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# houston VOICE

## 'Revolution'

Comedienne Margaret Cho continues to defy labels and categories as she brings her new stand-up tour to Houston.  
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ISSUE 1177

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MAY 16, 2003

### INSIDE



Both pro- and anti-gay bills get sidelined as the Texas House, led by Republican Tom Craddick, stalls from a mass Democrat walk-out.  
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U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) prepares for a run for U.S. Senate without addressing persistent rumors that he is gay.  
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Montrose fixture Don Gill admits he has learned many life lessons from his beloved pets.  
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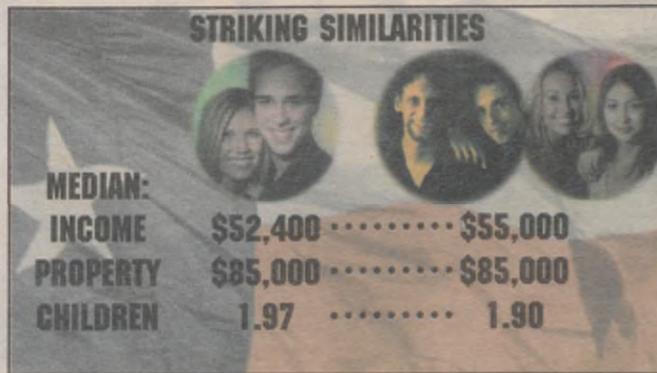
## Gay families similar to others in Texas, new study shows

New Census data shows households led by gays not unlike those with heterosexual couples

By PENNY WEAVER

Just as state officials have highlighted differences between gay and heterosexual couples with a Texas Defense of Marriage Act, newly released data shows striking similarities between households led by same-sex couples and all families in the Lone Star State.

"This study should serve as a wake-up call to both state and federal leaders," said Seth Kilbourn, National Field Director for the Human Rights Campaign, which commis-



An analysis of new Census 2000 data, released this week, shows a number of similarities between same-sex couples in Texas and other families in the state. (Graphic by Bonnie Naugle)

sioned a new analysis of Census 2000 data. "Families headed by same-sex couples are much more similar to most other families than they are different — yet the Texas Legislature has chosen to treat them differently in the eyes of the law," Kilbourn said. "The Texas DOMA bill is unabashed-

ly discriminatory, and, if signed into law, is destined to be overturned. All couples and families deserve the same treatment and protection in the eyes of the law — regardless of sexual orientation."

Please see FAMILIES on Page 4

## Conservative groups upset over GOP meet with gays

RNC chair says session follows Bush order to 'carry message to everyone'

By JOE CREA

WASHINGTON — Marc Racicot is facing a storm of criticism from conservative religious groups outraged that the Republican National Committee chair met with the Human Rights Campaign to discuss gay rights issues earlier this year.

Racicot faced his critics in a May 6 meeting that drew 11 conservative leaders to the GOP headquarters. At the meeting, Racicot defended his March 7 meeting with the HRC, saying that he was trying to implement "the directive that the president gave me ... to carry our message, our principles, to everybody and anybody," he said, according to an article written by Robert Knight for the Concerned Women for America.

At the meeting, Don Wildmon, founder of the American Family Association, asked



Marc Racicot, chair of the Republican National Committee, said that gays have 'a right to be involved in the public discussion' and that he didn't know what caused homosexuality after pro-family groups provided him with 'evidence' that there is no genetic link to homosexuality.

Racicot if he would meet with the North American Man-Boy Love Association, since he was willing to meet with gay activists. Racicot reportedly said he would not and called the group "aberrant," noting that he used to prosecute child molesters.

"They are testing the depths of desperation, there's no doubt about that," said David Smith, communications director for HRC. "Racicot and others are getting an education in terms of the viciousness of [pro-family groups'] motives for all to see. Perhaps they

are acting desperate because their perceived stranglehold on the party is slipping."

Gary Bauer, founder of the conservative group American Values and a former presidential candidate, tried to soften Wildmon's question by emphasizing that the point was not to compare gays to members of NAM-BLA, but rather to observe that simply meeting with a group implies a level of acceptance, according to the Knight article.

"There are people I've met who are gay — thoughtful people," Racicot said in the Knight article. "I know of families with children — some of them are gay. They have a right to be involved in the public discussion."

But after the meeting, Bauer sensed that the message from the conservative groups might not resonate as strongly as it once did within the GOP, according to the Knight article.

"My sense after the meeting was that, for reasons I don't fully understand, we still have a lot of work to do educating the Republican establishment about why this matters," Bauer said in the Knight article.

Please see GOP MEET on Page 6

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## local news

## Police report beating death

Officials unable to confirm whether or not men were a gay couple

By PENNY WEAVER

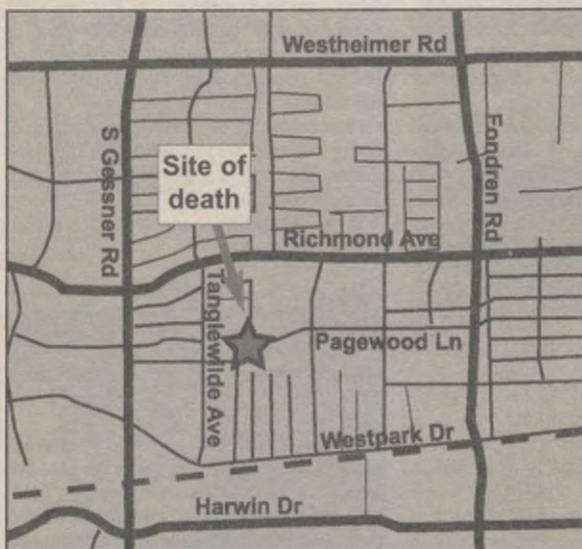
Houston police are investigating the Wednesday evening death of a man allegedly beaten by his roommate.

As of press time Thursday, Houston Police Department spokesman John Cannon said he could not confirm whether or not the men involved were gay or were a couple.

The incident occurred about 9 p.m. at the victim's home at 9515 Pagewood, according to a Houston Police Department report.

The name of the victim has not been released, pending notification of next of kin, police said. Medical examiners were still conducting an autopsy Thursday morning, according to Cannon.

HPD Homicide Division Officer C.Y. Park and I.F. Flores reported that the victim



returned from a walk to his town home when the suspect, who was waiting for him inside, confronted him. The suspect had

recently moved into the town home with the victim, according to police. The suspect learned that the victim was looking for another roommate and was planning to evict him, the police report stated. Police said the suspect was not able to pay rent.

The suspect told police that there was a confrontation when the victim came home and that the suspect repeatedly struck the victim's head with a blunt object. The victim sustained severe blunt trauma

to the head and died at the home, police said. Charges are pending against the suspect, according to HPD.

## Gay bills likely victim of House impasse

As Democrats maintain walkout, proposals both pro-gay and anti-gay may fall by the wayside

By PENNY WEAVER

AUSTIN — Democrats in the Texas House of Representatives this week maintained their headline-grabbing walkout, and a number of measures directly affecting gays appeared Thursday to be down for the count.

"It puts a lot of things on hold on the House side," said Randall Ellis, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. "It's just shut down the House. Effectively, pretty much all the House bills will be dead (Thursday at midnight)."

On Monday, 55 Democrats shut down the House by not showing up for work at the state Capitol. The effort was in protest of a redistricting bill pushed by Republicans that would give the GOP additional Texas seats in the U.S. Congress.

Since both chambers of the Texas Legislature hold a Republican majority, Democrats know they are out-voted on the redistricting proposal if it comes up for a vote.

But without a quorum, lawmakers cannot meet, debate or vote on bills before the House. The 150-member legislative body must have 100 representatives present to have a quorum.

Most of the rebelling Democrats are at a Holiday Inn in Oklahoma. After the walkout, Speaker of the House Tom Craddick, a Republican, ordered that those lawmakers be arrested and returned to the Capitol. That move is permitted under House rules, but

state law enforcement officers do not have jurisdiction to arrest the legislators if they are out of state, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The House was to re-adjourn Thursday morning, and Craddick told the Chronicle he will have members who show up wait for a quorum to arrive. Without a quorum, Craddick said, he will adjourn the legislative body until Friday, the Chronicle reported.

"That effectively puts a nail in the coffin on the bills that were left pending," LGRL's Ellis said.

The high-profile redistricting flap specifically affects gay Texans in a number of ways, Ellis noted.

"There are several levels to look at," he said.

For one thing, at least one anti-gay bill would fall if the House does not return to session, and three pro-gay bills — relating to nondiscrimination in employment, education and housing — also would stall on the Legislature's calendar.

The walkout limits the opportunity for new or renewed anti-gay moves in the House, according to Ellis.

"What it does do on another level is it will knock down the number of vehicles that anti-gay legislators could tack unfriendly amendments onto," he said.

But the action by the Democrats also can give gay Texans hope for the future.

"On another level, it should be encouraging to GLBT Texans because we have



Republican Speaker of the House Tom Craddick blames that legislative body's impasse on the Texas Democratic walkout, but Democrats like Rep. Jim Dunnam of Waco blame the stall on Republicans' redistricting plans.

Democrats coming together and standing unified on this issue," Ellis said. "They're standing up for a process."

"People say they're not engaging in the process [but] what we had for the four months prior to this was the Republicans not engaging in the process," he added. "The fact that the Democrats are standing up as a unified voice to protect the interests of the people of Texas and they have the ability to stay together as a cohesive group means that they're really looking out for their constituents."

"That should be hopeful to GLBT Texans," Ellis said. "They are willing to take risks."

The redistricting plan backed by Texas Republicans would re-draw a number of congressional districts and give several a new majority of GOP voters.

"While LGRL is a bipartisan organization, I think people have to realize that in Texas, Democrats have traditionally stood up for the LGBT interests more so than the Republican Party," Ellis said. "A day that they're not on the House floor is a day that they can't gay bash."

The redistricting bill is backed by U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Sugar Land, the Chronicle reported. State congressional districts now give Democrats a 17-15 majority, but DeLay said districts should be redrawn to match statewide voting patterns, according to the newspaper. The DeLay plan would give the GOP four to seven more seats in next year's elections.

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IN MEMORY: Laurance Butler, a member of the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, will be remembered in a celebration of life this weekend. Page 5.



NO COMMENT: U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) is preparing for a run for U.S. Senate, but won't discuss a published report that renewed previous speculation that he is gay. Page 6.



TEEN MURDER: Newark, N.J., police have labeled the murder of Salkia Gunn, 15, a bias crime after she was stabbed at a bus stop this week. Page 7.

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## local news

# Military service records differ by gender

FAMILIES, continued from Page 1

HRC, the largest national lesbian and gay political organization in the United States, this week announced the results of an analysis of newly released Census 2000 data. The group commissioned the study by the Urban Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy research and educational organization, according to an HRC press release.

Data on Texas families is among the earliest released from the analysis.

The study comes on the heels of the Texas Legislature's approval of a DOMA, which prevents the state from recognizing same-sex marriages or civil unions. Texas already does not allow such unions. Despite intense lobbying by gay Texans and groups such as the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, the bill now goes to Gov. Rick Perry and will become law if he signs it, which he is expected to do.

"GLBT Texans are denied hundreds upon hundreds of rights because they are not allowed to marry the person they love. The time for demanding equality is now," said Randall Ellis, executive director of the LGRL. "This is not the end of this issue."

## Similarities across the board

According to the Urban Institute study, the average Texas family headed by a same-sex couple shares many characteristics with other families in the state, includ-

ing the number of children being raised, income and home value.

The study showed that the average same-sex couple with children in Texas is raising 1.90 children, while other average couples are raising 1.97 children.

The new data also revealed that the average same-sex couple has a median household income of \$55,000, while other Texas couples have a median income of \$52,400. Same-sex couples and other couples in Texas also share the same median property value of \$85,000, according to the institute.

In addition, the study showed that many gay men and women from Texas have served in the country's military alongside heterosexuals, although men and women appear less or more likely to serve depending on their sexual orientation.

The institute found that 9.7 percent of coupled lesbians in Texas have served in the military, compared with only 1.5 percent of married women; 14.6 percent of gay coupled men have served in the military compared with 29.1 percent of married men, according to the HRC.

