



Andy Cohen, Senior Vice President of Production and Programming at the Bravo cable television network was honored as 'Celebrity Grand Marshal of Houston Pride 2010'. Here he poses with two young fans during his visit to the Houston Pride Festival on June 26th.



The 'Real' Andy Cohen

Exclusive to the Montrose GEM

This year, Pride Houston welcomed BRAVO TV's Andy Cohen as the first ever National Celebrity Grand Marshal. Not knowing what to expect, the Pride Houston organization worked very closely with the BRAVO network, Continental Airlines and Houston's Convention & Visitors Bureau to make sure his trip to Houston would be an experience to remember.

Houston Pride Board Member, Trevor Eade spent the majority of June 26 with Cohen, and agreed to share his story with the Montrose GEM on Cohen's experiences during the Houston Pride celebration.

"From the first phone call, confirming Andy's participation as one of the Grand Marshals for Houston Pride 2010, I knew he was going to be the right person for Houston" states Eade. "Andy has a very endearing side; I was convinced this would shine through, during his visit and he didn't let us down."

Cohen's reason for agreeing to participate as a Grand Marshal, including his intrigue on participating in a nighttime parade, and many of his friends in New York had said great things about Houston Pride.

From the moment Andy and his traveling companion arrived at the hotel in Houston, he was in top form; his first duty – to meet with State Representative Ellen Cohen (no relation); they enjoyed a few moments

of conversation and photo opportunities. One of Ellen's staff had altered one of their lawn signs to read "Andy Cohen for State Representative" – Cohen (Andy) autographed this – along with a series of additional photo opportunities with the other Grand Marshals.

It was to be an intense day; with a military style schedule of media interviews and appearances throughout the Pride festival and Parade. Cohen and his companion took all of this in stride – they were both very excited to be involved in the festivities, and took very few breaks.

Cohen took an active role in spending time and meeting the various Houston based LGBT organizations that had exhibit displays at the Festival. "Often, we would be in the car driving back to the hotel, or on to our next activity, and Andy would refer back to many of the conversations he just had – it wasn't just lip-service," said Eade.

Eade also reported that, "There were several local TV crews on-site at the festival" and pointed out, that the most common question asked by the local media was, "Is it true about the Real Housewives of Houston?"

Cohen extinguished the rumor, stating that while BRAVO has done some casting in the past, they do not have any immediate plans to shoot a show in Houston. He also mentioned to the media he had three goals while in Houston... "Meet a Cowboy, Eat some Texas BBQ, and get a set of Barbara Bush's Pearls."

Andy Cohen continued on Page 12

Texas Democratic Party adopts GLBT Inclusive platform

Delegates meeting at the Texas Democratic Convention in Corpus Christi (held June 25-27) adopted a platform including resolutions that champion gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality and nondiscrimination on a variety of levels.

For the first time ever, the 2010 State Democratic Party platform uses the words "gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender" in calling for the repeal of discriminatory laws and policies against the GLBT community.

See Page Democrats on Page 4



Noomi Rapace is the dynamic Lisbeth Salander in *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, Page 10



Annette Bening and Juliette Moore are a lesbian couple raising two children in *The Kids are All Right*-- Page 10



More Queer Things to be proud about

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

During June, the month we celebrate Pride, I reported on some of the things we can be proud about in Houston. There were far too many things to mention to be contained in that one issue, so I am continuing the series. This time I want to report on a crucially important matter that we can be proud about in Houston concerning our institutions of higher learning.

Two of the larger Universities in Houston both have a healthy GLBT presence which includes student groups, courses, and resources.

Gay activists groups have had a presence at the University of Houston since the early Seventies. In addition to the GLBT student groups that have been active and there have been chapters of The National Organization for Women which addresses LGBT issues.

See More Queer Things page 11



Be Prepared - see Page 4



Believing in a Gay Spirit with Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose - Page 5



Dennis Coleman is the new Executive Director of Equality Texas-See Page 13

TRY YOUR LUCK

Come join ERSICSS on August 7, 2010 as we do our second annual day trip to Coshatta Casino.

We will leave at 10am and arrive at Coshatta around 1pm, spend four hours gambling, drinking, eating at the buffet and having a great time before we jump back on the bus and head back to Houston to be back home around 8pm.

While on the bus, our hosts, Royce Wood, Natasha Nicole Siebert and Craig W. Rae will provide snacks and entertainment (I smell another Drag-in-the-Bag show in the aisles) that we promise will keep everyone in stitches.

SEATS ARE LIMITED, SO GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

They are \$40 each.

You may reserve your seating and make payment to ERSICSS through our reign treasurer Royce Wood. Email him at:
rcwood3hou@yahoo.com

Thank you
Sol Lara
AssistHers, V.P. Public Relations



Alley Theatre Holds Open Auditions for Houston Actors

2010-2011 Seasonal Auditions for Houston actors will be Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue. Auditions will be for AEA and non-AEA adult actors. Auditions will be by appointment only, and may be scheduled beginning Monday, July 12, 2010.

To obtain an appointment, e-mail contact information (name, phone number, and indicate whether you are a member of AEA) to auditions@alleytheatre.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS & RESOURCES

The 2010 Second Annual Texas Transgender Non-discrimination Summit at Rice University

All Texas Colleges and Universities wishing to gain transgender rights in institution policies should attend this strategy sharing summit. Learn what works and what does not work in changing policy on campuses to protect transgender faculty, staff, and students. Make connections with those already doing this work. Learn from the successes and failures. July 20-21, 2010 at Rice University, registration is free, all will gain insight, and create a supportive network of like minded individuals. Registration/attendance is free to all. Pass this on to others. The Houston GLBT Community Center is a sponsor/partner for this summit.

If you are planning on attending please send an email to txtgsummit@gmail.com and let us know how many will be in your group, what college or university you either work for or attend.

www.ihg.com/h/d/HI/1/en/rates/

The summit is organized by The Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Summit and the Houston GLBT Community Center.

Actors should prepare one monologue (classical or contemporary) and bring a current headshot and resume.

July 20, 2010
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Alley Theatre
615 Texas Ave.

For more information, e-mail:
auditions@alleytheatre.org.

The Alley Theatre is a professional resident theatre company under the direction of Artistic Director Gregory Boyd and Managing Director Dean Gladden. It is one of the few American Theatre companies that support a company of actors, designers, artisans and craftspeople throughout the year. Productions are built and rehearsed in a 75,000 square foot state-of-the art facility, one of the largest of its kind, adjacent to its two-theatre complex in downtown Houston.

Community Online

GLBT Community Center

www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org

www.montrosecounselingcenter.org

www.legacycommunityhealth.org

Houston GLBT Political Caucus
www.thecaucus.org

Fort Bend LGBT Political Caucus:
FBLGBT_Political_caucus@yahoo.com

Out In Houston
www.outinhouston.com

www.PFLAGHouston.org

HelpLine
713-46PFLAG 713-467-3524
HelpLine@pflaghouston.org

www.assisthers.org

Houston Political Organizing Network - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HoP-ON>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LoneStarActivists/> (LSA)

FEMINIST ONLINE NETWORK
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FEMNET>

Northwest Corner
www.nwcorner.org

www.socialnotesHouston.org

www.queermusicheritage.com

www.centerforAIDS.org

AIDS Foundation Houston
www.AFHouston.org

Imperial Court of Houston
www.spacecityempire.org

Empire of the Royal Sovereign
Imperial Court of the Single Star
www.ersicss.org

TG Center
www.tgctr.org

UH LGBT Resource Center
www.uh.edu/lgbtrc

Give a Damn Campaign
www.giveadamn.org

Do you know of a group that should be featured here? Let us know at:
montrosegem@yahoo.com

ON THE RADIO

MONDAYS, 9 - 11PM
"QUEER VOICES"

SUNDAY MORNINGS
12AM - 3AM
"AFTER HOURS"

ON KPFT 90.1FM
Pacifica - community radio
HOUSTON, TX
www.kpft.org

ONLINE: www.kpft.org

QMH for July: The Sonia & Disappear Interview

I'm very pleased this month to bring you a special two-hour career interview with SONiA. SONiA Rutstein and her sister Cindy Frank released their first album as Disappear Fear in 1988, and in various incarnations twelve more albums followed over the years. We start off with her new album "Blood, Bones & Baltimore," which is a visit to Blues Americana and a delight. My site features an extensive gallery of her recordings.

You can stream or download the show anytime, at

www.queermusicheritage.com/jul2010.html

Thanks for listening,

JD Doyle

www.OutRadio.com

www.QueerMusicHeritage.com

And co-producer of Audiofile, the monthly radio review of CDs of interest to the GLBT communities, airing on over 200 stations around the world on This Way Out. The Audiofile site is at www.Audiofile.org

All segments of all three shows are archived.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Do yourself a favor and go to www.kpft.org and download the July 5 edition of Queer Voices. There is a half hour interview with Harvey Milk and JD's QMH show for June was in honor of Harvey Milk., the music inspired by the remarkable man. It is also available on iTunes.

Do you have a comment on a news item or story in the GEM or elsewhere? What do you like, not like, want more of? Have a story idea or someone you think we should interview? Contact us at: montrosegem@yahoo.com

Montrose GEM masthead designed by Angela Hon

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WWW.MONTROSEGEM.COM

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Double Business Card \$49
(Black & White Only)

The GEM supports the community by offering a 20% discount to non-profits and to advertisers who include a fund-raising event in their advertisement.

