

Turner Classic Movies plans a line up of movies to precede this year's Academy Awards, and gay undercurrents abound.

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Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore angers activists after he calls 'homosexual behavior' an 'inherent evil.'

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Among new offerings at local theaters is 'True West,' a story about sibling rivalry on the Theatre Southwest stage.

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## Gays spar over governor race

Log Cabin Republicans criticize Houston, Austin caucuses' endorsements of Sanchez

by PENNY WEAVER

The race for the Texas governor's office, which once appeared blasé for gay voters, triggered a rift this week between leading gay groups in the state.

Log Cabin Republicans of Texas on Monday criticized the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus and the Austin Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus after both groups endorsed wealthy oilman Tony Sanchez in his bid for governor.

Sanchez and other Democrats — including former Texas Attorney General Dan Morales — are competing to win the March 12 primary election and face off against Republican incumbent Gov. Rick Perry on the November ballot.

"According to news reports, Sanchez was responsible for spreading rumors that

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Democrat candidates for governor Tony Sanchez (left) and Dan Morales are among those on the March 12 primary ballot.

## NAMES office 'considering options'



MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Julie Rhoad, interim managing director of the NAMES Project Foundation, said discord over a new agreement with chapters across the country is overshadowing progress the group has made to stabilize its finances. Local NAMES officials are 'considering our options,' according to Chair Alex Soto.

Handful of AIDS Quilt chapters close in wake of new agreement with national headquarters

by JENNIFER J. SMITH

Four chapters of the NAMES Project Foundation — including the Houston office — are either closing or severing their ties with the national caretakers of the AIDS Quilt less than a month after the deadline to sign a controversial new chapter agreement.

The status of three other chapters, including one in Washington, D.C., is unclear. The NAMES Project chapter in Houston is closing, though the move is apparently unrelated to the chapter agreement, some officials said.

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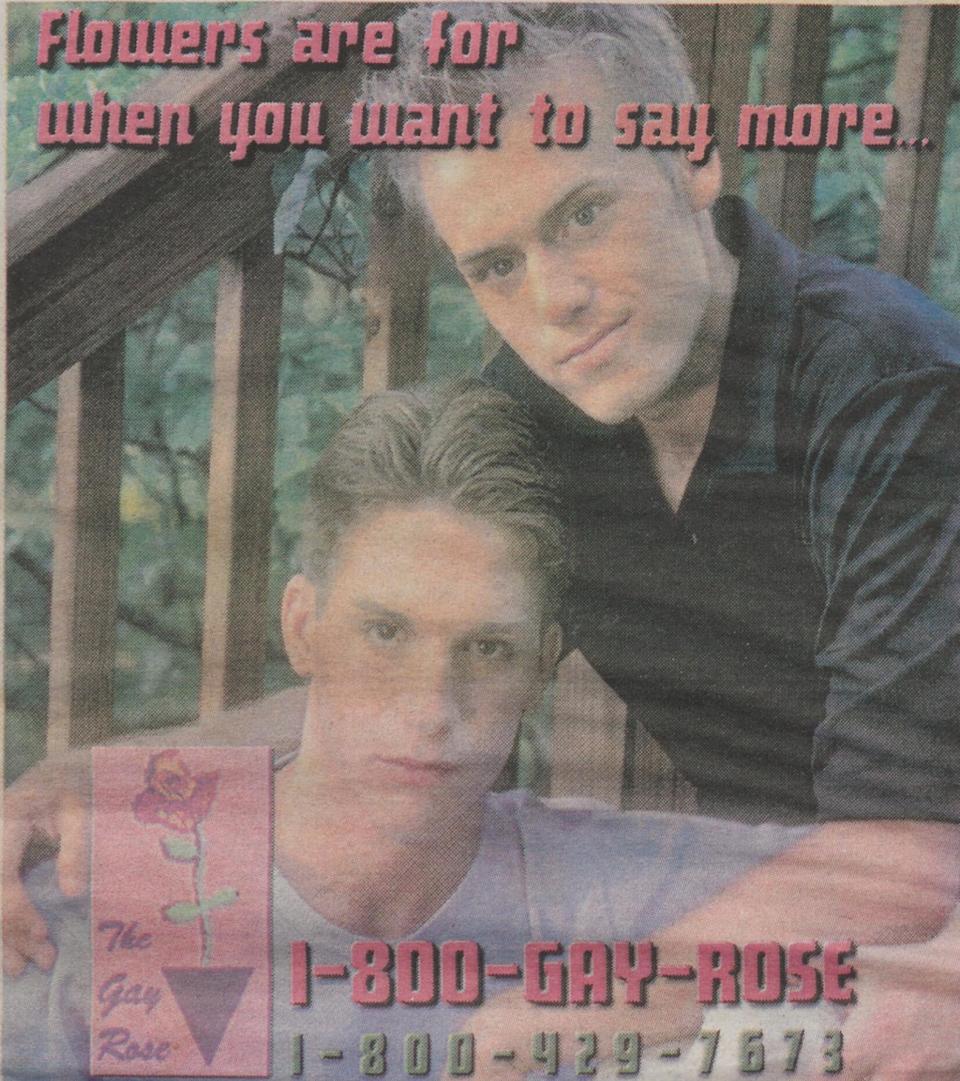



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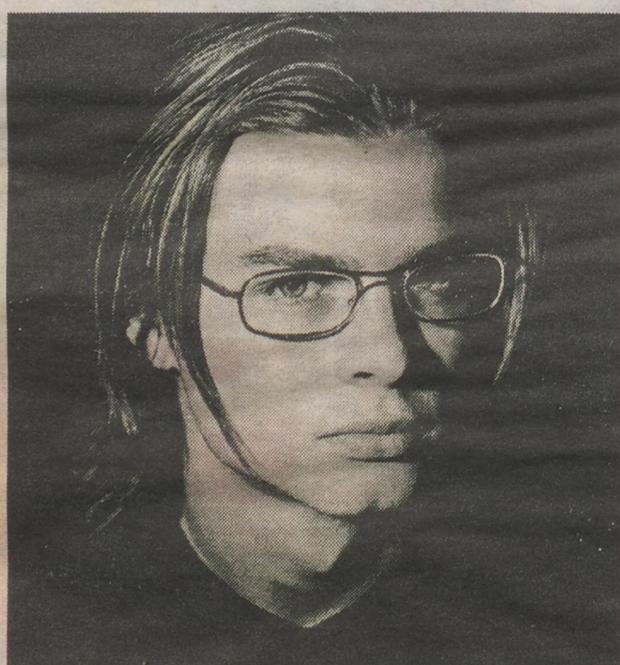
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# Lack of funds stops Q-Patrol in its tracks

Group designed to make Montrose streets safer for gays feels financial pinch

by PENNY WEAVER

Money constraints have curtailed weekly outings by the Q-Patrol, but organizers hope to soon be up and walking again.

"Right now, we are shut down. We're in a financial crisis," said Chris Arasin, chairman of Q-Patrol Inc., a watchdog against hate crimes.

Founded more than a decade ago, Q-Patrol is made up of volunteers who walk Montrose-area streets on Friday and Saturday nights to help look out for the safety of gays.

But starting with February, the patrols have been halted. Arasin said the group's main expense is for radios that volunteers use to communicate while out walking. Although Q-Patrol's total monthly expenses — for radios, phone service and rent at the Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center — only reach about \$450, Arasin said the group can't meet its costs right now.

"We only have three expenses, and the radios is our largest single overhead



Q-Patrol's monthly expenses include rent for the group's office at the Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center, located at 803 Hawthorne.

expense," Arasin said. "We wanted to put a stop on the account before we ended up being in default."

But Q-Patrol leaders, who all are volunteers, have been offered assistance already from local residents and are pursuing other avenues as well.

"We're trying to work on some grants," Arasin said. "We're looking at ways that we can go back out on the streets when we have enough volunteers. We're looking at other alternatives."

Q-Patrol began as a response to the July 4, 1991, murder of Paul Broussard, Arasin noted. Broussard and two friends, walking to their car in the Montrose area, were attacked by 10 teenagers wielding weapons including two-by-fours with nails.

Broussard, 27, was unable to escape and was severely beaten and stabbed. He died eight hours later. His murder set off a storm of protests from gays, including a large demonstration at the corner of Westheimer and Montrose in which protesters demand-

ed more police protection.

The tragedy also spawned Q-Patrol. Glenn Holt is president and founder of the group, and Steve Garland serves as vice president. David Groover is treasurer, and Dan Weiner and Rick Hawkins serve on the board with Arasin.

It is now a non-profit organization.

