-feeding:** You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

**Children:** VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

**If you have liver disease:** VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**Other medical problems:** Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

#### CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

#### Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)  
 Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)  
 Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others  
 Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)  
 Halcion® (triazolam)  
 Versed® (midazolam)  
 Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)  
 Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®  
 This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

**Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:** Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

**A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:**

Phenobarbital  
 Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)  
 Carbamazepine (Tegreto® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

#### Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

**Nucleoside analogues:** No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)  
 Efavir (lamivudine, 3TC)  
 Zerit (stavudine, d4T)  
 Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

#### If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

#### Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

#### Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase™ (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

#### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

#### HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

**Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor.** Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

#### Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

#### Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight		Number of	Number of	Number of
Kg	Lb	Level Scoops*	Level Teaspoons†	Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

\* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

#### How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

**Do not mix** the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

**Do not add water** to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

#### Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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# around the nation

## Complaints lead Home Depot to clarify grant awarded to PFLAG

ATLANTA—Home Depot has distanced itself from a PFLAG-sponsored Father's Day promotion after religious conservatives complained about the event. But the home improvement giant and the gay-friendly group said it was nothing more than a miscommunication that led PFLAG to list Home Depot as a sponsor on a Web site promotion after the company gave the group a \$2,500 grant. "I think what has happened is simple miscommunication," said Mandy Holton, a Home Depot spokesperson. The company did award the grant, but never intended to be listed as a sponsor, she said. The Atlanta-based company distributes some 30,000 grants a year, totaling \$25 million, she said. "Apparently, we did get our signals crossed," said Amy Kobeta, a spokesperson for PFLAG. Home Depot drew harsh criticism from gay customers and employees last month after it rejected a shareholder proposal to add sexual orientation to the company's employment anti-bias statements. The company later switched its position and changed its policies before its May 30 annual meeting.

## Bush won't follow predecessor in declaring June as 'Gay Pride Month'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President George W. Bush will not declare June to be Gay Pride Month, as Bill Clinton did during his presidency. "The president believes every person should be treated with dignity and respect but he does not believe in politicizing people's sexual orientation," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said. In a staff e-mail memo, managers within the administration were advised: "The executive office of the president will not sponsor an observance for Gay and Lesbian Pride Month, [but will] continue to observe... the special emphasis programs that are traditionally recognized through the Affirmative Employment Program." David Smith, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign, said that so far Bush has signed proclamations designating Black History Month, Women's History Month and Irish-American Heritage Month. Bush's refusal "to reach out to our community calls into question his promise to be president of all the people," Smith said. At least two executive branch offices are planning gay Pride observances.



President Bush has refused to proclaim June as 'Gay Pride Month' to avoid 'politicizing people's sexual orientation,' a White House spokesman said.

## Kansas City officials allege homoerotic play violates city ordinances

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—A play featuring male nudity and allegedly depicting S&M practices was closed June 1 after Kansas City inspectors charged that the production violated city ordinances, the *Kansas City Star* reported. The play, "Resistance," was written by David Ollington and starred him and two other actors. A city inspector, who was in the audience, alleged that the production was an "adult sadomasochistic play with full nudity" and violated adult entertainment sections of the city's liquor control and amusement laws. An ad for "Resistance" included a photo of a nude man with his hands handcuffed behind his back. "I promoted the piece as a 'homoerotic' work," Ollington said. "I kind of wish I had not used that word in the press." Ollington, who does not plan further legal action, described the play as a modern depiction of a man undergoing the military's POW resistance training, and said he might rewrite it.

## CA judge orders gay psychiatrist to repay Air Force for education

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A U.S. district judge has found that a gay Air Force psychiatrist should repay the \$71,000 that the government spent on his education. John Hensala, 36, who was an Air Force captain and psychiatrist, voluntarily came out in 1994 and was honorably discharged from the military for violating its "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays. He claimed he wanted to serve honestly and had no reason to believe he would be automatically discharged after his announcement. The Air Force contended Hensala announced he was gay simply to avoid active duty military service. U.S. District Judge William Alsup agreed. "It is not unreasonable to infer that one intends the probable and foreseeable consequences of deliberate conduct," Alsup said. Hensala's lawyer, Clyde Wadsworth, said he planned to appeal Alsup's decision to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

## Minister's warnings help shutter business, split PA lesbian couple

NORTH EAST, Pa.—A lesbian whose business failed after a local minister fueled controversy over it has parted ways with her partner and is leaving, the *Erie Morning News* reported. Patricia Graham, 45, said she received hundreds of letters and calls offering support after an April 22 news story about the ostracism she and partner Danielle Hazen experienced from local residents. Rev. Patrick Kennedy of North East Baptist Church had urged his congregation to avoid the South Shore Inn and its weekly teen dances because the owners were lesbians. About 200 people attended an "open table" banquet at South Shore Inn on May 18 that was organized by two Erie, Pa. pastors to support the business and celebrate inclusiveness and diversity. Graham said that largely because of the controversy, she and Hazen are no longer a couple. Graham, a Scottish citizen, said she and her children would return to the United Kingdom.



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—From staff and wire reports

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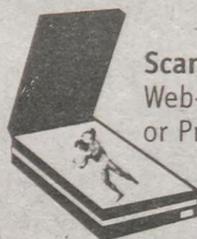


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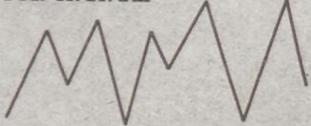
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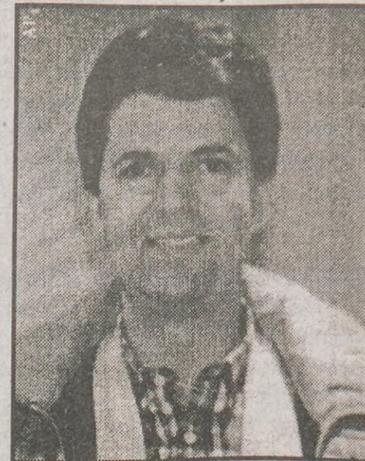


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# police beat

## New York man a suspect in several slayings of gays across Northeast

PHILADELPHIA—Authorities are investigating whether the 1991 murder and sexual mutilation of a prominent banker was committed by a suspected gay serial killer arrested last week in Connecticut, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported. Peter Stickney Anderson, a Mellon Bank executive and married father of two, was found stuffed in garbage bags alongside the Pennsylvania Turnpike on May 5, 1991. Anderson was last seen in a New York City gay club. Five other gay men were also found in trash bags between 1986 and 1994. Police are investigating Richard W. Rogers Jr., 50, a pediatric nurse who was found with mummified human organ remains in his Staten Island townhouse. Rogers was arrested in Connecticut and has been charged with two killings that occurred in New Jersey. He is being held under \$1 million bail and is fighting extradition to New Jersey.



Richard Rogers was arrested last week and charged with the slayings of two gay men in New Jersey. Authorities say he may be linked to other killings in the Northeast.

## Prosecutor says MD priest slain after robbery, not over sex demand

GERMANTOWN, Md.—A prosecutor accused a man on trial for murder of gay-bashing and Catholic-bashing after the man testified that a priest's effort to engage him in oral sex drove him into a murderous frenzy. State's Attorney Douglas Gansler said Robert Paul Lucas, 26, waited days after being charged before he mentioned alleged sexual advances from Monsignor Thomas Wells, 56. Lucas is on trial for Wells' slaying last June. "He is using a defense that stereotypes priests as sexual predators. It implies that this priest was gay and that all gays are predators," said Gansler. Prosecution witnesses will confirm that the popular priest was not gay, Gansler said, and was killed after Lucas broke into the church rectory during a robbery.

## Judge says HI teens should go to trial in alleged attack on gay campers

HONOLULU (AP)—A Hawaiian judge has ordered two teens to stand trial for an alleged attack against gay campers on a Kauai beach. Eamonn Carolan, 18, and Orion Macomber, 19, each being held on \$250,000 bail, are charged with attempted murder, terroristic threatening, assault and harassment. They are accused of breaking into the beach campers' cars and dousing tents with a flammable liquid and setting one afire. The incident occurred at Polihale State Park, which has a reputation for a friendly, laid-back lifestyle. Police Inspector Mel Morris called the incident a hate crime based on the "insinuations and remarks" made by the suspects during the attack. The victims said they were targeted because they had gay flags posted at the campsite. The incident underscores a controversy over Gov. Ben Cayetano's decision to sign a hate crimes bill that would impose stiffer sentences on crimes motivated by a victim's sexual orientation. Cayetano questioned whether the state needed a hate crimes law when he announced his intention to sign it.

## Gay man sues Chicago police over alleged beating that followed scuffle

CHICAGO—A gay man filed a federal lawsuit May 31 alleging he was beaten and taunted with anti-gay epithets by Chicago police officers last July in retaliation for a minor altercation with an officer, the *Chicago Tribune* reported. Kentin Waits said that the morning after he squirted an officer with water, he was awakened by seven officers who had surrounded his apartment building. They then took him to the police station in handcuffs and beat him, he alleged. Waits, 31, said he was targeted because he is gay. "[The water spraying] might have initiated it, but it escalated far beyond that," he said. Waits pleaded guilty last August to misdemeanor battery and was sentenced to a year of court supervision. Inside the police station, Waits said, he was slapped on his face and head while handcuffed, kned in the groin and taunted with anti-gay epithets. An internal police investigation didn't substantiate Waits' claims; police had no comment on the lawsuit.

## San Fran couple pleads not guilty to charges in dog mauling case

SAN FRANCISCO—A San Francisco couple whose dogs mauled a lesbian neighbor to death in their upscale apartment building pleaded not guilty to criminal charges last week, Reuters reported. After months of delays, Marjorie Knoller and husband Robert Noel entered pleas in connection with the death of Diane Whipple, 33, a lacrosse coach who was killed in the hallway outside her own apartment on Jan. 26. Knoller, 45, faces a charge of second-degree murder while Noel, 59, faces a charge of involuntary manslaughter. Both have also been charged with failure to control a mischievous animal. Both dogs were eventually linked to two California prison inmates who were said to be running an illegal dog breeding ring from behind prison bars. Noel and Knoller served as the lawyers for one of the inmates, a 38-year-old member of the Aryan Brotherhood. Whipple's death prompted her partner to seek changes in state law in order to allow her the right to file a wrongful death suit.

—From staff and wire reports

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## news around texas

### Eckerd Drugstore chain changes pharmacy receipts to protect

BEAUMONT (AP)—A drugstore chain has changed how it prints patient information on pharmacy receipts in Texas after a Beaumont man complained that his HIV status was printed on them. Last week the man told the Texas HIV Medication Program, a division of the Texas Department of Health, that a Eckerd drug store in Beaumont printed "HIV/STD" in boldface on receipts for prescriptions he filled there. State law prohibits individuals and agencies from revealing a person's HIV status. State officials notified the chain of the man's complaint, and Eckerd installed new software in pharmacy computers throughout Texas to ensure receipts no longer contain information about the virus.

### Judge: S.A. violated Esperanza Center's First Amendment rights



The city of San Antonio violated the First Amendment rights of the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center by taking away the liberal group's funding, a federal judge ruled.

SAN ANTONIO—Federal Judge Orlando Garcia has ruled that the city of San Antonio violated the First Amendment rights of the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center when—although, the Esperanza had received city funding for six years previously—it stripped the organization of its city arts funding. The elimination of city funding came on the heels of a campaign fueled by the Christian right characterizing Esperanza as "pro-homosexual," "pro-abortion," and an anti-"family values" organization. Garcia ruled that Esperanza, a 14-year-old community arts center, was penalized for expressing its viewpoint, namely the promotion of social and economic justice, through its arts program. The city's decision to remove the group's designated funding from the 1998 budget therefore violated the Constitution's guarantees of freedom of speech and equal protection.