The most current up-to-date information available with original articles, news, arts, reviews, commentary, community events and so much more. You will find the GEM is the paper of choice for our community. It is the one to choose.

The Best rates to be found with larger format for the price. Your graphics or ours. We work with you to create an ad that will be noticed.

BEELINES

by Deborah Moncrief Bell



This column is usually the last thing I write for each issue. Sometimes I even turn it over for use for other news. Not this time. I have had a few things on my mind that I want to make sure are covered.

As many of you may know, I became the editor of this little paper in March of this year. I had to learn how to use Adobe InDesign and to do work that I never had done in my work as an editor before. I also did not have a staff of people contributing and taking part in the work load.

What we've done with the Montrose GEM, which has been around for about five years, is to take it to a new level. It is now a real community paper. Our focus remains on the Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual population of Houston and the nearby Gulf Coast. And it is for our allies and those who live all around Houston, as I say in Montrose and beyond. Our mission is to serve that population with news, information, resources, all with a priority on the local happenings of our community. Additionally, we want to feature community organizations and happenings. We are largely a community of volunteers. We volunteer to be involved politically, to do fundraising, to be part of service organizations, to do radio programming, to provide services for other in the community. So that is what you will see featured here?

We plan on producing a 16 page (or larger) publication every two weeks, to increase the number and types of articles (let us know what you are interested in), and to eventually become a weekly. We have already initiated regular theater reviews, a recipe column, an advice column, a music column and other articles that are original, not just something off the internet.

Sure, we know lots of folks use the internet to get their news and that is great but the Montrose GEM can help you find out about things, particularly things specific to our area that you might like to know about and then use the internet to find out more.

We provide an excellent venue in a large format and at very reasonable rates. With the economy as it is, it is a good time to take advantage of this as the customer you gain now will stay around after the improvement of

the economy and will help make that happen. We all are careful where we so spend our precious few dollars, and we want to spend them where it matters, with establishments that appreciate our business. Someone who advertises in the GEM is someone who cares about community. It goes without saying, but I am saying it here anyway, that we must have advertising revenue in order to sustain ourselves. To reach our goal to become a weekly and to expand our coverage area, we have to have that community support.

I am so excited that our website is updated (and continues to develop). It will feature each current issue. Our older issues will be archived with the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History (GCAM) at www.gcam.org. We have also increased our number of distribution sites, adding a few each issue. This gets the news and the advertisements out to more people.

OK, that is what I wanted to say and now it has been said, And that being said, I want to make sure you all know you are invited to my birthday party on July 18th. See the 'ad/invite' on Page 7 for *Sweet Savage Chocolate*. I was not here in January when it was my actual birthday, so I am having a 60th and a half party. Bring me chocolate and help support three of our community organizations, GCAM, KPFT community Radio and the Houston GLBT Community Center.. There will be entertainment and games as well as lots of chocolate that we will share. So bring some chocolate in whatever form you like, candy, cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, fudge. I like most any kind of chocolate from plain old Hershey's to the most deluxe Belgium chocolates. I like chocolate cover nuts of any variety and am greatly fond of Lindt Truffles, the Raspberry M&Ms, Mon Cheri and Ferreror Rocher - hint, hint. Chocolate is good for you know. Full of anti-oxidants, it also raises endorphins which is akin to what happens when one has an orgasm. It can make you gain weight and blemish the complexion while sex burns calories and clears the complexion, so it is important to have balance.

Hmmm, what I need is a chocolate covered woman. Anyone got one of those?

That's the buzz from me this week.

THE COMMUNITY PAPER FOR MONTROSE AND BEYOND

Please email or call to let us know you want an ad so we can reserve the space for you.

Schedule for the rest of 2010

Deadline 12pm Mondays prior to print date

ISSUE #	Print DATE	DUE ON
137	7/30	7/26
138	8/13	8/9
139	8/27	8/23
140	9/10	9/6
141	9/24	9/20
142	10/8	10/4
143	10/22	10/18
144	11/ 5	11/1
146*	12/3	11/30
147*	12/17	12/13
148	12/31	12/27

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Democrats continued from Page 1

The platform also advocates for anti-bullying policies in public schools, diversity in institutions for higher learning, passage of the Employment Non Discrimination Act, increased education initiatives and services to address HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C, an end to discrimination in the state foster care system, strong enforcement of both federal and state hate crimes laws and repeal of the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" (DADT) policy.

Four pro-equality resolutions proposed by Equality Texas, passed by numerous senate district and county conventions, were adopted without opposition on the floor of the convention.

These resolutions included: (1) a state employment nondiscrimination policy that includes GLBT protections, (2) competitive insurance benefits for GLBT employees at Texas universities, (3) accurate birth certificates for same-sex parents of adopted children and (4) policies that would prohibit bullying and harassment in Texas public schools,

Two other GLBT resolutions were adopted. One supported GLBT foster and adoptive parents and the other called for the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). However, another resolution calling for the repeal of the discriminatory Texas Constitutional Marriage Amendment was not passed.

Similar resolutions had been approved by previous convention resolutions committees but never made it to the floor of the convention for a vote.

The new Texas Democratic Party platform stands in stark contrast to the State Republican Party Convention two weeks ago, which adopted a platform that denounces homosexuality as "tearing at the fabric of society" and calls for the felony prosecution of anyone who performs a marriage ceremony for a same-sex couple in Texas.

Hundreds of GLBT Texans were among the 5,000 delegates and alternates who attended the convention. The Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus, which is the official GLBT Caucus of the Texas Democratic Party, hosted a reception on June 24 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of its founding.

The TSDC also held an Executive Board meeting and Caucus membership meeting at the convention, both of which were well attended. Dan Graney of San Antonio was re-elected President, Erin Moore of Dallas was re-elected Vice President and Carol Cappa of Fort Worth and Shaun Nelson of Houston were respectively elected the new Secretary and Treasurer of the Caucus.

Graney and Moore will represent the TSDC on the State Democratic Executive Committee or SDEC, which is the governing body of the State Democratic Party between conventions. Other members of the caucus were elected to important posts and committees in the party.

"The 2010 State Democratic Convention proved beyond a reasonable doubt that GLBT Texans have a place at the table of the Democratic Party", exclaimed Graney. "As for the Republican Party of Texas, it might as well call itself the Republican Party of Uganda because of all the hate and bigotry that is dripping from its platform."

Texas Democrats are gearing up for the midterm elections this November and are hoping to elect Bill White the first Democratic governor of this state in 16 years. The 2012 Texas Democratic Convention will take place in Houston.

For a comparison on other issues between the Democratic and Republican state platforms, prepared by Houston area state Rep. Garnet Coleman, go to www.senatedistrict15.org for the chart and also find other useful information on the site, whether you are in Senate District 15 or not.

TG Center deals with Hurricane Preparedness

What Is Needed? - Since transgender people are vulnerable to becoming victims of bigotry during a natural disaster, the TG Center is pulling together a list of volunteers who are willing to host their transgender brothers and sisters during an evacuation scenario.

If you live north of Houston and are willing to host an TG evacuee, please send an email to: StormHosting@tgctr.org.

Who Is In Need? - The TG Center is compiling a list of potentially vulnerable community members. If you feel that you may need assistance before or after a hurricane, please send an email to: StormCheck@tgctr.org.

What You Need To Know - The TG Center has set up a very simple emergency site that is cross-compatible with mobile devices. In the event of a hurricane, this site will have up-to-the-minute information, including a messaging system that will allow community members to post updates (and respond to posts) via their mobile phone. This site will include:

- * Emergency contact information
- * A current hurricane tracking map
- * Current hurricane news
- * Communications from other community members
- * Chat capability

TG Center's Emergency Hurricane Site: tgctr.org/storm

from TG Center release

Time Is Running Out -- and Five Suggestions For Change

Guest column by David Mixner with comments by Pam Spaulding

Even for the watered-down and questionably useful compromise on DADT, time is running out. Congress will come back in session and be on a fast track to recess as soon as possible in this volatile election year. With analysts like Charlie Cook predicting that the House of Representatives might go Republican, Democrats will be even more leery of taking on anything that smacks of risks. Once they adjourn for recess, my guess is that they will meet only briefly after Labor Day.

This much we know: ENDA is dead for this year and if you believe Rep. Jackie Speier (CA-12), it is dead or at least five years. The repeal of DOMA has seen almost no action. We were taken out of the healthcare legislation. Most likely we will be taken out of the Immigration Reform legislation in the name of 'a greater good.' DADT is increasingly looking grim with passage of even the compromise in question. The list of bad news can go on and on.

The only question that needs to be answered "Is this acceptable to us two years into the Obama term?" And if not, how do we change tactics or escalate our actions in order to not leave our freedom in the hands of those who have chosen not to battle for them? Here are some ideas to consider:

1. ***STOP ENABLING***: Anyone who has been even near a recovery program knows that the worst action a friend can take to someone who can't seem to 'get it together' is to enable them by explaining away their actions. Tough love is required from the LGBT community toward the Democratic party. No more 'understanding' why they have put us on the back burner yet one more time. No more explaining by our national organizations why with 58 Democratic Senators, a Democratic House and a liberal Democratic President we have failed after all this time to move on the 'Big Three.' No more taking a tough line rhetorically and then telling them all is forgiven by giving them money, resources and praise. We have to stop giving them permission to hurt and disappoint us time and time again.