"We've gone through several different existences," Arasin noted. "We've been in this part of the non-profit corporation for probably about eight years."

Volunteers patrol on Friday and Saturday nights, with more people stepping up on Saturdays, Arasin noted. He estimated the group has about 10 volunteers per month who walk in groups each week.

He said the main concern for Q-Patrol leaders is the safety of gays in the area.

"The one thing we're worried about is if this becomes permanent [and] if trouble does start to occur again, how quickly people will be able to mobilize to try and keep everyone safe," Arasin said. "We don't want to go away and then the next incident occur people [say], 'Where's Q Patrol?'"

INFO

Q Patrol

713-528-SAFE

E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com

# Houston caucus quizzes governor candidates

➤ Continued from Page 1

Henry Cuellar is gay. Is this acceptable behavior in 2002 for any politician?" said Lorri Dennis, president of the Texas LCR, a partisan group for gays. "We do not want to tell any group how to run their business. However, why can a candidate who plays upon homophobia fears to succeed receive caucus endorsements?"

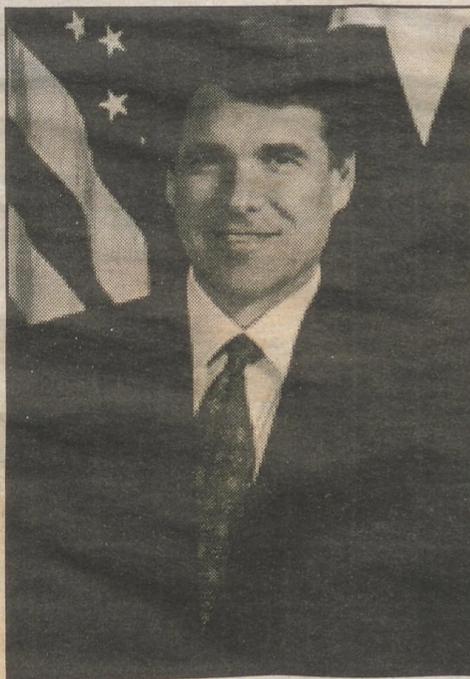
Last spring, Sanchez sent a letter of apology to Cuellar, Texas Secretary of State, in relation to the incident to which Dennis referred. Private investigators hired by Sanchez's lawyer, who was looking into the origin of a reportedly threatening letter, told Cuellar's friends and family he is gay.

That prompted Sanchez's letter of apology, but he stopped short of apologizing to Cuellar for alleging that the secretary of state wrote the threatening letter to Sanchez, the Voice reported in April 2001.

Cuellar responded by saying that Sanchez needed to also apologize to Cuellar's family and publicly admit that he did suspect Cuellar of writing the letter.

This week, Dennis said Sanchez, either directly or indirectly, employed homophobia to defeat a political opponent in the race against Cuellar.

"This is a significant issue," she said. "The story was reported in major state



Incumbent Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, is unopposed for his party's primary.

newspapers on their state and editorial pages during February and March of 2001. Why hasn't any of this been brought to light by any gay political organizations?"

But Kenneth Jones, president of the

Houston caucus, said Sanchez never personally tried to use gay-baiting tactics. Jones said the actions for which Sanchez apologized were those of the investigators hired by his attorney.

"They went over the line. There's no doubt about it. But he didn't do that — they did," Jones said.

"That sounds kind of like [former Enron CEO] Ken Lay," countered LCR spokesman Steve Labinski. "[Sanchez] specifically didn't [gay-bait], but his employees did. That was his campaign at the time.

"He didn't take responsibility for it. He never really owned up to it," Labinski said. "We don't want to tell another group what to do, but we think it's an appropriate question to ask: Why should a gay organization endorse a candidate who, within the past 12 months, has played the gay card in trying to get an opponent out of the race?"

"It's a very relevant question," he added. "Many of these same people in these same groups are very quick to criticize Republicans or other candidates for doing this in the 1980s, yet they turn the blind eye if it happens today."

## Caucus 'put feet to the fire'

Jones said the Houston caucus requested

that candidates sign off on promises including a pledge to back employment non-discrimination legislation for gay Texas workers.

According to Jones, Sanchez was more forthcoming in his support than Morales.

"Morales did not sign anything. He's the one we got the mushy letter from: 'I'm against discrimination but don't expect me to sign on the dotted line on what I will or will not do,'" Jones said.

The caucus expects specifics from candidates on how they will support gay rights.

"We tried to put their feet to the fire," Jones said. "[We ask], 'Are you willing to go to bat for us?'"

Sanchez told caucus leaders that he supports several key issues, according to Jones.

"He is willing to sign an executive order when he becomes governor for non-discrimination for state employees," Jones said. "He is willing to publicly back an ENDA for Texas employees. Those are the primary two reasons [Sanchez received our endorsement]."

"He said, 'I know what it's like to be discriminated against and I don't think it's right,'" Jones added. "He also has publicly said that he would encourage passage of the repeal of the sodomy law and he would sign that bill when it comes across his desk, things that Rick Perry certainly hasn't said."

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## FDA may ban sperm donations from gay men

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has closed public discussion on its proposal to ban gay men from donating sperm, getting one step closer to implementing the policy, the San Francisco Examiner reported. "The FDA is a clear and present threat to gay families and right now they plan to go whole-hog with their discriminatory policies," Leland Traiman, owner of Alameda-based Rainbow Flag Health Services & Sperm Bank, told the Examiner. In the U.S., only Rainbow Flag and the Sperm Bank of California in Berkeley accept sperm from gay men. While there are currently no federal regulations on sperm donation, a majority in the self-regulating industry follows CDC guidelines. Those guidelines, which include all tissue and organ donations, specifically exclude "men who have had sex with another man in the past five years" because of the incidence of HIV in gay men. Unlike blood and internal organs, which cannot be frozen, sperm collected at sperm banks is frozen and quarantined for six months and then retested.

## Cincinnati gay activists resign over boycott

CINCINNATI — Three members of a Cincinnati gay civil rights organization have resigned over the group's decision to support a boycott of the city, and a fourth said she will also quit, the Cincinnati Enquirer reported. Freeman Durham, Lauren Koon, Doreen Quinn and Nancy Minson make up a majority of the Greater Cincinnati Stonewall Political Action Committee and say the organization's position on the boycott could threaten its main objective, which is the removal of Article XII from the city's charter. Article XII, approved as Issue 3 by 68 percent of Cincinnati voters in 1993, prohibits the City Council from passing gay civil rights legislation. Durham said the repeal of the measure needs a broad coalition of support and said her concern is that the boycott could alienate people. A call for a boycott of the city has drawn mixed support. Some black activists are calling for a boycott and demanding that Cincinnati officials address race relations in the city following an incident last April in which a white police officer shot an unarmed black man fleeing on misdemeanor charges.

## Fla. lawmakers introduce gay-friendly bully bill

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Two state lawmakers have introduced the Dignity for All Students Act, which would prohibit harassment, discrimination, and violence against all students in Florida schools on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, marital status, sex or gender, handicap, or sexual orientation, whether actual or perceived, the Florida Times-Union reported. The bill has yet to be heard in the first House committee to which it was assigned. State Sen. Walter "Skip" Campbell (D-Tamarac) and state Rep. Ken Gottlieb (D-Miramar) are sponsoring the bill. "I want to protect children," Gottlieb told the Times-Union. "I want to help make it where children feel safer in our schools." The proposal would provide funding and training in school systems. But it has little chance of passing because it has no Republican support in the GOP-dominated state legislature.

State Rep. Ken Gottlieb, a Florida Democrat, is sponsoring a bully bill that would ban harassment of students based on several categories, including sexual orientation.



AP

## Del. court says lesbian should provide child support

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — A lesbian being sued for child support by her former partner should be considered a parent, even though she has no biological connection to the child, a court commissioner ruled. Both women should be considered mothers to a 4-year-old boy they chose to have through in-vitro fertilization, Family Court Commissioner John Carrow ruled. If the decision is upheld on appeal, it will set a precedent in Delaware by expanding who can be held legally responsible for caring for a child, experts said. "It's definitely a leap," said attorney Joel Tenenbaum, chairman-elect of the American Bar Association's family law section. "It absolutely expands the definition of a parent." Carrow's decision was handed down Feb. 5. Before the decision, if a gay couple raising children together in Delaware split, only the person with custody had legal responsibility for supporting the children.