### Openly gay candidate wins Dallas City Council runoff election

DALLAS—Ed Oakley, who is openly gay, defeated Dwaine Caraway for City Council June 2, but Caraway is vowing to protest the results of contest where race became the campaign's central issue. Caraway said he was cheated out of the election. "They shredded ballots, rejected ballots and opened ballots with only the Oakley people present," Caraway said. "I'm going to take this all the way to the Supreme Court, if I have to." Oakley, who won by about 800 votes, dismissed the allegations. "As I've said all along, the message is about the quality of the candidate," Oakley said. "The race issue was just a smokescreen. This is truly higher ground for Dallas." Oakley will become the first white council member to represent District 6, which is overwhelmingly minority.

### El Paso City celebrates its first Southwestern Pride Parade

EL PASO—More than 200 people participated in El Paso's first gay pride parade, held June 2, the El Paso Times reported. "It was more than I expected," said Genevieve Aguilar, parade planning coordinator. "This is wonderful for us because we lack visibility. We're on our way." More than a dozen vehicles, floats and organizations participated in the Southwestern Pride Day Parade, which traveled peacefully along Montana Avenue and Mesa Street. "Everyone was really excited, but we didn't know who was going to show up and watch," Aguilar said. "I didn't know it was going to be such a great turnout."

### Lackland AFB praised by Pentagon for fewer gay dismissals

SAN ANTONIO—Dismissals of gay and lesbian airmen under the nation's don't ask, don't tell policy rose in the Army, Navy and Marines while falling dramatically in the Air Force, largely because of changes at Lackland AFB, the Pentagon reported June 1. While 1,212 members of the armed services were discharged under the policy in 2000, representing a 17 percent increase over 1999, the number of those kicked out of the Air Force fell to 177 from 352 the year before. "The Air Force numbers are significantly down because the numbers at Lackland are down," C. Dixon Osburn, director of Service Members Legal Defense Network, an advocate for gays in uniform, told the *San Antonio Express-News*. "On the surface that looks like good news," he added. "It looks like they're doing the training they should and informing service members of the policy."

### Newspaper study finds gay men and lesbians happy in Central Texas

AUSTIN—A first-of-its-kind newspaper study found that gay men and lesbians came to Central Texas for jobs, natural beauty and tolerance of difference. Yet they are less content with the lack of social opportunities in a city with no lesbian and gay community center or cohesive gay district. The *Austin American-Statesman* study, which did not employ random sampling, grew out of a Carnegie Mellon University finding that Austin ranked third in the nation—after San Francisco and Washington, D.C.—for concentration of gay couples among major cities. More than 1,200 lesbian and gay Central Texans responded to the initial questionnaire. Most reported being "out," or open, about their sexuality and that experiences of discrimination were rare when seeking jobs, housing or medical attention.



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## EDITORIAL

# Our very own politics of personal destruction

by CHRIS CRAIN

It's been a while now since our nation's government ground to a halt for more than a year, sorting out the sordid details of a consensual, private liaison between the president of the United States and an intern named Monica.

Even though writer Andrew Sullivan harshly criticized President Bill Clinton's conduct in office, should we do to him what Republicans did to Clinton?

The story, of course, is legendary. A small cadre of conservatives, backed by a gossip-hungry press corps, bootstrapped Bill and Monica's private relationship into an unrelated and baseless sexual harassment suit (remember Paula Jones?), and voila! We get Ken Starr, impeachment, and a trial in the Senate.

Despite the ensuing frenzy, the American public stayed fairly consistent. Whatever people thought about the president's personal morality, roughly two-thirds could smell a rat: Conservatives, frustrated by their inability to win a battle of ideas with the president, instead resorted to personal attack.

We learned the hard way that the politics of personal destruction, which is all too often the first resort of those unprepared or unwilling to engage a debate on the merits, can be depressingly effective.

Even though Clinton managed to survive, the media (and therefore the public) became so distracted that the Clinton agenda ground to a halt. Al Gore was so cowed that he ran away from an impressive administration record, and George W. Bush rode several thousand votes in Florida, and a politically compromised Supreme Court, to a minority presidency.

Through it all, most gays enthusiastically supported President Clinton. Many identified with his sexual persecution, or at least recognized that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend."

But not all of us were so Clinton-friendly. Andrew Sullivan, the openly gay former editor of *New Republic* magazine, and a regular contributor to the *New York Times Magazine*, was blistering in his criticism of Clinton and his "reckless" conduct.

Now, Sullivan is under attack for his own allegedly "reckless" sexual conduct. Gay commentator Michelangelo Signorile has authored a 7,000-word screed alleging that Sullivan, who is HIV-positive, placed a personal advertisement on the Internet seeking partners for unsafe sex.

Although Signorile devotes much of the article, published in the biweekly *New York* gay paper *LGNY*, arguing that his "outing" of Sullivan's alleged "bareback" ad isn't a personal attack, on this point Michelangelo doth protest too much.

He is positively breathless in his description of the Web sites in question, describing how he "could not help but be taken aback" when he "became privy" to them. And he is not content to merely point out their existence and make his case.

Instead, he offers salacious and utterly irrelevant details that would ruddy the cheeks of even a professional voyeur like Ken Starr.

Although Sullivan last week responded to the media maelstrom by acknowledging that he had placed ads seeking bareback sex with other HIV-positive men, that doesn't justify what Signorile did, or the decision by *LGNY*'s editors to go along.

No newspaper respecting the established rules of professional journalism would have published Signorile's allegations based on the support he had at the time he wrote the attack piece, though Signorile insists that the authenticity of the sites was "easy enough for any journalist to confirm."

For Signorile, that meant taking as credible the claims made by two different men that Sullivan in fact communicated with

But that's a line that Signorile skipped right over in his zeal to attack Sullivan, who he admits is a longtime nemesis, and in the process Signorile undermines his own case for more consistent media treatment of sexual orientation as a legitimate subject of inquiry.

Inevitably, Signorile points as well to Sullivan's treatment of Clinton, as if by deciding to criticize the sex life of the president of the United States, amidst Congressional hearings on the matter and the investigation of an independent prosecutor, Andrew Sullivan thereby made his own sex life fair game for public scrutiny.

So does this 7,000-word opus on Sullivan's alleged sex ads, a report that would have filled more than four full pages of this newspaper, open up Signorile's sex life for media consumption? For the sake of all involved, let's agree not to go there.

## Gay commentator Michelangelo Signorile's sexposé about Andrew Sullivan begs an important question: Should he who is without sexual sin cast the first column?

them using a screen name associated with the sites. Neither tattler is named, and Signorile offers nothing more to suggest their accounts are believable.

That might have been enough to justify an item in the gossip column that Signorile cut his teeth writing back in the 1980s, but legitimate journalism requires that sources making such explosive personal allegations must go on the record for the reader to judge their credibility. Unless Sullivan left behind the equivalent of Clinton's "stained dress," the word of two anonymous men was not enough.

Assuming Signorile had found enough talkative tricks to prove the barebacking ads were in fact placed by Andrew Sullivan, even that kiss-and-tell evidence doesn't qualify as newsworthy, much less the "intensely important story" that Signorile claims to be exposing.

Since Sullivan is conservative, according to Signorile, the ads are somehow "incongruous." A gay liberal, apparently, would not be subject to a Signorile sexposé because placing barebacking ads is more attuned to a left-wing political philosophy.

Even assuming there's an important hypocrisy to be uncovered here, it doesn't justify Signorile's unprecedented invasion of privacy. There are hypocrisies worth reporting. Signorile was among the first to champion outing public figures, especially those in government, who treat gay people poorly even as they hide their own homosexuality. On that point, he and Sullivan agree.

Critics then and now have complained that outing is wrong because the public has no business knowing what these people do "in the privacy of their bedrooms." Signorile, Sullivan and others have correctly responded that reporting a person's sexual orientation is not the same as reporting on their private sexual conduct.

But such is the inevitable spiral of the politics of personal destruction. Just ask former Speaker Newt Gingrich and his would-be successor, Robert Livingston, whose post-Lewinsky careers were destroyed by allegations of marital infidelities. While many of us were happy to see them go, should legendary liberal womanizers be next in line on that plank?

It is this aspect of the Lewinsky saga that is instructive regarding Signorile's attack on Sullivan, not some misguided quest to prove Sullivan is somehow hypocritical in how he defines "reckless" conduct for the president, on the one hand, and himself on the other.

If Signorile and his fellow travelers have their way, no one can enter into public discourse on subjects of a sexual nature unless they stand ready to have their own private sex life scrutinized.

In that context, it isn't even enough to have an unblemished sexual history, devoid of any missteps or supposed "incongruities" with your political ideology. If even two people will claim anonymously that you approached them for sex in a manner inconsistent with your public pronouncements, then prepare for your 7,000-word screed in *LGNY*.

Is that the kind of discussion we want as a community on a matter as important as safe sex? Let he who is without sexual sin cast the first column? Signorile himself brags about an *Out* magazine essay he wrote, (which, he points out, was reproduced in the *New York Times*) about a sexual tryst that he admits was unsafe.

Should all discussions of safe sex be accompanied by such public confessions of sexual misadventures past, present and future? Wasn't Rudy Giuliani's admission of impotence already TMI?



VIEWPOINT

# In high school, peers enforce gender roles with violence

by RIKI WILCHINS

It is a place few of us would willingly live. Females approaching puberty are expected to put away their comfortable clothing, boyish activities and most athletics, concentrating instead on making themselves attractive to males who may be future husbands.

Girls who resist often find themselves the subject of intense social pressure, family disapproval, peer intimidation or even public harassment. Girls whose bodies are taking on the features of womanhood grow accustomed to frequent public comments about their bodies, often augmented by male groping, laughter or crude asides.

Males have it little better. In the years following the onset of puberty, there is heavy cultural pressure for them to prove their manhood, sometimes through cultural athletic events but more often through the sexual domination and conquest of females, whom they are expected to treat as subordinates and ridicule as farm animals, prostitutes or worse.

Callous and violent behavior in state-allowed media is envied and widely copied. Violent misogyny in popular entertainment is common.

Open male homosexuality, though not unknown, is vigorously suppressed. A young man suspected by his peers of being insufficiently masculine is targeted for bullying, intimidation, harassment or physical attack.

The deep segregation of cultural sex roles and the frequent division of the sexes themselves at common social functions renders a high degree of mutual distrust, antagonism, and misunderstanding across sex lines. There is an immense amount of public and private energy invested in enforcing narrow, out-dated gender roles, and in punishing those who dare to openly transgress them.

Many teens are called 'fags' and beaten up not because they're believed to be homosexual, but because their speech, dress or manner is gender suspect.

Transgender and transsexual behavior is largely unknown, and neither condoned or tolerated by the society, family members, courts, local authorities or the state.

A backward third-world country? A fundamentalist Islamic regime?

No, it's American high schools. And when still another quiet young man takes up the gun and wreaks havoc, it's still shocking, but no longer surprising. Nor is it surprising to learn that the young person had been subjected to a daily routine of genderist taunts, anti-gay slurs, intimidation, or even violence.

Charles Andrew Williams, 15, killed two classmates and wounded a dozen more in March at Santana High School in Santee, Calif. In eight school shoot-

ings since 1996, five of the shooters have reportedly been the target of genderist or homophobic harassment and intimidation.

Charles is shy, short, and skinny. Said his brother, Michael, 20, "People like to pick on him. It was like that as long as I could remember." In a clear attack on his gender, Mr. Williams was reportedly mocked repeated by classmates as a "sissy."

Dr. Robert Garafolo, who teaches at the Harvard Medical School and treats many queer youth, says that many young men are called "fags" not because they're believed to be homosexual, but because their speech, dress, manner or gesture is conspicuously different from and attracts the attention of their peers. They become gender suspects.

The recent story of Derek Henkle and his lawsuit against the Washoe County School District is only a more extreme version of something too familiar to many of us—whether we are gay, transgender, or straight.