2. ***DEMAND STOP LOSS***: The President has the power today to issue a 'stop-loss' order until a military report is issued and the process to officially end DADT is begun. After all, they all say it is a given that it is over so lets not destroy anyone else's lives or dreams because the political timing is not right.

3. ***JUSTICE AT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT***: The Department of Justice has been a hostile place for the LGBT agenda. They have spent more time fighting our rights in court than defending them. While looking for ways to intervene in

Arizona, they have not even attempted to be part of the Proposition 8 case. Surely, Attorney General Eric Holder can find ways to help with the vast organization he has at his disposal. His refusing to take a stand in Maine the week before the vote was unforgivable.

4. ***MAKE WAY FOR NEW WAYS***: Clearly the 'pretty please lobbying' we have been doing is simply not working. Never will we have better margins in Congress than we have had the last two years and we are ending up with almost nothing. We need to embrace new groups, new ways, and new ideas. Failing institutions should be held accountable and those who are pushing for full equality should be celebrated and supported. Organizations like Get Equal and the new exciting Friend Factor offer alternative tactics to support our traditional ways of organizing and demanding full equality.

5. ***PRACTICE POLITICAL TOUGH LOVE***: Every two years they throw the 'we are better than the other guys' and imply that if we don't support people in the Democratic party who haven't supported us then we will be the ones responsible for any conservative victory. Bull! It is their lack of courage, inability to lead and tepid inspiration that have created their own political fate. We must no longer support anyone who is not for full equality and that includes marriage equality. No longer support political committees that give money to those who vote against us. We must seek out those candidates who do support full equality (and there are a huge number these days) and give them our support. We also must be willing to support primaries in the future against those within the Democratic party who don't support us

NOTE FROM PAM: David's right. All of the apologists lauding the Cinderella Crumb that have been piling up over the last 18 months have tried to label these as significant change, but the bottom line is it's not guaranteed permanent change, and it's certainly not what the community asked this administration to do as a priority. The Cinderella Crumbs are also not what this President promised as his priority to the community.

Anyone who has even a basic understanding of how Washington works knows that the time to do the hard stuff was before you get to midterms and certainly before any re-election bid becomes the focus. And as that time frittered away, we heard the apologists continue to use the "full plate" excuses, the padding of "accomplishments," and blaming of the messenger for holding the poor President accountable when he asked for us to do so. And so the clock kept ticking away, with no excuses as to why the Obama administration actively participated in delay on DADT, submitted onerous defenses of DOMA, and the President to date has embodied the most flaccid a definition of "fierce advocate" one could conceive.

See more at www.davidmixner.com and www.pamhouseblend.com

Believing in a Gay Spirit

by Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose

There are four questions that I regularly encounter on a day-to-day basis while serving as a guest preacher, volunteering as a chaplain at Thomas Street AIDS Clinic, or just in the course of daily life:

1. Do GLBT people believe in God?
2. Are GLBT people Christians?
3. Do GLBT folks go to church?
4. Why be a part of this religion that has such a strong history of demonizing GLBT people?

And the answers are yes, yes, yes, and Jesus.

Recent surveys show that almost two-thirds of Americans who self-identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual describe their faith as "very important" in their lives compared to almost three-fourths of straight Americans who say the same.

GLBT people worship God in all kinds of churches every week. Many GLBT folks attend mainline Christians churches where they do not discuss their sexual orientation or gender identity history. Their reasons for attending those churches usually center around the enlivened worship and deeply spiritual environment that they say is not found in many of the more liberal Christian congregations.

While I know this isn't always the case, I do believe that it is true that theologically conservative and moderate churches tend to place more emphasis on inviting others, have family and children-friendly activities, and having guest-friendly services.

Indeed, a recent Duke University study showed that conservative churches are twice as likely to employ a fulltime youth minister as their more moderate and liberal counterparts. This translates into the conservatives having a higher retention rate. Sad, but true, and certainly food for thought.

Surveys also show that even though a majority of U.S. adults have made "a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in your life today," such a relationship was almost as common among gay adults (two-thirds) as among non-gays (three-fourths). That is startling given the oppression that many gays have received from so-called Christians.

And certainly there are GLBT folks who are Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and Jewish, but those groups combined represent about five percent of the overall population in the United States. Atheists represent about 1.6 percent of our population.

Before investing a great deal of energy

in a specific congregation, we should consider learning more about that congregation's attitudes and policies in regard to GLBT people.

Some might see learning about those views as a difficult challenge, but general statements about treating all people equally often elicit the information we need. Even if gathering this information is uncomfortable, it will ultimately be a helpful guide in discerning where to be involved. Just consider how you would feel after several years of membership to learn that your church has an Exodus (reparative therapy) program.

As far as the answer to the fourth question: Why are you a part of this religion that has such a strong history of demonizing gay people? Like so many others, I find my own truth in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. The presence of God in my mind, heart, and spirit carries me forward in beautiful ways.

The Bible says that God wants to be in relationship with all people, which means that God is always forgiving and will always welcome us back, even after we have rejected God.

If you look for condemnations of gays by Jesus, you will find none. My own understanding of Scripture, after examining it in the original languages, is that it does not condemn homosexuality. The passages thought to do so are actually speaking about idolatry and pedophilia, not committed same-gender relationships.

Count the number of Bible verses that you believe might be condemning homosexuality and you will discover those to be a very small part of the Bible. Many of us believe that if God condemned gays, the Bible would be much more explicit about it.

There is much more to say about ways that the Bible has been misinterpreted and how that continues even today. Perhaps that can be addressed in a subsequent column.

We read in 3:16 that whosoever believes in him will have life everlasting. The words of Jesus throughout the Bible show that he always intended that no one should be excluded from that "whosoever."

It is my own hope and prayer that God will continue to expand upon the number of places where gay Christians can worship in an environment of affirmation and true love that exemplifies the essential message that Jesus came to bring to the world: love.

Burton Bagby-Grose is an ordained minister living in Houston with his partner Ron and their daughter, Rosalee. Contact him at Burton.Bagby-Grose@att.net



The Shadow in Us All

Rebecca Eigen tells us that:

With the planet Saturn now moving into the sign of Libra which rules marriage, partnership and open enemies; (i.e. the Shadow in us all), we are all being asked to examine our relationships, learn about our Shadow and reclaim our wholeness TOGETHER. You can't do this kind of work alone. Saturn will be transiting the sign of Libra from July, 2010 until October, 2012 years and during this process, we will have an opportunity to revise our relationship goals, take a more serious and responsible look at our results and ultimately learn that balance and fairness (Libra) is what constitutes a relationship that works. In other words, both partners being willing to meet each other half way.



Rebecca Eigen, a Houston astrologer is author of *The Shadow Dance & the Astrological 7th House Workbook*. Her specialty is relationships using the timeless methods of astrology and Jungian psychology to introduce us to "the Shadow" in all of us — everything about us that is unconscious, repressed, undeveloped or denied. This is one of the most important topics that govern our personal, familial, group and national life. Rebecca's study of the Shadow has given her an invaluable awareness of the unconscious and the role it plays in the relationships that we attract into our lives. We know from studying myth that Beauty eventually learned to love the Beast. For more information about Rebecca, call her at 281-920-4100 or visit her web site: www.shadowdance.com.

For other Astrology information go to:

Seeing Stars with Mark
www.markspringle.com



CALLING ALL LITTLE MONSTERS!!!

by DJ Chris Allen

Groovelines reports on the verge of her Houston concerts, July 25 and July 26 at Toyota Center.

LADY GAGA IS SET TO RELEASE THE REMIX ON AUGUST 3, 2010

LADY GAGA will release *Lady Gaga - The Remix* (Streamline/Kon-Live/Cherrytree/Interscope) on August 3rd, 2010. The Remix has sold over 500,000 albums internationally topping the charts in the UK, Japan and Canada. The U.S. version of The Remix features ten songs from *The Fame* and *The Fame Monster* including Gaga hits like "Just Dance", "Poker Face", "LoveGame", "Paparazzi", "Bad Romance", "Telephone" and "Alejandro" all remixed by highly acclaimed DJ's and artists. This is the first time this collection will be available stateside.

Following the announcement of the North American extension of The Monster Ball Tour, international pop superstar LADY GAGA now also has the largest selling digital album ever, scanning 783,056 units of "The Fame Monster" (combined). The Fame Monster and The Fame have sold over 13 million albums worldwide to date. The video for LADY GAGA's latest single, "Alejandro", has been viewed online over 39 million times since its June 8th release.

GAGA ALSO BREAKS ANOTHER SALES RECORD AND SETS A FACEBOOK FIRST

In other GAGA news, she has become the first living person with 10 million "Likes" on Facebook, joining the ranks of other popular pages such as Texas Hold'em Poker, Michael Jackson, Mafia Wars, Facebook, and Family Guy.

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One Step Forward, One step back

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

A U.S. judge in Boston has ruled that a federal gay marriage ban is unconstitutional because it interferes with the right of a state to define marriage.

U.S. District Judge Joseph Tauro on Thursday July 8, ruled in favor of gay couples' rights in two separate challenges to the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, (DOMA). The state argued the law denied benefits such as Medicaid to gay married couples in Massachusetts, where same-sex unions have been legal since 2004. Tauro agreed, and said the act forces Massachusetts to discriminate against its own citizens. "The federal government, by enacting and enforcing DOMA, plainly encroaches upon the firmly entrenched province of the state, and in doing so, offends the Tenth Amendment. For that reason, the statute is invalid," Tauro wrote in a ruling in a lawsuit filed by Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley.