## Decision pending in Fla. trans custody case

CLEARWATER, Fla. — A three-week custody trial between a transgendered Florida man and his wife ended Feb. 8, the New York Times reported. The trial, which will determine custody of the two children of Michael and Linda Kantaras, will determine whether Michael Kantaras is legally a man. If the court determines he is not, his marriage to Linda Kantaras and his adoption of her children will be deemed invalid. The trial is the first transgender custody case in Florida courts, according to AP. "Basically Florida law does not permit same-sex marriage, and the question is whether this is a same-sex marriage or not," Judge Gerard O'Brien of Pasco-Pinellas Circuit Court, who is presiding over the case, told the Times. "I have been a judge for 20 years, and I have had other fascinating family law as well as criminal law cases, but never anything like this," he said. O'Brien said he does not expect to make a ruling for months; his decision could make Florida law and establish a legal precedent for transsexuals in other states.

— From staff and wire reports



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# AIDS Quilt founder 'too old for this crap'

➤ Continued from Page 1

Contacted this week, Alex Soto, chair of the local NAMES branch, would not directly characterize the office's future.

"The Houston chapter is still reviewing the situation and considering its options," Soto said. "We're still very much committed to the quilt and to [fighting] the AIDS epidemic. We're not trying to hide anything, but at the same time I think we have to be somewhat flexible.

"As a chapter, we no longer exist," Soto added. "There's a lot of options, and we want to be able to consider each of those options."

Nationwide, the split, fueled by a new agreement the Atlanta-based NAMES Project Foundation has required its 34 chapters to sign, has led to the founder of the AIDS Quilt, Cleve Jones, to call on chapters to "put aside the petty bullshit" and support the group's efforts to rescue itself from financial instability.

Some 26 of 34 chapters have signed and returned the agreement, according to Julie Rhoad, managing director of the NAMES Project Foundation.

Chapters that have not signed the agreement and have an unclear status include Washington, D.C., Middle Ohio and Southeastern Massachusetts. Groups



Houston NAMES Project officials said this week the work of the chapter will go on, even as the branch's future makeup is in limbo.

in Fort Worth/Tarrant County, Texas, Syracuse, N.Y., and Rhode Island rejected the agreement, but will continue their mission under new names, according to interviews with group officials.

The chapter in Long Beach, Calif.,

rejected the agreement and is closing. The group in Houston is disbanding, though it is apparently not related to the chapter agreement, according to Rhoad and other national officials. Soto would not give specifics about the future of the local

NAMES branch.

"I believe that the status of those who did not sign the contract is pretty evident," he said.

"I'm just brokenhearted about the split, but we won't stop the good work we're doing," said Beth Milham, chair of the Rhode Island chapter. "We just can't do it with the national organization anymore."

Chapter officials complained of being excluded from the process that developed the contracts, which they said prevent them from soliciting individual donors, significantly increase fees to use quilt panels for education displays, require the adoption of a uniform name, and dissolve the chapters individual identities.

Jones, who founded the AIDS Quilt in 1987, said he is not surprised by the chapter exodus.

"It's unfortunate, and I'm sorry to lose these hard working, wonderful people, but honestly we probably lose that many chapters for various reasons every year anyway," he said.

"And frankly, this is the reality: There are close to 25 million bodies rotting out there, we have a president in the White House who could not care less about us, and people just need to put aside the

➤ Continued on Page 7

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# NAMES leaders say group will survive flap

> Continued from Page 6  
petty bullshit. I'm too old for this crap. I've been living with this disease for two decades — in my body and out there — and people need to grow up and look at the big picture," he added.

Chapters in Rhode Island, Fort Worth and Syracuse have all taken steps in recent weeks to reorganize as independent groups. While they will provide "a nurturing, supportive network for each other," the groups will not form a network, Milham said.

The board of the Rhode Island chapter is finalizing a new name, has staffed a three-year panel making project, informed their volunteers, panel-makers and display locations of the split, and "are ready to get back to work," Milham said.

The chapter in Fort Worth is not far behind, said chair Randy Linville.

"We were initially made to feel very alone when we complained about the new agreement," Linville said. "And then we learned there were lots of other chapters with the same concerns we had."

The group was particularly heartbroken, Linville said, because many chapter members had been active with the AIDS Quilt "since the beginning," and had

recently overcome financial hardships to keep the chapter going.

Jones said the chapter breakaways are covering up another problem: Some chapters don't reflect the diversity of people that AIDS now attacks, he said.

"Frankly I think it's likely the chapter program will cease to exist at all in the future," he said. "As much as I love most of the individuals, there has been real shortcomings, and the gravest of all is their inability to bring in those people who are most severely impacted by the disease today — African Americans and Latinos. AIDS has changed and they have not."

Jones said he backs the new chapter agreements and firmly supports Rhoad, who has said reports about the disbanding of some chapters are overlooking the progress the national organization has recently made.

"It is unfortunate when we have done so much good the past year that people are focusing on the negative," Rhoad said.

Rhoad said some \$360,000 in old debt has been paid off and the organization last year completed a move from San Francisco to new facilities in Atlanta.

Some chapters have also questioned

person loans and donations Rhoad and several foundation board members made to the organization last year. Jones said the loans were to "keep it afloat during a financial crisis."

Rhoad said Tuesday a "significant number" of board members had made "sizable donations, and in some cases donations and loans" to the organization last year, but said all loans had been repaid by the end of 2001.

Some chapters have questioned whether the increased fees are a result of board members demanding repayment. Rhoad disagreed.

"The loans had nothing to do with the new agreement," said Rhoad. "I was once asked, if all the chapters went away tomorrow, what would happen? What I discovered is the phones would ring off the hooks with people wanting to form new chapters right away."

Ed Gatta, chair of the foundation's board, said he was initially surprised by the negative reaction from some chapters. But has no doubt the organization will weather the controversy and come out stronger, he added.

"We all want to be liked, and this has been hard on everyone," Gatta said. "I was very concerned when I heard about

the discord, but the founder is pleased, the donor base is pleased and this is the first time in 10 or 12 years that the director, the founder and the board are all singing in harmony. That tells me we're doing the right thing."

The NAMES Project is the keeper of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, a prominent symbol of the struggle against AIDS. The quilt consists of more than 46,000 6-foot by 3-foot panels — roughly the size of a human grave — dedicated to people who died of the disease. Portions are displayed in about 3,000 venues annually.

— Penny Weaver contributed to this story.

## NAMES Project Houston

713-526-2637

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## The NAMES Project Foundation

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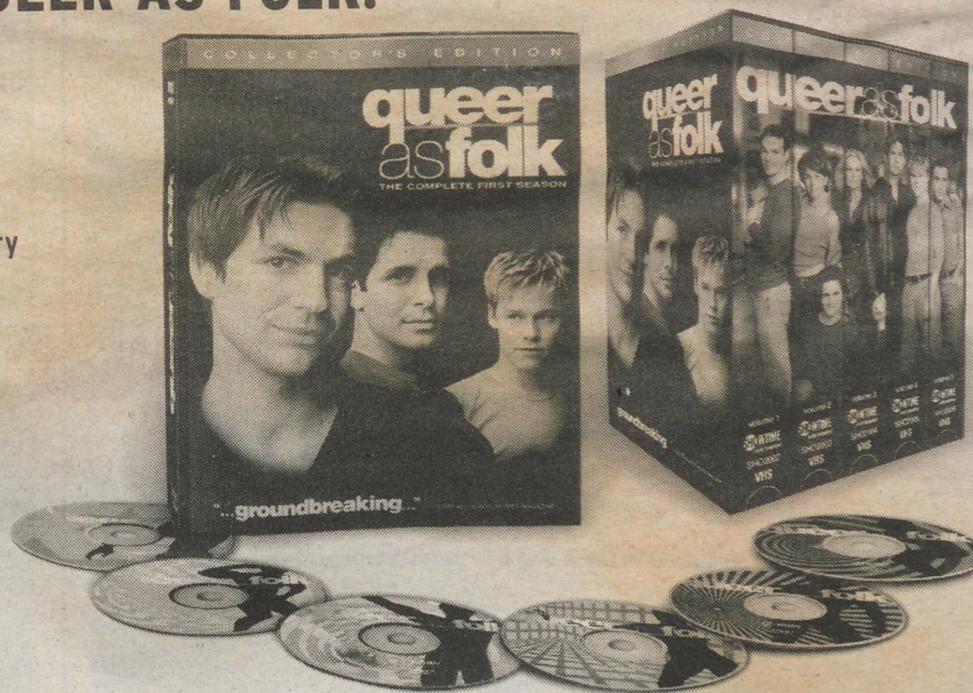
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# Ala. Chief Justice: Gay is 'inherent evil'

Homosexuality makes gays unfit to have children, state's chief justice says

by LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — "Homosexual behavior... is a crime in Alabama, a crime against nature, an inherent evil, and an act so heinous that it defies one's ability to describe it," according to the head of Alabama's highest court.

Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore further denounced homosexuality as "detestable and an abominable sin" in a legal opinion issued Feb. 15 in the case of a lesbian mother who sought custody of her three teenage children.

The state Supreme Court ruled unanimously against the mother, overturning an appeals court decision that held Dawn Huber, known in court records by her initials only, should regain custody of her children because their father's discipline constituted "family violence."

The majority opinion did not focus on Huber's sexual orientation, finding instead that the appeals court violated judicial protocols by "reweighing" evidence from the initial trial.

The father admitted acts including hitting the children with a belt and hanger, forcing one child to ask permission to eat or use electricity and forcing the kids to sit on the family lawn with bags over their heads as punishment for being late.

But the trial court found his actions constituted only "occasional excessive disciplinary measures."

"Neither the Court of Civil Appeals nor this Court is allowed to reweigh the evidence in this case," the Supreme Court ruled, quoting previous legal precedent.

Moore wrote that he issued his additional concurring opinion in order to "specially state the homosexual conduct of a parent... creates a strong presumption of unfitness that alone is sufficient justification for denying that parent custody of his or her own children or prohibiting the adoption of the children of others."

Moore's comments prompted calls for his resignation, protests from gays in Alabama and gay rights groups around the country, national media attention, an ethics complaint against him to the Alabama's state Judicial Inquiry Commission, and a promise by the mother's attorney to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"I was quoting common law. This is a common law state," Moore told reporters Wednesday after attending a budget hearing at the Statehouse, the Associated Press reported.

Common law is the doctrine that judicial decisions are based on the way the law has been interpreted in the past.

Making his first public remarks about the opinion, Moore said he could not comment on specifics of the case or his opinion because the



Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore, a darling of religious conservatives, has spoken to church congregations about the separation of church and state. He invoked biblical language in denouncing gays in an opinion released Feb. 15.

case could come back before the court.

The chief justice said the opinion does not mean that he can't be fair when judging cases involving gays or lesbians, according to the AP. He said people who say he should be removed from office are wrong.

"I treat all people fairly. I don't need to be removed. I was just going by the law," Moore said.

A conservative who became a darling of religious conservatives in 1997 by defying orders to remove the 10 Commandments from his court room, Moore was elected Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court in 2000. He defeated Civil Appeals Court Judge Sharon Yates, who wrote the original opinion giving Huber custody of her children.

### 'An embarrassment'

Moore won't be up for re-election until 2006, but gay rights advocates said this week they want him out of office long before his term as chief justice ends.

Alabama gays and their supporters rallied on the steps of the state capitol in Montgomery on Tuesday, with many calling for Moore's resignation. The event had already been scheduled to mark the third anniversary of the hate crime murder of gay Sylacauga resident Billy Jack Gaither, but several of the more than 150 participants said language like Moore's contributes to the climate that results in such attacks.

"There is no way [Moore's comments] are not going to incite more violence," said Ken Baker, chair of Montgomery-based Equality Begins at Home of Central Alabama, in an interview shortly before the rally.

"This is an embarrassment for the state of Alabama, as we are once again making headlines around the world as a place of hate and intolerance," said Baker, who wrote a letter to Moore calling for his resignation.

Attorneys with the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund on Wednesday filed a formal ethics complaint against Moore with Alabama's state Judicial Inquiry Commission.

The **Ryan White Planning Council** invites you to attend the following presentations of the advances in medical treatment & medications committee:

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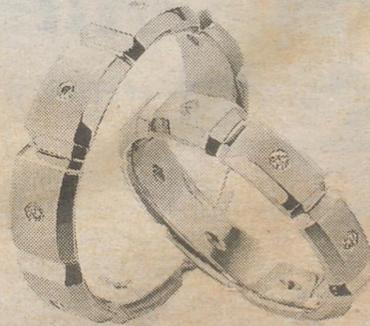


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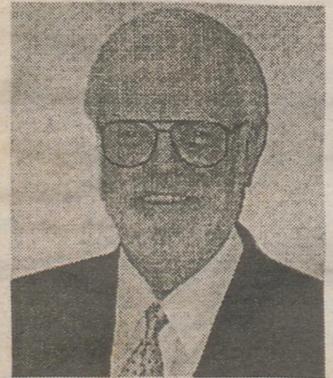
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Issue 1113



## EDITORIAL

# All-or-nothing on trans rights

by PENNY WEAVER

In light of the most recent transgender murder in Houston, advocates for trans Texans last week demanded that the state's hate crimes law be amended to include gender identity or gender non-conformity.

The law already includes specific protected categories, including sexual orientation. It provides enhanced penalties for those convicted of targeting someone for violence because of their actual or perceived membership in one of those categories.

But the Texas state legislature isn't the only powerful group that local trans feel a cold shoulder from. The Texas Gender Advocacy & Information Network (TGAIN) plans protests at next week's Human Rights Campaign annual gala in Houston. Trans activists decry the HRC's strategic decision to keep gender identity out of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would protect gays from workplace bias.

About a year ago, HRC added the "T" to its mission to advocate for LGBT rights, but the group does not support adding gender identity to ENDA, arguing that such a move likely would kill the legislation, according to HRC spokesman Wayne Besen.

So members of our community line up, once again, on different sides of the same rope, playing tug-of-war to determine how inclusive our civil rights movement should be.

It's already a politically correct

When it comes to civil rights, gays should practice what they preach: Everyone should be treated equally, without regard to sexual orientation and, yes, gender identity.

requirement to list "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender" when referring to anyone who isn't heterosexual. It can't be good enough to say "gay" and let people infer that you are including all "non-straight." Better say LGBT, lest you be chastised for excluding someone.

After all, inclusion is at the core of our demands for equal civil rights for gays. We don't want to be divided from straights and given lesser rights and secondary status. We want to be treated equally. We demand equal freedoms and civil rights, regardless of sexual orientation.

### Practical vs. principle

HRC officials and other gay leaders contend that including gender identity and gender non-conformity as protected categories in ENDA will prevent the bill from passing. Trans activists contend that inclusion would not endanger the legislation. They say members of Congress tell them that an all-encompassing ENDA could pass.

One side says activists should push what they realistically can expect to get made into law. Later, they contend, trans folks can be added to the protections.

The trans side says everyone should

be included. Both gender identity and gender non-conformity should be among protected statuses for American workers, they argue. The fight is an ironic one for a movement whose beginning is marked by the Stonewall Riots led largely by drag queens and other gender-benders.

It may be practical to only include in ENDA the categories that are deemed acceptable enough to pass Congressional muster. But advocating for what society can handle right now, instead of what society should do, is shortsighted. Gays cannot in good conscience expect justice for themselves while leaving transgenders out of the formula.

As Coretta Scott King has said: "An injustice to one is an injustice to all."

Gay leaders seem to be saying, "We'll take what we can get," rather than, "We'll take what is right." But it is inconsistent for gays to ask for inclusion while simultaneously excluding transgender rights.

No, sexual orientation and gender non-conformity are not the same things, not by far. But when it comes to civil rights, gays demand inclusion and should practice what they preach: Everyone should be treated equally, as human beings, regardless of immaterial characteristics such as gay, straight or trans, black or white, old or young.

Whatever label we choose — gay, straight, bisexual, lesbian, transgender — we have much more that unites us than separates us. With or without labels, we each are human. We love, we hurt, we laugh, we cry. Most of us have experienced discrimination personally — and most of us have discriminated against someone else.

Just as gays expect to be included in legal protections for minorities, let gays include transgenders in that same fight against discrimination. If it takes longer or is a tougher fight for ENDA to become law, so be it. An ENDA that itself discriminates but becomes law would be a hollow and shortsighted victory.

Let's hope that no matter which side we are on, we can all see that we are pulling on the same rope, all working for equality. When we begin to understand how many more similarities we all have than differences, we will begin to achieve that equality.

Penny Weaver is the editor of the *Houston Voice* and can be reached at editor@houstonvoice.com.

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VIEWPOINT

Egyptian finds no satisfaction in search for accountability

by MUBARAK DAHIR

Ismail El-Shareef could feel his heart racing as he stood at the microphone waiting to pose what he knew would be a shocking question to the audience of hundreds around him.

"I was very nervous and a little overwhelmed," says El-Shareef. "My emotions were a mixture of joy that I had come to do this, and fear of the reaction I would get."

