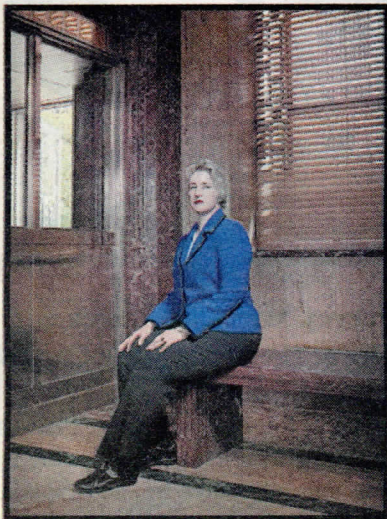
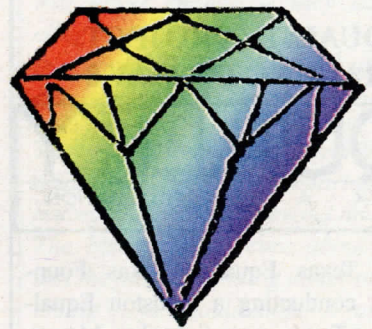


Montrose

Gem

Issue # 131 • May 7, 2010
News and Entertainment Media
for Montrose and Beyond



Mayor Annise Parker portrait
in TIME Magazine

HOUSTON MAYOR NAMED ONE OF THE TOP MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN TIME MAGAZINE

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

Maybe we will get over it some day but that day has not yet arrived. After years of comments from friends around the country (and around the world) regarding Texas being the home of the Bushes, Dick Army and Tom Delay and others of that ilk, we are absolutely giddy at having Annise Parker as our Mayor. I always cited that Texas was also the home to folks like Molly Ivins, Ann Richards, Barbara Jordan, and Jim Hightower, but all those wonderful folks pale at being able to state that we have such an incredible Mayor representing our city. And that she is one of us! Many of us, myself included consider her a personal friend. So we are savoring the sweetness of this honor as if it were our own..

The fact that she is the first out Lesbian to hold such a position in a major city has drawn attention to Annise Parker, placing her under particular scrutiny. Of course, readers of this paper are thrilled that we can claim her as one of our own. Not just the fact that she is a Lesbian, but has come up from the grassroots as an activist in the LGBT movement as well.

Now to be named to a list that cites her influence on the larger world we live in is just bonus. Most of us would have voted for her had she not been a Lesbian due to her outstanding record of public service. Parker is all about leaving her own mark, one that means the city will be better off when she leaves office because she works to do the right thing for her city, our city. That is an influence and an inspiration to all. This is probably what gained her the recognition

~ Continued Page 8

QUEERS IN THE COMICS

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

"Holy Superhero, Batman! Batwoman is a Lesbian!"



In a new incarnation, Batwoman has been introduced as a "lipstick lesbian". She however, is not the first Lesbian of Gay superhero

In 1992, Marvel revealed that Northstar, a member of the Canadian mutant superhero team Alpha Flight, was homosexual, after years of implication.[23] This ended a long-standing editorial mandate that there would be no LGBT characters in Marvel comics.[24] Although some secondary characters in DC Comics' mature-audience miniseries Watchmen were gay, Northstar was the first openly gay superhero. Other gay and bisexual superheroes have since emerged, such as Pied Piper, Gen¹³'s Rainmaker, and the gay couple Apollo and Midnighter of Wildstorm Comics' superhero team the Authority.

In the mid-2000s, some characters were revealed gay in two Marvel titles: Wiccan and Hulkling of the superhero group *Young Avengers*; and the X-Men's Colossus in the alternate universe *Ultimate Marvel* imprint. Xavin, from the Runaways is a shape-changing alien filling the part of a transgendered lesbian. In 2006, DC revealed in its *Manhunter* title

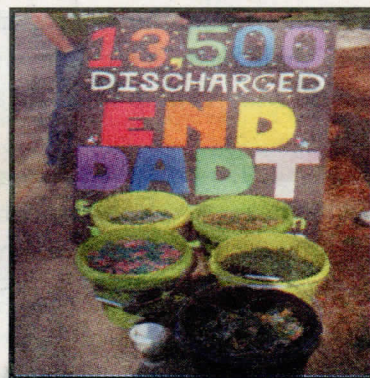


Seth Appleby appears in 9 Chickweed Lane. He is one of the few openly gay characters portrayed in daily comicstrips. His partner Mark is sometimes featured as well.