After he came out on local television, ninth grader Henkle was subjected to an escalating campaign of genderbaiting and gaybashing that made

his days a living hell.

"I wanted to run and hide so they would stop calling me a 'faggot sissy,'" he said. "Once my classmates surrounded me and tied a lasso around my neck, threatening to kill me by dragging me behind a truck."

When Derek appealed to school officials, they transferred him to another school where his new principal allegedly told him, "I won't have you acting like a fag." At still another school, Derek said police officers watched passively as another student beat him bloody.

What is new is not the public teasing, harassment, intimidation or even the physical assaults. What is new is that youth now have easy access to guns. What once led only to a busted lip, bruised feelings and a trip to the principal's office now leads too often to bullets, shooting, and murder—the ultimate tragedy.

It used to be that we understood sexual taunts, snapping girls' new bras, and the random pinch as a "normal" part of "boys will be boys" and growing as a girl. Now we know different—sexual harassment is sexual harassment, regardless of your age.

It's time we faced up to gender harassment as a human rights issue as well.

Riki Wilchins is executive director of Gender PAC, a Washington, D.C.-based transgender rights organization, and can be reached at [gpac@gpac.org](mailto:gpac@gpac.org).

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by eric orner



# Gay military discharges up 17 percent

Two weeks after openly gay consultant resigns, Pentagon releases highest discharge numbers since 1987

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON—The Department of Defense released figures June 1 showing that 1,212 military servicemembers were discharged in fiscal year 2000 on grounds of homosexuality, an increase of 17 percent over the previous year and the highest numbers in more than a decade.

The news comes two weeks after an openly gay former business executive resigned abruptly from his position as a special assistant to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Pentagon officials are denying press reports that Stephen E. Herbits, 59, a former executive vice president of the Seagram liquor and beverage corporation, resigned from his Pentagon job May 18 due to pressure from religious conservatives and their supporters in Congress.

Herbits, who declined comment on the matter, resigned three months after Rumsfeld retained him as a temporary consultant on executive personnel matters. His assignment was expected to last until February 2002. Herbits' opponents reportedly objected to his employment because he opposed the military's gay ban.

The latest Pentagon figures represent the highest number of gay discharges since 1987

and a reversal of what gay activists hoped was a positive development in 1999, when the gay discharge numbers dropped for the first time since Congress approved the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in 1993.

Similar to previous years, the overwhelming majority of gay discharges in 2000 were based on voluntary statements the servicemembers made acknowledging their sexual orientation, according to Lt. Col. Catherine Abbott, a Pentagon spokesperson.

The figures released by the Pentagon show that out of the 1,212 gay discharges in fiscal year 2000, 1,106 were based on statements made to military authorities by the servicemember. Only 106 discharges were based on evidence showing the servicemember engaged in homosexual "acts," the Pentagon figures show.

But advocates for gays in the military dispute the "statement" figures. C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a national group that assists gays in the military, has said that in the majority of so-called "statement" cases, servicemembers acknowledged their sexual orientation only after being subjected to anti-gay harassment.

Osburn, an attorney, has said military commanders often have opened investiga-

tions into the sexual orientation of a servicemember after the servicemember was subjected to anti-gay harassment.

The increase in the number of gay discharges in 2000 came at a time when former Secretary of Defense William Cohen put in place a training program aimed at curtailing anti-gay harassment and insuring that military commanders properly enforced the DADT policy.

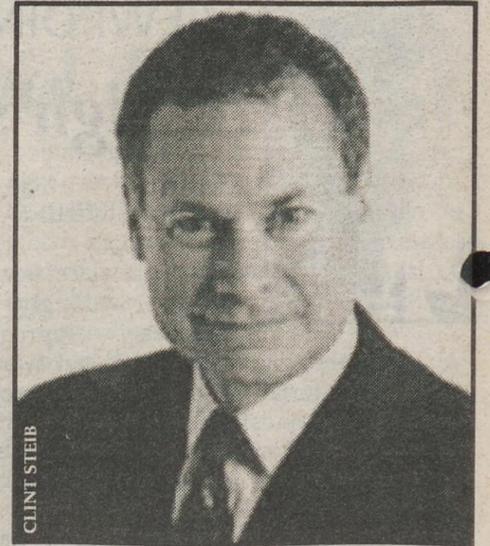
A Pentagon spokesperson said last month that the Bush administration and the new secretary of defense, Rumsfeld, support the continuation of efforts begun under the Clinton administration to curb anti-gay harassment.

The latest Pentagon figures show that the Army took the lead in gay discharges among the service branches, dismissing 573 people on grounds of homosexuality in 2000 compared to 271 gay discharges in 1999.

The figures show the Navy discharged 358 gays in 2000 and 314 in 1999. The Air Force discharged 177 gays in 2000 and 352 in 1999, becoming the only one of the four military branches that saw a decline in the number of gay discharges between 1999 and 2000. The Marines discharged 102 gays in 2000 and 97 in 1999.

Of the total of 1,212 servicemembers discharged for homosexuality in 2000, 921 were men and 291 were women.

Herbits, one of the nation's highest-ranking openly gay business executives



Openly gay Pentagon consultant Stephen E. Herbits won't comment on why he resigned from the post, but military officials insist it wasn't due to conservative pressure.

prior to his retirement from Seagram, was on record opposing the military's ban on gay servicemembers—a position cited by those who opposed his post.

When news of Herbits' appointment at the Pentagon surfaced in April, officials with several anti-gay groups, including the Family Research Council, the Traditional Values Coalition, and the Culture & Family Institute, called the appointment an insult to social conservatives and members of the military.

But Rumsfeld and other DOD officials stood behind Herbits after the flurry of criticism, and Pentagon officials deny that he resigned due to political pressure.

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# health news

## Gonorrhea infections jump in gay, bisexual men, health officials say

WASHINGTON—Gonorrhea infection rates are up in gay and bisexual U.S. men, matching a trend seen with syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases, Reuters reported. Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention reported that gay and bisexual men comprised 4.5 percent of gonorrhea infections in 1992, while in 1999 the rate had jumped to 13.2 percent. The study used data from 29 clinics across the country. "I think we're seeing data coming from a lot of different sources now that all support the idea that there are increases in risky sexual behaviors among gay and bisexual men for a variety of reasons," said Dr. Kimberly Fox, a CDC researcher who led the study. Gonorrhea cases among gay and bisexual men had dropped in the 1980s thanks to a safe-sex campaign aimed at preventing HIV infection, experts said. Overall U.S. gonorrhea rates started declining during the 1970s and continued to go down through 1997 before an uptick.

## New York hospital starts 'morning after' pill program for HIV exposure

NEW YORK—In what they say is the only program of its kind in New York City, officials at Beth Israel Medical Center in Manhattan have launched a pilot program to treat people within 72 hours of a possible high-risk exposure to HIV either through consensual sexual contact or by sharing injection-drug needles. Previously, program officials said, the treatment, known as post-exposure prophylaxis or PEP, has been used in cases where health-care professionals have accidentally been exposed to HIV, usually through needlesticks. The new program aims to study PEP in cases of non-occupational exposure. "PEP is designed to act as a prevention strategy that works on two levels. The first tactic is to block the immediate HIV infection through the use of antiviral drugs, the second is to minimize the risk of future exposures by providing health care," said Dr. Ramon A. Torres, an HIV/AIDS specialist in the Beth Israel Medical Center Department of Medicine.

## Docs do 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' with some gay patients over sex practices

NEW YORK—An online survey of health care workers has found that four in 10 providers don't ask their gay patients about their sexual practices. The survey, conducted by GayHealth.com, found that more than 35 percent of men and 44 percent of women said their doctors never ask them about sex, and 22 percent of men and 30 percent of women said their doctors "rarely" ask. Over 40 percent of the men who responded said they have not been vaccinated against either hepatitis A or B, potentially fatal viral liver infections spread through sexual activity. Almost 18 percent of women said they've never visited a gynecologist. The survey included 184 women and 724 men. "It's crucial for doctors to talk to and educate their patients about sexual health, especially their gay and lesbian patients who may feel stigmatized and uncomfortable with the subject," said Stephen Goldstone, the Web site's medical director.

An online survey found that four in 10 health care workers don't ask their gay patients about their sexual practices, said Stephen Goldstone, medical director for GayHealth.com, which conducted the study.



## HIV-positive rural residents frequently face severe discrimination

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A National Institutes of Mental Health study has documented the difficulties faced by people with HIV who live in rural areas. The four-year study of 201 people found that people with AIDS in rural areas frequently feel isolated and cut off from support, experience prejudice and live in poverty. Thirty-eight percent of the people in the study said they have considered suicide. "We hear from people who are severely discriminated against. And that, more than anything else, affects their overall quality of life," said Timothy Heckman, an Ohio University psychology professor who leads the study and grew up in rural Pennsylvania. Heckman said the study proved that providing HIV drugs is only half the answer. "A lot of people think that if we can develop better medications and we can keep people alive better, then we've solved all the problems, but I don't think that's the case at all," Heckman said.

## AIDS, sex-ed classes foster tolerance for gay students in MA, study shows

WASHINGTON (AP)—A survey of gay high school students in Massachusetts suggested that they endure less violence and confrontation in schools where students receive AIDS and sexual-orientation sensitivity classes. The survey, which appeared in the *American Journal of Public Health*, also found that gay students in schools without sensitivity training were more likely to report risky and frequent sex, substance abuse and suicide attempts. In schools where there was gay-sensitive HIV instruction, "there was a reduction, or appeared to be, in risk behaviors by GLBT youth," said study author Susan Blake of George Washington University. The survey conclusions were based on questionnaires completed at 54 high schools by 3,647 students, including 151 who either

identified themselves as gay or said they took part in sexual activity with someone of the same sex. The June issue of the journal is devoted to gay health issues.

—From staff and wire reports



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# Screen names, site for Misfits temporarily pulled by AOL

➤ Continued from Page 2

her last name.

"Julie told me that my screen name 'bottomnotboy' was offensive. I asked Julie which of the three words she found offensive, bottom, not or boy. She then stated that I was sick. When I asked to speak to a supervisor, she hung up on me."

Nixon called back and finally reached a supervisor, but was again told that those accounts would be closed. He was shocked especially since he had used the screen names for more than three years with no interference from AOL.

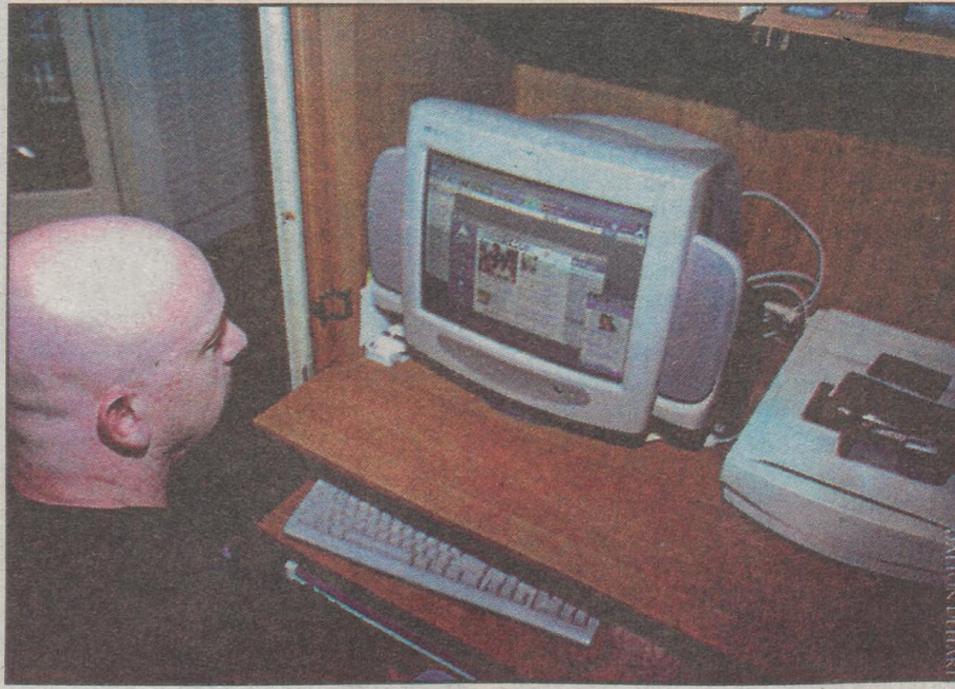
Further, he found that a brief search revealed several other AOL screen names that contained the word bottom: Top and Bottom, Bottom, Thong Bottom and Texas Piss Bottom.