El-Shareef, a 27-year-old Egyptian computer engineer living in West Hollywood, had gathered all his courage to drive the hour south to Anaheim Feb. 7 to attend a dinner hosted by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in honor of Amre Moussa, the Secretary General of the League of Arab States and a former prime minister of Egypt.

El-Shareef was there for one reason: to confront the Egyptian dignitary on the recent actions by the Egyptian government towards gay men. In Cairo last May, 52 men were arrested in a raid on the Queen Boat, a floating disco on the Nile known as a gay hangout.

Though Egypt has no specific law against homosexuality, the men were charged with committing "obscene behavior," and "contempt for religion." In November, 23 of the men were convicted and sentenced to years in prison. El-Shareef fears a close friend is among the Egyptian men arrested and jailed.

So when El-Shareef saw an ad in his local Arabic newspaper advertising ADC's honoring of Amre Moussa, he decided to show up in person and raise the issue.

"I figured it was the perfect setting," he explains. "The ADC is an organization that claims to fight against discrimination and for human rights. And in Egyptian circles, Amre Moussa is very influential, and considered a moderate."

During his speech that evening,

Moussa lauded the ADC for its work on behalf of Arab-Americans who have suffered a surge of discrimination, even violence, in the wake of Sept. 11.

El-Shareef was heartened by Moussa's speech, and jotted notes quoting the secretary general's own stirring phrases.

Then, with butterflies in his stomach, El-Shareef stood in line to pose his question.

As soon as he uttered the word 'gay' the crowd rippled with murmurs and boos. It was a very public coming out.

When it was finally his turn, El-Shareef started by praising Moussa's call to action, quoting back his own words. Then, taking a deep breath, he continued: Could the secretary general discuss the situation in Egypt concerning the government's continued oppression of gay men, and offer his opinion on the situation?

"This particularly hits home for me," El-Shareef concluded, "because I am a gay Egyptian myself."

As soon as El-Shareef uttered the word "gay," the audience rippled with hushed murmurs and even a few boos.

"I wanted these people — progressive Arab Americans who are part of a national anti-discrimination group who had gathered to speak out on international issues of human rights — to face this issue," El-Shareef says.

Unfortunately, Moussa totally evaded the question. He simply refused to comment, and went on to the next question.

Back at his seat, El-Shareef was deeply disappointed. He hadn't expected Moussa to champion gay rights, and he'd even braced himself for a condemnation of homosexuality. But he at least had hoped to force some discussion.

Minutes later, however, El-Shareef's disappointment turned to anger.

El-Shareef's American lover, Mark Zecca, had accompanied him to the event, and was standing in line waiting to ask his own question. Zecca gave a blistering criticism of U.S. bias against the Palestinians, becoming an instant crowd favorite.

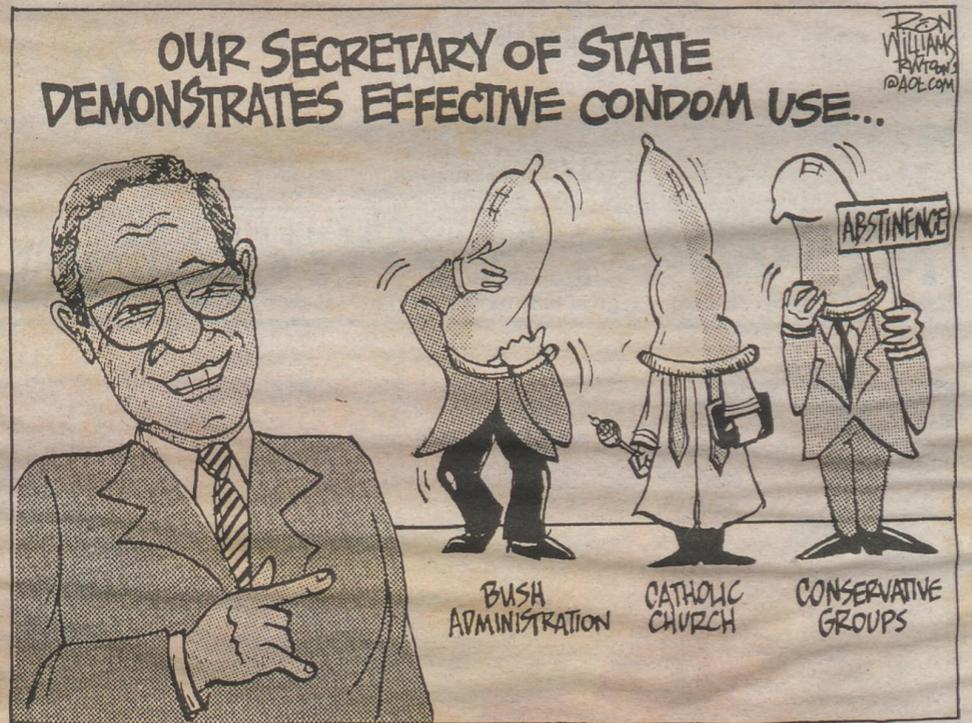
"People were clapping and even standing and shouting," recalls El-Shareef.

For him, the irony was too much. "I want-



Ismail El-Shareef challenged an Egyptian dignitary about his country's treatment of gay men — but the dignitary refused to comment.

Mubarak Dahir is a syndicated columnist living in Astoria, N.Y., and can be reached at MubarakDah@aol.com.



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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# on the record



Laura Bush

"It isn't really a sissy pretzel."

First lady Laura Bush, in a Feb. 11 appearance on the "Tonight Show," who told host Jay Leno that her husband choked and lost consciousness on a large pretzel and now only eats smaller varieties, always practicing "safe snacks." (Associated Press, Feb. 11)

"Dear [Censored], We can't write 'inappropriate' notes on Bombs anymore, but we're still going to kick your [Censored], you [Censor] [Censored]. Love, U.S.M.C."

Caption for a cartoon by Phillip Thompson for the Feb. 11 issue of the Marine Corps Times. The cartoon is referring to an Associated Press photograph taken aboard the USS Enterprise of a U.S. bomb that would later be dropped over Afghanistan. A service member had scrawled "Highjack This Fags" across the side of the bomb. After that incident, the Navy issued an order prohibiting "inappropriate" graffiti on bombs. (Gay.com UK, Feb. 14)

"[The cartoon] clearly implies that the artist considers anti-gay [slurs] acceptable in the armed forces."

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a Washington-based organization representing those affected by the U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, demanding an apology from the Marine Corps Times for publishing the Thompson cartoon. (Gay.com UK, Feb. 14)

"At least I'm not a faggot!"

Rev. Arthur Allen Jr., of Atlanta's House of Prayer Church, confronting a soft-spoken male audience member on the "Sally Jesse Raphael" show. State authorities have seized children from the homes of a number of Allen's parishioners because they insist on following their minister's guidelines on corporal punishment. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, "Peach Buzz," Feb. 19)

"When Sergio and I went to the White House, Sergio said to the president, 'Señor Presidente.' And Bush said to Sergio in Spanish, 'You know, I can speak to you in Spanish, and he can't, can he?'"

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), recounting the meeting of his boyfriend, Sergio Pombo, and President Bush (Advocate, February issue)



Barney Frank

"We're not going to have a problem with a guy walking down the street and the police chief pulling him over for it. ... The supervisors are taking a pro-active approach to protect the health, safety and morals of the community."

Todd Kerstetter, lawyer for the Pennsylvania township of Numidia, which unanimously passed an ordinance on Feb. 7 banning public nudity, including "the showing of covered male genitals in a discernible turgid state." (Bloomsbury, Pa. Press Enterprise, Feb. 7)



David Carr

"People assume that when I go on vacation I'm looking for someplace with rainbow flags and gay B&Bs. But, I don't want to see a rainbow flag, I want to get away and recharge my batteries. I like nature — mountains and oceans and national parks."

Patricia Logue, senior counsel at Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. (Chicago Tribune, Feb. 13)

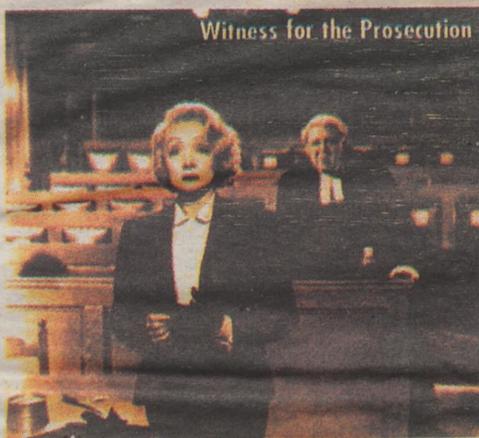
"It's not so bad when little kids in the neighborhood come to my house. But when 50-year-old men show up at my door asking for an autograph, well, that makes me a little nervous. I definitely keep my door locked."