WEEKEND PROTESTS ON IMMIGRATION AND DON'T ASK DON'T TELL

"In working to raise awareness on the much-needed repeal of DADT, we have spoken to and worked with hundreds of constituents," said Matt Comer, of Charlotte Rainbow Action Network for Equality (CRANE). "Those who helped us collect these 67,500 soldiers represent a sizable constituency who believe - like 75 percent of all Americans and 73 percent of U.S. servicemembers - that all people should be able to serve their country no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity.

CRANE activists took part in protests of the disastrous military policy with a unique approach.



Buckets of Plastic 'Army Men' ready to be delivered to Congress as part of DADT protest

This past weekend in DC they displayed one set of 13,500 plastic soldiers from the 67,500 they've collected over the past two months to each out to visitors and passers-by to engage them on the issues and raise awareness. Due to package restrictions at Capitol Hill office buildings, they could only deliver only a portion of each set of soldiers collected for each elected official.

They should know that their constituents want this law repealed and they want it repealed now," said Comer.

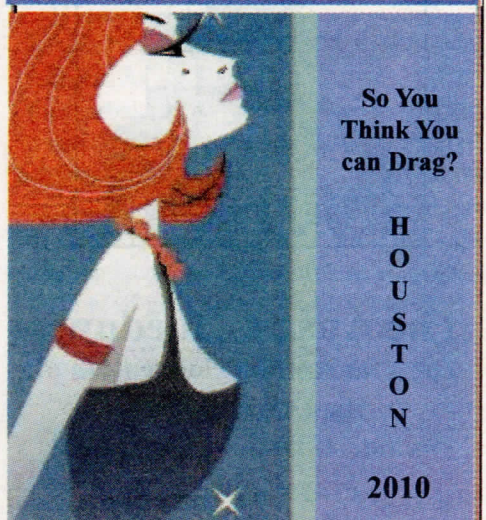
-- see DADT on Pgs.8 & 11



MOTHER OF MONTROSE
May 9th at 2pm
Michael's
OUTPOST



Taters n' Fixins
Tuesdays at the
Brazos River Bottom



'All That Drag'
Saturday, May 15th
A Sneak Preview
See Page 6

EQUALITY PROJECT TRAINING ON MAY 8

EQUALITY
T E X A S FOUNDATION

Equality Texas Equality Texas Foundation is conducting a Houston Equality Project Training on Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. at the Havens Center (1827 W. Alabama).

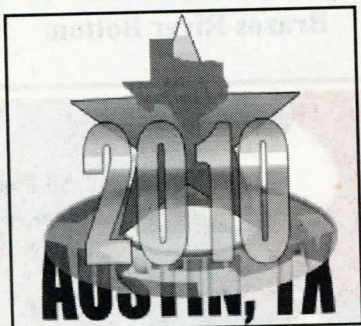
The Equality Project is a public education program on policy issues and their effect on Texas citizens. The Project also trains participants to establish relationships with their state representatives and senators, and to advocate for policy changes with their elected officials.

The Equality Project aims to engage the public in maintaining continuous conversations with their elected officials about matters of public policy that are directly impacting constituents' lives. It is these conversations about real people's lives that will ultimately motivate policy change to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/ expression.

LEARN more about LGBT family issues, workplace nondiscrimination, hate crimes, bullying and harassment, public accommodations, and other pertinent issues.

LEARN how easy it is to have a one-on-one conversation with your elected officials and their staff. Discover how empowering it is to realize that, as a constituent, you have the right to be heard!

Attendance is free (lunch included), however advance registration is required at: http://eqfed.org/eqtx/events/equalityproject_houston_5810/details.tcl or email for more information: darcy@equalitytexas.org



The Austin Hoedown
The 17th Annual Convention of
the IAGLCWDC
Memorial Day Weekend (US)
May 27-30, 2010

HOUSTON CLUBS:
Southern Country Houston
Lone Star Lariats
and Rainbow Ranglers

COMMUNITY NEWS

Proposition 8 Trial Update

We finally have a date for Closing Arguments for the Prop 8 trial — Wednesday, June 16th, 156 days after the start of the Trial.