The new analyses were drawn from the recently released Census 2000 One Percent Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS), a sampling of individual Census records from one in 100 U.S. households, HRC leaders stated. The Census does not ask questions about sexual orientation, but gay and lesbian families are understood to be households where

the respondent identifies another same-sex adult in the house as his or her "husband/wife" or "unmarried partner."

Data about the nation's single gay and lesbian population is not available from the Census.

Information on individual states is being released incrementally, with Texas among the first 15 states to have data published, according to the HRC. A full report will be completed once statistics on all states are available.

## Differences are in laws

Human Rights Campaign officials and gay activists said the new data emphasizes the injustice of discrimination against gay Texans.

The size of families raised by same-sex couples is roughly the same as families headed by heterosexual couples, they point out, but the number of rights and protections they are granted is not. Without any form of legal relationship recognition for same-sex couples, laws that most Texas families enjoy are not always available to children and families of same-sex couples, HRC officials stated.

"The newly released Census 2000 data provides a detailed portrait of gay and lesbian families that can inform and frame public dialogue about issues that affect all American families," said Gary Gates, Ph.D.,

of the Urban Institute's Population Studies Center. "It reveals that laws on adoption, marriage, immigration, tax and military service clearly impact all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation."

Activists said many Texas laws are inherently unfair to gay couples and their children.

"What kind of society grants some children the security of a legal relationship to both of their parents, but denies the same security to other children simply because of who their parents happen to be?" said Lisa Bennett, who runs the HRC Foundation's FamilyNet project. "Gay and lesbian couples in Texas, along with their children, have been singled out for hardships and inequities that are reminiscent of Jim Crow laws."

The Urban Institute was established to examine the social, economic, and governance problems facing the nation, according to an HRC press release. The Human Rights Campaign works to lobby Congress, provide campaign support and educate the public on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans.

## MORE INFO

Urban Institute  
www.urban.org  
Human Rights Campaign  
www.hrc.org

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## around houston

### Center for AIDS plans session on 'HIV: Past, Present and Future'

As part of its "Conversations at the CFA," Houston's Center for AIDS presents a discussion next week as the last presentation in its three-part series, "HIV: Past, Present and Future." The forum, titled "HIV and the Future: Revelations or Mysteries?" will be led by Dr. Richard Sutton, an assistant professor in Molecular Virology at Baylor College of Medicine and a staff physician at Harris County Health Department's Thomas Street Clinic. Dr. Sutton combines both "ivory tower" research and "real life" patient care to give attendees a unique perspective on this topic, according to a CFA press release. The public is invited. The series is funded by The Hollyfield Foundation.

#### **i** MORE INFO

Conversations at the CFA  
6 p.m. dinner on Thursday, May 22  
Center for AIDS  
1407 Hawthorne  
To RSVP, call 713.527.8219 or  
E-mail: rich@centerforaids.org

### Community Gospel Church opens counseling center

Christian counseling "without condemnation" for gays is the goal at the Community Gospel Life Counseling Center, according to leaders at Community Gospel Church in Houston. The center opened May 1. "The Life Counseling Center will fill the critical gap in therapeutic services to our community," said church pastor Chris Chiles. "Persons in need will no longer have to hide their sexual orientation or their Christianity from their therapist." Counselor Dennis Schave will provide love, understanding, and sound advice, church leaders stated in a press release. "The goal of the Life Counseling Center is to offer hope to all and especially to those within the GLBT community," Chiles said. "We want to dispel the notion that God does not love homosexuals and help people heal from this serious and common wound." The program offers a sliding scale fee system, and standard rates are \$50-\$75 per session. Schave, a professional counselor with more than 35 years' experience, will offer private counseling sessions to explore spirituality, spiritual abuse, and general life challenges. His wife, Evelyn, a nationally known outspoken revival speaker, also joins the center.

#### **i** MORE INFO

Life Counseling Center  
Community Gospel Church  
4305 Lillian • 713-880-9235

### Bering volunteers honored



Bering Omega Community Services honored a number of people at its Volunteer Appreciation Day. From left are John Haskins, a volunteer for administration; Lashonda Hopkins and Theodora Foster of Abundant Life Cathedral; Peg Nevers, an Omega House volunteer; and Gil Warrick, a volunteer for development. Not pictured, but also honored as 2002-2003 Outstanding Volunteers were Steve Spillette, Adult Care Center; Greg Simpson, Financial Assistance; Susan Wood, Dental Clinic; Cynthia Holliday, Volunteer Services and Community Outreach; and Ken Hurt, Omega House. Bering Omega Community Services assists indigent and uninsured people living with HIV/AIDS in the greater Houston area. The organization provides a number of health care and social services to people who have no other care alternatives, all at no cost to the client. Assistance offered includes help with rent and utilities, dental services, adult day care and counseling. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

## obituary

### Laurance Butler, 65, aerospace systems analyst

Laurance Erwin "Larry" Butler, 65, of Houston died on Saturday, April 5, 2003.

Butler was born on March 31, 1938, in Santa Monica, Calif. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1956 to 1962. He then was employed as a systems analyst in the aerospace industry. He worked on the mission simulators for the Apollo and space shuttle programs.

Butler was a member of the Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church and the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, and supported many HIV-related charities.

Survivors include his sister, Joy Spencer



of Denver; brother, Edward Blakely of Annapolis, Md.; and many friends and extended family, including Donald Bryant and family, and Julius Daguanno and family.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 11<sup>th</sup> Street at T. C. Jester.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Body Positive Wellness Center of the Montrose Clinic, 3311 Richmond, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77098.

PENNY WEAVER

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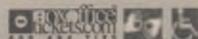
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## national news

## Newspaper says Fla. lawmaker is gay

Staff for Rep. Mark Foley says sexual orientation irrelevant to Senate bid

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

U.S. Rep. Mark Foley, a Republican candidate for a U.S. Senate seat in Florida next year, "is gay" and "the people have a right to know," according to a column published last week in a weekly newspaper.

No openly gay person has ever served in the U.S. Senate, but Foley's staff contends the issue is irrelevant to voters.

"Generally, I just don't discuss Congressman Foley's personal life with reporters," Kirk Fordham, Foley's chief of staff, told Houston Voice on Tuesday when asked if Foley is gay.

"When Congressman Foley travels around the state, voters are a lot more interested in his view on things like prescription drugs or Medicare reform or the threat terrorism poses to their lives," Fordham said. "He doesn't ask about their personal lives and they certainly aren't asking about his."

Foley was not available for interviews on the subject, according to Fordham.

Foley and Fordham also declined interviews with the New Times Broward-Palm Beach for writer Bob Norman's column, "Out with the Truth."

In the column, Norman decries the way most media outlets have ignored the issue of Foley's sexual orientation, even while reporting on possible controversy over his positive voting record on gay issues.

The column quotes several sources — ranging from a gay Democrat who serves on the Wilton Manors City Council to a staffer with Florida's chapter of the Christian Coalition — who say it is well-known, though not openly discussed, that Foley is gay.

But the most direct evidence comes from Tracy Thorne, who gained national recognition when he came out while serving in the U.S. military to protest the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy."

Thorne, now an attorney, has urged Foley to come out for years. But he offered evidence for the first time for his claim that the Florida Republican is gay, telling Norman that Foley — a family friend — brought his boyfriend on a visit to the Thornes in the early 1990s.

"What put it over the top was Tracy Thorne," Norman told Houston Voice. "He has no reason to lie about it."

Thorne could not be reached for com-

ment this week.

Fordham, Foley's chief of staff, declined to discuss Thorne's claim.

Yet "I would point out that Tracey — who I think is a very courageous young man who certainly served his country well — made a decision when he entered the military to withhold information about his own personal life," Fordham added.

"He served for quite some time in the military dishonestly, and I think it is unfair of him to now demand that everyone else disclose details about their personal lives, especially when it may affect their job or position in society."

Foley, first elected to the U.S. House in 1994, will formally announce "in the next couple of months" his bid for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.), according to Fordham.

Graham's decision to run for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination touched off a scramble of candidates, both Republicans and Democrats, for the potentially open Senate seat. Foley has said he will run for the post even if Graham changes his mind and seeks re-election.

No openly gay person has ever served in the U.S. Senate, and only three out of the 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives are openly gay.

Out of the more than half-million elected offices in the country, there are 246 openly gay officials and only 17 in Florida, according to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, a Washington, D.C.-based group that supports gay candidates across the country.

Yet despite the potentially historic nature of Foley's race, the Victory Fund disagrees with Norman's decision to "out" him, said Jason Young, spokesperson for the group.

"We are opposed to outing anyone," Young said. "We want people to be openly gay candidates by their choice — the whole idea is to be honest with the electorate."

#### Honesty vs. privacy

As Norman notes in his column, he is not the first journalist to broach the subject of Foley's sexual orientation, although he is the first to state as fact that Foley is gay.

National gay magazines Advocate and Out, before they both became owned by Liberation Publications, broached the subject in 1996, when Foley voted in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act, which banned federal recognition of gay marriages.

"Frankly, I don't think what kind of personal relationships I have in my private life is of any relevance to anyone else," Foley said in a written statement to the Advocate at the time.



U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) won't publicly discuss his sexual orientation, despite a newspaper column last week that reported he is gay. (Photo by J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

Whether "outing" a public official is ever appropriate was hotly debated then, and remains strongly contested today.

"People who chose to lead a public life know that their lives are open for discussion to the media. Whenever it is relevant to a larger story, their sexual orientation, just like their tax returns or anything else, should be discussed," said Michelangelo Signorile, a gay writer and activist who penned the 1996 Out article.

In the past, outing has usually been reserved for politicians who are gay and closeted, but oppose gay rights. But with the exception of DOMA, Foley has supported legislation backed by gays, including co-sponsoring the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill to ban anti-gay job bias.

"As a conservative ... he has been consistent in his view that government should not interfere with private enterprise or private lives," Fordham said.

But voters deserve to know if there is another motivation behind Foley's votes, according to Norman, especially because they represent a "hard left turn" from his other Republican positions.

"Might not this be actually, for lack of a better word, for a selfish motive?" Norman said.

Both supporters and opponents of outing framed their arguments in terms of privacy, citing the pending Supreme Court challenge to the Texas law banning gay sodomy.

Norman said recent attention to the case — and the now infamous remarks by Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) supporting the law and comparing homosexuality to incest and bestiality — helped prompt him to pen his story outing Foley. "People in his party want to criminalize,

or keep criminalizing, one of the most basic human expressions," he said.

But Fordham called it "unfortunate" that "some in the gay community who, on the one hand, are outraged when law enforcement officials in Texas violate the rights of two men in their homes, then feel the need to pry into the personal lives of their elected officials."

In addition to the Victory Fund, officials with the Human Rights Campaign and the Log Cabin Republicans — two national gay rights groups that have endorsed Foley in the past — said they oppose outing people against their will.

Young, from the Victory Fund, also cited the Texas case in explaining why his group opposes the practice.

"Gays and lesbians have just been before the Supreme Court arguing for our right to privacy in our committed relationships, so to take that away from Congressman Foley or anyone else in the name of politics is just dirty and also hypocritical," Young said.

#### Impact on Senate bid

Of the three openly gay people currently serving in Congress, only one — Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) — came out prior to first being elected to the body. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) were already serving in the U.S. House when they acknowledged being gay, although both have since been re-elected.

Foley "decided he would run, and he knew it would provoke lots of discussion and politics," Frank said in an Atlanta, Ga., interview where he met this week with gay leaders to campaign for Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.). "You stick your head out and you expect to take a couple of hits."

How big those hits might be remains to be seen. Florida's Republican Party does not endorse candidates in the primary and had little official response to Norman's column.

"Congressman Foley is a valued member of our Republican family and we are not going to engage in this gossip and innuendo," said Towson Fraser, the state GOP's communications director.

Fordham, Foley's chief of staff, predicted Norman's column would have "very little impact" on the Senate race.

"Voters in Florida don't make their decisions based on second hand rumor and innuendo. They see columns like the New Times as rather distasteful, and it offends their sensibilities that a liberal publication that champions the right to privacy would turn around and violate Mark Foley's right to privacy simply because he is a conservative Republican," he said.

## Log Cabin director: Conservative groups hold GOP 'hostage'

GOP MEET, continued from Page 1

Many of the conservative leaders demanded from Racicot a "clear, strong, unequivocal statement" from the GOP that declared homosexuality to be immoral. Knight's article suggested that if their demands were not met, many evangelical Christians would stay home on Election Day in 2004.