By this time Nixon was convinced he was being "picked on" because he was gay and he also knew of at least one other such incident that happened between AOL and another gay user in Fort Worth. "I think the whole thing was driven by the fact that I'm a gay individual," Nixon said.

Nixon is no stranger to discrimination; he was discharged from the Navy because of his homosexuality. "It was before 'don't ask, don't tell.' There were rumors about me and when I was asked, I admitted it. They kicked me out in 1984," said Nixon.

This is not the first time AOL has been accused of discriminating against gay members. In October 1999, The San Francisco Chronicle ran a story of alleged AOL discrimination against gay users.

According to the article, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Gay Lobby Organization and Hate Watch criticized AOL on their Web sites for preventing a gay member from including sexually suggestive information about himself in his personal profile. At the same time AOL



I think the whole thing was driven by the fact that I'm a gay individual.

—Jim Nixon

allowed other members to litter their profiles with racist comments and hate rhetoric.

AOL deleted the gay man's profile because he described himself as a "submissive bottom" stating that it violated the company's TOS agreement. He was asked to create a new profile free of "objectionable content" and "sexually oriented language."

Rich D'Amato, an AOL spokesman told The Chronicle that AOL, with 18 million members, does not proactively police member profiles, but instead relies on members to alert it to objectionable material. The company has a community action team that investigates all complaints and determines whether content is offensive.

However, during this same time, a search by Wired Strategies, an Internet consulting firm in Washington, found numerous objectionable profiles that had not been canceled. One member said he "liked his beer cold and fags dead," and another listed his hobby as "fag bashing."

AOL was embroiled in controversy with the gay community when Navy officer Timothy McVeigh was outed after an AOL employee turned over McVeigh's member profile to a Navy investigator. The Navy discharged McVeigh for homosexuality because he used the word "gay" on his member profile. He was later reinstated.

AOL's official policy is that it has a zero

tolerance for hate speech, bigotry and discrimination. D'Amato told CNET News.com that AOL reviewed the profiles found by Wired Strategies and took "appropriate action," although he refused to provide more details, citing the company's privacy policy.

In an attempt to address these concerns, AOL held a meeting with selected gay-rights groups in late 1999. After the meeting, D'Amato said, "The gay community is important to us and we want to make sure that they feel welcome." The company promised to address the community's concerns over its content policy.

And just last month, gay-oriented Internet media company PlanetOut said it had received \$8.2 million in funding, which included money from AOL Time Warner, Inc.

But, if Nixon's recent bout with AOL is anything to go by, not a lot has changed. The problem is that AOL's TOS agreement is interpreted by members of its Community Action Team, who seem to be subjective in their approach said Nixon.

Nixon was not about to be undone by AOL staffers however. He fired off e-mails to the media and to AOL founder and chairman, Steve Case. That e-mail got a response from Mark Ludlow of Case's office.

According to Nixon, Ludlow apologized effusively for the "mix-up" and said staff members of the Community Action Team sometimes get overzealous in their approach. "He said all my accounts would be restored and gave me two months free credit," said Nixon.

Although Nixon is glad to have his accounts restored, he still feels he was discriminated against because he is gay and that if it can happen to him, it can happen to anyone.

The Voice attempted to reach Ludlow, but telephone calls were not returned.

# Community center launches new Web site

➤ Continued from Page 2

The center will host two potluck suppers celebrating Pride Week. On Friday, June 15 at 7 p.m. Lesbians United in Coalition provides hot dogs and sodas and guests bring side-dishes. The center's regular monthly potluck will be Sunday, June 17, at 6 p.m.

DreamWeavers, the writers group that began meeting at the Community Center in May will focus on work inspired by Pride Month at the two June sessions, June 11 and 25, at 6:30 p.m.

The Pride Parade, on Saturday, June 23, will include a community center entry.

Several new programs and meetings debut in June, Brookover said.

The first Story Time for Children will be held on Sunday, June 10, 2 p.m. The after-

noon will feature books about non-traditional families, including "Heather Has Two Mommies" and "Daddy's Roommate." Adults are welcome. The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Interest Group of the Texas Library Association will sponsor the event.

The Houston chapter of People of All Colors Together has begun meeting at the center. It is a multiracial and multicultural organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome. It will meet on Sunday, June 10, at 3 p.m.

The Houston Committee for People's Radio has begun meeting at the center on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. The group works to advocate noncommercial radio, particularly KPFT-FM, 90.1 FM.

Most of the center's regular events will

continue in June, Brookover said. "I want to remind people particularly that Janine Brunjes, the mayor's liaison to our GLBT community, will hold her next public meeting on Monday, June 11 from 5-6:30 p.m., at the center," he added. A moderated on-line chat session with Brunjes will be held on Wednesday, June 13. Individuals may log on between 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. at TalkCity.com

The center maintains regular drop-in hours: 6-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon-4 p.m. Saturday. The telephone number is 713-524-3818 and includes a recorded schedule of the week's activities at the center.

The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center at 803 Hawthorne is the central resource for Houston's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Many community groups hold meetings

there and the center offers an array of programs such as separate support groups for men and women, a social group for young women, free HIV testing and counseling, two monthly movie nights, a monthly lesbian sex workshop series, and social events/benefits.

Community publications and information on local groups and resources are always available. The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston, Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals), Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, Pride Committee of Houston, Q-Patrol, and Texas Human Rights Foundation have offices at the center. Space is available for rent for commitment ceremonies, other social events, and meetings.

# Gays target Baptist meet in New Orleans

➤ Continued from Page 1

## Baptist 'messengers' head to New Orleans

More than 10,000 Southern Baptist "messengers"—local church representatives—will gather at the Superdome in New Orleans June 12-13 for their annual denominational meeting.

Members of Soulforce plan to greet them with a 21-foot banner, a two-day vigil and a jazz funeral, White said.

"Here's the biggest Protestant denomination in the country refusing to even discuss [gay issues]," he said.

The jazz funeral will be held to mourn the lives of gays who have been killed or committed suicide because of Southern Baptist anti-gay teachings, according to Soulforce.

"Because Southern Baptist teachings turn even our friends and families against us, we weep when their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children are born," White said.

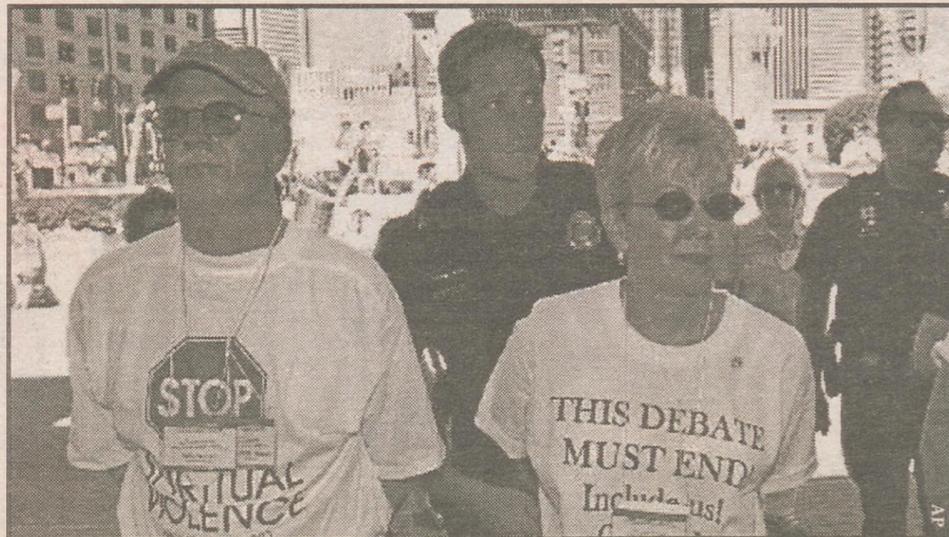
After the two-day vigil, the jazz funeral will begin on Wednesday morning at one end of the Superdome and will culminate in a press conference at the main entrance in the early afternoon. The group plans to conduct a civil disobedience after the press conference if Dr. James Merritt, president of the SBC, or one of his representatives refuses to join with them in condemning violence against gays.

"Look, we don't want to do civil disobedience, we don't want to go to jail, we don't want to pay these expensive fines," White said.

Soulforce's actions are necessary, though, because the SBC has refused to participate in any discussion about gay Christians, he said.

Last year, Soulforce protesters were jailed for 36 hours, White said, after Southern Baptist leaders called the police in response to their vigil outside the annual meeting.

"Anyone can go to these meetings, but when they see us coming they immediately have to call the police because they're



Mel White (left) will lead a Soulforce vigil and civil disobedience at the Southern Baptist Convention next week in New Orleans to protest the denomination's anti-gay teachings.

afraid that we're going to interrupt," he said. "We don't do interruptive things."

White said Soulforce activists will "bring our request inside" this year, if necessary.

"Last year, we were hundreds of yards away from the auditorium," he said. "Now we're marching up the stairs."

White has written two public letters to Merritt asking to meet. White said a third letter, which had not been published by press time, states, "We love you and your Southern Baptist colleagues enough to put our bodies on the line. We will not go away. We will appear at every annual meeting, at your national headquarters, and at your key congregations until a serious dialog begins. The suffering must end. Let us resolve to end it together."

### Nonviolent action

David W. Key, director of Baptist studies at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, said the purpose of such nonviolent action is to bear witness to the religious right.

"I don't think the individuals of Soulforce in their vaguest dreams think

they're going to change any vote, but that there is a purpose in doing this even when you lose," he said.

"The Southern Baptist Convention is, at this point in American society, the real embodiment of the religious right movement, that is basically the source of it," Key said.

White said Southern Baptist Convention organizers had made no plans to discuss gay issues during the meeting.

"They refuse to put anything on the agenda," he said. "In fact, they're kicking out churches and pastors that [would]."

Oakhurst Baptist Church in Atlanta is one of the churches that has been dropped from the Southern Baptist Convention because of its gay-friendly stance.

"We still feel very strongly the way we always have, and we believe in the full inclusion of gay and lesbian people in the life of the church," Interim Pastor Rev. Melanie Vaughn-West said. "We certainly would hope that the Southern Baptists, and other denominations as well, would come to a point where they would be willing to discuss these issues."

The Southern Baptist Convention voted in 2000 to adopt the "Baptist faith and message," which opposes "all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality and pornography."

Churches that refuse to agree with the message are dismissed from the SBC.

As a result, "swarms" of people have been driven out of the denomination, Key has said.

"When all the other churches are being divided by [gay issues], probably the Southern Baptists in terms of unity are the smartest," White said. "But that's what truth does—it's two-edged. And they're not interested in that."

Southern Baptists have long held that gay men and lesbians can and should change their sexual orientation, and that to do otherwise is against God's teachings.

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# HFFV has until August to collect 20,000 signatures

➤ Continued from Page 1

the context of HFFV's petition, their letter bluntly said that the precipitous action of the proposal "could inadvertently do considerable damage to the profamily cause in Houston."

This campaign has stopped but the damage has certainly been felt, although Wilson denies it.

"A couple of them have called me back and basically explained how it all happened. They were kind of pressured into signing the letter. I think they're on the same page we're on, but there may have been a little jealousy in me doing it rather than Hotze. He didn't think the timing was right, and I think there's absolutely no other timing but this.