In a separate case filed by Gays & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), Tauro found that DOMA violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Gary Buseck, GLAD's legal director, stated, "We've maintained from the very beginning that there was absolutely no basis for this law treating one class of married Massachusetts couples different from everybody else and the court has recognized that," said

The Justice Department argued the federal government has the right to set eligibility requirements for federal benefits — including requiring that those benefits only go to couples in marriages between a man and a woman. The law was enacted by Congress in 1996 when it appeared Hawaii would soon legalize same-sex marriage. Since then, five states and the District of Columbia have legalized gay marriage.

Hawaii Governor Vetoes Bill to Allow Same-Sex Unions

Gov. Linda Lingle vetoed legislation Tuesday that would have permitted same-sex civil unions, ending weeks of speculation on how she would act on the bill, which the Legislature approved in April. "I have been open and consistent in my opposition to same-sex marriage, and find that House Bill 444 is essentially same-sex marriage by another name," the governor, a Republican, said.

The decision is expected to be the last say on the proposal this year because House leaders have said they will not try to override her vetoes.

The measure would have granted to gay

Action is needed, you are urged to contact Linda Lingle and express your outrage at this homophobic veto of civil rights. Tell her that you will join the campaign to remove her from office in the next election for her office.

Contact Information: Roz Makāula, Constituent Services. Constituent Services
 State Capitol, Room 415
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
 Phone: (808) 586-0221 or (808) 586-0222 Fax: (808) 586-0019
 Governor's Office
 Phone: 808 586-0034
 Fax: 808 586-0006

Website: <http://hawaii.gov/gov>
 Contact Constituent Services:
<https://cs.ehawaii.gov/gov-ors/welcome.html>

Governor Lingle's Website:
<http://hawaii.gov/gov>

Volunteers needed for Hip-Hop for HIV Awareness Campaign.

The Human Rights Campaign of Houston (HRC) Houston is seeking volunteers as we partner with the Houston Department of Health and Human Services to help them reach their goal of providing free & confidential HIV and STD testing to 15,000 youth and young adults in our community during the Hip Hop for HIV Awareness Campaign.

Date: Saturday, July 31st
 Time: 7am-1pm
 Location: Reliant Arena

Volunteers are needed for the following assignments at the event:
 Greeters – These people will be responsible for welcoming the participants.

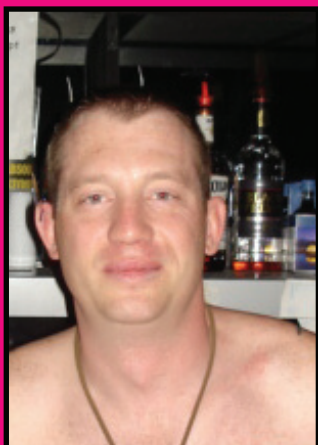
Navigators – These folks are responsible for navigating groups of 20 throughout the event.

Instructors – There is a pre and post test process that is done on the computer. Instructors basically guide the flow of computer usage for the participants.

Registration – Enter the data from registration forms into the system and print labels. If you have fast fingers, this is the task for you.

If you can help, please email HRC Houston Diversity co-chair, Brandon Mack at brandon.d.mack@gmail.com; your name, email address, phone contact information and preferred volunteer assignment.

****All volunteers are welcome to attend the free hip-hop concert which immediately follows at 2pm****



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- ❖ Learn about GLSEN history & mission
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- ❖ Take a stand!
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www.facebook.com/GLSENHouston

Contact us: lgbtqallies@gmail.com
Board Members: Kim Case, Leo Chan, & Kent Case

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The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network is the leading national organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students. Established in 1990, GLSEN seeks to develop school climates where difference is valued for the positive contribution it makes to creating a more vibrant & diverse community.





HAPI Pet in need of Home

Chloe is toy fox terrier that has so much love to give, although in her short life has already experienced much. She is 2 years old and is a bundle of joy despite some great sadness. Chloe was pregnant when she went to get spayed at BARC in April. No one knew she was pregnant and so her babies were lost. She was sad for a while but is getting back to normal. She loves to play and run. Whoever adopts her she will give kisses and kisses. She is paper trained but if put on a regular schedule will be fine. She is spayed, micro chipped and up to date with her shots. She has been in foster care since March, 2010.

If interested in giving this girl a new home, contact HAPI at:

Hapi4Pets@gmail.com

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RENT

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8:00pm

Zilkha Hall, the Hobby Center

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Celebrate Masquerade Theatre's first "Fabulous Friday" performance and meet the actors of RENT at Artista's Bar and Restaurant located in the Hobby Center.

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Other listed performances of RENT

July 22, 23, and 24th at 8:00pm
July 25th 2:00pm Matinee
July 29, 30, and 31st at 8:00pm
August 1st 2:00pm Matinee

The Broadway smash hit finally comes to the Masquerade Theatre, and already the crowds are cheering for the show that turned the theatre world upside down! Follow a year in the life of eight friends living in the dying post-Bohemia of New York's East Village at the end of the millennium, and learning to cope with themselves adrift in the chaos of modern life and the ties that bind them all together - young lovers Roger and Mimi reeling from the shadow of AIDS and the fear of betrayal and loss; street performer Angel and the studious, life-affirming Tom Collins coming together in spite of the disease ravaging their bodies; Benjamin's marriage into wealth and the selling out of his Bohemian ideals; Maureen coping with her chronic infidelity through performance art and her partner Joanne wondering if their love can survive; and Mark, the aspiring filmmaker, observing life through his camera without ever playing a part. Songs such as "One Song Glory", "La Vie Bohème", "Seasons of Love" and "I'll Cover You" will rock your soul and shake your heart with laughter and tears - by the end of the show, you will come to understand that when it comes to living, there is truly "no day but today".

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The Girl . . .

The Girl Who Played with Fire is the second in the 'Millennium' Trilogy based on Stieg Larsson books, following *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. The film is Swedish with sun-titles and there in lies one of it's few flaws. Not that it is an inherent flaw, just a matter of making it difficult for one who does not have the gift of Swedish as a language to follow fully the suspenseful plot. When someone is looking at a document for example, it may contain information or clues that you will miss because you can't read what it says. Likewise, when light colored print is used for subtitles and the background is also light, it is impossible to read. Thankfully that only happens in a few places.

The girl, Lisbeth Salander, is on the run and out for revenge, or in this case, I would say she is out for justice. Having not seen the first movie I was at a bit of a disadvantage, but overall it does not distract from the appreciation of this episode.

Salander, is a young lesbian with lots of tattoos and piercings. She knows martial arts and is a computer hacker. Her past includes a shocking incident as a child that places her in a mental institution where she is subjected to chock treatments and more. Later, as was shown in the first movie, she was sadistically raped by her guardian but is able to video the attack and get the upper hand on him, tattooing 'I am a sadist pig and rapist' on his belly. This is in English.

Lisbeth's story is intersected with another story of a young journalist and his girlfriend who are working on a story about sex trafficking and some of the prominent men involved in it. He as an investigative reporter and she as working on her master thesis. This also brings into the story Salander's old friend, journalist, Mikael Blomkvist. When Dag and Mia are murdered shortly after Lisbeth's guardian is murdered with the same guy and Lisbeth is the prime suspect is Salander, things really heat up. Her sometime girlfriend Miriam Wu is captured by a big blond brute who has a genetic disorder that mean he does not feel physical pain (and one would guess is unable to feel pleasure and seems to have no humane feeling either). Another friend. Paolo, Lisbeth's some time sparing partner comes to Miriam's rescue and they both narrowly escape.

Meanwhile as Lisbeth continues to find out about her past and in search of the mysterious Zala whose name she finds in her Guardian's papers, Mikael also seeks Zala attempting to follow the trafficking story and to locate Lisbeth in order to help her, having realized that there is a connection.

The film comes to a dramatic and frightening climax. One that does not resolve Lisbeth's saga.

The sequel, *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* is bound to be released in the near future, *The Girl Who Played with Fire* was released with it's prequel still playing at the River Oaks and that film has also been released on DVD.

Noomi Rapace who plays the main character, is a remarkable young actor. A compelling heroine and one who has won a following for this series rich with a feminist bent. Lisbeth has been described as 'A punk avenging angel with boxing skills, a photographic memory and pathologically focused on seeking out and punishing violent misogynists'.

Other outstanding performances include Michael Nyqvist as Mikael Blomkvist and Yasmine Garbi as Miriam Wu. Rapace is very attractive as is Garbi, but most of the other performers are ordinary looking people, real life looking people and to me, that made the film more true to life.

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Paolo Roberto, is an actual person, played by himself is a former boxer and TV Chef, giving a credible performance. There are many villains in this film and it is often hard to credit the performances of those who play them but Georgi Staykov as Zala is certainly one of the most monstrous to come along in a long time along with who is the big blond brute whose name I could not discover.

Stieg Larsson who was an investigative reporter who worked on stories quite similar to the ones depicted in the books and movies, unfortunately died while working on a fourth book. A tragedy in itself, it is a further sadness that a fourth book is not likely to ever be released since his estate ended in a battle between his long time companion Eva Gabrielsson and his estranged father and brother. Gabrielsson is the one in possession of the book and has said she will not release it. So we may never know the ultimate outcome of the life remarkable Lisbeth Salander although the trilogy may end that story..