Mark Mead, political director of the gay Log Cabin Republicans questioned the loyal-

ty of these groups to the Republican Party.

"They say to the Republican leadership, 'Do this, or we'll walk away.' LCR does not agree with everything the Republican Party does but I can assure you that we are not walking away. These people hold the president and Marc Racicot hostage on these issues."

Racicot did not respond to calls seeking comment.

Despite being told that there was no genet-

ic link to homosexuality, Racicot told the groups that he didn't know what caused homosexuality nor did he know how much was "genetic or environment," according to the Knight article.

While governor of Montana, Racicot enacted a state employee non-discrimination policy that included sexual orientation. He attempted to repeal the state's sodomy law in 1993 and was criticized by the Christian Coalition for the effort, which ultimately

failed. According to the HRC, he opposed legislative efforts in 1995 to add gay people to Montana's sexual offenders registry.

HRC said Racicot also signed a bill in 1998 that made same-sex marriage illegal in Montana.

Smith said that while Racicot spoke of inclusion to more than 300 gay rights activists on March 7 — the first time ever that a sitting GOP chair addressed a gay audience — he didn't articulate any policy decisions.

## national news

## New Jersey lesbian, 15, murdered at bus stop

## Newark police call it a bias crime

By KEVIN SPENCE

NEWARK, N.J. — A 15-year-old girl was fatally stabbed at a bus stop here after returning from a Greenwich Village party with her friends early in the morning on Sunday, May 11. Newark police are treating the murder as a bias crime after someone in the group told her assailant they were gay.

Two men in a white station wagon were passing by the five teenagers at the corner of Broad and Market Streets, a few blocks from Newark's Pennsylvania Station, and taunted the group with sexual suggestions around 3:30 a.m. An argument followed after the teenagers rejected their advances. One of the men then thrust a knife into Sakia Gunn's chest. After the incident, the men fled.

"One of the girls expressed her sexuality," Lt. Derrick Glenn of the Newark Police Department told the Voice. The New York Times has reported that one of the girls told the men they were not interested in them because the girls were gay. Glenn said the perpetrators at first did not know the girls were gay.

A friend of Gunn's then signaled a passing motorist, who drove the victim to University Hospital in Newark. She died a



Sakia Gunn was stabbed to death on Sunday at a bus stop, in what police are calling a bias crime.

short time later.

"There is a warrant out for his arrest," said Glenn about 29-year-old Richard McCullough. When apprehended, he will face charges of homicide, weapons possession and bias intimidation. On Monday, May 12, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office determined that the sophomore at West Side High school, was, in fact, the victim of bias crime.

"The murder didn't have nothing to do with her being bisexual," Maurice Gunn, the victim's uncle, told the Voice. LaTona Gunn told a reporter from the Newark Star-Ledger that her daughter was gay. All five girls (ages 15 to 17) dressed like boys, she said.

LaTona Gunn told the Times, "I won't know what kind of crime this is until I talk to the guy who did it and he tells me. All I know is that my child is gone now."

Sakia Gunn was a member of the West Side High girls' basketball team until low grades forced her to the sidelines last year. She had hopes of someday playing for the Women's National Basketball Association.

By several accounts popular with other students, Gunn, whose nickname was "T," had a talent for braiding hair and often created hairstyles for her friends. "The teachers and the coach are having a hard time dealing with this," said Michelle Baldwin, a spokesperson for the Newark Board of Education. Calls to West Side High School were not returned by press time. Maurice Gunn told the Associated Press that several students were wearing T-shirts with Gunn's likeness on them.

Glenn, who is a 15-year veteran of the police department, said that Newark has not recorded a high incidence of bias crimes. He said he found Gunn's murder particularly upsetting for personal reasons. "I tend to have more of a personal issue with this because some of my close friends and family members are gay," he said.

Clarence Patton, a spokesperson for the New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, noted that this case was unique. In most gay-related bias crimes, the perpetrator believes that the victim is gay or transgendered. Here, the killer did not know Gunn's sexual orientation when he approached her.

Often, the perpetrator of anti-bias crimes claims, "I got so upset I had to kill them," Patton said. "This is the flip-side of

that. A woman is dismissive to the violence of men, and they pay for it with their lives. It's still unclear how old these murderers are, but these were young girls."

"There's no way around it. This young woman had her whole life ahead of her," he said. Gunn's murder was especially senseless, he said, "because of her dismissive attitude toward these men." Most cases of crimes against lesbians involve sexual assault, not murder, Patton added.

The police are continuing to look for more information about Gunn's murder. Until then, the real reason for Gunn's murder will remain unknown, he added. "Until the investigation is complete and you have statements from all parties, you don't have any public records," said Glenn about the killer's motive. "We are following up leads in search of him."

"It's sad. Their lifestyle didn't interfere with anyone's," Glenn said. "It's like racism. It hasn't progressed, even in this case. It's an aspect we're investigating."

Alicia Toby-Heath and Sandra Heath-Toby, Newark residents who are being represented by Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund in a landmark case for same-sex union rights, expressed shock at the murder. "We have stood on the street corner where this happened many, many times while waiting for a bus," the women said in a statement. "For a proposition to turn violent all because this time the pretty girl is a lesbian shocks and frightens us."

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**around the nation**
**Gephardt's lesbian daughter to join presidential campaign**

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Dick Gephardt (D-Mo.) said his lesbian daughter, 30-year-old social worker Chrissy Gephardt, would seek backing for him from the nation's gay voters as he campaigns for the Democratic presidential nomination. "Chrissy is a lesbian. She's a great young woman. She's doing great work," Gephardt said May 8 on CNBC's Capital Report. "I'm very proud of her, and I want her help in the campaign. She's going to help with gay and lesbian people, but she's going to help with people all over the country." Gephardt's campaign Web site, in a section about his family, makes a brief reference to Chrissy's live-in partner, Amy. Vice President Dick Cheney, a Republican, has a gay daughter, Mary, who worked for him in the 2000 campaign, traveling with her father full-time as his personal aide and a constant presence in his inner circle. But Mary Cheney did not work specifically with gay voters and has not spoken publicly about her sexual orientation.



Chrissy Gephardt (right), the 30-year-old lesbian daughter of Rep. Dick Gephardt, will work in her father's presidential campaign seeking support from gay voters, he said last week. His campaign web site includes a mention of Chrissy Gephardt's partner, Amy Loder (left).

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**Professional athlete stands  
by comments against gays**

DENVER — Colorado Rockies pitcher Todd Jones again spoke out about gays in a May 7 column for SportingNews.com. "They think I'm a gay-hater, a narrow-minded redneck from Alabama who ain't never been nowhere. ... I stand by what I said, but I'd like to tell you the context of how it happened," Jones wrote. The pitcher was referring to comments April 27 to the Denver Post, when he said he "wouldn't want a gay guy being around me." In his column for Sporting News, Jones said his comments focused on the "delicate" clubhouse atmosphere, where "guys shower together." "If there were a gay guy on the team, you can't tell me that it wouldn't be a huge distraction from what the team was trying to accomplish," Jones wrote. Meanwhile, last week pitcher John Rocker — who made headlines in 1999 for anti-gay remarks when he played for the Atlanta Braves — returned to Major League Baseball, called up by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Rocker signed a minor league contract with the Devil Rays on April 10. "Maybe I'm a little wiser than I was four, five years ago," Rocker said.

**McDonald's appeals ruling  
for employee with AIDS**

CLEVELAND — A three-judge panel of the Eighth Ohio District Court of Appeals heard arguments May 5 in an appeal by McDonald's in a case alleging the restaurant chain forced out an employee who had AIDS, the Gay People's Chronicle reported. Russell Rich, who is gay and a former McDonald's manager, sued the company and its Ohio franchise under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and Ohio state laws. A jury sided with Rich in October 2001, awarding him \$5 million in compensatory damages. But McDonald's has not yet paid anything to Rich. The chain's attorneys argue in their appeal that he is not disabled. Paige Martin, Rich's attorney, said he would seek more damages if the company wins its request for a new trial or reduced verdict.

**Calif. Supreme Court  
weighs gay adoptions**

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court is expected to rule within 90 days on whether second-parent adoptions, commonly used by lesbian and gay parents, are legal under state law. On May 7, the state's highest court heard testimony in the case of a lesbian couple, named in court records as Sharon S. and Annette F., who split up after their second child was born. Sharon was the birth mother for both children; Annette adopted the first and was in the process of adopting the second when their relationship ended. Trying to block the second adoption, John Dodd, Sharon's attorney, argued that allowing such adoptions creates "no limit to the number of parents, and I think that is a frightening possibility," according to the Los Angeles Times. Charles Bird, Annette's attorney, argued that "from the perspective of the child, whether the functioning parents are married is irrelevant." In questions to the attorneys, the state's supreme court justices appeared to lean towards upholding the adoptions by gays and other unmarried partners, the Times and the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

**Ind. judge dismisses  
gay marriage lawsuit**

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Marion County Superior Court Judge S.K. Reid dismissed a lawsuit challenging Indiana's ban on recognizing same-sex unions, ruling that state law clearly defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Such a law, Reid said in the May 7 ruling, "promotes the state's interest in encouraging procreation to occur in a context where both biological parents are present to raise the child." The Indiana Civil Liberties Union said it would appeal the ruling. Three gay couples filed the lawsuit last summer, seeking state recognition of gay couples or at least recognition of civil union from other states. "Same-sex couples in a committed relationship are no different than married couples. The time has come to recognize that," said ICLU attorney Ken Falk.

From staff and wire reports



## police beat

### Gay L.A. police officer faces hearing in sexual abuse case

LOS ANGELES — A grand jury began a closed-door hearing May 6 into sexual abuse allegations against gay Deputy Los Angeles Police Chief David Kalish, according to the Los Angeles Times. Three former members of a police outreach program for at-risk boys aged 14-21 allege Kalish sexually molested them in the 1970s when he was a uniformed officer. Prosecutors laid out evidence found during a five-month LAPD investigation that ended with Kalish's suspension in March. The investigation began with two civil claims against Kalish, the police department and the city filed by former youth charges. One accused Kalish of "sexually fondling him, molesting him and forcing, coercing" him into sexual acts for four years beginning at age 14. A decision whether to send Kalish to trial is expected by the end of the month.



A grand jury opened testimony last week in the sexual abuse case against gay Los Angeles Deputy Police Chief David Kalish, who stands accused of molesting teenage boys in the 1970s. (Photo courtesy Los Angeles Police Department)

### Man ordered to stand trial in death of Calif. prosecutor

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP) — A man charged in the stabbing death of a gay assistant district attorney was ordered May 6 to stand trial. Chris Hillis stands accused of first-degree murder in the September death of Stephen Tauzer, a gay man who housed Hillis' 22-year-old son Lance. Witnesses in a preliminary hearing last week testified that Tauzer urged drug treatment for Lance, but Hillis wanted his son to serve time in jail. Chris Hillis' father, Donald Hillis, testified that his son "joked" several years ago about killing Tauzer. DNA evidence was found on a knife near Tauzer's body and on a beer bottle inside the home that linked Chris Hillis to the crime scene. Kyle Humphrey, an attorney for Hillis, said the evidence is inconclusive. "They say they found DNA on a beer bottle in the kitchen, yet if they're serious that Chris hated Mr. Tauzer enough to kill him, I certainly can't see the two of them sharing a beer," Humphrey said. Arraignment is set for May 14.

### Transgendered Conn. inmate begins hormone therapy

DANBURY, Conn. — A transgendered male inmate who said federal prison officials denied him hormone therapy began receiving the injections May 8, according to the Hartford Courant. Jesse Carr, who was born Jessica Carr, is a 21-year-old college student from Ohio serving a three-month sentence for trespassing after a November arrest during a protest at a U.S. Army training school at Fort Benning, Ga. Carr was receiving testosterone injections regularly since November, and stopping the treatments abruptly can cause medical problems. Carr's supporters said that he finally began receiving his shots and was assured by officials that his medical regimen won't be interrupted. Carr's attorney, Bill Quigley, said he thought the treatments were withheld because of a bureaucratic problem that prevented Carr's medical records from arriving in Danbury. "Prisons are tough institutions to run, and this is an unusual situation," Quigley said.