"Annise Parker has said that after November they're going to come back with an ordinance. I'm no rocket scientist, but if we don't get it done now, after they get elected they're not going to pay attention to

the will of the people. They're going to stuff it down our throat anyway."

Getting the necessary signatures on time doesn't worry Wilson. Getting his amendment on this year's ballot does.

"The real problem, quite frankly, is if somebody puts another initiative or referendum on the ballot in November, it precludes us from putting it on the ballot for two more years. You can only have an initiative and referendum on the ballot once every two years, no matter whose it is. Most people don't realize that.

"You can't have it earlier than that, and they had one in '99, so we've got to get it on the ballot in November as far as I'm concerned. It's do or die with us. They'll put something else on there—it might be term limits or anything else—and that will stop us for two years."

For a man with a gay brother-in-law and two gay uncles, it's somewhat difficult to square the latest thoughts he added to HFFV's May 14 letter:

"The heart of our platform is the heart of the natural law: heterosexual marriage and the natural family. Marriage provides numerous benefits to society... because of this it deserves special protections. By extending city benefits to same-sex couples, the city would be saying that these relationships are the same as marriage. This sends the wrong signal about the value of marriage, and it says that the government actively endorses homosexual relationships. By granting the same legal benefits to other relationships, we undermine the value of marriage."

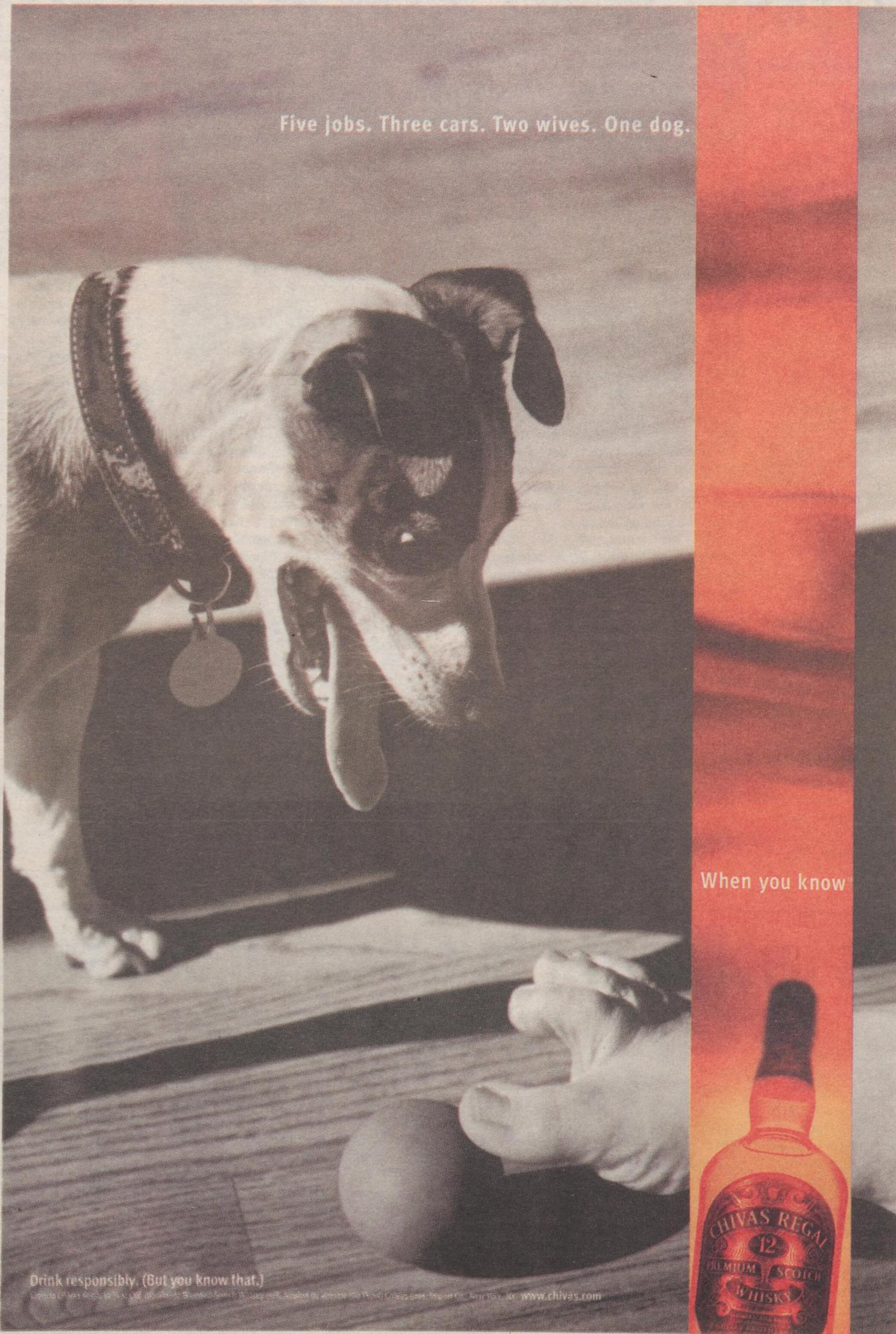
"I don't want to spend taxpayers' money for insurance benefits for homosexuals' domestic partners," Wilson said emphatically. "I'd rather spend it on potholes or

other things, and for that I'm a bigot and full of hate. I don't see how they get here from there but I've gotten a lot of letters telling me what a no-good bigot I am and comparing me to Adolph Hitler.

"To me it's like the domino theory or give them an inch and they'll take a mile—one thing leads to another. In San Francisco it started out with just benefits, and now taxpayer money is paying for sex-change operations. I just see it opening the flood gates. And we want to clip it in the bud.

"I got to get the signatures, I got to get it on the ballot. City Council's going to vote against us and this is really our only option.

"We're too far down the road. I don't think this mailing's going to get all of them. I think we'll have to have one more step, but we'll see in a couple weeks. There're other options. We haven't decided what our next step'll be."



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# Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • JUNE 8, 2001

## DIRECTING 101

**Michael Wilson glad to be back in Houston, again working with Horton Foote**

by D.L. GROOVER

When college student Michael Wilson first saw a staged performance of Horton Foote's "The Trip to Bountiful" at the University of North Carolina, he was hooked.

He had known Foote's prior work, especially his atmospheric, evocative and very human adaptation of Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," which Wilson saw at the movies when he was growing up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. But, now, being older and wiser, Foote's universal voice spoke out to him in new ways. Weeks later, he actually met Foote on campus, and Wilson's life forever changed.

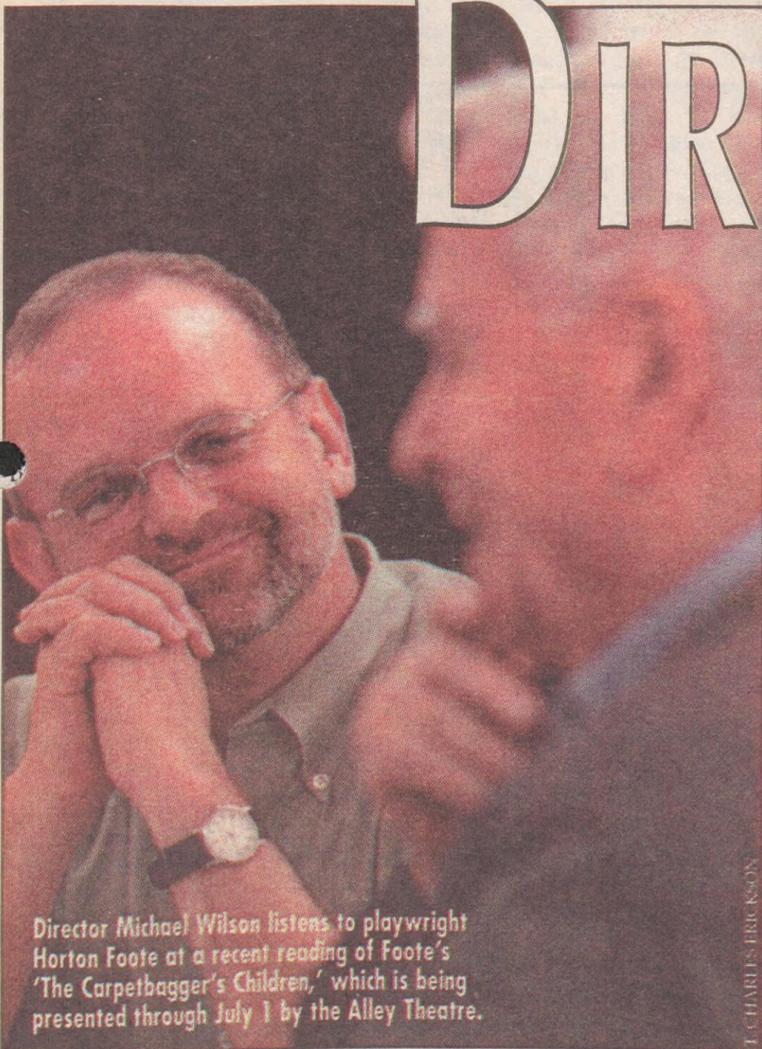
"As I was a young man leaving the south," Wilson says, "with a strong sense of home and place and family about to strike out on the world, Horton's sense of place was, and is, so resonant. I love the South, and I love the fact that what he writes about is very Southern. We've known each other for 14 years. He's really been a major influence in my professional career in the theater."

As former associate director at the Alley Theatre from 1990-98, Wilson was responsible for the powerhouse productions of "Streetcar Named Desire," "Long Day's Journey Into Night," "Orpheus Descending," and his signature work, Tony Kushner's "Angels In America." Currently artistic director of Connecticut's prestigious, Tony award-winning regional company Hartford Stage, Wilson was asked by Foote to direct the world premiere of his latest work, "The Carpetbagger's Children," having its debut at the Alley June 6.

As a tripartite production, this Alley-commissioned play will next travel to Minneapolis' Guthrie Theatre and then conclude in Hartford.

Wilson admires Foote and compares him equally to America's greatest southern writers, Mississippi's Eudora Welty and William Faulkner, and Georgia's Flannery O'Connor. Most of Foote's work has centered on the fictional Harrison, Texas, a fictional stand in for Wharton, Texas, Foote's home town.

> Continued on Page 16



Director Michael Wilson listens to playwright Horton Foote at a recent reading of Foote's 'The Carpetbagger's Children,' which is being presented through July 1 by the Alley Theatre.

E. CHARLES ERICKSON

## Houston Pride celebrations kick off

VARIETY OF EVENTS PLANNED THROUGHOUT THE MONTH,  
POST-PRIDE FESTIVAL RETURNS

by KAY Y. DAYUS

As freedom flags flew high on the light poles lining Westheimer in the Montrose, the Pride Committee of Houston staged its kick-off party at Sonoma last Friday, signaling the beginning of month-long Pride celebrations for the gay community in Houston.

But for the committee's executive director, Jack Valinski, and the 30-some volunteers, June is not only the beginning of Pride, it is the end of year-long planning and coordinating the huge list of events that make up the celebration.

For starters, there's the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and numerous theatrical performances, dinners, sporting events, dancing and arts shows packed into the month of June. But of course, the Parade and the resurrected Pride Festival are the biggest events.

"Ours is the largest Pride celebration in the southwest. We have over 100 events going on throughout the month," said Valinski.

So far, 105 entries have been received for the parade, but more are expected before the Tuesday deadline, said Valinski. Last year, a crowd

of around 150,000 watched 120 entries slowly snake their way along Westheimer from Woodhead to Whitney.

"We're not expecting more floats this year, but we want to make them better. We don't have a six-hour parade like San Francisco or New York, but we want a very good two-hour parade," Valinski said.

Mayor Lee P. Brown and several city council members have committed to the parade according to Valinski. "The parade has never been about politics; it's about us. However, it does add some legitimacy; but it's our parade, not theirs."