Fresno State student David Carr, on the fawning attention the Heisman candidate has received since rising as one of the top quarterbacks in college football last season. (ESPN Magazine)

# Out on the Bayou

## Oscar goes gay

**Turner Classic Movies offers month of award-winning films, including some with gay appeal**



Witness for the Prosecution

by STEVE WARREN

March Madness has struck again.

Sure, there's college basketball and the Final Four. But the madness we're talking about is Oscar-related.

And to assist in the build up to March 24, the day the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences dishes out its gold, Turner Classic Movies is again airing award-winning films throughout the



Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

month in "31 Days of Oscars."

There's plenty of gay and camp to go around, too. TCM puts to use its expansive movie library to air 339 different features, plus dozens of shorts and cartoons, Oscar nominees all.

Each day has a theme, like "Oscar Sings," "Oscar Goes to New York," "Oscar Gets Scared" and "Oscar Learns to Fly."

But if you want to see "Oscar Goes Gay," you'll have to cherrypick your own program from films scattered over the month. You'll find that in the 1940s queer

subject matter was made the object of ridicule (Elisha Cook, Jr. in "The Maltese Falcon," March 31; David Wayne in "Adam's Rib," March 9) or camouflaged ("The Lost Weekend," based on a novel about a gay man, March 3; "The Picture of Dorian Gray," from an Oscar Wilde novel with a gay subtext, March 29; "Strangers on a Train," in which Robert Walker barely conceals his lust for Farley Granger, March 31).

In the 1950s it was deleted (Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire," March 4, and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," March 20; the "oysters and snails" scene, later restored to "Spartacus," March 14).

In the early 1960s, being queer resulted in death (Lillian Hellman's "The Children's Hour," March 21; Gore Vidal's "The Best Man," March 6).

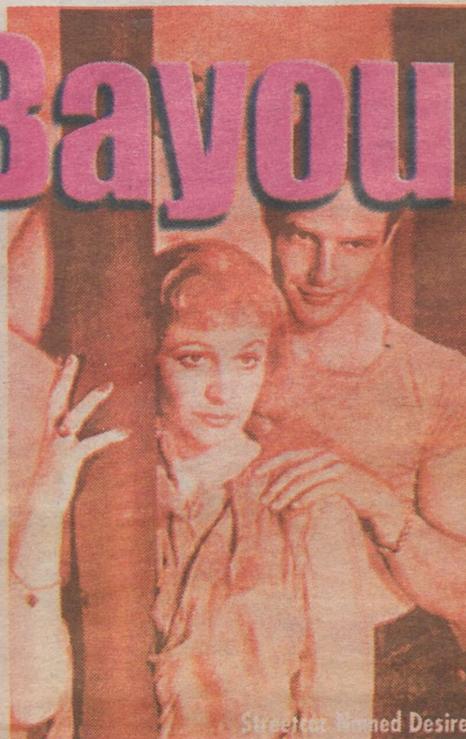
For whatever reason (mostly a lack of Oscar nominations), the early steps of gay liberation on screen in the 1970s is missing from the series, unless you count 1968's "The Producers" (March 30), with its flamboyant gay couple.

Later gay appearances are in 1982's "Victor/Victoria" (March 25), 1993's "Philadelphia" (March 9) and 1994's "Ed Wood" (March 11).

To help in making your own "Oscar Goes Gay," we've put together a guide:

Queer Directors: There are probably several more, but the ones we're pretty sure about include Vincente Minnelli and his "Gigi," March 5; "Lust for Life," March 11; "Designing Woman," in which choreographer Jack Cole beats people up in dance to prove he's no sissy, March 12; "Madame Bovary," March 13; "The Band Wagon" and "Cabin in the Sky," March 26; and "Father of the Bride," March 27).

With gay actors we also know only the tip of the iceberg: James Dean and Sal Mineo ("Rebel without a Cause," March 1); Roddy McDowall ("The Greatest Story Ever Told," March 2); Montgomery Clift ("Raintree County," March 4, "Red River," March 17 and "Indiscretion of an American Wife," March 27); Marlon Brando ("A Streetcar Named Desire,"



A Streetcar Named Desire

March 4), "Julius Caesar" (with John Gielgud), March 13 and "One-Eyed Jacks," March 17 and "Mutiny on the Bounty," March 23).

Some of the best musicals are also scheduled: "Fiddler on the Roof" (March 2); "West Side Story" and "On the Town" (March 3); "Show Boat" (March 4); "Oliver" (March 13); "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg" (March 18); "Singin' in the Rain," "Top Hat," "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and "Kiss Me Kate" (March 26).

A tip for finding the best movies: skip the Best Picture winners and look



Kiss Me Kate

to the Best Screenplay awards. That's where you'll find the likes of "Citizen Kane," "Pulp Fiction" and this year, "Memento." And don't forget "Gone with the Wind" (March 4).

### INFO

#### '31 Days of Oscar'

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The Children's Hour

houston voice • february 15, 2002

## appts

### wednesday, feb. 27

Stonewall Lawyers of Greater Houston (SLAGH) presents John A. Nechman, attorney and president of SLAGH, in a presentation titled "Globalization & GLBT Law: What Does the World Think About GLBT Issues?" Continuing Legal Education credit will be granted by the State Bar of Texas to attorneys and law students who attend. The public is welcome. \$10 for special lunch menu. 11:30-noon social, noon-1 p.m. program. Riva's Italian Restaurant, 1117 Missouri. 713-529-3450

### thursday, feb 28

Houston Early Music presents an evening of guitar music of 19th century Italy at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. A tour of Italian art and a tasting of Italian wines are included to celebrate the evening, "La Bella Vita." Pasquale Rucco and Douglas James perform guitar literature from the early 19th century on authentic instruments of the period. 8 p.m. Museum of Fine Arts, Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet. Tickets: \$25 or \$20 for seniors and students. 713-432-1744.

### thursday, feb 28

Houston Ballet presents "Cleopatra" starting next week with six performances planned. The production traces the development of Cleopatra from a young girl to a mature woman known as Queen of the Nile. Artistic director is Ben Stevenson, and design is by Thomas Boyd. Judanna Lynn presents costumes for the production,



Houston Ballet now presents 'Cleopatra,' performed with dancer Lauren Anderson in the lead part. The production is on stage from Feb. 28 through March 10.

which was a hit with both audiences and critics at its premier a year ago. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28, March 2, 8, 9, and 2 p.m. March 3 and 10. Brown Theater, Wortham Theater Center, Texas at Smith streets in downtown Houston. Tickets: \$11.50 to \$104.50. 713-227-ARTS. www.houstonballet.org.

### upcoming

Houston's annual Night In Black Leather (NIBL) raises funds for HIV/AIDS organizations in the city. This year's beneficiary is the PWA Holiday Charities. In addition to the volunteers who take the stage to show off their singing and other talents for the audience, a silent auction will be part of the event, coordinated by Don Gill Production and a number of community activists. 7 p.m., Saturday, March 2, at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto. 713-759-9610. www.richs-houston.com

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# out on the aisle

THEATER CALENDAR

## Spring brings new plays

From classics to first-time productions, theater stages host varied performances

by PENNY WEAVER

### "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"

Alley Theatre presents an encore performance of one of local audiences' favorites this month. Alley Resident Company Actors James Black and Annalee Jefferies reprise their roles as McMurphy and Nurse Ratched from the Alley's 1992 production, also directed by Gregory Boyd on the Neuhaus Arena Stage. The classic American celebration of rebelliousness by Dale Wasserman, adapted from Ken Kesey's novel, showcases the 1962 satire of mental health institutions and all institutions. The production questions the distinctions made by society between sanity and insanity, freedom and responsibility.

### "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"

Feb. 22-March 23

Tickets: \$35-50

Alley Theatre

615 Texas Ave.

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www.alleytheatre.org

### "Lobster Alice"

The regional debut of "Lobster Alice," winner of the prestigious Kesselring Prize for Drama, takes the stage starting this week at Stages Repertory Theatre. Written by Kira Obolensky, the comedy offers a fictional account of the six weeks Salvador Dali spent working at the Walt Disney Studio in 1946. Director is Peter Webster, best known for his innovative direction of operatic works. The production creates a portrait of what it might have been like for the fictional John Finch, straight-laced illustrator of Disney's "Alice in Wonderland," to work with the unpredictable Dali.