### Paris mayor's alleged attacker found fit to stand trial

PARIS (AP) — Psychiatrists examining a man accused of stabbing the gay mayor of Paris found him fit to stand trial May 9, saying also that he was at least partially responsible for his actions in the attack. A first team of psychologists found Azedine Berkane unfit for trial in December, but a judge ordered a second opinion. The latest report said that emotional problems did not make Berkane unable to resist violent impulses. Berkane is accused of knifing Mayor Bertrand Delanoë at a public party in October. He told investigators he attacked the mayor because he disliked gays. Delanoë suffered a serious wound to the abdomen but recovered. The presiding judge must now weigh the findings and decide whether to send Berkane to trial. His defense attorney protested the exam results and requested further tests.

### 'Cowardly' attack on lesbian gets U.K. man three years

LONDON — A man was sentenced May 5 to three years in prison for what a judge called a "cowardly" attack on a lesbian, the London Free Press reported. Superior Court Justice Dougald McDermid said he could see "no other conclusion" but that 24-year-old Christopher Broughton "assaulted the complainant because she was a lesbian. Homosexuals ... have the same right as any other citizen to walk down the street of this or any other city without fear of assault." The 23-year-old woman and her 30-year-old partner were at a club the night of the attack and left holding hands. Broughton made remarks about "faggots and lesbians" and said the women should perform a sex act on him, according to court records. He began punching the younger woman, then grabbed her ponytail and pulled her to the ground, where he kicked her in the head. Broughton has been in jail since the arrest and now has 28 more months left on his sentence.

From staff and wire reports

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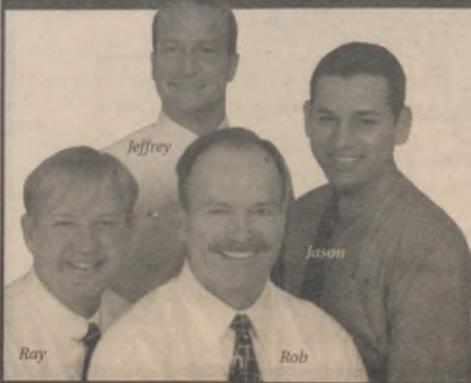
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## medical report

### Global AIDS Fund in need of cash, Congressional study says

WASHINGTON (AP) — An international fund that is a key to the Bush administration's \$15 billion plan to fight global AIDS is threatened by a lack of money, according to a congressional report made public last week. The report by the General Accounting Office, the investigative wing of Congress, could bolster the argument of some that the administration needs to do more to support the Geneva-based Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Earlier this month, the House passed a five-year, \$15 billion package to fight AIDS globally. The Senate is expected to take up the measure soon. Up to \$1 billion in fiscal year 2004 is earmarked for the Global Fund, which has been working since January 2002. Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.), the gay chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, said his panel enthusiastically supported the president's efforts to establish the Global Fund, but "we are aware of the vulnerability of any organization awarding large sums of money in countries that are poorly governed and often corrupt." The GAO warned that a lack of resources "threatens the Fund's ability to approve and finance additional grants." It said the Fund currently has less than \$300 million to support the next round of grants later this year, well short of the Fund's projections that it will receive \$1.6 billion in technically sound proposals.



A Congressional report released last week during a hearing of the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, chaired by gay Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.), said a global AIDS fund is threatened by a lack of money. (Photo by AP/Elise Amendola)

### Gays more likely to be left-handed, study says

FULLERTON, Calif. — Gay men are much more likely to be left-handed than heterosexual men, according to new study by California State University, Fullerton. According to the report published last month in the Archives of Sexual Behavior, a little more than 3 percent of heterosexual men are exclusively left-handed, compared with nearly 8 percent of gay men. Taking into account people who are ambidextrous, the study concluded that gay men had 82 percent greater odds of being non-right-handed than heterosexual men. Lesbians had a 22 percent greater chance of being non-right-handed than heterosexual women, the study said. The report was based on a survey of about 2,000 people in Southern California. About half of those polled were gay. The report noted that a larger study published three years ago found that gay men had a 34 percent greater chance of being non-right-handed and lesbians had a 91 percent greater chance of being non-right-handed as compared with their heterosexual counterparts. The study's author, Dr. Richard A. Lippa, discussed four complex theories to explain the differences that include a number of hormonal, genetic, and environmental factors present in the development of a fetus.

### Calif. officials want more resources to fight crystal meth use

SAN FRANCISCO — About 150 people attended a May 7 hearing about a growing crystal methamphetamine problem, which health experts say is fueling an increase in HIV infections among gay and bisexual men, according to the San Francisco Chronicle. The hearing followed a Chronicle series documenting that 30 percent of those with new HIV infections at one high-risk clinic report-

ed using crystal meth in the previous six months. The articles also showed how state health officials found that gay men who use the drug are twice as likely to be HIV-positive, and that men who use crystal are less likely to use condoms. At the forum, health officials said that already limited resources needed to be focused on counseling and prevention because mental health problems underlie much of the crystal use. "I fear our waiting lists (for treatment and counseling) are just going to get longer," Michael Siever, director of the Stonewall Project, a speed recovery program for gay men, told the newspaper. Crystal meth is a powdery substance that can be swallowed, injected, snorted or smoked. It is often referred to as "Crissy," "Tina," "tweak" and "crank."

### West African form of HIV reached humans by 1940, report says

WASHINGTON (AP) — One form of the virus that causes AIDS made the jump from animals to people by 1940, a new analysis indicates. HIV-2 didn't become widespread until the 1960s, perhaps spread during a war in the West African country of Guinea-Bissau, where researchers say it originated. HIV-2, which is common in West Africa, is genetically different from HIV-1, the virus that has spread around the world, also causing AIDS. An international team of researchers studying the genetic code of two subtypes of HIV-2 reported that one type first entered the human population before 1940 and the other before 1945. Their findings are reported in the online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. A previous analysis of the evolutionary tree of HIV-1 indicated it moved into humans around 1930.

From staff and wire reports



## international news

### Canadian lawmaker says gays should 'shut up' about marriage

TORONTO — Lawmaker Elsie Wayne has refused to retract comments that gay men and lesbians wishing to marry should just "shut up," the Toronto Globe & Mail reported. Wayne, 71, an outspoken MP from New Brunswick, spoke up during parliamentary debate about same-sex marriage. "Why do they have to be out here in the public, always debating that they want to call it marriage? Why are they in parades? Why are men dressed up as women on floats?" she said. "If they are going to live together, go live together and shut up about it." Tory Leader Joe Clark, well-known for his progressive views on gay rights, said Wayne has "extreme views" on this issue, but stressed they do not reflect his own views or those of his party, CNews of Canada reported. In Ottawa, a Liberal member of Parliament reiterated his view that allowing gays to marry could open the door to polygamy, CBC News reported May 10. "Don't tell me Ralph and Bob being together is marriage, because to me it's just wrong," Pat O'Brien told CBC Radio. "If you're going to throw open the definition of marriage so you destroy it in essence, how do you know you can ever draw the line any place? If I want two or three wives and want that considered legal marriage, who are you to tell me I can't do that?"



Elsie Wayne, 71, a member of the Canadian parliament, asked in a debate why gays 'have to be out here in the public, always debating that they want to call it marriage.'

### Australian leaders lower gay male age of consent

SYDNEY, Australia — The age of consent for gay men will be dropped to 16 at the same time as new penalties for child sexual assault by adults in positions of trust are introduced under an overhaul of New South Wales sex crime laws, the Sydney Morning Herald reported last week. The proposed changes will create a uniform age of consent for men and women, bringing NSW into line with every other state except the Northern Territory. Currently, the age of consent for heterosexual intercourse is 16, while it is 18 for gay sex. But because lesbian sex is not defined under the law, gay activists have battled the inequality between the ages of consent for lesbians and gay men. The amendments to the NSW Crimes Act will be debated when parliament returns next week and come nearly two decades after the former Labor Premier Neville Wran decriminalized homosexuality following the 1984 state election.

### Gay spa commercial raises controversy

MELBOURNE, Australia — Family groups have condemned television advertising for a gay men's spa, saying the ad amounts to a "recruitment drive," the Melbourne Herald Sun reported. The ad, to be screened on commercial channels this summer, shows two young men leaving a crowded pub to go to the gay spa Wet on Wellington. Bill Muehlenberg, vice president of the conservative Australian Family Association, said he expects a public outcry. "They are trying to get new recruits, fresh blood almost, into the community," he said. Muehlenberg compared the ad to cigarette commercials encouraging young people to take up smoking. "To be advertising that lifestyle, or promoting that lifestyle, is not in the interest of the community in terms of public health," he said. But Damien Kimber, who produced the ad and is manager of Wet on Wellington, defended the commercial as "a bit of fun" and denied it was aimed at straight men. "It is for men who like men and want a venue to explore that," he said.

### EU presses Malta to outlaw discrimination against gays

ST. JULIANS, Malta — The EU Commission is pressing the Maltese government to ban sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace, in line with union directives, The Independent reported Sunday. Although Maltese labor laws ban discrimination in principle, the new EU directive states that gays are at a higher risk of being discriminated against in the workplace and grants them special protection. The same directive prohibits discrimination on grounds of age, disability, race and religion or belief. But the Maltese government is refusing to adopt the full EU directive, arguing that existing legislation is enough to ban discrimination against gay men and lesbians at the place of work. Lawrence Gonzi, Maltese social policy minister, said current measures outlaw all forms of discrimination in Malta, making a proposal specifying some forms unnecessary.

### Gay men's surrogate baby plans under ethics review

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — For the first time, an application for two gay men to have a surrogate baby is being considered by a New Zealand ethics committee, the Dominion Post reported. Sources say a New Zealander who lives in Europe has returned to Auckland with his European partner after the man's sister agreed to be the surrogate mother. The European man would father the child through artificial insemination. The couple plan to return to Europe after the birth. The Government's National Ethics Committee on Assisted Human Reproduction considered the proposal in March, but deferred a decision pending more information. According to minutes of the meeting, members were concerned about the welfare of the child, the young age of the men and the age difference between them.

From staff and wire reports

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Issue 1177

# Forum

editorial

## A tribute to mom

Mother's Day and backlash for Sen. Rick Santorum reminded everyone of maternal strength and that hell hath no fury like an angry PFLAG mom.

By KEVIN NAFF



OTHER'S DAY IS ONE OF those rare Hallmark holidays that doesn't make me cringe. For starters, it's not a true manufactured American holiday, with roots in the ancient Greek celebrations of Rhea, mother of the Gods and formal recognition in the United States by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914. More importantly, moms routinely exhibit the kind of strength and character that merits a day of recognition.

Just last week as the holiday loomed, I retrieved a voice mail from a particularly angry PFLAG mom irate over Sen. Rick Santorum's (R-Pa.) recent anti-gay remarks and his subsequent failure to apologize to a roomful of PFLAG supporters.

Santorum apparently wasn't comfortable meeting with actual gay people and thought he might get off easy by meeting their parents and friends instead. He was wrong. According to reports from those who attended the May 1 meeting, the good senator was in such a hurry to escape that he tripped over a chair on his way out. Only a wronged mother could inspire such fear in a U.S. senator.

I was inspired, too, by a recent story involving an Arkansas teenager who came out at his high school only to be marched to an assistant principal's office where he was forced to recite biblical passages condemning homosexuality. School officials later outed the kid to his parents. But nobody warned those school officials that the mother, Delia McLaughlin, is a force to be reckoned with.

"If anybody is preaching to this kid or throwing Scriptures at him, it's going to be me," she said. "I don't worry, they'll get theirs. Judge not, lest you be judged yourself."

McLaughlin not only supported her son against the school system, she pursued legal action to remove any mention of disciplinary measures related to his sexual orientation from her son's record.

She granted an interview in March and her photo ran with the story.

Imagine being 14 again and opening up a gay newspaper to find your mother's picture alongside a story about gay rights. As if that weren't enough, the son said that his mother fully supports his displaying a poster in his bedroom of a man emerging from a swimming pool.

"Why not, you know," McLaughlin said when our reporter asked about it. Why not, indeed.

MOST OF US HAVE MORE COMPLICATED relationships with their mothers, although more and more of us are lucky enough to have open-minded, supportive moms. My own mom was upset when I came out to her — not because her oldest son is gay, but because I didn't tell her sooner.