Physical and sexual violence, some nudity.

Rating A+



The Kids and The Folks

A lesbian couple have two children meet their sperm donor Dad and hilarity ensues. Well, not exactly. While there is a lot of humor, some really funny stuff, there is also believable to real life drama, the sort that comes from deep human emotions. There were moments that brought me to tears.

Annette Bening shines in this family drama, *The Kids Are All Right* but the performance is but one of an outstanding cast in what I consider one of the best movies I have ever seen. That is a strong statement I know, but seldom have I been so taken in by a movie.

Joni (after Joni Mitchell) and Laser (Josh Hutcherson) are the kids, each one born to one of 'the Moms'. Laser is the typical fifteen year old boy, hanging out with his best bud, Clay (the sort of kid that most parents would be wary of). It's the summer before his older sister is to leave for college. Perhaps inspired by seeing interaction between Clay and his Dad, he announces to her he wants her to contact their donor father. Joni is reluctant but does make the arrangements,

resulting in an awkward meeting between them and Paul, the 'Dad'. Laser seems satisfied with this meeting but Joni is intrigued and wants to continue seeing Paul. Eventually, in a funny scene Laser confesses to the 'The Moms' and even though they are not pleased to learn what the kids have done they decide that the only thing that will do is to invite Paul to dinner.

Paul is faced with a rearrangement from his formerly fairly carefree life. He owns a restaurant that is taking off and is part of an organic garden co-op. He has an ongoing casual arrangement with his hostess. But when the kids enter his life he has to become a real grown-up. Eventually things get very complicated, when Jules and Paul make a connection when she starts working for him landscaping his garden..

It is really difficult for me to rate Juliette Moore as not equal to Bening in her performance. I am a Moore fan. They are both very credible as being the women they are suppose to be in this film. I could relate to both the women very strongly. Personality and philosophically I related to Jules but in other ways, I knew exactly what Nic was feeling, and felt it again as she faces a surreal few moments when the women dine with the 'family' at Paul's house. I have been both these women in different ways at different times. Nic may like her wine a little too much and Jules is still trying to find herself. They are dealing with an impending case of what is known as Lesbian Bed Death.

My overall feelings about Mark Ruffalo as Paul are some what influenced by a recent report I heard on NPR about his life. Not only is he very sexy he is the kind of guy I would want if I were to be with a man.. You can really feel for him in a performance that I also rate very highly.

This movie could initially be written off as a 'chick flick' but it is far more complicated than that. Each character has depth and is fully fleshed out, as are their relationships to one another.

Mia Wasikowski as Joni is a delight. A very smart girl who at eighteen is very together but not yet ready to explore her own sexuality and emotions. She definitely pulls at the heartstrings as someone early in her young womanhood and who is shaken by what seems an immense tragedy in her life.

Any mature person, who has a measure of life experience knows that family, relationships and sexuality are complicated. Parenting is a hard job and family can be in defined in many ways. Things happen, people make mistakes, we love and are hurt, and we move on. While I for one would find sexual infidelity extremely difficult to forgive (in fact, I don't know that I could) many people are able to do that. The film ends on a rather hopeful note as the Moms drive home after depositing Joni in her dorm room. You think yeah, the kids are all right and the Moms are going to be all right and donor Dad Paul? Well I hope he will be all right too.

Nudity, some strong language, sex scenes that I did not feel were necessary and did not find sexy (closest thing for me was when Julianne Moore's delicious nipple pops up out of a bubble bath.).

Filmed in the beautiful Napa Valley of California, there is amazing food presented, eat before you go. There should be a special award for the food stylist.

Rating: A++

For pictures taken at Houston Pride during film promotion go to <http://blog.family-is.com/2010/07/pride-houston-2010.html> The GEM Editor is featured. For more on this film go to:

www.kidsareallrightmovie.com

Government Help for HIV Medications facing cuts due to Poor Economy

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

The government program that provides life-sustaining antiretroviral drugs to people with HIV/AIDS who cannot otherwise afford them is suffering due to the poor economy. 1,800 patients are now on a waiting list to receive the medical aid.

As with other safety-net programs, expanding demand caused by persistent unemployment and loss of health insurance is being met with reductions in government resources. Without reliable access to the medications, which cost patients in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program an average of \$12,000 a year, people with HIV are more likely to develop full-blown AIDS, transmit the virus and require expensive hospitalizations.

So far Eleven states have closed enrollment in the federal program, most recently Florida, which has the nation's third-largest population of people with HIV. Three other states have narrowed eligibility, and two of them — Arkansas and Utah — have dropped scores of people from the program.

Last week, because of swelling numbers here in South Florida, the nationwide waiting list surged past record levels set in 2004, to 1,781 people, according to the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors. The growth is expected to continue when Georgia starts deferring enrollment in its drug assistance program on July 1. Illinois may soon follow, and New Jersey plans to cut eligibility on Aug. 1, removing 600 of the 7,700 people on its rolls.

Louisiana capped enrollment on June 1 but decided against keeping a waiting list. "It implies you're actually waiting on something," said DeAnn Gruber, the interim director of the state's HIV/AIDS program. "We don't want to give anyone false hope."

Ten states' programs have stopped covering drugs that do not directly combat HIV or opportunistic infections. Unless money is found by Aug. 1, Florida plans to pare 53 of 101 medications from its formulary, including those for conditions that are often related to HIV, like diabetes, high blood pressure and anxiety.

There is a sense of reverting to the 1980s and 1990s, in some states before the development of protease inhibitors reversed the rise in AIDS deaths.

For the moment, pharmaceutical companies have stepped into the breach, negotiating discounts for the state drug plans and accepting needy patients into programs that temporarily provide free medications.

Some patients may be going

without, and caseworkers are being diverted from critical tasks while wading through thick packets of paperwork to assist their clients in getting the medications that they need.

"The drug companies are trying their best to lower prices," said Carl Schmid, deputy executive director of the AIDS Institute, an advocacy group. "But we cannot rely on them to finance the health care of poor people living with HIV and AIDS."

Tim Sweeney, 49, a Fort Lauderdale man who has depended on the assistance program for a dozen years, said he was put on Florida's waiting list because he was four days late to re-enroll, as is required every six months. Mr. Sweeney, who has AIDS, takes six HIV pills twice a day, as well as three other medications. Their total retail cost: \$4,500 a month.

Unemployed for 18 months, Mr. Sweeney said he spent three days filling out forms to apply for aid from pharmaceutical companies. While awaiting responses, he is being supplied with drugs, one week at a time, by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, a social service agency.

Drug assistance has grown since 1996 to become the largest component of the federal Ryan White program, which provides grants to states and localities. The drug program's budget from all sources is now \$1.6 billion, with Washington contributing about 55 percent, states offering 14 percent and drug company rebates accounting for 31 percent, according to the state AIDS directors.

A number of factors has caused a strain, with enrollment increasing during the recession, up 12 percent from June 2008 to June 2009, to about 169,000 people.

A renewed emphasis on testing is also driving up caseloads, and federal treatment guidelines now recommend an earlier start to drug therapy. Because the drugs are so effective, people often stay on the rolls for extended periods.

Meanwhile, federal financial support has stayed essentially flat, up barely 2 percent this year, while appropriations from state budgets have fallen 34 percent, according to the state AIDS directors. The drug companies increased their contribution by half, to nearly \$500 million, but it is still not enough.

Once fully implemented in 2014, the new health care law is expected to close the gaps by expanding Medicaid, subsidizing private insurance and requiring insurers to cover pre-existing conditions.

More immediately, two Republican senators, Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Richard M. Burr of North Carolina, have proposed redirecting \$126 million from stimulus spending to the drug assistance program.

Locally, the issue we are facing

is not waiting lists or lack of medical care for those living with HIV/AIDS. Rather, our Ryan White Planning Council (the body that determines funding priorities for Ryan White funds coming into Harris County) is looking to increase funding for medical services. The problem is that they will likely took almost \$500,000 out of the food pantry category to cover medical. According to Kelly McCann, CEO of the AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH):

"That will mean the very sickest of people with HIV/AIDS will have trouble finding available food resources that can meet their nutritional needs", McCann said.

"We're OK for now. But since the Ryan White Council decided to drop Food Pantry as a funding category, we'll be in a world of hurt starting Fall of 2011. The Food Pantry loss means AFH will launch a big campaign to solicit food, etc beginning in the spring of next year.

The Ryan White(RW) Planning Council voted to eliminate the urban food pantry category of funding. That means they will move the \$470,000 in that category to the medical services category. They did retain \$80,000 in the rural food pantry category but frankly, such a low amount makes it difficult to sustain a program.

McCann explained that the next step is for the state to approve the recommendations set forth by the RW planning council.

"Nothing is set in stone until such state approval is obtained. However, we are not particularly hopeful that the state would overrule a local recommendation especially when there is growing need for additional medical dollars," McCann laments.

Off the Couch will return with our next issue.

Bill O'Roarke took a break and visited upstate New York so *Two on the Aisle*, his theater review column will return in the next issue.

We are still interested in someone to do a Interior design/home interior column and someone to do a Health & Fitness Column although for now we are going to be using the Healthy Living, GLBT Health News of Note, exclusively in the Montrose GEM.

Have other ideas or want to contribute? Please contact Editor@montrosegem.com

More Queer Things from Pg. 1

GLOBAL is the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) student group at the University of Houston Main Campus. Everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, is welcome to come to the meetings and hang out. The weekly meetings are Thursdays at 6:00 PM in the Caribbean Room (Rm. 7) GLOBAL has a page on Facebook.