****THIS IS THE DATE FOR THE CLOSING ARGUMENTS, NOT THE RULING****

Remember:

1. Day of the Decision/Ruling
2. 6:00pm
3. Houston City Hall

Besides setting a date for closing arguments, Judge Walker set a date for the defense counsel to submit their motion to suppress at least part of Dr. Tam's testimony. As you recall, Dr. Tam was the right-wing San Francisco minister who believed that his kids will turn gay if marriage equality was allowed to remain. We'll find out on May 7th how much of the testimony they want stricken from the record, and what is their basis. Our side will have until May 10th to then file an objection.

If anyone has any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact me at 832-335-9682.
Ronnie N. Maduzia

Join us on Facebook:

Prop. 8 Trial-Day of Decision
Rally

Perhaps the decision will come down during the time we are celebrating Pride in Houston, just as the favorable Lawrence v. Texas case did and with an equally joyous outcome.

HOUSTON GLBT COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

Soiree Pelouse

The Center is honored to be one of the beneficiary organizations of Soiree Pelouse-Wonka, the social fundraiser event set for May 16 at the Heights Theatre. The other beneficiaries are AssistHers and Legacy Community Health Services. Honorary chairs are Tammi Wallace and Bryan Hlavinka. Co-chairs are Tom Baker, Orlando Ballesteros, Kevin Boyd, Marc Garcia, and Aaron Parks. Now in its third year, Soiree Pelouse is one of the largest and fastest growing private GLBT

events geared at raising funds for Houston GLBT non-profit organizations that provide direct and indirect services to the community through their programming. The 2010 theme is Wonka, inspired by the Willy Wonka movies. Themed costumes are encouraged. Tickets are \$30 general admission, \$75 VIP admission. Read more about SP-Wonka at www.soi-reepelouse.com. You can purchase tickets via the Center website, www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org. Retail ticket-sale locations are M2M, P-Jai's Fashion, and MaleU-Wear.

See more Pg. 8

Community Online

Community Center
www.hglbtcc.org

www.montrosecounselingcenter.org

GLBT Political Caucus
www.thecacus.org

Out In Houston
www.outinhouston.com

www.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
<http://www.nwcorner.org>

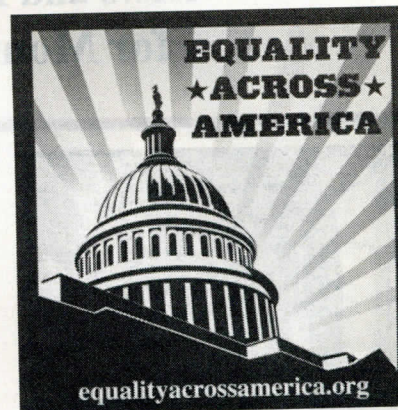
www.socialnotesHouston.org

QUEER MUSIC HERITAGE
www.queermusicheritage.com

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

Texas Conference of the Equality Across America Network Unite and Fight: Strategizing for LGBT Equality

May 21-23, 2010
Austin, Texas



Harvey Milk Day March and Rally at the Texas State Capitol

The fight for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender equality is heating up. Come join other activists and Equality Across America as we debate, discuss, and strategize how we can carry on the fight here in Texas. Our one single demand: EQUAL PROTECTION in all matters governed by civil law in ALL 50 STATES!

Confirmed featured speakers: Nik Maciejewski (Equality Across America interim governing board), Zoe Nicholson (author and longstanding activist for women's and LGBT equality), and more TBA.

Registration is \$15 / \$10 with student ID.

Registration is free for volunteers! Volunteer assignments are first-come, first-served.

Details here.(registration page coming soon):

Co-sponsored by: GetEqual-Dallas, Equality Across America-Houston, Equality Now-Austin Community College, Equality Rising-Austin, International Socialist Organization, jaysays.com, Join the Impact-Austin, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlan (UT Austin), Queer LiberAction-Denton, Queer People of Color and Allies (UT Austin), Qwee, Texans for Peace, Travis County Green Party, and a growing list of activist organizations.