The moms of PFLAG were busy last week, coordinating Capitol Hill visits to congressional offices while lobbying for a range of pro-gay initiatives. Among the moms' demands: passage of a hate crimes bill and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act inclusive of gender identity protections; and passage of the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, a House bill in need of a lead sponsor in the Senate.

In addition, PFLAG members are working to oppose a disturbing number of conservative judicial nominees backed by President Bush who have decidedly anti-gay records.

The PFLAG moms who canvassed the Hill carried with them photos of their gay loved ones, and they describe those photos as among their most powerful tools.

"There is no argument quite so strong as the one that says, 'I do this work not for myself, but for these friends and loved ones,'" says one mom on the PFLAG Web site.

ALSO, AS ANOTHER MOTHER'S DAY passes into memory, we should be remind-



Delia McLaughlin, mother of a gay teen who was forced to recite biblical passages by school officials, set an example for mothers by defending her son. (File photo by AP)

ed of the growing number of lesbians and even gay men who are taking on the responsibility of parenthood.

According to recently released figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, one-third of lesbian couples and one-fifth of male couples now have children living in their homes. The numbers speak to a trend among gays; in 1990, only one in 20 same-sex male couples had children, while 22 percent of lesbian couples had kids.

In a related move earlier this year, Washington, D.C., officials announced a plan to recruit gay men and lesbians to adopt the city's abandoned children. As of March 21, about 200 D.C. children and teens between the ages of 6 and 18 were in need of a foster home.

"We urgently need foster homes in the District of Columbia," said Maureen McFadden, supervisor for adoption and foster parent recruitment for the Child & Family Services Agency. "Unlike other jurisdictions, we are looking openly for GLBT foster parents."

So if you forgot to call your mom last weekend, take heart and pick up the phone for what she has done for you and for the PFLAG moms who work hard on behalf of advancing gay rights. If nothing else, do it for the 33 percent of lesbian couples raising children — and especially for Delia McLaughlin.

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



# letters

## Both sides to blame for statehouse lockdown

To the Editor:

I have viewed the current state of dysfunction in Austin with great interest. I am an endangered species in Texas: an Independent.

I vote for the person and their positions, integrity, record, experience, etc. Many times people like me swing elections one way or the other, but neither party wants to recognize us because we don't do everything they say. I do not blindly vote for a party; I am objective and not partisan. I look behind all the political rhetoric at the logical, rational issues, so let me try to give you my view on this situation.

The Democrats have walked out because they were not allowed a voice in something as critical as congressional redistricting. The current districts were drawn by a three-member judicial court. The proposed districts have been drawn by Tom DeLay and his colleagues in Austin, without input from many affected groups. I would trust three judges to be objective far more than I would trust DeLay and his colleagues.

The proposed districts look like a Picasso print with wildly jagged boundaries; the current districts look much more block-like and seem to encompass entire communities and neighborhoods. DeLay says his map reflects what Texans voted for in the 2002 elections — a state dominated by Republicans in statewide offices must equal a state dominated by Republicans in Congress too — so it is right.

The weight of logic here says DeLay's way is wrong. I must have missed something in the 2002 elections I guess. I thought we were voting for governor, lieutenant governor, etc. I did vote for most Republicans for statewide office, because they had the best candidate for the job, not because of the party they represented or because I viewed it as a referendum for a Republican plan to dominate and

change all the Congressional districts. If that had been on the ballot, myself and thousands like me would have voted a different way.

I find it highly offensive that DeLay would twist voting results around this way. Who elected him to be in charge of this? Again, I did not; I saw him nowhere on my ballot, and he does not represent me or most Texans, only his little district in Sugarland.

The statewide office elections are not a mandate to do what he and his colleagues in Austin are trying to do. I applaud the Democrats for standing their ground, but it does not mean I would vote for them in an election. Apparently all the good consensus building that George W. Bush did in Austin to get things done has evaporated in the heat of partisan politics, and I blame both sides for that.

Shame on all of the principles here. Why can't we work together as Texans? The whole nation is chuckling, and it is at both sides.

Mike Johnson  
Houston

## Former EJ's bartender thanks benefit supporters

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all of the Montrose community for your every kindness. It means more than you know at this time.

I have always heard that if you are lucky, when you die you can say you have one true friend. With that in mind, I am truly blessed.

Thank you all for everything and a special thanks to everyone at EJ's.

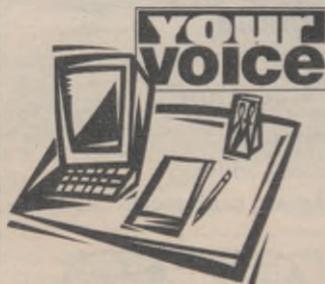
Wil a.k.a. Wilma  
William Johnson  
Houston

*Editor's Note: The letter writer is a former EJ's bartender for whom a fundraiser was held on May 4 to assist with medical expenses since he has been diagnosed with cancer.*



"She said the Senator's position on gays needed a 'Mother's Touch'..."

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## on the record

"I am inclined to think, Mr. Kohler, that in view of the fact that all of our intelligence agencies agree that men who are homosexuals ... are security risks, and in view of the fact that this man has held a very important job and may hold one again tomorrow, I think we have to require that you answer."

*Then-Sen. Joe McCarthy, ordering Eric Kohler, a prominent accountant at the time, to give the Committee on Un-American Activities the last name of "Bill," a formerly high-ranking budget official with whom Kohler admitted having an affair (Newly released transcripts of the McCarthy hearings)*

"Drinking a diet soda doesn't make you gay, but it does make you look gay."

*Helpful advice for straight men from Maxim magazine, cited by op-ed columnist Maureen Dowd (New York Times, May 11)*



"[Madonna's guest appearance] will probably be our biggest episode. Let's have that number of people show up to watch me hold George Clooney's hand, or whoever's up for doing it. ... Maybe that's what it's going to take to really make that next big, bold move: an actual relationship where we know, when [Will and another man] walk out of a room, they've probably just had sex."

*Eric McCormack, who plays Will on "Will & Grace," on prospects for the character's on-screen love life (Entertainment Weekly, May 2)*



"I feel very connected to [Will], ... and I would imagine that the next time I fall in love will probably be the time Will falls in love."

*"Will & Grace" co-creator and executive producer Max Mutchnik (Entertainment Weekly, May 2)*

"Yeah, I bring this out in women. I think both these gals were psyched to jump into roles that are part of their identity, but that they had kept dormant."

*Lesbian director Lisa Cholodenko, on how she coaxed sexy performances out of Ally Sheedy in "High Art" and Frances McDormand in the new film "Laurel Canyon" (Miami Herald, May 7)*

"Butt Munch II: Back to the Crack"  
The video title that "Six Feet Under" characters Keith and David are admonished for not returning to the rental store in the HBO show's April 27 episode. All Worlds Video reacted to the scene by issuing a press release trumpeting that the title is a real one, by legendary "diva director" Chi Chi LaRue (May 2)

"I've been out as a gay woman and as part of a gay family for one year. And in one year, the tabloids have had us breaking up four times, and I think that's homophobic. You want to say that I'm fat, say that I'm fat. You want to say that I have a big mouth, go ahead. You want to say that I'm stupid and not funny, fine! But don't say my family is breaking up when we're one of the only public gay families in the nation. I think there's some sort of perverse joy: 'Oh, look, it's breaking up!' No, it isn't."

*Rosie O'Donnell (May 6, "Access Hollywood")*

"I think vaginas are wonderful."  
*Oprah Winfrey to Jennifer Finney Boylan, author of "She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders," during a discussion about gender reassignment surgery and transgender issues ("The Oprah Winfrey Show," May 7)*





**PETS:** Gay Houstonian Don Gill passes along a few life lessons that pets can teach their owners. Page 17.

**THEATER:** Theatre New West opens its new production, Robert Chesley's 'Jerker,' this week. Page 18.



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# Out on the Bayou

## The Cho 'Revolution'

Comedienne Margaret Cho returns to Houston with her own outrageous spin on today's world

By PENNY WEAVER

**S**HE'S "VERY CONSERVATIVE," SHE LIKES to sew and she's getting married this summer (to a man).

And although some fans may not recognize comedienne Margaret Cho from that description, that is Cho in her own words.

Yes, she's Asian. Yes, she's bisexual, although she says "slutty" might be a better way to say it. Yes, she's a woman, and yes, she has battled Hollywood's vision of what a woman should look like.

But Cho says people are people — labels are too confining — and that might be a key reason so many gays and lesbians fill her fan base.

"I am the voice of the unheard," explains Cho, who brings her new tour, "Revolution," to Houston on May 30.

In the past, Cho has done work on behalf of Montrose Clinic, and she says she has a special regard for the Bayou City.

"Houston was the first place that I really played a big venue... like I felt like a star," Cho recalls. "I have a real affection for it."

She has shown, quite publicly, her affection for one famous Houstonian, too. Cho calls Anna Nicole Smith — and the experience of kissing her — "gorgeous, delicious."

"She's the most beautiful woman ever. I just think she's a goddess. She's a dream."

### The Cho spin

"[The new material] is a workbook to a personal revolution — starting with yourself as breaking down some of the ideas that society has put out," Cho says.

Cho's new show covers current events in her well-known unbridled, no-holds-barred fashion. She tackles topics ranging from the "axis of evil" to her travels through Thailand's red light district, the explosion of child birth, bartering sex for household chores and more.

"I'm really excited and I think that it's really fun," she says this week in an interview with the Voice. "I think that what's really exciting is the new material: the state of the world, combined with what's going on with the media...the fact that reality television is much more valued than reality itself."

Cho notes the recent return of American military



personnel from Iraq. She noticed that gay military families were treated differently when it came time to welcome soldiers or sailors home.

"The partners of the people were not allowed to wait on the dock," she says. "It's an expression of hatred that I cannot really comprehend."

"It's not about sodomy or any of that shit. We're talking about love. To me, to deny that moment...to deny that of homosexuals because of the fact that they're homosexuals is heinous. It's atrocious and it's inhumane and it's against love and it's against God."

"They always say that homosexuality is against God. That's against God," says Cho of discrimination against gay military couples, expressing her frustration with "the inequality in the home of equality."

She doesn't see her views as unusual or liberal.

"I don't consider myself an extremist. I'm actually in my mind very conservative," Cho says. "All I ask is that America be America — that it be a place where we're allowed to be equal."

But she relaxes from her frustrations with politics a minute.

"Basically, that's what the show is like — but it's funny," she says with a laugh.

### Comedy with heart

Cho was 16 when she started performing stand-up comedy. In 1994, she starred in "All-American Girl," a television sitcom that featured the small screen's first Asian-American family. Her groundbreaking one-woman show, "I'm the One That I Want," toured the country in 1999 and became a best-selling book and feature film. She followed that success with 2001's

"Notorious C.H.O." tour and feature film.

Cho wants there to be more than just laughs behind all that she does.

"When we do work, like, it's got to mean something. I don't like comedy that's secular. Or anything that's secular. I don't like something that I can't feel what the artist is feeling. To me, that's not art — that's just killing time. I want to be able to live an entire life with an artist. That's why I do what I do. I mostly want to give people an entire experience."

### Changes on tap

Called everything from "bisexual" to "multi-sexual" in the press, Cho says love does not fit into a category.

"I have an enormous capacity for love which is beyond sexual and beyond all that stuff. Whatever happens in bed it's like a different thing in every experience. I don't think that we're supposed to be monogamous generally."

As it happens, she is getting married — to a man — on June 13. She says that as much as she travels, she actually prefers to be at home — her "sanctuary" — with him.

"He's a famous artist and he's very talented. We're very private. We have a very beautiful house and it's huge and [yet] it's like I'm really agoraphobic. I'm just kind of freaky like that," Cho says. "I'm kind of old... I like to entertain at home."

"My husband is very similar minded to me, which is why we're getting married," she explains. "I really love him and I really love the way I finally figured out my life — that I can have really fulfilling relationships with both sexes and have totally queer politics and have a totally queer life and not feel as if that is a responsibility

### **i** MORE INFO

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Please see CHO on Page 16



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## out on the bayou

# Cho: 'The gay community is where my heart is'

CHO, continued from Page 15

to anyone because it's so different.

"It's not really gay, it's not really straight — nobody really knows what to do with it," Cho adds.