UH recently opened of its first Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Resource Center to offer support to LGBT students, faculty and staff, and expand the culture of inclusion, acceptance and tolerance on campus.

Located in room 279A - a space it shares with the Women's Resource Center - located on the second floor of the University Center (UC). UH-LGBTRC seeks new and used books or DVDs to help create the center's lending library. The LGBT Resource Center is positioned within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences under the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program. It will serve LGBT students, staff, and faculty with an emphasis on education, programming and advocacy.

Rice University's original GLBT organization, the Rice Gay and Lesbian Support Group, was formed in 1979, the same year as the first official Houston Pride Parade. The group's founder, Annise Parker—today Houston's Mayor. Times have changed. In the 1983 Rice yearbook, replete with humorous pseudonyms and bags on heads to preserve anonymity, is a far cry from the pride displayed by members of the group in its various later incarnations and off-shoots (Gays and Lesbians of Rice - GALOR, Rice PRIDE, GATHER, Rice Gay and Lesbian Alumni - GALA, and the present day Queers & Allies or "Q&A"). They offer support and promote education, awareness, and advocacy of GLBTQA (Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender-Questioning-Allied) issues;

Q&A meetings are normally held every other week: and more information can be gained at :www.rice.edu/pride

Rice also has a LGBT alumni group. Gay and Lesbian Alumni (GALA). Rice has a number of out faculty members and is home to Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality at Rice — a wellspring for interdisciplinary inquiry and critical knowledge.

More Queer Things to be Proud of in Houston is an on going series, next time, Houston Community College.

To Sir with Love

A thank you to a teacher who made a difference
by Tim Bacon

I frequently tell people that I think I received an excellent education at University High School. I wish there was some way I could thank those teachers that inspired and patiently provided me, not only with information, but with the ability and the desire to question. Because of them, I learned to love learning and hope to have daily opportunities for the rest of my life to continue learning.

Yet, I seldom mention my education at Normal Central Grade School, even though that was outstanding as well while probably more challenging to provide. I had many good teachers throughout my K-12 education, but I want to tell you that are about one particular teacher.

Ray Temple was my grade school P.E. teacher. Now, those of you who know me or who knew me in school, may find it surprising that I, of all people, would think of a P.E. teacher as one of the outstanding teachers in my life. It is strange, isn't it? After all, I was never good at sports, have always been clumsy and uncoordinated, can't see well, was surprised on those rare occasions when picked before the last kid for teams, and I still throw like a girl.

Perhaps because both my brothers and my sister were athletic, or perhaps because he thought all kids should have a chance to find some physical activity they can enjoy, Coach Temple never gave up on me. He worked with me on the physical fitness test each of us was required to pass; a series of physical skills that I could do OK on as long as they didn't involve upper body strength. Well, just my luck; chin-ups and climbing a rope were required. Man, I worked on those chin-ups. He kept encouraging me, never saying anything negative - always positive. The other kids, most of them anyway, also encouraged me. Then came the rope climb. That was too much. I begged to give up. Nope, Coach wouldn't stand for giving up. Of course, eventually I made it to the top.

Coach also worked to find a sport in which I could engage, at least without embarrassment. He would have loved it if I could have made a team. Finally, judging by my leg strength (I was a constant bike-rider every summer), he had me do some sprints. He liked my speed on a 50 yard dash, so Coach decided I should enter an inter city track meet. The next Saturday morning I reported to Central and my race came. I took off from the starting line, a little startled by the starting pistol's noise, running my heart out. Coach hollered for me to run faster about half way to the finish line. I ran as fast as I could, I guess. I think I came in last. After the race, he came up to me and put his arm around my shoulder and said, "Well, you tried didn't you."

"Yes, Sir. I tried. " "What happened? You ran faster than that in class, you know." "I don't know, Sir." "OK, Timmy. Stay and cheer your classmates now,"

The next Monday, he called me aside. "Timmy, I was proud of you Saturday. You're good at your studies aren't you?" Yes, sir. Pretty good.

"OK, Timmy. Why don't we concentrate on that. And I'll still help you with sports?"

I've never forgotten that. Coach taught me how important it is to never give up on a kid. He was perhaps the first of many teachers through the years that made lasting impressions on this boy whose future included two careers: the first as a teacher and the second as an advocate for teachers.

A couple of weeks ago, my older brother and I went to a cavernous bar/restaurant stuck out in the middle of a corn field between the little towns of Mackinaw and Minier, Illinois. At the next table were a young guy and girl, obviously married from their conversation, and the young man's grandfather. We noticed them because the boy talked so loudly, probably to make his grandfather hear. After awhile, my brother said, "I think that's Coach."

I looked closer. He certainly looked like Mr. Temple, so we both approached their table. As younger brothers do, even in our mid-sixties, I yielded to Ron and let him talk first. When it was my turn, I told Coach my name. He didn't remember me. I told his grandson and granddaughter-in-law the story I've just related. I told Coach he inspired me and that I've never forgotten what a great teacher he was. I thanked him for helping me become the man I've become.

When we'd gone back to our own table and Coach and the other two got up to leave, the grandson came over to our table. He talked for quite awhile to us. Coach had fallen and broken his hip when he tried to chase a squirrel away from his bird feeder. While he is mending well, he was having memory problems. His grandson wanted us to know that was why Coach didn't remember us well. And he wanted to thank us for taking time to come over and talk to his grandfather. Clearly, the grandson had been largely influenced by Coach and loved him dearly.

For me, I was the one who felt thankful. So many teachers through the years followed Coach in my life, making impressions that helped me be a good teacher and to believe in the cause I battled for years to help other teachers. I can't thank all the teachers I'd like to thank. I can't tell each of them how they helped me become me, nor can I tell them how happy I am with the life they helped mold. But I was able to tell Mr. Temple.

What a life!

Andy Cohen from Page 1

Whether he met all three goals, is another story for another time.

Eade explains one of the memorable events of the day occurred when one of Cohen's fans ran over to the car [when staging for the parade] to have his photo taken. By this time of the day, Cohen must have been photographed hundreds, if not thousands of times, and loved every minute of it. After the photo was taken, Cohen wanted to learn more about the young man... at the same time, the young man's father walked over to car too, holding a sign reading "Proud Father" - at which point Andy turned the tables on the fan by pulling out his camera, and said, "Now I want a photo of you me, and your father."

The look of shock and awe on the young man's face was amazing; but this was in character with Cohen's personality. He really enjoys taking an interest in everyone's story.

"Cohen is extremely gracious," said Eade, "He was at our staging area for the parade, which was opposite the Continental Airlines line-up. Andy took it upon himself to go over to the Continental crew, and thank them for bringing him and his companion into Houston. Andy takes nothing for granted."

Eade continued, "Later, as we made our way through the Parade route, Andy was clearly overwhelmed by the 'rock star' response he received from the crowds lining the Parade route".

"This does wonders for anyone's ego," Cohen expressed, saying, "What an amazing experience. I wasn't sure what to expect, but that was far beyond anything I could have imagined."

Once the parade was over, all Andy wanted to do, was go over to a neighborhood bar, and be part of the Houston community and celebrate Pride. Without any special entrance privileges Cohen and his companion joined Eade and his partner Stephen Hill and headed to to JR's.

Eade reported that, "We eventually found ourselves at the patio bar area; and once again, Andy was having his photo taken every 20 seconds, someone would come up and share stories, or just tell him how much they loved his show's, etc., and he obliged with everyone."

Cohen left for New York City on Sunday morning, during the ride back to the airport Cohen pointed out to Eade that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time in Houston and has become a 'fan'. He now has a different point of view - its not the stereotypical 'Texas' city."

In this spirit, Cohen has agreed to work with Eade and the rest of Houston Pride Organization to secure a Celebrity Grand Marshal for the 2011 Parade.

Cooking Capers with Dr. Dave



Hello ladies and gentlemen. These two recipes are light enough for summer dinner parties or lunches; yet, they are “elegant” enough to satisfy the most “picky” person’s taste. They are wonderful for “special entertaining”, fairly simple to make, and the pasta dish can be supplemented with a more hardy main meal if you choose to add one other than the pasta itself. I hope you enjoy them as much as I like both sharing them with friends, and “gobbling” them down.

MINTED SPINACH AND SWEET PEA POTAGE

This rich soup is perfect for beginning an important dinner. You can certainly use frozen peas and spinach which make this dish even simpler to make. Enjoy.

4 Tablespoons sweet butter
2 Cups finely chopped yellow onion
10 Ounces of frozen, chopped spinach, defrosted
3 Cups chicken stock
10 Ounces of frozen peas, defrosted
1/2 Bunch of fresh mint
1 Cup heavy cream
Salt and pepper to taste

Melt butter in a soup pot. Add the chopped onions, cover, and cook over low heat until tender and lightly colored (about 25 minutes).

In the meantime, drain the spinach and squeeze out excess liquid. Pour the stock into the pot, stir in the peas and spinach and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer about 20 minutes, partially covered, until the peas are tender. Pull the mint off the stems which should yield about 2 cups of loosely packed leaves. Rinse them thoroughly and pat them dry. When the peas are tender, add the mint to the pot, cover, and simmer another 5 minutes. Pour the entire soup mixture through a strainer, reserving the liquid, and transfer the solids to the bowl of a food processor, or use a food mill fitted with a medium disc. Add 1 cup of the cooking stock and process the mixture until it is smooth. Return the pureed soup to the pot. Add the heavy cream and additional cooking liquid (which should be about 1 cup). Season to taste with salt and pepper, simmer briefly to heat through. Serve right away.