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

MONTROSE GEM

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Editor-in-Chief

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YOUR COMMENTS

Regarding Don't Ask and Don't Tell

This is a process and the new rules take us one step closer to getting rid of the ban all together. Due to the many years that the policy has been in place, the best way to get rid of it is to proceed slowly and carefully (which is what is being done). It is only a matter of time until it is rescinded.

GEM: The divorce in Texas of two Lesbians who were legally married in another state Will this set a precedence regarding same-sex marriage despite the Texas law than bans it? Will Lawrence v. Texas eventually pave the way to rule unconstitutional the DOMA laws and other bans on same-sex marriage?

Yes - Lawrence v. Texas is the case which will pave the way to gay and lesbian marriage equality in this country. Lawrence v. Texas expressly overturned the terrible case of Bowers v. Hardwick. That had to be done before anything else could hap-

pen. Once Bowers v. Hardwick was declared wrong, everything else started to happen. Just like inter-racial marriage.

The US Supreme Court will need to rule that gay and lesbian people have the same right to marry whomever they love. That will happen sooner rather than later.

Above remarks by Mitchell Katine. Katine was the attorney for plaintiffs John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner.

On Ricky Martin Coming Out

Reader: "I am so glad I was sitting down when I heard that news!"

The next thing I know you're going to tell me that Seam Hayes came out."

Catholic Church Sex Abuse Scandal

I was molested by nuns in my teens. As an adult, when I told a superior about it, her main concern was, would I sue -- this at the height of the priest-boy scandal. She said she suspected 'something was going on' & why didn't I come to her then?-- essentially blaming me! This is typical - blame the victim. The recent revelations is just more of the same. They are ill & play mind games with the innocent. They

will never change -- they desperately cling to the church because they are lost & without power alone, full of religious delusion and the need to control.

They prey on children. The whole organization is cruelly authoritarian, women-hating and arrogant beyond imagination. The bishops don't care about children, just the parish standing under their 'leadership'. They should suffer a just punishment for the cover-ups.

Not filing suit was my mistake and I regret it to this day. ~ M.E. Benefiel

Editor's Note: The Sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church has impacted the LGBT community in part because of the tendency of some to claim the abusers are Homosexual. Reality is that they are pedophiles, abusing children of both genders. It has primarily been the news of the repeated abuse Priests with boys and the cover-up but church officials, something that has gone up the hierarchy to the very doors of Vatican City. There has been, as expressed here of nuns also abusing children. There are numerous cases of priests who are abusing nuns and other female members of the church.

--See more below.

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY FOR OUR
MAY 21ST ISSUE, DEADLINE FOR
COPY IS MAY 17TH. BUT PLEASE
EMAIL OR CALL TO LET US KNOW
YOU WANT AN AD SO WE CAN RE-
SERVE THE SPACE FOR YOU

SCHEDULE FOR REST OF 2010

Deadline 3pm Mondays

ISSUE #	DATE	DUE
132	5/21	5/17
133	6/4*	5/31
134	6/18*	6/14
135	7/2	6/28
136	7/16	7/12
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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Stores and community servic-
es reaching an estimated 12,000
Readers every issue

* Denotes a special issue -
June 4 AND 18 for GLBT Pride and
December 3 and 17th for
Holiday shopping.

Amid abuse scandal, advice to Pope Benedict

By Bishop V. Gene Robinson

Your Holiness,

Though our churches differ in many ways, we believe in the same God. As your brother in Christ, it pains me to see Catholics struggle with your response to recent allegations of sex abuse by priests. Since my denomination has also battled these demons, I want to share with you what I have learned as a bishop of the Episcopal Church.

About 20 years ago, our church became aware of sex abuse by our clergy here in the United States. To our shame, we learned of it in lawsuits filed by victims alleging that some of our bishops had minimized the seriousness of the abuse and/or swept their claims under the rug. Some cases were related to the abuse of children; others involved male clergy who took advantage of their pastoral relationship with vulnerable women to manipulate them into sexual relationships. These men violated the sacred trust placed in clergy to focus on parishioners' needs and to separate those needs from their own. To prevent further such abuses of power, we moved quickly for the good of the victims and of our church.