After "Revolution," Cho plans time to work on her Web site, a new book and other projects. And — she's going to sew.

"I just want clothes that fit me. I bought a bunch of patterns that were from the '30s, '40s and '50s," Cho explains. "[That's] when women's bodies were completely respected and worshipped and loved. That's all it's about is to have this worshipful woman's body revered once again."

### Beyond tradition

As an Asian bisexual woman, Cho rejects being pigeonholed into any of those "minority" labels, or into any other category. She says she doesn't feel any pressure to stand up and represent any minority group.

"Unfortunately, like, the way that the world is, it's just fucked and ... it's almost as if sometimes you identify yourself in that manner and you automatically add a prefix to your profession," Cho says, noting that she often is introduced in the press as "Asian...". "I'm already used to the label. I don't really give a

shit. It doesn't really reflect on my work.

"I think that the way that the media is — which is horrible — is that you add a prefix to your name that may or may not be considered something against you but people can't see past the shorthand. That when we are 'out,' then that's all you are. Then your talent is irrelevant."

She says she is no more Asian than bisexual, and identifies no more as a woman than any other part of herself.

"There is no separation. There is no way to say one is more [important] than the other. I feel like I belong to all the minorities," Cho explains. "I feel like it's not even bisexuality — I feel like I am a gay man, I am a lesbian, I am transgender...this is all about the fact that we are the same no matter how we identify."

That thought process, no doubt, is part of why so many gays love this Asian, American, bisexual, soon-to-be-married female comedienne/actress/author.

"And racism and homophobia are the same thing, and in that we come together as well," Cho says. "I totally like get it, you know. The gay community is where my heart is and where I do a lot of my act, and I'm really proud to be able to do what I do within that."



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## pets TINA KING



For Montrose fixture  
Don Gill, pets are reminders  
of important life lessons

# Animals teach a lot

I PULLED INTO THE DRIVE OF AN adorable wood frame house located in the heart of Montrose and there was Don Gill on his lawn, leisurely sipping a drink. As I stepped out of the car I could just make out the little pointed ears and curious eyes of an Australian Shepherd through the glass of the front door to the house.

Don and I exchanged pleasant introductions and then he ushered me into Studio 911 where he works his hair magic. He offered me a seat and then we plunged right into the discussion regarding his pets. We'd not proceeded far when I realized that I was speaking with such an interesting and multi-faceted person that I was going to have a difficult time staying on the topic of his pets.

Don inherited Kodie, his 6-year-old Australian Shepherd, at 11 months old from a salon customer relocating to New York. The customer didn't think Kodie would make the transition well as a puppy and Don willingly took him in and has never regretted this addition to his household.

Kodie's temperament is multi-faceted too: Don says that he appears vicious at first and therefore is a great guard dog. But after he has become familiar with your scent on an extended hand, he'll roll over on his back with all four legs in the air for you to rub his belly. In fact, he's so lovable that Don's friends have nicknamed him the "Love Sponge."

KODIE SHARES HIS HOME WITH SCOOTER the rooster, six hens, a new baby chick, and several more on the way. One of Don's hobbies is raising poultry and this has also been somewhat of a therapeutic and life-stabilizing endeavor for him, he says. He mentioned his dad quite fondly several times, at one point telling me about the important life lesson he learned from this man, although his dad was illiterate. Don's dad told him that if life ever got too stressful or overwhelming that he needed to watch the animals, because they would remind him what was essential and necessary in life.

So there have been many days when Don sits out on his back porch, throws out some feed for Scooter and his friends and then just watches — they eat, sleep, talk to one another, and procreate.

One would think that after having two lovers and eight friends succumb to AIDS that there are probably more days than not that Don has spent watching those chickens. But after personally nursing and caring for these 10 that he loved and then seeing them die in his own home, he says, "From that point on, everything I learned about living came from dying."

This is why, although Don's pets are cute and lovable, I frequently had a difficult time focusing on them — though as I learned from him, these are the very creatures that can help ground us in life.



Longtime Montrose resident and fund-raiser Don Gill shares his home with critters including dog Kodie and rooster Scooter. (Photo by Penny Weaver)

KODIE FINDS HIS GROUNDING IN CHASING balls; he loves them. He frequently holds a ball in his mouth while chasing or playing soccer with another. He also has keen focus while waiting for the ball to be tossed high from his master's hand and an amazing jumping ability as he soars through the air to trap it in his mouth. Don says this is Kodie's favorite activity while playing at the family's river house. At his river house, Don also has a Siamese cat named "BaayBeee," and yes, it must be pronounced in just this way.

It seems that Kodie inherited his jumping ability and love of bouncing balls honestly. Don is an avid Houston Rockets and Houston Comets fan; he can't wait to get up in the morning to read the sports section of the newspaper concerning his two favorite teams. He modestly spoke of breaking religious barriers to be the first young boy in a particular denomination from his small hometown to play organized school basketball.

When not spending time with Kodie and the pack, Don has dedicated his life to charities. Through Don Gill Productions, he helps raise money for the Gulf Coast Archives & Museum, AIDS and HIV, and breast cancer. His studio is filled with plaques and awards presented to him by high-profile politicians such as Ann Richardson, Annise Parker, Bob Lanier, Debra Danburg and more. But the title and honor he seems most proud of is to be called "Mr. Wonderful" and "Mr. Everything" by the Montrose community.

It's easy to see that Don is "Mr. Wonderful" to Kodie, Scooter and the gang, too.

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## out on the aisle PENNY WEAVER

Homoerotic 'Jerker' debuts as first  
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## New stage opens

### 'Jerker'

Directed by Joe Watts, artistic director of Theatre New West, "Jerker" is the opening production in the new second stage of Theatre New West, dubbed "Theatre New West...Too." First performed in Los Angeles in 1986, the Robert Chesley play caused a stir not only because of its nudity but also because of its honest depiction of homoerotic sex, according to a theater press release. The play revolves around two men who share a relationship over the telephone. The storyline brings out the humor of the bizarre relationship, as well as the feeling of isolation, loneliness and the unabashed honesty of one human reaching out to another. Watts directs actors Brett Cullum and Glen Fillmore in "Jerker."

### on stage 'Jerker'

8 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays  
May 23-July 5 • Tickets: \$20  
Theatre New West...Too  
1415 California • 713-522-2204

### 'Stones in His Pockets'

A hit from Broadway and London's West End, "Stones in His Pockets" relates the hilarious story of an American movie being shot in County Kerry, a small rural Irish town. Told from the perspective of two locals — who also play everyone else in the production — the play won the 2001 Laurence Olivier Award and the 2000 Evening Standard Award for Best New Comedy in New York and London. "Stones in His Pockets" by Marie Jones also is the recipient of three Tony Award nominations. The Alley production features Todd Waite and Jeffrey Bean as all 14 characters in the play.

### on stage 'Stones in His Pockets'

Through May 18 • Tickets: \$40-45  
Alley Theatre • 615 Texas Ave.  
713-228-8421 • www.alleytheatre.org

### 'Speaking in Tongues'

Stages Repertory Theatre presents the award-winning "Speaking in Tongues" by Andrew Bovell. The production examines a surprising — and possibly fatal — series of events triggered by one random night of flirtation between two married couples, according to a Stages press release. Nine people become connected as they navigate the unpredictable paths of fidelity, betrayal and forgiveness. "Speaking in Tongues illustrates how our actions, regardless of how small or inconsequential, alter the course of the universe," said Rob Bundy, who will direct the Stages.

### on stage 'Speaking in Tongues'

7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays  
8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays • 3 p.m. Sundays  
Through May 25 • Tickets: \$32 and up  
Stages Repertory Theatre • 3201 Allen Parkway  
713-527-0123 • www.stagetheatre.com



Brett Cullum (left) and Glen Fillmore star in the gay-themed 'Jerker,' opening this week as the inaugural production at Theatre New West...Too. (Photo by Joe Watts)

production. The play has been called "clever, provocative and resonant" by the New York Times, and praised as a "shimmering, iridescent beauty" by London's Financial Times.

### 'City of Angels'

Two shows in one, "City of Angels" interweaves two plots: one dealing with the writing of a screen play in legendary 1940s Hollywood, and the other the enactment of that screenplay. According to a press release from Houston's Masquerade Theatre, this production is possibly the only "color coded" show theater audiences will see. The movie scenes appear in shades of black and white, and the real life scenes are in technicolor, the press release states. The show includes two musical scores and finishes with two happy endings. Phillip Duggins directs. The program is based on a book by Larry Gelbart, with music by Cy Coleman and lyrics by David Zippel.

### on stage 'City of Angels'

8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays  
3 p.m. Sundays • Through May 24  
Tickets: \$25 or \$20 for students and seniors  
Masquerade Theatre • 1537 N. Shepherd  
713-861-7045 • www.masqueradetheatre.com

### 'The Big Bang'

Theater LaB Houston celebrates its 10th anniversary season with "The Big Bang," a tale of two struggling musical writers trying to raise money for their pet project: a history of the Western World from creation to the year 2000. Jimmy Phillips and Greg Gorden star in the production, which is directed by Linda Phenix. Music is by Jed Feuer, with musical direction by Steven Jones. The play is based on a book and lyrics by Boyd Graham.

### on stage 'The Big Bang'

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays • Through May 24  
5 p.m. Sunday, May 25 • Tickets: \$20-22  
Theater LaB Houston • 1706 Alamo  
713-868-7516 • www.theaterlabhouston.com

**sports** LEE DAVIS

Rainbow Fishing Club plans Saturday outing, as  
Montrose Softball League competition heats up

**Galveston trip on tap****Fish ahoy, matey**

Saturday, May 17, 2003 — Seawall — be there!  
The Rainbow Fishing Club recently announced a Galveston Fishing Pier expedition at 89th and Seawall Blvd. The cost of admission to the pier is \$8 per person. Children 12 and under have an admission charge of \$4, while 60+ers have a \$6 admission fee.

All interested persons should plan to meet at the bait shop between 7 and 7:30 a.m. Expected catches will be Speckled Trout, Redfish and Black Drum. Please note that participants must have a fishing license with salt water stamp in order to fish.

Call Scott at 832-971-4900 to RSVP.

The club reminds all that the "in season" chart indicates amberjack, bass, bonito, catfish, grouper, red snapper, salmon, shark, tarpon and wahoo are all the catch for May.

On Saturday, July 26, the club has planned a deep sea fishing trip with Captain Elliott's Ferry Boats out of Freeport. The cost for the 12-hour trip is \$75 with a \$40 deposit. If you really want to be on this trip, the club will have to receive your reservation and deposit immediately.

Departure is at 6 a.m. with a return to the docks at 6 p.m. All fishing equipment and bait are supplied by the boats, as well as ice for your fish. This charter company is virtually booked for the entire summer already, so hurry!

**Ebony and ivory**

The Independent Billiard League of Houston (IBL) posts its top teams after Week 13. Ebony Ivory Jaded are 11-2, with Bandits 11-2, Bricklayers 10-3, E.J.'s Stokers 10-3 and Bricks Kicks 9-3. The top players for Week 13 are V. Henry with a 32-7 record, R. Chew with 28-8, G. Barlow at 25-8, R. Hines at 27-9 and L. Lentz with 26-11.

**Goals for everyone**

The Montrose Soccer Club of Houston is open to men and women who have experience playing soccer.

The only requirements for membership are that participants be team players, know the rules of soccer and have basic skills (you don't have to be a pro, just played before). You don't even have to be gay, just willing to be mistaken for gay.

For more information, send an e-mail to [MontroseSC@soccer.com](mailto:MontroseSC@soccer.com) or go to [www.geocities.com/MontroseSoccer](http://www.geocities.com/MontroseSoccer), or log on to other sites such as the international Gay & Lesbian Football Association, Oak Lawn Soccer Club, or West Hollywood Soccer Club. If you have the international flair, contact the Munich Elves (yeah, in Germany).

**Lone Star Classic**

The Montrose Softball League announces its Memorial Day Weekend Lone Star Classic Softball Tournament, set for May 23-26, 2003. Registration is on Friday, May 23, for Division B, C, and D. Registration is \$350 if postmarked by May 17, 2003. The host hotel is the Houston Renaissance Hotel.