### "Lobster Alice"

Feb. 27-March 24

Tickets: \$32-42

Stages Repertory Theatre

3201 Allen Parkway

713-527-0123

www.stagestheatre.com

### "The Man in the Trunk"

A new drama with comedic touches comes to the stage via Unhinged Productions this month. Houstonian Fernando Dovalina's "The Man in the Trunk" deals with a feuding Houston couple and three friends drawn into their turbulent world: a gay man who is the husband's best friend, a recent divorcee who has thrown out her abusive husband, and a

drunk Hispanic copy editor who's in love with more than just words. Dovalina, a nationally known newspaper editor and award-winning reporter, wrote the play in the first year after his early retirement from the Houston Chronicle.

### "The Man in the Trunk"

Feb. 21-March 30

8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays

Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students

Unhinged Productions

3304 LaBranch

713-524-8707

### "The Mousetrap"

Theatre Suburbia presents Dame Agatha Christie's classic murder mystery, "The Mousetrap," a quintessential "whodunit" that has it all: unsuspecting lodgers snowed in at a new bed and breakfast, and unexpected guest and a dead body.

### "The Mousetrap"

Feb. 22-March 23

Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and students, and \$8 all matinee seats

Theatre Suburbia

1410 W. 43rd St.

713-682-3525

www.theatresuburbia.com



Don Gunther as Austin and Allen Dorris as Lee star in Theatre Southwest's "True West," now playing through mid-March.

### "True West"

Theatre Southwest is now hosting "True West" by Sam Shepherd. Directed by Debra Powell, the plot follows a budding screen writer who suddenly has a chance to sell his screenplay. But his brother and nemesis shows up and decides that he can sell his own screenplay instead. The dark comedy is filled with sibling rivalry, domination and control.

### "True West"

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 22-March 16

3 p.m. March 3

Tickets: \$14 or \$12 for seniors and students

Theatre Southwest

8944-A Clarkcrest

713-661-9505

UNHINGED PRODUCTIONS presents a bold, funny and exciting new work by a Houston playwright

## The Man in the Trunk

by Fernando Dovalina

A feuding Houston couple draw into their dramatic whirlpool the gay man who is the husband's best pal, a newly liberated divorcee who knows a secret and a drunk copy editor who's hiding one. **The Man in the Trunk** is hilarious, gut-wrenching and moving.



8 p.m., Thur-Sat, Feb. 21-March 30  
UNHINGED PRODUCTIONS, 3304 LaBranch  
Reservations: 713-524-8707



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# eating out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Sunday brunch falls short

Downtown Café's weekly spread weak on variety of traditional breakfast foods

by KATHREEN LEE

On any given Sunday, Houston's perennial Mardi Gras enthusiasts, costume aficionados, and diurnal partygoers could congregate for an 11-4 marathon Sunday brunch at the Montrose La Strada for a friendly and hip mix of people, music, mimosas, bellinis, dancing, and glitzy party favors.

However, due to the recent fire damage sustained by La Strada, the carousing-through-the-weekend crowd has been displaced without a venue to flaunt their charm.

Enter a number of other local restaurants, including the Hard Rock Café. Even the icon of theme-restaurant-gone-global has decided to fill Houston's place-to-be void by conceiving its own Sunday brunch and targeting the ex-La Strada revelers.

The Hard Rock quandary, however, is how to convince potential patrons to drive into downtown and hassle with parking. Exceptional food and a fabulous scene are the two major lures of any restaurant, and on both fronts, the Hard Rock Café fails to entice.

In a shortsighted attempt to appeal to a gay clientele, the Hard Rock Café's Sunday brunch scene offers little more than flashing disco lights and blaring disco music. Apparently, the Hard Rock supposed that just like flies to a fly-strip, gay customers flock to any establishment emitting the faintest hint of ABBA.

Even if Hard Rock's attempts to set-up a "gay" atmosphere failed, an extraordinary brunch spread could still be inviting to potential patrons. However, the lack of variety in the brunch fares and the mediocre quality of the dishes were disappointing. Custom omelets, egg and ham muffin sandwiches, diced potatoes with onions, fajitas, chicken fingers, pasta, and desserts comprised the limited fare of the brunch package (\$12).

The only truly brunch fare, the omelet, was prepared with generous amounts of garlic, which added a piquant flavor along with the bacon, tomatoes, and ham.

Other than the omelet bar, most of the items available for brunch seemed to just be an extension of Hard Rock's usual menu. The chicken fingers were crisp, but the meat was lukewarm and rubbery from having sat out on the buffet table for too long. The egg and ham muffin

sandwich, while less greasy than those available at fast food chains, had hardened itself to the serving pan from overexposure and lacked the hot, soft, succulent flavor requisite of a breakfast sandwich.

We bemoaned the lack of any waffles, pancakes, and bagels and lox, staples of brunch menus. While the remainder of the options was adequate, none warrant the extra labor necessary to drive and park downtown on a Sunday morning. For instance, the chicken fajitas possessed the typical mix of sweet and salty savor, but once again, the overexposure from having been sitting out for too long dried out the chicken strips, caramelized onions, and peppers.

Even the mimosas, which I thought to be flaw proof, were disappointing. The champagne to orange juice proportion was overly weighted toward the latter, and the champagne used tasted cheap and flat.

While I support its effort in recognizing gays as a target market, the Hard Rock Café needs to concentrate more on the quality of the cuisine and less on targeting a consumer group through stereotypical lures.

If the food is right and the environment entertaining, Hard Rock Café will attract its own loyal following, gay and/or not, without having to re-create a hyperbolic gay mecca.



Hard Rock Cafe  
502 Texas Ave.  
281-479-7025

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

## Weekly **FOXY** fun

### Monday

Industry Night: Actors, Models & Waiters of All Sorts! \$3.75 Foxmopolitans & bar nibbles.

### Tuesday



**Beer as Folk**

\$1.50 domestic beer at the bar.

### Wednesday

Acoustic Blues with Mr. I. J. Golley & a walk on the wild side with our Electric Slide Lemonade.

### Thursday

Student Night Out featuring \$1.50 domestic beer at the bar, discounted fried chicken dinner with student ID.

### Friday & Saturday

The traditional fun & fabulous food you expect from the Fox.

### Sunday-Our Double Header!

**One:** Houston's only traditional gospel brunch with Dianna Greenleaf from 11 AM to 3 PM.

**Two:** Swing with Jerry's Kids, 6:30 to 8:30pm. The Jerry Vann Ensemble will be playing, Come & indulge in our drink specials & the unique Carolina Gumbo in addition to the regular Fox Menu.

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



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## Maranatha Fellowship MCC

Maranatha Fellowship MCC is on the Move!

Sunday Morning Services At Our New Location & Time:

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February 24 <sup>th</sup>	"Why Do We Turn To The Bible?"	Rev. Janet Parker
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	"Jehovah Jireh—My Provider"	Rev. Janet Parker

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

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

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**713-528-6756 or email  
maranatha@ev1.net**

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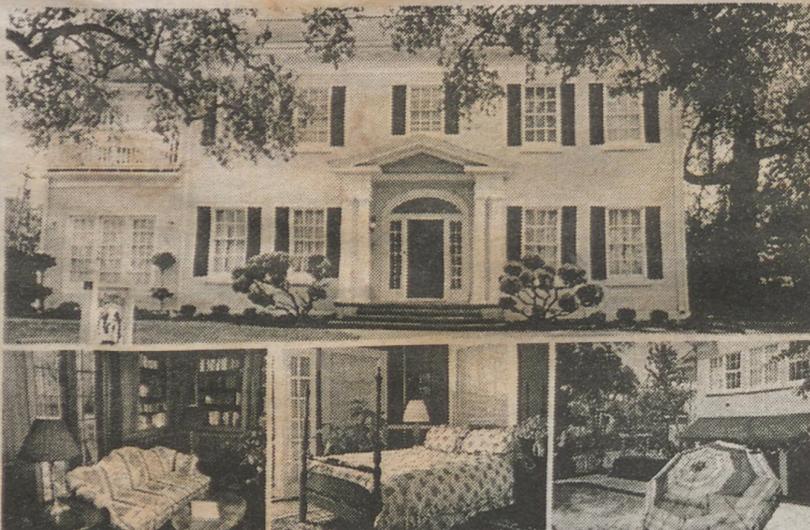
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# community calendar

### saturday, feb 23

**Classic Chassis Car Club.** 9:30 a.m. Winter CCCC Houston Classics Drive. Meet at 59 Diner, 3801 Farnham. 713-797-8615. [www.classicchassisclub.org](http://www.classicchassisclub.org).