Whether or not civil courts recognize a statute of limitations, the church must hold its clergy members accountable to their vows to be faithful shepherds of their people. In 1994, the Episcopal Church opened a two-year window of opportunity to hear complaints about priestly abuse of the pastoral relationship with adults. Just because an event occurred many years ago did not make it any less egregious, especially since perpetrators rarely have only one victim. We addressed all complaints through our canonical disciplinary process.

As for instances involving children, we have no statute of limitations on reporting abuse. Those suspected of committing child

abuse are immediately reported to the civil authorities for investigation.

Rather than refusing to acknowledge our transgressions, we sought to change our church's culture -- an effort that took no small amount of courage. In my diocese in New Hampshire, and across the Episcopal Church, we perform a thorough background check on every bishop, priest or deacon who serves under my authority. We correspond with every employer the clergy person has ever had and every bishop under whom the clergy person has ever served to determine whether there is a history of complaints.

While procedures vary from diocese to diocese, we here in New Hampshire require six hours of abuse-prevention training for clergy, all other employees of the church (organists, parish administrators, maintenance workers), youth workers and elected parish leaders. A refresher course is required every five years. Events with and for children may never be conducted without two adults present and always in view of each other.

This protects children from abusive behavior and protects adults who might be falsely charged. Many of our parishes have installed windows in the clergy office doors, so that no activity -- even private counseling -- may go unobserved, between clergy members and parishioners.

We want many pairs of eyes watching for signs of abuse. We want everyone to know how to report suspected abuse of children and abuse of the pastoral relationship. But the thing victims most want to hear from the church, especially its leadership, is: "I am so sorry. This should never have happened to you, especially here. We are going to do everything in our power to see that nothing like this happens again." Victims live with their horrific experiences and know that their abuse can never be undone. And so they seek assurance that the church will change the system that allows abuse to go undetected and take action to hold perpetrators accountable. Child abusers do not deserve protection; they must be reported

immediately to civil authorities and prosecuted.

The Christian church -- like any institution -- is as capable of sin as any individual. We have been wrong before, from the Inquisition and the Crusades down to our defense of slavery (using scripture) and our denigration of women. Over time, the church has repented for these sins and sought to change its ways. The discovery of sexual abuse by clergy is another situation that calls for the church's repentance and reform.

I would not presume to instruct you. That would be arrogant. Nor would I impose upon you advice you've not sought. But I do offer you the benefit of my experience as you seek to deal responsibly with these challenges to the integrity of your church. Your letter to the faithful in Ireland and your meeting in Malta with victims were a good start. I hope the future will bring more truth-telling, which will make your church a better, safer place.

However, I believe it is misguided and wrong for gay men to be scapegoated in this scandal. As a gay man, I know the pain and the verbal and physical violence that can come from the thoroughly debunked myth connecting homosexuality and the abuse of children. In the media, representatives of and advocates for the Roman Catholic Church have laid blame for sexual abuse at the feet of gay priests. These people know, or should know, that every reputable scientific study shows that homosexuals are no more or less likely to be child abusers than heterosexuals. Psychologically healthy homosexual men are no more drawn to little boys than psychologically healthy heterosexual men are drawn to little girls.

Sexual activity with children or teenagers is child abuse, pure and simple. Meaningful consent is impossible, by definition, for the underaged, in your seminaries or out of the priesthood. Homosexual priests have faith-

--Scandal continued Page 9



MEET THE NEW HOT GUY IN RIVERDALE

Archie, Betty, Veronica, and Jughead have been going to Riverdale High School for a loooooong time (Archie Comics was founded in 1939). But throughout the gang's illustrious academic career, they have never had a classmate who was openly gay. Until now.

In a move that is generating a lot of buzz on the Web, the publishers of Archie Comics recently announced that they are bringing in an openly gay character, Kevin Keller, starting with the September issue.

What's the plot? According to CNN, new-guy Kevin beats Jughead in a burger-eating contest. For whatever reason, this act of intestinal fortitude impresses the raven-haired Veronica. She begins to pursue Kevin, who, for obvious reasons, isn't interested. Kevin must find ways to deflect her affection without being mean, but Veronica, used to winning, doesn't give up easily. Hilarity ensues, until Kevin finally confides in Jughead that he is gay.