This is a great tournament bringing teams from all over the United States and Canada. It offers Houstonians a chance to



Members of Montrose Softball League's Rich's Hellcats are ranked second place so far in the MSL's B Division. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

meet and greet people and show them what Texas — more specifically, Houston — hospitality is all about. For more info, contact the league at [www.montrosesoftballleague.com](http://www.montrosesoftballleague.com).

**Gay basketball**

Replies are still coming! Doesn't look like it will be too long before this venue gets its kickoff.

If you missed it before: anyone interested in a gay basketball league? If so, please e-mail me via [editor@houstonvoice.com](mailto:editor@houstonvoice.com). Looking forward to a lot of replies to match the number of inquiries so far!

**World Series Softball**

NAGAAA (North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association) announces its 27th annual tournament to be held in Washington, D.C., beginning Aug. 17.

Rooms will fill up fast, so contact the organizers of this great tournament at [information@Series2003.org](mailto:information@Series2003.org), or call 202-543-0326.

**Volleyball stats**

The Lone Star Volleyball Association posted its stats for the current season. In the Rec Division, the teams in order of standing are Sluggers, Hot Shots, Mix Nuts, Hot-Nets, Raunchy Sec, Jackson 7 and Evil Alliance.

The Competitive Division is headed by the Marauders, with Skittles, Fongala and the Red Hots close behind. The Power Division is led by Scrubs, CH Aerial Attack, handful, Assault and Meatstack.

**MSL stats**

The Montrose Softball League (MSL) announced as of Week 4, the Houston Force, lone competitor in the A Division, holds a record of 6-0. In the B Division, BRB is followed by Rich's Hellcats and the Bucs.

The C Division is currently champed by Meteor, followed by the Butchers, Drillers, Swallows, Outpost and 24-Hour Fitness. The D Division is led by Doc's Jocks, with the Trojans, Mary's, Sharks, Bering, Toros, N'Motion, Grizzlies, Wave, Bolts and the Hurricanes following closely, in that order.

**Bump, set, spike to raise funds**

The MSL is hosting Four-Man Sand Volleyball at P.J.'s Park on June 8. This is a fund-raising event with all monies split between MSL and the Lone Star Volleyball Association. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Entry fee is \$20.

For information, contact Travis McGee at 936-365-3297.

MARGOT KIDDER joins  
Amy J. Carle & Starla Benford

FINAL HOUSTON ENGAGEMENT  
THE

# VAGINA MONOLOGUES

EVE ENSLER  
"A BONA FIDE  
PHENOMENON."

THE NEW YORK TIMES



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I appreciate being a part of this community! I want to see Fitness Exchange as more than a health club. It is a community center! So I use the Houston Voice to show my appreciation, and as my invitation to its readers.

—Mary Ann McBee  
Fitness Exchange



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## dining J.A. CHAPMAN

Sassy atmosphere at Vietnamese restaurant  
matches tasty dishes it offers up

## Jenni's serves attitude

**HOLD ONTO YOUR FEATHER BOAS!**  
A visit to Jenni's Noodle House is a fabulous, delicious ride.

Located in the old Chinatown on the east side of downtown, Jenni's Noodle House is a restaurant with attitude. Maybe it's the pink flamingos in the grass strip out front that give it away. Maybe it's those T-shirts above the counter with slogans like "Madonna Eats Here" and "My Noodle is Bigger than Your Noodle." Whatever the reason, it's definitely clear that Jenni's Noodle House is not your typical Vietnamese eatery.

With hip red walls, mirrored columns and black and white photos on the walls, Jenni's Noodle House is a sleek standout in what is generally a neighborhood "in transition." On a recent Saturday night, a friendly waiter found us a table, and joked with us while he took our drink orders. The irreverent humor is definitely part of the appeal here.

The menu is easy to understand, offering \$3 Steals, Deals (\$5 or \$6) and \$8 Meals. With nothing over \$8, except for bottles of wine, it's also a fairly economical meal out. We started with edamame (\$3), those addictive salted soybeans, and dream rolls (\$3 for 2), because they were all out of the spring rolls we really wanted. We enjoyed the dream rolls, stuffed with tofu, shitake mushrooms and vermicelli, but the accompanying house soy sauce was the real discovery. Tangy and vinegary, it woke those dream rolls out of their slumber, making for an excellent start to our meal.

JENNI'S NOODLE HOUSE HAS A FUNKY offbeat ambience. Classic '70s and '80s disco and pop tunes provide a grooving vibe and everyone seems to be having a good time. The table of 10 next to us was decked out in feather boas, and no doubt there would be more on display on Boa Friday. If you forget your boa, just borrow one of the ones hanging by the front door.

For the main course, we tried the Shrimply Ramen (\$8), which arrived as a bowl full of fresh ramen noodles, shrimp, shrimp patties, Japanese fishcakes, and lettuce, all in a savory broth. This dish was a cornucopia of funky Asian foods, some of which were new to us. The fresh ramen noodles were a bit tough, but we'd never had them fresh before, so maybe that's how they were supposed to be. The shrimp patty, with its spongy texture, was weirdly satisfying. With fresh bean sprouts, jalapenos, and plum paste on the side, this dish provided a delicious wealth of flavors and textures.

We also tried the Infernal Chicken (\$8), a coconut-curry dish. It arrived as a broth, full of chicken and potatoes, with jasmine rice on the side. We were slightly surprised, since the menu didn't mention broth, but we were not disappointed. The intoxicating coconut-curry broth was a winner, and



after all the chicken was gone, we were slurping it out of the bowl. We also enjoyed the straightforward Salt-n-Pepper Shrimp (\$8). Six generously sized shrimp tossed with salt, pepper, and chives were served with jasmine rice. It was simple but good.

WE STILL HAD A BIT OF ROOM LEFT for dessert (\$4 each), and queried our waiter as to what was available. When he mentioned the tres leches, we asked his opinion. Being a good waiter, he said it was tasty, but volunteered that he didn't think it was up to the gold standard quality of Churrasco's. We tried a piece anyway, and decided that our waiter was right. It was rich and milky, but not the best we've had. On the other hand, the simple white cake with a rich dark chocolate icing was divine. We polished it off, fighting each other for the last bit of that deep chocolate frosting.

Just so you know, Jenni's Noodle House does not serve tap water. It says so all over the menu. Bottled water is available at 50 cents. Or try the delicious limeade (\$2) or hot chrysanthemum tea (\$2), which comes in a glass with dried chrysanthemum flowers floating in it.

Owner Jenni Tran-Weaver has created a cool little dining spot where almost everyone can find something they like. The menu even offers a special lap dance from Jenni's husband Scott (\$50). You'll need to reserve that waaaay in advance, though.

As we passed the boa rack by the door, our waiter called out his thanks and told us to come back again. With the disco beat grooving us out into the warm Houston night, we all agreed we would.



### Jenni's Noodle House

2130 Jefferson  
Houston, TX 77003  
713-228-3400  
www.noodlesrule.com

Food: **||||**  
Service: **||||**  
Value: **||||**  
Scene: **||||**

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

# community calendar

## SATURDAY, MAY 17

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents.** Beach Party at Pocket Park. This is the May Family Activity for HGLP 1-5 p.m. at Galveston's Pocket Park No. 3. Cost is \$5 per car to park. For more information, call Chuck at 713-667-9325. www.hglp.org.

## EVERY SATURDAY

**All-Spanish Worship Service/Noche Espiritual.** 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-3409 or 713-861-9149.

**After Hours.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 1-4 a.m.

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

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. at Viviana's. 713-830-3000.

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

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

**Lambda Center.** Alcoholics Anonymous. 11:30 a.m. Eye Opener Group. 8 p.m. Saturday Night Live. 9:30 p.m. Willing Ones Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in. noon-5 p.m. • 3400

Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## SUNDAY, MAY 18

### EVERY SUNDAY

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

**Center for Spiritual Living.** Services at 11 a.m., for children at 10:50 a.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808. The center also has commitment ceremonies, metaphysical bookstore and classes.

**Community Gospel.** Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

**Community of Kindred Spirits in Beaumont.** Worship at 6 p.m. 1575 Spindletop Ave., Beaumont, Texas. 409-813-2055. E-mail: dsresv3@netzero.net

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

**Emerson Unitarian Church.** Adult education, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. Lunch at noon. www.emersonhou.org.

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

**First Unitarian Universalist Church.** Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch at 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 9 p.m.-midnight at Club Inergy. 713-830-3000.

**Gay Bowling Leagues.** 7 p.m. Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd. 713-861-1187.

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

**GLOBAL.** Gay Lesbian Or Bisexual Alliance. University of Houston GLBT student group meeting. 2 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.uh.edu/~global. E-mail: global@bayouuh.edu.

**Grace Assembly Church.** Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 11 a.m. service. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

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

**H.A.T.C.H.** Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets 7:10 p.m. For meeting information, call 713-529-3590. www.hatchyouth.org.

**Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club.** Practice from 4-6 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m.-noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

**Lambda Center.** Alcoholics Anonymous. 9:30 a.m. Come to Believe Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

**Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church.** 10 a.m. service. 3333 Fannin, Suite 106. 713-528-6756.

**Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church.** Services at 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 281-298-2780.

**Resurrection MCC.** Services, 9 and 11 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School, 10 a.m. Children's service, 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.

**St. Patrick's Reformed Catholic Mission.** Sunday Mass at noon. Holy Unions available. Group meets at the Hair Express, 3310 Delaware, Beaumont, Texas 77703. 409-781-8152. E-mail: watson1@glrr.com.

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

**Sunday Brunch.** For HIV-positive men. 11 a.m. Riva's, 1117 Missouri St. Paul, 713-880-0690. e-mail: PozniBuff@aol.com.

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

**Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Adult discussion, 9 a.m. Service. 11:15 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • GLBT Community Church with Rev. Melissa Wood: Bible study, 10-10:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.geocities.com/glbtc • School outreach program, 2 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • GLBT Community Church with Rev. Melissa Wood: Bible study, 10-10:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.geocities.com/glbtc • School outreach program, 2 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

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**Free HIV Testing.** Houston Area Community Services. 9 a.m.-noon at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Bricks, 617 Fairview. 713-830-3000.

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

**Gay Bowling Leagues.** Women's league. 6:45 p.m. Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarnel Drive. 713-861-1187.

**Gay Fathers/Fathers First.** Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Tom, 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydads/houston/

**Grace Assembly Church.** Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 7 p.m. aerobics class. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

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

**Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club.** Practice from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

**Kolbe Project.** Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.

**Lambda Center.** Alcoholics Anonymous. 8 p.m. Beginners' Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

**Montrose Clinic.** Offers weekly peer support groups for gay and bisexual men with HIV. Spanish speaking group meets. 6:30 p.m. 215 Westheimer. 713-830-3050. Grupo de Apoyo para Latinos gay y bisexuales VIH positivos. Lunes 6:30. Para mas informacion llama al 713-830-3025.

**Queer Voices Radio Show.** 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1.

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

## TUESDAY, MAY 20

**Center for AIDS.** Men's mixer. 7 p.m. 1407 Hawthorne. 713-527-8210.

### EVERY TUESDAY

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

**Center for Spiritual Living.** Meditation (drop-in), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

**Free HIV Testing.** Houston Area Community Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight at Club Houston. Also 4-8 p.m. at 611 Club, 611 Hyde Park. 713-830-3000.

**Gay youth.** New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.

**GLBT Pentecostals.** Bible study, prayer, 7 p.m. in the Heights. For info: 936-931-3761; e-mail: www.Wgb1947@cs.com.

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

**Introduction to Buddhism.** All welcome at 634 W. Temple in the Heights. 7 p.m. Carlton, 713-862-8129.

**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. No partner needed. Beginner 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffie & Swing. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

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at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. Also 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Gallery Medical Clinic, 5900 North Freeway, and Club Toyz from 9 p.m.-midnight. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight at Brazos River Bottom (BRB), 2400 Brazos, and Cousins, 817 Fairview. 713-830-3000.

**Free HIV Testing.** 7-9 p.m. at All Star News, 3415 Katy Freeway. Health clinic with free testing for HIV and syphilis. 713-869-7878.

**FrontRunners.** Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021. Web site: http://home.swbell.net/larathon/houfr.htm. E-mail: larathon@swbell.net.

**Gay Bowling Leagues. Luci Duos.** 9 p.m. Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarnel Drive. 713-861-1187.