Several political groups including Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, Human Rights Campaign, Log Cabin Republicans, Montrose Democrats, National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, People For A Fair Houston and Stonewall Democrats have planned an Equal Rights Rally and March to help kickoff the parade.

The rally will be staged at 6:30 p.m. at the judges reviewing stand. The aim of the event is to increase awareness of Houston City Council's consideration of a nondiscrimination ordinance for city employees, said

> Continued on Page 16

Crowds lined up early along the Westheimer for last year's Pride parade. This year, attendees will have more reason to arrive early as an Equal Rights Rally, sponsored by several political groups and featuring Mayor Lee P. Brown, Annise Parker and other elected officials, will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the judges reviewing stand.

## Former Alley AD says being gay gives him greater sensitivity

> Continued from Page 15

"I don't mean to regionalize Horton," Wilson says. "In this age of super technology and the wireless highways we have, there's something very reassuring in his works. It's such a gift that Horton has. He's always listening. You know how Southerners like to tell stories, well, he remembers them all. Of course he fictionizes quite a number of things, but they stem from very relevant events."

Foote's great strength is taking the small Southern influences and shaping them into the universal. He's not known as the "Texas Chekhov" for nothing.

In "The Carpetbagger's Children," it's the Civil War and its influences on a family in a small town that broadens to include its titanic effects on our country. Foote's specific view encompasses the general. The inclusiveness of his heart distills the truth into its essence.

"Endurance is also another good quality for the characters. They somehow find a way to endure even though they are met with quite a lot of heartache in their lives. And it's not necessarily cataclysmic heartache, although the Civil War was cataclysmic. But it's the aftermath of the war and what happens when people grow up with the stigma of being from the north in a largely confederate southern town.

"It gives one a real sense of the human spirit to see how people are resilient and overcome the adversities that life deals them."

Rehearsals started in Hartford, since it was difficult for Wilson to leave his theater for an extended period. Foote worked right beside him.

"He does have a great deal of input, as any playwright should," Wilson adds, "especially on the first production of the work, because that's when they're really still trying to figure out what they've written. That's really the director's job: to try to realize what the playwright's vision was for the play.

"You filter through your own imagination, obviously, and there are things that

I've brought to the play that Horton's very grateful of and feels that it's revealed things to him about his work that he didn't necessarily know were there. It is a very highly collaborative process and we have a tremendous amount of trust. He's also so happy to be in rehearsals for his plays. I'd never think of not having him be there."

Also working closely by Wilson's side is set designer Jeff Cowie, Wilson's partner of



Director Michael Wilson (standing) and playwright Horton Foote, at a recent reading of 'The Carpetbagger's Children,' a memoir told by three daughters of a Union soldier who came to Texas during the Civil War. The play is running through July 1 at the Alley.

10 years. They met in Houston where Cowie, a former Glassell Fellow at the Museum of Fine Arts, was showing his work at Hiram-Butler galleries. Two years after they met, they began a working relationship that, by Wilson's count, has included 28 shows.

"You know," Wilson comments, "I went

through a period when part of our community said don't just judge us from being gay, judge us from what we bring to the table. Whatever contribution it is we're making doesn't have to be pink or lavender. But, you know, the more I do this, the more I feel that being gay has everything to do with my work. And I love it!

...you know, the more I do this, the more I feel that being gay has everything to do with my work. And I love it!

—Michael Wilson, director of 'The Carpetbagger's Children' and former Alley Theatre associate director

"The younger that you can embrace that, the better. Whatever you do in your life you will be. What do they call it? A more self-actualized person. Because what you're doing then is accepting not only who you are, but why you are who you are. And that allows you to get inside the skin of other people who perhaps have had difficulty being accepted or finding a safe place in the world.

"There's a kind of sensitivity that I'm fortunate to have because I happen to be gay. I don't know why I am. I don't know whether it's genetic or heredity or a combination of both, but I'm happy to be gay."

And happy to be gay in Houston, he says with enthusiasm.

"I think Houston's a fantastic gay community. The bar and restaurant scene is more vibrant every time I come back. It's a lucky city to have such arts organizations, and it's a great place to work. Although it's a large city, it's really a small Southern town. I think that kind of an ease really expresses itself.

"I lived in New York for a number of years, and obviously there's a very strong, active, and even aggressive gay community there, but I think this is very welcoming and very grass roots. This will always be home."

INFO

### "The Carpetbagger's Children"

Through July 1

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas

713-228-8421

## Post-Pride Festival at Garden in the Heights returns this year

> Continued from Page 15

Coy Tow, event organizer.

"It's basically a way to talk to the community about why this year it's important for us to get involved," Tow said. "Of the top five cities in the nation, Houston is the only one that doesn't have a non-discrimination ordinance and that says something that we don't want to say."

The Pride Committee has received no letter or proclamation from President George W. Bush, but received one for the last six years from then-President Bill Clinton.

This year, the committee has revived the Pride Festival after a five-year hiatus. It was dropped when the parade became a nighttime event in 1997. The nighttime parade needed more resources than were available

for both activities. But the committee decided it was time to bring back the popular festival, which will be held Sunday, June 24, at Garden in the Heights.

One of the first events of Pride month was held last Saturday at Pride Day at AstroWorld. "It was a great success. Over 900 people showed up," said Valinski.

Budweiser is again the parade's largest sponsor and yes, the huge crystal disco ball will hover over the intersection of Montrose and Westheimer again. The community has come to associate the parade with the mirrored ball said Valinski.

None of it could happen without the all-volunteer staff said Valinski.

"I feel very fortunate to work with such passionate, hardworking and intelligent people."



Pride Day at AstroWorld was held June 2.

# Bayou Calendar

## "Oedipus Rex"

You know the drill: abandoned baby, flight from home, inadvertent patricide, incest, a really mean Sphinx, plague, and that's before the play begins. Arguably, the greatest model of Greek tragedy and one of the most powerful dramas ever written (talk among yourselves), Sophocles' mighty play only won second place when it was entered in an Athenian contest. Hmm, critics. Dos chicas productions sets this epic of sturm und drang Freudian chaos in the Watergate era. Did you know that "Oedipus" means swollen feet? See, Tricky Dick's phlebitis makes sense now.

Through June 30

Midtown Art Center, 1423 Holman  
713-927-4623

## Wendy Leibman

The Queen of Asides ("My love life is like a fairy tale. Grimm.") returns to the Laff Stop in River Oaks. You have seen her on Letterman, Leno and her own HBO Comedy Half Hour. Also on the bill will be Mike MacRae and Joanie Coyote.

June 14-16

1952 W. Gray in the River Oaks Shopping Center  
713-524-2333



## Movies for Pride Month

Set your VCR. No matter what Jane Fonda might say, Ted Turner's still a good guy. All this month, in honor of Gay Pride, Turner Classic Movies (Channel 39 on Warner Cable) has numerous gay or gay-interest flicks to tantalize and amuse. This week's selections include: "The Big Sky," 11 a.m., June 9, Howard Hawks' 1952 homoerotic paean to the glistening chests of Kirk Douglas and Dewey Martin, best buds on a keelboat in trapper territory; "Queen Christina," 7 a.m., June 10, Rouben Mamoulian's 1933 glossy celebration of Garbo in pants with its tavern scene seduction in travesti; "The Women," 9:15 a.m., June 13, George Cukor's 1939 gayest-of-gay bitchfest without a man in sight, and that's counting GC; "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane," 4 p.m., June 14, Robert Aldrich's 1962 grand guignol shows just what miracles the great Bette D. can work with sleaze.

## "Behind Closed Doors"

Playwright ("Incarceration," "I Just Wanna Tell Somebody," and "Shout Hallelujah!") and Encore Theatre founder Harold J. Haynes has written a new one that apparently tells us the real reasons black men desert their families. "The revelations are shocking and sometimes scandalous," teases the press release. We've got to find out.

Through June 30

Encore Theatre, 4816 Main St.  
713-527-8277

## "Carmen"

Houston Grand Opera's tinkertoy/erector set production supercedes Bizet's white hot opera, but if you don't mind the video screens and other unnecessary quirks of the MTV generation, the beauties of the score can't be pummeled. When Suzanna Guzman lets loose her fiery interpretation of this immortal gypsy, all is forgiven. Don't forget your picnic basket and mosquito repellent.

Through June 10, 8:30 p.m.

Miller Outdoor Theatre, Herrmann Park  
713-284-8350

## "My Own Private Idaho"

Narcolepsy, blatant homoeroticism, street prostitution, Shakespeare's "Henry V," mother love, the American west's big blue skies, and River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves as unrequited lovers. What else do you want? If it's coherence and logic in a movie, forget it, but if it's filmic poetry, incandescent celluloid images, and Keanu and Phoenix nestled all snug in their grunge bed, then Gus Van Sant's 1991 phantasmagoric reverie, programmed under the title "Festival of Depression," will be just

the thing to wallow in.

June 9, 7 p.m. June 10, 9 p.m. June 13, 7 p.m.  
Rice Media Center, Rice University Entrance  
#8, University Blvd. & Stockton  
713-348-4853

## "Family Story Time"

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood goes alternative. Sponsored by the GLBT Interest Group of the Texas Library Association, this Sunday afternoon outing for parents and kids reaches out to those special 2-mommy or Daddy's-roommate rainbow family groups.

June 10, 2 p.m.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center,  
803 Hawthorne  
713-466-4438

## "Dennis Miller Live"

The hip cultural comedian (some, at least, think so), former SLN icon, and now NFL announcer brings his little geisha hands and great big samurai mouth to our Bayou City for a one-night-only performance. Deconstructionists, be warned.

June 12, 7:30 p.m.

Houston Arena Theatre, 7326 SW Freeway @  
Fondren  
713-988-1020

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by David Dillon

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-Gary Laird,  
This Week In Texas

"...entertainment that manages to show gays as full of life, and yes, Dillon manages to have all the actors naked at the conclusion."

-D.L. Groover,  
Houston Voice

"Very funny-Sorry I didn't see it sooner!"

-Lee Williams,  
Houston Press



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-The Advocate

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-The New York Times

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-Riverfront Times

"Party is a social occasion."

-Everett Evans,  
Houston Chronicle

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between Heights Blvd. & Yale

mature audiences only adult situations and nudity

## Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride 2001 Calendar

### Saturday, June 9

#### Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk

The Houston Montrose Athletic Association hosts this 3.1 mile race. Proceeds benefit AssistHers.

7:30 a.m., Memorial Drive at Sabine St.

Cost: \$15

Attire: running shorts

713-874-1686

www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html

fax: 713-529-6929

e-mail: LGVoices@aol.com

### Tuesday, June 12

#### 2001 Pride Participant Mandatory Meeting

All groups participating in the Pride Parade are required to attend this meeting, except for those located outside a 50-mile radius of the city. The meeting is also the deadline for all organizations submitting a parade entry application with a late fee.

7 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray

phone: 713-529-6979

fax: 713-529-6929

e-mail: info@pridehouston.org

web: www.pridehouston.org

### Thursday, June 14

#### GCAM Time Capsule

Tonight, the Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender History will begin collecting small objects and paper items for a time capsule to be opened in 25 years. Collecting will continue throughout the year and the time capsule will be sealed at Empower 2001 in October. GCAM encourages everyone to bring something to be placed in the time capsule.

7-10 p.m., Gulf Coast Archive & Museum, 1609 W Main #4

cost: donations welcome

phone: 713 227-5973

e-mail: info@gcam.org

web: www.gcam.org

### Friday, June 15

#### Lesbians United in Coalition Pot Luck

LUC celebrates Pride with a potluck. Hot dogs and sodas are provided. Proceeds benefit Lesbians United in Coalition and the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

7-9 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne

cost: donations welcome

phone: 713-524-3818

fax: 713-639-7595

e-mail: hlgcc@hotmail.com

web: www.hl1gcc.org

#### EuPHONEia

Enjoy an evening of live acoustic music performances by Kristi Rae and Joel Stein and Bocados' mouth-watering food and drinks. Proceeds benefit the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston.