Archie Comics co-CEO Jon Goldwater remarked, "The introduction of Kevin is just about keeping the world of Archie Comics current and inclusive. Archie's hometown of Riverdale has always been a safe world for everyone. It just makes sense to have an openly gay character in Archie comic books."

The announcement inspired an influx of searches. Web lookups on "Archie comics" soared 82% and related lookups on "Archie comics gay character" surged 125%. And don't look for Kevin to show up for just a few issues and then never be heard from again. The New York Times reports that Kevin is more than a one-off character. There are future stories already mapped out.

Creators, when asked about the possible backlash due to the controversy of having a gay character, expressed they did not want those kinds of people reading their comics anyway.

Queers in the Comics

by Deborah Moncrief Bell

While the latest to come out in the "comic" world, Kevin Keller is joining other cartoon characters that are already out. Either because they were created as part of a comic that focuses on LGBT characters or the gay persona has either a primary role or is but one of the "cast".

There are series of specific Queer Comics (and graphic novels including ones that are classified as erotica or porn).. **Dykes to Watch Out For** is a long running series by cartoonist Alison Bechdel. The stirps have been published in book form. But as far as mainstream comic books and cartoon characters, LGBT folks are increasingly being depicted. Some LGBT characters were transformed when those comics were animated removing their identity as Queer. And we are talking outside the jokes about Peppermint Patty, Velma from Scooby Doo and Smithers, Mr. Burn's assistant on The Simpsons, even SpongeBob, all of whom have been declared to be Gay, all in good fun, through the years. Of course, there is Big Gay Al in the series, South Park.



X-Man Northstar

Often a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered character is one of the "villians" Unlike superhero **Batwoman**, the crime-fighting lesbian avenger, who is getting her own comic book title.

The move by DC Comics will make her the first ongoing series headlined by an LGBT character. The series, which begins in July, will feature wealthy socialite Kate Kane as the alter-ego of Batwoman.

Jeff Ayers, manager of Forbidden Planet, a New York City comic book store, told The Daily News that Batwoman has "her own cult following."

"Usually when a publisher has tried gimmicks like that over the years, they beat it to death," said Ayers. "But it just lingers in the background with her. They treat her like a normal person - which is a fantastic thing."

Created by Bob Kane and Sheldon Moldoff. This character appears in publications produced by DC Comics and related media. Batwoman made her first comic book appearance in **Detective Comics** #233 (1956). Originally named Kathy Kane, the character was introduced as a love interest for Batman to disprove allegations of homosexuality in response to the backlash from the book *Seduction of the Innocent* (1954).

Although Batwoman made a number of appearances during the late 1950s and early 1960s, declining sales of both **Batman** and **Detective Comics** led to the editorial retirement of the character. When Julius Schwartz became editor of the Batman related comic books in 1964, he removed non-essential characters including Batwoman, Bat-Girl, Bat-Mite and Bat-Hound. Later, the 1985 limited series **Crisis on Infinite Earths** retroactively established that Batwoman has never existed, though her alter ego Kathy Kane has continued to make appearances.

The modern incarnation of Batwoman, Kate Kane, first appears in week 7 of the maxi-series 52 (2006), operating in Gotham City during Batman's absence following the events of the seven issue miniseries **Infinite Crisis** (2005). The modern Batwoman is written as being of Jewish descent and as a lesbian in an effort by DC editorial staff to diversify its publications and better connect to modern day readership. Batwoman's sexual orientation has been both criticized and praised by the general public and the character has been described as the highest profile gay character to appear in stories produced by DC Comics.

The first widely recognizable female superhero is Wonder Woman, from All-American Publications, one of two companies that would merge to form DC Comics. I don't know a single Lesbian and many a feminist, straight or gay, that did not have a thing for Wonder Woman. She personified a strong, dynamic woman like no other before her. She was really hot on top of it. But, alas she was not a Lesbian. Although her roots do have a Bisexual component. She was created by psychologist William Moulton Marston with help and inspiration from his wife Elizabeth and their mutual lover Olive Byrne

Feminist author Gloria Steinem says she often buys bracelets in pairs so she can wear one on each arm, a homage to the first female Superhero. This writer herself has gold cuff bracelets for the same reason.