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

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

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

**Lake Livingston GLBT Support Group.** 7 p.m. dinner and discussion. Grace Assembly Church, 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

**Lambda Skating Club.** 8 p.m. Tradewinds Skating Rink. www.nesoft.com/~lrsc. 713-523-9620.

**Montrose Clinic.** Offers weekly peer support groups for gay and bisexual men with HIV. English speaking group meets. 6:30 p.m. 215 Westheimer 713-830-3050.

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

**Recovery From Food Addiction (RFA).** Meeting for 12-step program open to all. Noon-1 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama St. RFA: 713-673-2848. www.geocities.com/rfa77235/. E-mail: rfaworldservice@aol.com.

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

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

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop in 2-9 p.m. • Montrose Writers' Project, 10 a.m. • Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus board of trustees meeting, 7 p.m. • Monthly volunteer meeting, 7 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

**Houston GLBT Community Center.** Drop in 2-9 p.m. • Montrose Writers' Project, 10 a.m. • Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus board of trustees meeting,



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## PERSONALS / MEN

**Vacancy Open** Mid 30s, bilingual, degreed, muscular, BM, DFNS, alcohol free, out of closet, top & politically centered. ISO dating partner between 19-25, in shape, submissive, DFNS, light alcohol and have job or studies.

BL1185 Out@Line456673(06/19)

## Q. Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
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			57			58	59	60			61	
62				63							64	
65				66							67	
68				69							70	

### "Forever Everett"

#### Across

- Overture to a split end?
- 46-Across, for one
- "Tales of the City" character
- "\_\_\_ my wit's end!"
- Records "QAF"
- Spit it out, with confidence
- Arouse
- "Aimee & Jaguar" author Fischer
- Candace Gingrich's half-brother
- Everett's pinko performance of 1984
- Hulce of "Amadeus"
- Island in gay Paree
- One with a big bag of money
- How Homo sapiens walks
- Dorothy, to Em
- Preposition that goes either way
- Friend of Rimbaud
- R. Mapplethorpe supporter
- Wham's "\_\_\_ It Big"
- Everett's farcical fashion flick of 1994
- Pride expression
- Coll. of Phil Andros
- Solidly behind
- Where to play a Falcon video
- Garbo of "Queen Christina"
- Jugs
- Words before "music," to Elton John

- It takes balls to make them in the NFL
- Jason of "Chasing Amy"
- Everett's witty Wilde work of 1999
- Like a straight line, for short
- Lose sexual interest
- Hayworth of 3-Down
- Type of straits for straights in a gay bar?
- Fairy story figure
- \_\_\_ instant (like premature ejaculation)
- Give some lip
- Coupled
- Gets hard

#### Down

- Peter Pan opponent
- Tchaikovsky's "Piano Trio in \_\_\_"
- 1953 Charles Laughton film
- "Leave that alone!" to Judy Wieder
- Man of \_\_\_
- "The Front Runner" author
- "Spartacus" or "Ben-Hur"
- Erte's genre
- Hairy twin
- Roy, but not Amy
- Dominate a hairy guy?
- Site of Black Party
- Kahlo's output
- "Another card" in S-and-W-speak?
- San Diego to Palm Springs dir.
- One ruled by a queen
- Poet Lucien \_\_\_, friend of Ginsberg and Burroughs
- Concerns, criticisms, etc.
- Corp. office that deals with antidiscrimination issues
- Bitch
- Boy George's "Whether They Like \_\_\_ Not"
- Pussy sound
- Melissa and Tammy Lynn, e.g.
- Ending of enzymes
- Part of a drag queen's wig
- Martin Crane's vehicle, et al.
- Where to find a Pacific Rim job
- Holiday's "\_\_\_ Bless the Child"
- Vidal essay collection
- Broadway star Stritch
- Porno video transaction
- Family cars
- Streisand's "Prince of \_\_\_"
- Shafed
- Like Cho's comedy
- River near Michelangelo's "David"
- Admire a hottie
- Where your first mate sings "Jailhouse Rock"?
- Takes too much, for short

Answers on Page 22



# PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

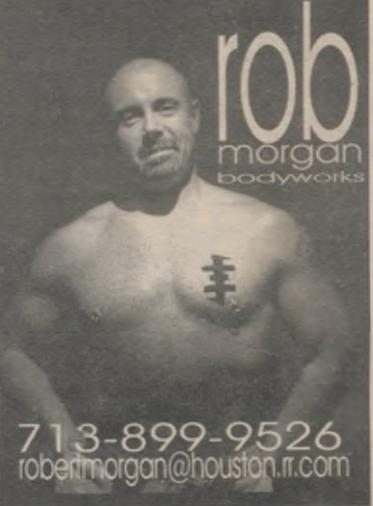
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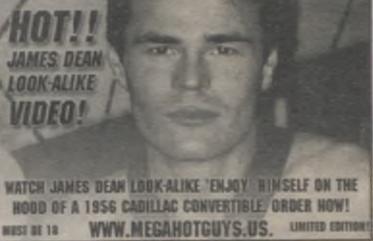
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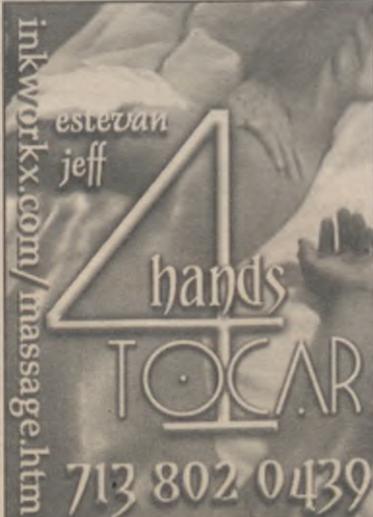
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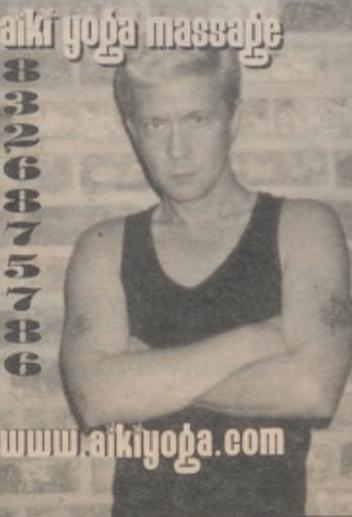
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## astrology JILL DEARMAN



## My Stars!

May 16 - 22



## ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

On May 21, the moon joins Mars and Neptune in your house of friendship and large groups, dear Aries. This means that you need to figure out a way to integrate your lone-wolf attitude with your need for human contact of the meaningful persuasion. Do more for your friends. Improve your karma in this area. A Libra who used to see you as only a platonic pal is now eyeing you with a bit of lust.



## TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

Several planets are transiting the career sector of your chart. Someone with lots of green is impressed by your artistic talent and business skills. Don't blow this, baby. But only do business with investors and partners who are squeaky clean and totally on the up-and-up. Romantically, focus on your No. 1 crush, preferably a Libra.



## GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

This should be a super-delicious week for you and your favorite lover, dear Gemini. Your body is on fire and in desperate need of some special treatment. Open up your heart like you mean it (because I know you do). A Scorpio is totally turned on by your touch. If you have some down moments this week, you can pull yourself out of the darkness by being kind to someone else who needs it. You have the healing touch.



## CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

This is a fine week for you to Feng Shui your life, sweetie, meaning clean up your house, take better care of your health (really), and make a plan for the future. Get rid of the clutter and get organized. Start practicing what you preach, you nag! A Leo could make all your hard work worthwhile by giving you the hump of a lifetime. Sex is deliciously drawn out and torturous this week. Enjoy the suffering.



## LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

Feeling exhausted? Fear not. Luckily, Mercury goes direct on May 20, and you won't have to spend so much time explaining yourself. Life gets easier, slowly but surely. During the next couple of weeks your goal should be to ask for help from all the people who know you, love you, and owe you. A Capricorn owes you big time.



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

Jupiter is winding down a trek through your house of spirituality. If you've been unable to find a religion to commit to, for goodness sakes, take up yoga, Kabbalah, Wiccan, whatever. But commit, darling, commit! Step one is to stop doing business (literally and romantically) with people who are materialistic whores. Use your common sense, especially with a Sag.



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

You can get back on the horn with friends now that Mercury is moving forward. Communication improves, but you may still feel bitter about recent slights to your ego. Make sure you know what it is you need emotionally before throwing one of your diva-esque Libran scenes. This is a perfect time to make a significant change in your home situation. Get out of your rut. A Gemini has great advice for you.



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

You've got the world on a string this week, sweetie. Whatever you want you can get. Here's the catch: You have to admit that you have absolutely no insight into your own sick and sexy psyche. Don't pretend to have wisdom that you don't possess. Instead, be thankful that so many people like you and even love you. Get humble, sweetie. And then you'll get happy. A Virgo will help you learn your lessons.



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

This is a week of mystery, melancholy, and miraculous sex, dear Sag. You may have a sixth sense about a new love. Perhaps you feel as if you've met before. If you're both a Capricorn, the intensity doubles. But the key to happiness, or at least emotional clarity, is for you to listen to those crazy thoughts and feelings instead of ignoring them. Don't apply logic to love, dear.



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

This is a very important time for you, Capricorn. The moon, Mars, and Neptune transit your house of money on May 21. You can begin to make your goals and dreams come into reality but you've got to get off your butt first! Get rid of distractions, and focus, focus, focus. Keep in mind, too, that people will have superstrong reactions to your personality during this cycle, especially a Pisces.



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

Mars and Neptune will be conjunct in your sign this week, darling. It's the right time to think about what you really need to make you happy. Stop pleasing others first ... at least for a week. Your family is bound to push your buttons. Rather than lash out with your cutting tongue, try to figure out why they get to you so much. The healing could begin this week, with a little help from a Pisces.



## PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

Your dreams and fantasies keep getting more and more wild and sortid. You can't keep them to yourself anymore. It's time to break out and be the soulful slut you always wanted to be. Now that Mercury is moving full steam ahead, you too must move forward in your relationships. Say what you need!

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

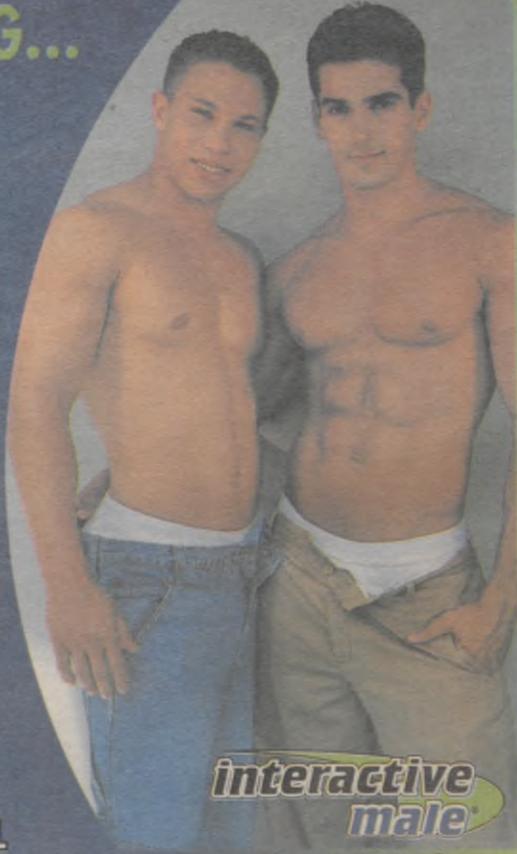


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## TURNING VISION INTO VACCINES

HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, May 18<sup>th</sup>

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> is HIV Vaccine Awareness Day.** Wear your red AIDS ribbon upside down to form a "V" for vaccines, as a sign that you share the vision for a vaccine to prevent HIV infection.

Thousands of researchers and volunteers are working together to make this vision a reality for everyone. Today is the day to thank them — and everyone who shares this vision.

Experts believe that vaccines to prevent HIV infection are the best hope to stop HIV from spreading. While we don't have a vaccine yet, several promising HIV vaccines are in the testing phase — and many more are being researched. Progress is being made everyday.

On Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, wear your red AIDS ribbon upside down, and share the vision for an HIV preventive vaccine.

**To learn more about HIV preventive vaccines, visit [www.aidsinfo.nih.gov](http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov) or call 1-800-HIV-0440 for a free brochure.**

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