TARRAGON AND LOBSTER PASTA

This dish is a sophisticated pasta dish perfect for an important dinner. Again, remember, if you don’t want to use it as a main dish, it is a wonderful, beautiful beginning for whatever light, summer main dish you choose. Try it; you’ll like it!

2 Tablespoons high-quality olive oil
1/2 Cup freshly chopped yellow onion
1 Can of Italian plum tomatoes (contents should weigh around 2 pounds)
2 teaspoons dried tarragon
Salt and black pepper to taste
1 Cup heavy cream
2 Tablespoons salt
1 Pound spaghetti
Pinch of cayenne pepper
3/4ths. pound of lobster meat, the equivalent to about a 4 pound lobster
Parsley, fresh basil or fresh tarragon
springs for garnish (optional)

Heat the olive oil in a sauce pan. Add the onion, reduce the heat, and cook, covered, about 25 minutes until tender. Drain and chop the tomatoes and add them to the onions along with the tarragon. Season to taste with salt and pepper, and then bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce the heat, cover, and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes. Remove the mixture from the heat and let it cool slightly. Puree it in a food processor or use a food mill with a medium disc. Return the puree to the saucepan, stir in the heavy cream and set over medium heat simmering it (stirring often) for 15 minutes until slightly reduced. Stir in the cayenne and lobster meat. Simmer the mixture further for 3 to 5 minutes, or until the lobster is heated through. In the meantime, in a large pot, bring 4 quarts of water to a boil. Add the salt, stir in the pasta, and cook until tender but firm. Drain the pasta immediately and arrange on a warmed serving plate. Pour the sauce evenly over the pasta and garnish with parsley, tarragon, or basil. Serve immediately. Note, this recipe serves 4 people



Dennis Coleman Named as Executive Director of Equality Texas

Austin, Texas (July 6, 2010) - The Boards of Equality Texas and Equality Texas Foundation enthusiastically welcome Mr. Dennis Coleman to lead Equality Texas and Equality Texas Foundation. As executive director, Mr. Coleman will lead a professional staff and hundreds of volunteers who advocate for inclusive policies at the local and statewide level.

Mr. Coleman brings extensive experience building coalitions throughout the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality movement. For the past seven years, Mr. Coleman has been the regional director for the south central regional office of Lambda Legal in Dallas, the oldest and largest national legal organization that advocates for civil rights of LGBT people and people with HIV. His responsibilities included managing a region comprised of eight states: Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado and Nebraska.

Mr. Coleman says, “I’ve spent the last seven years on the road, seeing first hand the inequality people face throughout our state. I will take those experiences with me and use them to educate and to engage fair-minded people to support Equality Texas.”

Equality Texas and Equality Texas Foundation board members voted unanimously Thursday, July 1, 2010, to offer Coleman the executive director position after conducting a five-month nationwide search. Coleman accepted the position the same day.

Equality Texas Board Chair Rob Scamardo said, “Mr. Coleman knows Texas. He’s from Texas. He has seen the issues our state faces. We look forward to him utilizing his coalition building experience to touch the lives of Texans living in both large and small communities and to advance our work in the upcoming 82nd Session of the Texas Legislature.”



Dennis Coleman, formerly with Lambda Legal will take the helm as the Executive Director of Equality Texas

Equality Texas Foundation Board Chair Martha Oestreich added,

“Our organization needs a person like Dennis who can travel across Texas to increase the profile and the participation of Equality Texas in our efforts to achieve our vision of a state where all Texans are treated equally with dignity and respect.”

Lambda Legal’s Executive Director Kevin Cathcart said of Dennis, “I want to thank him for all he has done for Lambda Legal during this time. We will miss him, but with his new position we will have opportunities to continue to work together towards equality in Texas.”

Mr. Coleman and his partner Gregory Pynes look forward to spending more time in Austin. Mr. Coleman’s first day with Equality Texas will be July 19.

As a non-partisan organization with more than two decades of rich history, Equality Texas has established itself as a policy and advocacy authority at the Texas Capitol and across the state. Equality Texas has achieved bipartisan support while accomplishing a strong legislative agenda. The organization successfully works for inclusive policies at the local and state levels. Equality Texas is comprised of a professional staff and volunteer advocates committed to working across the state in partnership with members, allies and like-minded organizations.

from Equality Texas press release

The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters

Reviewed by Jone Devlin

Many readers are familiar with Sarah Waters as the pioneering author of *Tipping the Velvet*, *Fingersmith*, *Affinity*, and *The Night Watch*; all of which have compellingly explored the realities of lesbian relationships in various eras.

Waters newest novel, *The Little Stranger*, is a departure from her earlier works in that it doesn't cover queer issues or characters at all. Billed as a ghost story (an unfair characterization), *The Little Stranger* is really a cultural and character study of post World War II England.

The main character is Dr. Faraday, a village doctor who has always had an obsession with Hundreds Hall, the towering aristocratic home of the village's first family. When Faraday was a small child, his mother worked as a parlor maid in the house, and even managed to sneak him in once. His impressions of that day (when he was so overwhelmed by the home's ornate décor he actually broke off a piece of wainscoting as a souvenir) have been with him ever since. So when he is called to the home to treat a sick servant girl, he quickly works to ingratiate himself with what remains of the family.

The house by this time has become much the worse for wear, as has the family, which consists of the widow Mrs. Ayres, her daughter Caroline, and her ex-soldier and post traumatic stress disorder afflicted son, Roderick.

It doesn't take Faraday long to realize that there is something odd going on with this family, something that goes well beyond their much reduced lifestyle and the strain of Roderick's mental condition. To top it off, weird things are happening in Hundreds Hall, from mysterious fires to odd noises to people getting locked into long abandoned rooms. Mrs. Ayres is firmly convinced it is the spirit of a child she lost long ago, while Dr. Faraday (who by this time has managed to become Caroline's fiancée) is firmly convinced it is all delusion brought on by stress.

But then Caroline, logical, strong, competent Caroline, who has always managed to face everything honestly and without flinching, also starts to fall victim to some of the strangeness of the house. Before long it becomes obvious to Faraday that this strangeness has put his dream of becoming the master of Hundreds Hall in danger, and he sets out to convince both Caroline, and himself, that there is nothing supernatural going on.

A compelling character study, with Water's typically meticulous research to, and vivid recreation of, time and place, *The Little Stranger* nonetheless drags in spots.

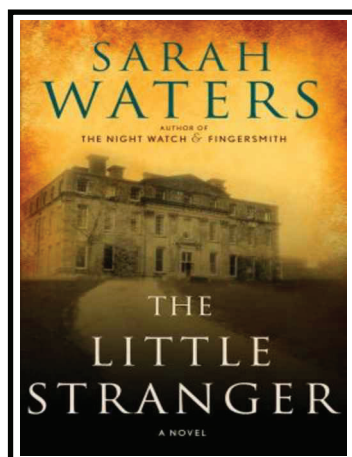
Part of the problem is something I alluded to earlier; the fact that the novel is billed as a ghost story, which it most certainly is not. Yes, there are ghostly happenings that occur in the novel, but they are used as background; merely the catalyst by which the true motivations of both Dr. Faraday and the Ayres family are exposed. Thus, people picking up this novel to read a creepy horror story are bound to be disappointed. Unfortunately, long time fans and new readers of Waters will also be disappointed, because the story meanders quite a bit, and the plotline is nebulous at best.

That said, Waters is still Waters, and the book is very well written, with fully fleshed out characters and many truly heart tugging scenes, particularly in the area of the PTSD afflicted Roderick.

While certainly not living up to the standard set by her earlier works, *The Little Stranger* definitely has its moments, and, based on Waters tremendous talent alone, is more than worth a look.

The Little Stranger is published by Riverhead and is available wherever books are sold.

Score: 3 out of 5 stars.



There are downsides to being in the great outdoors during the summer, number one for many being mosquitoes. Some people even think of themselves as mosquito magnets but who or what attracts mosquitoes? Well, it's a combo of what you exhale and genetics. Mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide, which the little devils can detect from up to 50 meters (about 164 feet). Size also matters, as the larger you are, the more CO2 you exhale making men (and pregnant women) prime targets. Exercise also brings on the swarm, as you exhale more CO2, and sweat uric acid, the equivalent of ringing the dinner bell for the little bugaboos. Not a good thing as mosquitoes in the U.S. spread diseases like encephalitis (Including west nile) and recently in the extreme southern U.S., dengue fever. The conventional methods to fight the bite are bug repellents like DEET. DEET has been in use for 50 years and shown to be pretty safe, while Picaridin (AKA Cutter Advanced), has been available in the U.S. for 5 years as a "cleaner", odorless, alternative. The best "natural" repellent according to research is lemon eucalyptus (AKA Repel) which works as well as low concentration DEET in fending off the swarm, so protect yourself.

From our "your tax dollars at work" files. The National Institutes of Health have developed a better test to detect Lyme disease. According to Clinical and Vaccine Immunology, the luciferase immunoprecipitation system, (what a mouthful!) or LIPS test (better), is quicker at detecting the deer-tic transmitted bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which causes Lyme disease. The test is also better at diagnosing early infection, which is important as the window for anti-biotic treatment of Lyme disease is just weeks.