8:30-11 p.m., Bocados, 1312 W. Alabama

cost: \$10

phone: 713-529-0037

fax: 713 526-4367

e-mail: mcc2@neoosoft.com

web: www.gayswitchboardhouston.org

#### Ranglers' Annual Pride Ride

Skip the traffic and ride the Rainbow Ranglers' chartered bus as we visit five Montrose-area bars. The bus departs from and returns to the Brazos River Bottom. In between are stops at E/J's, Mary's, Chances and The New Barn. Attendees must be over 21 and valid ID's are required. Proceeds benefit Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club.

8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos

cost: \$5

phone/fax: 713-524-9500

e-mail: h2k@rainbowranglers.org

web: www.rainbowranglers.org

#### Remembering the NAMES

View 12'x12' blocks of the AIDS Memorial Quilt honoring local residents and learn about the Quilt and how to schedule a Quilt display for your school, community group or company. The "Remembering the NAMES" exhibit is on display

Thursdays, 5:30-9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 1-5 p.m., June 7-28.

NAMES Project Houston, 4617 Montrose Blvd. Suite C-140

phone: 713-526-2637

fax: 713-526-1859

e-mail: nphinfo@namesproject.org

web: www.namesproject.org

### Sunday, June 10

#### Family Storytime with Books Featuring Non-Traditional Families

Family storytime is sponsored by the GLBT Interest Group of the Texas Library Association and includes books featuring non-traditional families such as "Heather Has Two Mommies," "Daddy's Roommate" and other titles. The public is invited to this outreach to families with GLBT parents.

2 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne

cost: donations welcome

phone: 713-466-4438

fax: 713-466-9757

e-mail: vschill@hcpl.net

web: www.txla.org/groups/glbtag.html

#### Third Annual Interfaith Pride Worship

This interfaith workshop service celebrates gay and lesbian spirituality.

7 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin

cost: none

phone: 281-463-7891

e-mail: vschill@hcpl.net

### Monday, June 11

#### Mayoral Liaison Forum

Janine Brunjes, Mayor Lee Brown's liaison to the GLBT community, hosts her monthly public meeting open to everyone. A moderated on-line chat with Brunjes follows on Wednesday, June 13, 9:30-10:30 p.m. at www.talkcity.com in the GLBT Forum room.

5-6:30 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne

phone: 713-524-3718

fax: 713-639-7595

e-mail: hlgcc@hotmail.com

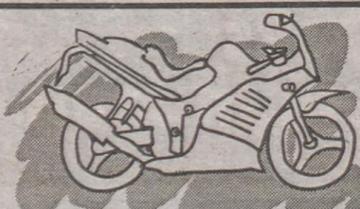
web: www.hlgcc.org

#### Lesbian and Gay Voices

Tune in for this magazine-format radio show featuring interviews with both local and national GLBT community leaders and ordinary activists. Each week's show includes a music segment, reviews of GLBT cultural events and a few comments along the way.

8-10 p.m., KPFT 90.1 FM

phone: 713-526-4000



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**Saturday, June 16****That's Entertainment**

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston shares the stage with the Capital City Men's Chorus of Austin, Texas, to perform many of your film favorites. Purchase advance tickets by phone at 800-494-8497 or 877-833-8497 (TDD). Another performance Sunday, June 17, 3 p.m.

8 p.m., The Kaplan Theater of the Jewish Community Center, 5601 South Braeswood  
cost: \$18 adults, \$10 juniors (under 20) and seniors (over 60)  
phone: 713-521-7464  
e-mail: info@gmch.org  
web: www.gmch.org

**Sunday, June 17****That's Entertainment**

See description Saturday, June 16.

**Dinner at the Center**

The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center celebrates Pride with a potluck supper open to everyone in the GLBT family. Bring your favorite dish and nosh with friends while enjoying some live dinner music. Proceeds benefit the Community Center.  
6-8 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne  
cost: donations welcome  
phone: 713-524-3818  
fax: 713-639-7595  
e-mail: hlgcc@hotmail.com  
web: www.hlgcc.org

**Monday, June 18****Pride Parade Grand Marshal Reception**

Join the Imperial Court of Houston as we salute Mitchell Katine, Dalia Stokes, Blake and Gordon Weisser and PFLAG-Houston, the Grand Marshals who will lead the 2001 Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade.

7 p.m., Guava Lamp, 2159 Portsmouth  
attire: semi-casual  
phone: 713-529-3482  
e-mail: heir21@aol.com

**A Stroll through GLBT History with Ray Hill**

The celebrated nationally known activist/playwright/raconteur appears in the world premier of his latest performance piece. Proceeds benefit the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Limited seating is available.

7:30-9 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne  
cost: \$10  
phone: 713-524-3818  
fax: 713-639-7595  
e-mail: hlgcc@hotmail.com  
web: www.hlgcc.org

**Tuesday, June 19****Parade/Festival Volunteer Orientation**

Pulling off the annual nighttime Pride Parade and the Pride Festival wouldn't be possible without the help of dozens of volunteer Parade Marshals and Festival Staff. Individuals who would like to volunteer are requested to attend this meeting to prepare for the big weekend of Pride.

7 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray  
cost: none  
phone: 713-529-6979  
fax: 713-529-6929  
e-mail: info@pridehouston.org  
web: www.pridehouston.org

**Sing 2001**

Celebrate the spirit with a variety of Christian musical performances and readings.  
7:30 p.m., Community Gospel Church, 4305 Lillian  
cost: none; pre-registration required

phone: 713-880-9235

web: www.communitygospel.org

**Thursday, June 21****Human Rights Campaign Pride Celebration**

Anyone interested in the work of HRC is invited to this informal gathering, which features a cash bar, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a self-hosted dinner.

6-10 p.m., Farrago, 318 Gray at Bagby  
cost: none  
phone: 713-526-2903  
fax: 713-526-0189  
e-mail: robertcreeves@aol.com  
web: www.hrc.org

**Friday, June 22****Parade Eve**

This Community Center open house features wine and hors d'oeuvres followed by a screening of the 1996 film "Stonewall" hosted by Lesbian Film Night. Proceeds benefit the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

7-10, Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne  
cost: donations welcome  
phone: 713-524-3818  
fax: 713-639-7595  
e-mail: hlgcc@hotmail.com  
web: www.hlgcc.org

**Saturday, June 23****Pre-Pride T-Dance**

Come park and dance before the Pride Parade.  
2-8:30 p.m., Sonoma, 1415 California  
phone: 713-522-7066  
fax: 713-394-0464  
e-mail: longboy@howdy.net

**Parade Party at Katz's Deli**

Have a great view of the Pride Parade while raising money for AIDS Foundation Houston and the Pride Committee of Houston. Ticket includes food and drink with a cash bar. Purchase tickets at Katz's or charge by phone.

6-11 p.m., Katz Deli & Bar, 616 Westheimer  
cost: \$30 pre-paid, \$40 at the door; pre-registration available  
phone: 713-623-6796  
fax: 713-623-4029  
e-mail: kellyk@afhouston.org  
web: www.aidshep.org

**2001 Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade**

Join 150,000 under the glow of a 8 1/2-foot disco ball at the fifth annual nighttime Pride Parade, the largest GLBT event in the Southwest.  
8:45-11 p.m., Westheimer, Woodhead to Whitney  
cost: none  
phone: 713-529-6979  
fax: 713-529-6929  
e-mail: info@pridehouston.org  
web: www.pridehouston.org

**Sunday, June 24****2001 Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Festival**

The Pride Festival returns after a long five-year hiatus. Come experience the local GLBT culture firsthand. Speak with club representatives, shop the vendor bazaar, enjoy the artists and entertainers and be energized by motivational speeches. Most of all, participate and meet other members of our family on a lazy Sunday afternoon. Tickets are available at Basic Brothers (1232 Westheimer) or by mail from the Pride Committee of Houston, P.O. Box 66071, Houston, TX, 77266-6071.

1-7 p.m., Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan  
cost: \$10 advance/\$12 at the gate  
phone: 713-529-6979  
fax: 713-529-6929  
e-mail: info@pridehouston.org  
web: www.pridehouston.org

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1001 Preston, Suite 911,  
Houston, TX 77002

**Fax to:**

713.755.8379

**Email to:**

modelle\_brudner@co.harris.tx.us

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For more info, call 713.521.SING (7464)

## Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

### Capricious cafe

Botticelli offers mixed results, but when it's good, it's very good

by TRAYCE DISKIN

Now that Midtown has the sidewalks (and the urban hipster demographic living above them), it seems only natural that the requisite cafes would begin to appear as well.

Located next to the superb Farrago, CAFE BOTTICELLI is a more casual and loungy alternative, and on several counts, it fulfills this niche pleasantly.

Simple honey-colored oak furniture and comfy, hip couches invite customers a place to grab a beer, glass of wine or margarita, and chat way past happy hour (when, by the way, the drink specials shouldn't be missed). As for the dinner and lunch menu, we've had several contradictory experiences. When the food hits, it hits, but when it misses, better to grab a quick before dinner drink and take refuge next door.

On one occasion, I ordered the Penne Pasta (\$7.95), but after nearly 40 minutes of waiting, the server delivered Eggplant Rolletini (\$7.95). Although he was apologetic about the error, he assured me that it was too late to put in another order, and he wanted to be "outta here" by 9 p.m.

After examining my meal with eyes and fork, I deduced it was battered and fried eggplant strips layered with cheese and marinara, kind of an eggplant parmesan all rolled up. Temperature was an issue—toasty on the outside, but my first forkful emerged from the core with a frosty chunk of eggplant. I tried to convince myself that this was the result of an overly cold fridge, that held my dinner, prepared freshly just a few hours before, but all the evidence pointed to the dubious duo of freezer and microwave.

After our server returned with the dish reheated, the eggplant pieces were soggy, rubbery and overcooked. The breadcrumb coating may have been crunchy and generously laced with flavorful herbs at one point, but it was difficult to discern.

The Baked Ziti (\$7.50) my friend ordered fared better, although it too was a bit overcooked with bloated noodles, and not enough cheese. The marinara, however, possessed the perfect consistency, with juicy chunks of tomatoes and rich seasonings.

The next time we showed up, I was prepared to enjoy the beverages and merely tolerate the food. The array of coffee drinks is impressive, and the Cafe Mocha (\$2.95) and Cappuccino (\$2.50) certainly live up to cafe quality. For those who like a shot of decadence with their coffee, the Cafe Amaretto and Cafe Marinier (\$6.50 both) are delectable topped with whipped cream.

As a newly converted sucker for frou-frou chai concoctions, I was happy to see



Cafe Botticelli  
BARRA ITALIANO

Cafe Botticelli  
306 W. Gray  
713.533.1140

FOOD FILE

Food:   
Service:   
Value:   
Scene:

Opt for bread, water at home  
 OK, if you really must  
 Fine for most  
 Worth the drive, so live a little  
 As good as it gets

four varieties of this ubiquitous tea—spiced, vanilla, chocolate and raspberry (\$3.50). Botticelli also features a fully stocked bar with reasonably priced wines and beers.

And here's where there's something to be said for not giving up. No sooner were my friends and I enjoying our drinks by the courtyard fountain, when the Artichoke Salad (\$8.95) appeared and helped me forget all about our first visit's mishaps. A gorgeous colorful mixture of tangy, shiny sundried tomatoes, plump kalamata olives, and artichokes marinated in a savory balsamic vinaigrette, this salad was huge, and delicious enough to be an entire meal.

The toasted panini bread gave it an added touch, and allowed us to soak up the vinaigrette along with the relaxing al fresco atmosphere.