### every saturday

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

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

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

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

**Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club.** Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.

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

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

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

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

### sunday, feb 24

#### every sunday

**Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group.** 1 p.m. [www.houstonabc.org](http://www.houstonabc.org). 713-595-2103

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

**Community Gospel.** Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or [www.community-gospel.org](http://www.community-gospel.org).

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

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

**First Unitarian Universalist Church.** Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available, 10:30 a.m. Panel discussion, 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. [church@firstuu.org](mailto:church@firstuu.org).

**Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston.** 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. [alexcam@wt.net](mailto:alexcam@wt.net). 713-623-0930.

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

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

**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. [houstontennisclub@aol.com](mailto:houstontennisclub@aol.com)

**Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan**

**Church.** Service, 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.  
**Rainbow Riders.** A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

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

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

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

**Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Adult discussion, 9:45 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. [www.tuuc.org](http://www.tuuc.org).

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

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

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in 2- 5 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

### monday, feb 25

#### every monday

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
**Kolbe Project.** Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.

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

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

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

### tuesday, feb 26

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

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

### every tuesday

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

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

**For Mature Audiences Only.** Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.  
**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.  
**Gay Men's Process Group.** 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.  
**Gay youth.** New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.  
**Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous.** Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.  
**Houston Women's Rugby Team.** No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.  
**HTGA.** Support group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.  
**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.  
**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. Two-hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.  
**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

**wednesday, feb 27**  
**Center for AIDS.** Women's mixer, 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.  
**Houston Area Bears.** 6:30 p.m. Steak County Buffet, I-10 and Silber. 713-867-9123. www.houstonareabears.com.

**every wednesday**  
**Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.** Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Various support groups, 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.  
**Bible Study.** Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.  
**Free HIV Testing.** Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. 713-793-4026.  
**Houston Pride Band.** Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.  
**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com  
**Lesbian Literature Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.  
**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.  
**Spiritual Uplift service.** 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.  
**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston, 7:30 p.m. • 713-524-3818.

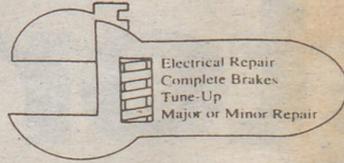
**thursday, feb 28**  
**every thursday**  
**Community Gospel.** Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.  
**Free HIV Testing.** By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.  
**Freelance Art Classes.** By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.  
**FrontRunners.** Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.  
**Hep C Recovery.** Support group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.  
**HIV Art Therapy Program.** 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.  
**Houston Women's Rugby Team.** No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.  
**Lambda Skating Club.** 8 p.m.

Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.  
**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.  
**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.  
**STD exams & treatment.** Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
**Spanish Charla Conversation Group.** Empire Cafe, 7 p.m. Email charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.  
**Women's Clinic.** Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.  
**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop in 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

**friday, march 1**  
**every Friday**  
**Freelance Art Classes.** By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Light breakfast provided. 713-523-9530.  
**Frost Eye Clinic.** Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
**Govinda Yoga Club.** Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.  
**Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting.** 713-942-7002.  
**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com  
**Kolbe Project.** Morning prayer, 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.  
**Lesbian & Gay Voices.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.  
**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Card Players Club meets every fourth Friday of the month, 7 p.m. Call Jimmy: 713-864-7299 or 281-437-0636 • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

**volunteer/self-help**  
**Gay & Lesbian Help Line.** For gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Staffed by volunteers of all ages. 6-11 p.m. Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 888-340-GLBT.  
**Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston.** Volunteers offer a friendly ear to callers in need of information, nonjudgmental support, crisis intervention and referral services, emergency shelter and advocacy services to crime survivors who may need someone to accompany them to a hospital for medical attention or assistance in filing a police report. 713-529-3211  
**Montrose Counseling Center** Permanent Endowment, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is looking for an attorney who wants to give back to the community by providing pro bono legal counsel to its Board of Directors. Attorneys with estate planning or real estate experience are encouraged to respond. Please send a letter of inquiry with your resume/CV to: Montrose Counseling Center Endowment — LC, Attn: Executive Director, 701 Richmond Avenue, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713.526.4367. No phone calls.  
**Peer Listening Line.** Youth only. Staffed by GLBT youth for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday. 800-399-PEER.

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



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### LINDA ENCARDES

An old friend is looking for you! Please email Baxter\_315@msn.com or write to Ann Baxter, 1351 Wade Patrick Rd, Brandon, MS 39042. If anyone else knows her whereabouts, please contact me.

### NIBL 2002

NIGHT IN BLACK LEATHER • March 2, 2002 • Rich's • 7pm

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

## EMPLOYMENT

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

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

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

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The Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas seeks an Executive Director/Lobbyist to coordinate Texas's LGBT lobbying efforts and manage our statewide organization. Candidate should have demonstrated skills in grassroots organizing; previous lobbying experience preferred, or equivalent experience in government relations or government affairs; experience managing a non-profit organization or other equivalent business a plus; excellent written, verbal, public communications required, media relations experience desired. Bachelor's degree required, with a masters degree preferred. Competitive compensation package including domestic partner benefits. Mail cover letter, resume & salary requirements by March 15 to: LGRL, ED Search, POBox 2340, Austin, TX 78768 or email [edsearch@lgrl.org](mailto:edsearch@lgrl.org). For info call 512-474-6218

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## Q Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15				16					
17				18				19					
		20					21	22			23		
24	25					26				27			
28				29	30					31			
32				33						34			
				35				36	37				
38	39	40					41				42	43	44
45					46	47				48			
49				50					51	52			
53				54				55					
56			57			58	59					60	61
62						63					64		
65						66					67		

## "FAMILY RECREATION"

### ACROSS

- Like a stereotypical wrist
- Fig part over a private part
- Cut
- Niles Crane response to a client
- Not deceived by
- Outdoor tearoom
- 1990 site of 26-Across
- Out of bed
- Tart
- Francois Ozon, to himself
- The Gay '90s, for one
- 20-shilling piece for Oscar Wilde
- 2002 Sydney event
- Israeli author \_\_\_ Oz
- Producer Meron, and others
- Whitman's "When Lilacs \_\_\_ in the Dooryard Bloom'd"
- With 58-Across, 1982 and 1986 site of 26-Across
- Addington Symonds field (abbr.)
- Like the Seven Dwarfs
- 1998 site of 26-Across
- Bears, Colts, and Falcons, in the NFL
- Make an emotional discharge
- With 49-Across, 1994 site of 26-Across
- Bicolor bite
- Hayes of \_\_\_ South Park
- Kiss from Cherrie Moraga
- See 42-Across
- What gay ex-priests do?
- R.R. stop
- Hurry, to Shakespeare
- Source book for \_\_\_ Jesus Christ Superstar
- "Another card" in S-and-M-speak?
- See 32-Across
- Beginning of a carol about orgasm?
- "\_\_\_! I'm gonna live forever"
- Untouchable head
- Fruit peeler
- Queen's "\_\_\_ Born to Love You"
- Jacob's hairy brother

### DOWN

- Ullmann of "Persona"
- Part of a Stein line
- Single out
- Nuts of a fruitcake
- Olympic diver Greg
- Word after "penis"
- Pigged out
- Dance for which you get all decked out
- Shoot, off a larger branch
- Supposedly well-endowed Onassis
- "Mary, I brought you some spices" character
- Highest mountain top
- TV drama with gay Steven
- "A Chorus Line" song
- Interjections from Fierstein
- Fluid acquired by pumping
- Thurman of "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues"
- Computer access to lesbian sites, e.g.
- Jodie Foster, to Yale
- Hrs. in Key West
- "\_\_\_ Pinafore"
- Genre for Eminem
- Out of your mind
- "Ready to Wear" actor Stephen
- Goes down
- Where to buy a top
- Madonna album
- Bubbler
- Andrew Sullivan and Michelangelo Signorile, lately
- Suffix for Siam, if you please
- Came out on top
- Caesar's three
- Graf who beat Navrátilova in the 1989 U.S. Open
- Name in the "Southern Voice"
- Shout out at 26-Across
- "Ellen" network
- Tallulah Bankhead's home st.
- Mrs., to Rosa Bonheur
- Like hard-core porn
- Stonewall Jackson's country (abbr.)
- Coll. of Phil Andros

Answers on Page 22

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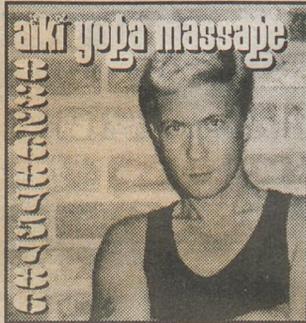
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