Lyme disease is contracted through deer ticks you pick up in woods and fields. Symptoms of possible exposure (besides finding a clinging, black tick sucking blood out of your leg), are a bite-site circular rash, fever, headache and fatigue. Long-term effects of Lyme disease are more serious and can adversely affect the joints, heart and nervous system. To avoid getting Lymed while in the woods, stay on trails and avoid contact with vegetation. To better see deer ticks, wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts, pants, socks, use insect repellent and after your excursion, check your beautiful bodice for uninvited guests. Better yet, have that special friend do a full body inspection, including scalp, armpits and the groin (throw in an inspection by tongue for fun). Remove any ticks using tweezers, gently pulled straight out and don't sweat it, deer ticks attached for less than 24 hours are usually not infectious. If symptoms do develop, though, get to a doctor for testing. Google "Lymedisease and CDC" for more.

How about getting into the swim of things to improve your health? Swimming can pay off according to a study in the International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education. The study showed that male swimmers, ages 20-90, had significantly lower mortality, or they lived longer than those who didn't exercise, and they also lived as long as those who regularly walked or ran. Other studies have shown swimming's low impact exercise is beneficial when injured or dealing with conditions like arthritis although swimming does not build bones as much as hard pounding activities like running. And because swimming cools your body as you exercise you may not sweat and lose weight as much as from other cardio-vascular exercises. But you can build beautiful lean muscle, especially if done right. Just use good form (how you swim) and think safety. To swim more efficiently and safely, try water aerobics and swimming classes. Just check out your local Y, gym, or pool, and before long others may be checking you out and ogling your swimmers build. Yum!

Swimming may be great exercise, but is it safe to go in the water? Sometimes perhaps, but not always according to the CDC. In an effort to prevent pool born infections and illnesses, the CDC recently inspected over 100,000 American pools and discovered a good portion not safe for swimming. Pool problems included filtration and water circulation problems and improper amounts of chloride. Pools used by kids were inspected more and closed the most (17%), followed by hotel/motel pools (15%) and apartments (12%). Although it's probably fine, check with your local health authorities to see if your local public pool sinks or swims. If it's all right then dive on in. To check out the CDC report, just Google "swimming pools and CDC."

Unprotected skin can be damaged by the sun in just minutes, yet it can take hours for the damage to become apparent. Being on medications can make you even more sun-susceptible. Certain antivirals, antibiotics, NSAIDs, diuretics and antidepressants can make skin burn more quickly. So if you are on meds take extra precautions, be you in the garden, on the beach, by the pool, or even hiking. Just remember the sun is strongest 10 am. to 4 pm and that water and sand intensify sunlight. Always keep track of time in the sun and always use sun screen rated at least SPF-15, even on cloudy days. And consider wearing light-colored long sleeves and a hat with a brim (so what if you look like Truman Capote). Remember, preventing sunburns prevents premature aging of skin, and tanned skin is damaged skin that can lead to skin cancer.

An Australian study in Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics on sunglasses has confirmed what consumer reporters have known for some time -- many sunglasses do not provide the protection they claim. Sunglasses in the U.S. are not highly regulated, a scary fact considering glasses that don't provide good protection against ultraviolet light can result in damaged eyes. That's because lousy sunglasses trick eyes into letting in dangerous UV light. So wear glasses you know offer 100% UV protection (designer shades won't ensure better protection, so stick with name brand labels). Darker tinted glasses don't provide extra protection but a good pair of wrap-arounds will. Remember, polycarbonate=durability, although they cost more. Also, don't buy sunglasses from anybody on the street, especially if the glasses come without a brand name and protection information. And remember sunglasses are not specialized sports gear suitable for skiing or climbing the Matterhorn, so choose eye-wear accordingly. Have a safe and healthy summer.

Time Is Running Out -- and Five Suggestions For Change

Guest column by David Mixner

Even for the watered-down and questionably useful compromise on DADT, time is running out. Congress will come back in session and be on a fast track to recess as soon as possible in this volatile election year. With analysts like Charlie Cook predicting that the House of Representatives might go Republican, Democrats will be even more leery of taking on anything that smacks of risks. Once they adjourn for recess, my guess is that they will meet only briefly after Labor Day.

This much we know: ENDA is dead for this year* and if you believe Rep. Jackie Speier (CA-12), it is dead for at least five years. The repeal of DOMA has seen almost no action. We were taken out of the healthcare legislation. Most likely we will be taken out of the Immigration Reform legislation in the name of 'a greater good.' DADT is increasingly looking grim with passage of even the compromise in question. The list of bad news can go on and on.

The only question that needs to be answered "Is this acceptable to us two years into the Obama term?" And if not, how do we change tactics or escalate our actions in order to not leave our freedom in the hands of those who have chosen not to battle for them? Here are some ideas to consider:

1. ***STOP ENABLING***: Anyone who has been even near a recovery program knows that the worst action a friend can take to someone who can't seem to 'get it together' is to enable them by explaining away their actions. Tough love is required from the LGBT community toward the Democratic party. No more 'understanding' why they have put us on the back burner yet one more time. No more explaining by our national organizations why with 58 Democratic Senators, a Democratic House and a liberal Democratic President we have failed after all this time to move on the 'Big Three.' No more taking a tough line rhetorically and then telling them all is forgiven by giving them money, resources and praise. We have to stop giving them permission to hurt and disappoint us time and time again.

2. ***DEMAND STOP LOSS***: The President has the power today to issue a 'stop-loss' order until a military report is issued and the process to officially end DADT is begun. After all, they all say it is a given that it is over so let's not destroy anyone else's lives or dreams because the political timing is not right.

3. ***JUSTICE AT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT***: The Department of Justice has been a hostile place for the LGBT agenda. They have spent more time fighting our rights in court than defending them. While looking for ways to intervene in Arizona, they have not even attempted to be part of the Proposition 8 case. Surely, Attorney General Eric Holder can find ways to help with the vast organization he has at his disposal. His refusing to take a stand in Maine the week before the vote was unforgivable.

4. ***MAKE WAY FOR NEW WAYS***: Clearly the 'pretty please lobbying' we have been doing is simply not working. Never will we have better margins in Congress than we have had the last two years and we are ending up with almost nothing. We need to embrace new groups, new ways, and new ideas. Failing institutions should be held accountable and those who are pushing for full equality should be celebrated and supported. Organizations like Get Equal

and the new exciting Friend Factor offer alternative tactics to support our traditional ways of organizing and demanding full equality.

5. ***PRACTICE POLITICAL TOUGH LOVE***: Every two years they throw the 'we are better than the other guys' and imply that if we don't support people in the Democratic party who haven't supported us then we will be the ones responsible for any conservative victory. Bull! It is their lack of courage, inability to lead and tepid inspiration that have created their own political fate. We must no longer support anyone who is not for full equality and that includes marriage equality. No longer

support political committees that give money to those who vote against us. We must seek out those candidates who do support full equality (and there are a huge number these days) and give them our support. We also must be willing to support primaries in the future against those within the Democratic party who don't support us



Andy Humm and Ann Northrop are the co-hosts of **Gay USA**

Tune in to Gay USA Television

by Jimmy Brown

Gay USA is a fabulous tv show. I discovered it quite by accident. I probed the internet looking for a GLBT focused television program to watch on my Dish Network. I hit paydirt when I discovered the **Gay USA**. It's on the FreeSpeech channel 9415. **Gay USA** co-hosts are Andy Humm and Ann Northrop. They are both veteran journalists and activists. They believe that the show is important because the mainstream news coverage tends to be more shorthand and less sophisticated when it comes to the GLBT community. They go on to say that thorough reporting and analysis of GLBT stories is vital to those within and outside of our community.

After 25 years they have seen massive and positive changes. They have covered GLBT legal cases, grassroots movements, anti-GLBT violence, working for acceptance in different religions. They have also covered youth standing up for themselves in their schools, how we are portrayed in the media, the ongoing AIDS crisis among other topics.

The gayusatv.org website describes the hour-long program to include coverage of local, national and international news of interest to the gay community. Northrop and Humm go out in the field to cover events--national political conventions, local political debates, pride parades, weddings, funerals, AIDS demonstrations. They also interview guests in the studio, ranging from political figures to authors and entertainers.

Andy and Ann confess that it is the emails that they receive from the audience that keeps them doing the show week after week.

"We hear from people young and old, gay and straight, male and female who essentially tell us that the show saved their lives," Humm reported.

When I watch **Gay USA** I truly feel plugged in to what's happening in our community. I also feel a connection to other gays who may be struggling with issues of equality and dignity in their respective part of the world. I am grateful that Andy and Ann take time out of their busy lives each week to create a show that has a positive and empowering slant for our community. This is a show that will keep you informed about GLBT events worldwide.

Gay USA is currently broadcast over numerous cable and satellite channels in addition to the Dish Network. Direct TV -HD broadcasts the show on channel 348 and 35. Comcast broadcasts the show on channel 265. For the exact times of each program refer to the TV schedule from each respective cable or satellite network online. If you do not have access to the FreeSpeech cable channel you can also listen to the show anytime at www.gayusa.org as an online podcast. Since I happen to have the Dish Network which has the FreeSpeech Channel 9415 and it has the following showtimes listed: Saturdays at 6:00am and 10pm. Sundays at 1:00am and 1:00pm. Mondays at 1:00am and Thursdays at 5pm.

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