Although the server assured me that the Penne I ordered didn't have meat sauce, bits of ground beef lolled about not so inconspicuously among the tender tubes of pasta, and tasty marinara. My carnivorous companions had no complaints with this dish, but we all agreed the staff could be better informed about the few veggie options they serve.

Botticelli offers many good deserts, such as addictive Canolis (\$1.95) with thick and sugary batter. They also serve cakes, gelato, lemon ices and baked goods.

Your take on Cafe Botticelli may depend whether you tend to identify as an optimist or a pessimist. If you're like me and my dining companions, who like a heavy dose of cynicism to go along with their idealism, Cafe Botticelli can be a good place to work it all out.

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# On Stage

THEATER REVIEW

## Won't you be my neighbor?

Actor's Theatre's 'Mr. Bundy' may make you take a second look at the guy next door

by D.L. GROOVER

Before you even enter the theater space on South Boulevard, you are greeted by a child's chalkboard drawing. In Crayola primaries, the little girl skips rope outside her house. A man with a cane stands next to her. The ominous portent doesn't quite strike you until you pass it again on your way out.

Now, you realize that the man, old Mr. Bundy, stands between Cassidy and her house, blocking her from the comfort, the security it represents. He stands for something bad, very bad. It's a chilling little image that neatly sums up Jane Martin's walloping drama, **MR. BUNDY**, receiving its southwest premiere at Actors Theatre of Houston.

What do you do when you're told that a convicted child molester has lived next door to you and your little girl for two years? That same kindly avuncular man who's been a God-send in helping you baby sit your little girl. The man who's freed up your time periodically when you've had to



Robert Lott

run your life without the presence of your philandering husband, whom you've just about forgiven and may take back.

Now husband Robert's returned with the unbelievably horrible news. He'd been warned about Mr. Bundy, threatened almost, by the ultra-Christian bible thumper, Jimmy Ray Bosun.

Subsequently, Catherine, Cassidy's mom, is waylaid by Jimmy Ray's hothouse southern wife Tianna with the same news. The Bosuns, right-wing Paul Reveres doing the Lord's business, have a mission.

Ever since their own daughter's brutal assault and dismemberment—not by Mr. Bundy—they travel the country alerting good folks to the miscreants among us when the police won't or can't. They seek blessed vengeance. They also see castration and sideshow public cages for the molesters.

"Mr. Bundy" is what's known as a problem play, a play about ideas. In such a work where society's ills are debated, the characters are created to make a point, not necessarily to react as in real life. Usually, they come encased in quotation marks, so we might recognize them without too much strain. The author Jane Martin (a.k.a. John Jory from Actors Theatre of Louisville, as most have speculated) succeeds better than most in this regard, and her work is power-

ful and thought-provoking. Here, under Brandon Smith's ace direction, it flows in impressionistic torrents.

No one is all bad, not even Mr. Bundy. The Bosuns may be unforgiving and terribly un-Christian, but their grief is well earned and their outrage right and true. Through the stress and horror of perceived sex crimes, Robert undergoes the most sweeping change. From milquetoast to avenger, he brooks no disagreement. "Do you not listen to me?" Robert barks at Catherine who wavers in her moral indignity, and sees no harm in Cassidy's playing over at Mr. Bundy's house.

After all, she argues rather foolishly, in the past he's only molested teen-age boys. As a final argument, Catherine ponders Robert's stony thinking. If he can't or won't forgive Mr. Bundy's past, how is she supposed to forgive Robert's past indiscretions?

Lean and lanky with characteristic handlebar moustache, grisly voice, and gnarled hands, Lott steps right out of a Marlboro ad. His stage presence exudes wild west machismo. He's a capped oil well, ready to blow.

Who could match such a presence but someone sporting blond-tousled hair, red leather pumps, tight sleeveless blouse and short skirt? That McCrory as Tianna carries this off with aplomb and assurance is an understatement. She's a southern devil's disciple; Lillith in Eden; trailer trash in sexy wolf's clothing.

Although all the characters' lives are falling apart in some way, everything's presented in a neat and tidy little package, almost color coded to allow points to be made and make us think.

Everyone presents his view with debate-like clarity, and if they pound on the table rattling the tea pot, so much the better for drama. They even rise out of the audience to vent their views as if part of the community.



James Jeter

Guaranteed, once home and out of the safety of the theater, you might—just for a moment—look askance at your neighbors. Thank you, "Mr. Bundy," I think.



Aimee McCrory

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# community

## saturday, june 9

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.  
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-5AFE.  
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.  
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.  
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.  
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.  
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Lesbian Coming Out Workshop. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## sunday, june 10

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.  
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.  
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.  
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.  
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.  
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.  
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.  
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.  
Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930  
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.  
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Bisexuality. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.  
Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Family Story Time 2 p.m.. People of All Colors Together. 3 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## monday, june 11

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.  
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
HIV testing, STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.  
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.  
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.  
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.  
gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.  
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Mayoral Liaison Community Meeting. 5 p.m. • Dreamweavers: The Craft of Writing Fiction. 6:30 p.m. • Unity Committee. 7:30 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## tuesday, june 12

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.  
HTGA Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.  
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.  
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.  
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.  
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling

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# calendar

Center. 713-529-0037.  
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.  
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.  
 CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Classic Chassis Car Club. Board meeting. 713-797-8615.

## wednesday, june 13

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.  
 STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & EJ's. 713-830-3000.  
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380  
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.  
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.  
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.  
 Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.  
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.  
 Relevance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.  
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.  
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.  
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus Board meeting. 7:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne • 713-524-3818.

## thursday, june 14

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.  
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom.

8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.  
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.  
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toy Disco. 713-830-3000.  
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.  
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.  
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.  
 HIV Art Therapy Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.  
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.  
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
 HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition 6:30 p.m. • Houston Committee for Public Radio. 6:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Bi-Net Houston. Women's social. 713-467-4380.  
 Gay Archives Museum. Grand Opening. New Exhibits and Pride Event. 1609 West Main #4. 7-9 p.m. 713-227-5973.

## friday, June 15

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.  
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.  
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.  
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.  
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Lesbians United in Coalition P-ride Potluck. 7 p.m. • Hawthorne Men's Club. 7:30 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.  
 Rainbow Ranglers Annual Pride Ride. 713-528-9192.

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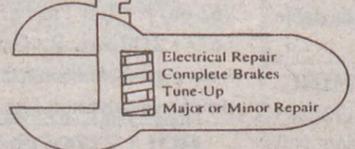
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### GAY WALKERS

Saturday mornings • <http://members.aol.com/morningclub/index.htm> • 281-437-0636.

### PARTY RENTAL HALL

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## PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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- Friday, June 22 • Art Exhibition 6pm-10pm
- Saturday, June 23 • Art Exhibition 9am-3pm
- Sunday, June 24 • Art Exhibition 9am-5pm

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**Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON**

**1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY**

**FREE\***: Call for guidelines  
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 \*First 20 words

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**2 WRITE YOUR AD**  
 Please print clearly

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

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

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

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

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Occasions

### Birthdays

Houston Area Bear members John K. (6/9), Tim C. (6/12), and Michael S. (13) claw away at the birthday cake this week.

Lordy, lordy, look who is over 40. We all lift our glass and toast to one of Mary's marvelous owners Gaye Yancy for her June 9 birthday.

Former *Houston Voicers'* Connie Marjanelo

and John Sweeny are celebrating birthdays on June 10.

The Rev. Janet Parker of Maranatha MCC counts her blessings as well as birthdays on June 11.

Smart and sassy Selina St. John (aka Xavier Luna) smiles in a big birthday smile on June 11.



This is Jezebel, an 8-month-old female domestic shorthair. Even though she is only 8-months-old, she has already had a first litter. But the Houston Humane Society will make sure she won't anymore!

### Emergency!

The Houston Humane Society's cupboards are bare and the poor dogs have none. To donate food or cash to HHS, call Christy Check at 713-434-5555, 713-545-2271 or e-mail: [pr@houstonhumane.org](mailto:pr@houstonhumane.org). The HHS relies solely on private donations and receives no federal, state or local funding. The HHS is not affiliated with any other national or local animal shelters or welfare organizations.

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# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

June 8 - 14

## ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)

There's no need to push yourself so much, dear. Other people will pick up the slack for you. The Sun conjuncts Jupiter in mid-June in your social sector and brings you closer to the cool people you've been wanting to get to know. A Libra will be pushing you more than you want to be pushed.

## TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)

Venus (your ruler) will be transiting your sign in mid-June, so take this opportunity to put some romance back into your life. There's no reason to turn to others (particularly a Sag) for answers to your personal quandaries. You've got the answers—particularly about a long-term relationship.

## GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

Get a little ambitious while the Sun, Mercury and Jupiter are all conjunct in your sign and on your side. Follow up with someone who expressed interest in your talent months ago. Find a way to articulate your deepest feelings during this cycle. A Taurus can help.

## CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

Several planets are transiting your melancholy twelfth house, which may make you look back on the past with regret or yearning. But you really are in such a better place now. Put an ex behind you once and for all. A Scorpio is inspired by the new (and improved) you.

## LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

Life is more than a little mysterious for you right now, darling Leo, especially where romance is concerned. You can't figure out how to anticipate the actions of a love object. A Capricorn doesn't care about your persona. Why do you care so much?

## VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)

Venus in your house of travel bodes well for an exciting trip—but it's one you should get proactive about. Don't wait around for offers. Take this moment to let your emotions gush forth in a messy and inconvenient way. Yep, it's time to allow yourself to lose control, babe. A Libra wants to fly away with you. Pack light, honey.

## LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)

Be a little adventurous in your life, Libra. Instead of trying to plot out all your moves, try a little spontaneity. Mercury on the Sun on June 16 makes a fantastic aspect to you if you are willing to put out a new message to the world. Speak a Scorpio's language.

## SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)

Uranus retrograde could be stirring up annoying family demons. You may want to escape from your wacky kinfolk, but remember they are a part of you, too. You have so much work to do, I don't know when you'll have time to get laid. Find time with a Leo. Don't prolong the inevitable.

## SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

You need to detach a little from a lover who is playing you for a fool. You are so popular right now that there's really no reason to put up with this crap. If you are falling hard and fast for someone intense (a Pisces perhaps?), you may just be scared out of your wits. It's called normal. A state of being that is just new to you, baby!

## CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

The moon in your home sector on the 16th could give you flashbacks to family dramas from January. Don't worry. The crises have subsided. The beginning of this year was filled with shocks and disappointments, but you're into a new cycle, darling. Mourn the past, then get with a Gemini—fast!

## AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

A competition for the attention of another could bring out the high-schooler in you. You are willing to stop at nothing to prove that you are the sex guru of the new millennium. Sex is friendly between you and a Cancer. Keep it light—except when the lights are off.

## PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

Do something racy and wild to get your blood racing again, Pisces. I hate to see you so medicated and depressed. Pull out that old dream journal and start making notes again. You will come out of this cycle with a brilliant work of art to show for it. Another Pisces plays a key role.

Jill Dearman is the author of "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women." For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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nighttime pride parade.

(Unless you happen to be standing under the 8 1/2 ft. disco ball.)



It's the premier pride event of the year in Texas and the most exciting gay and lesbian community event in the entire Southwest. Pride Parade 2001 is a celebration of our community's diversity and unity. Last year, over 150,000 people gathered under the glow of an 8 1/2 ft. disco ball, raising their voices as one. This year, we invite you to share in the vitality of our community. See you there on Saturday, June 23rd, at 8:45 pm. The parade is on lower Westheimer between Woodhead and Stanford.

The celebration continues on Sunday, June 24th, at 1:00 pm with the return of Pride Festival at Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan. Come experience Houston's GLBT culture first-hand. Speak with club representatives, shop the vendor bazaar, be energized by motivational speeches, and enjoy the artists and entertainers. Tickets are available at Basic Brothers and by mail from the Pride Committee of Houston, P.O. Box 66071, Houston TX, 77266. Information: 713-529-6979.



www.pridehouston.org

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