Our daily comics have become more diverse with the inclusion of gay and lesbian characters. The character of Andy Lipponcott was first featured in **Doonesbury** in 1976. Later Andy died of AIDS, a storyline that won cartoonist Garry Trudeau a Pulitzer Prize nomination. Currently in the strip are gay liberal radio talk host Mark Slackmeyer and his conservative partner Chase Talbott III.

In 1993, Lawrence Poirier's coming out generated controversy in Lynn Johnston's **For Better or Worse**. Explaining her decision to have Lawrence come out as gay, Johnston said that she had found the character, one of Michael Paterson's closest friends, gradually "harder and harder to bring...into the picture." Based on the fact the family at the center of the strip, the Pattersons were an average family in an average neighborhood, she felt it only natural to introduce this ele-

ment in Lawrence's character, and have the characters deal with the situation. Johnston also was nominated for a Pulitzer for this work. The Pulitzer board said the strip "sensitively depicted a youth's disclosure of his homosexuality and its effect on his family and friends." Johnston had recently lost a gay friend due to murder.

9 Chickweed Lane was created in 1993 by Brooke McEldowney and is one of the few mainstream comic strips to feature a prominent gay character. It's syndicated nationally and its flights of fancy and vivid storylines have earned it a devoted following. Seth Appleby, a native of Waco, Texas, is an unabashed wearer of the Green Carnation. Seth is a ballet dancer who shares an apartment with the heroine of the strip, Edda Burber. Seth's partner Mark is also featured. **9 Chickweed Lane** is available online and is not currently printed in the Chronicle.

HUNTERS ANGERED BY ELLEN COMIC

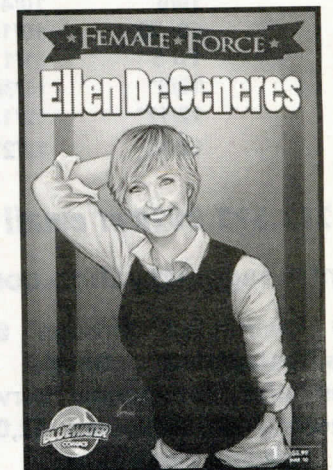
Bluewater Productions released *Female Force*: Ellen DeGeneres last week, and DeGeneres chose the Humane Society for the charity component of the \$3.99 comic.

A rep for Bluewater says he received an email, a letter and multiple phone calls on Monday from the Sportsmen's Alliance.

"As the producer of this comic, we respectfully ask that you consider severing the relationship you have established with HSUS," Alliance president and chief executive officer Walter P. Pidgeon wrote in an email provided to us by Bluewater.

"While we respect your right to disagree with the goals of The Humane Society of the United States," a Bluewater rep said, "we do not share your concerns about the organization."

In other DeGeneres animal news, she recently partnered with the U.S. Postal Service to promote its new set of 10 dog and cat stamps to help raise awareness for the need to adopt pets from shelters.



Halo, the pet food company that is owned in part by DeGeneres is providing food for shelters based on the sales of **Stamps to the Rescue**. The Post Office began selling the stamps on April 30

www.stampstotherescue.com

Two On The Aisle

by Bill O'Rourke

Classic Plays: With a Twist or Without?

Ah, 1939! The year the *Gone With The Wind* came out at the movies. On Broadway, a play by Lillian Hellman, who had earlier written *The Children's Hour* (all about lesbians back when they'd probably rather die than come out of the closet), *The Little Foxes* (at AD Players through May 30) opened on Broadway for the first time.

There's a very interesting character in the middle of it, Regina. Like Scarlett O'Hara, she is Southern. Instead of trying to save the land, she is a carpet bagger's child who is trying to leave the South. She is more urban. And compared to her, Scarlett is an old softie. This lady is really wicked. She can get rich and she claws her way towards it through her creepy brothers, especially her creepier brother, Benjamin, played well by Chip Simmons. You wouldn't want to meet him in a well lit parlour, much less a dark alley.

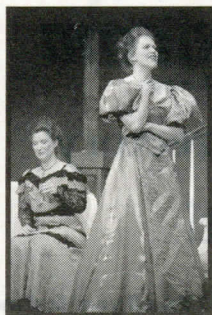
Regina is played by the talented, Christy Watkins. You wouldn't be allowed to see through her mask if we weren't observing the family at home. She seems so warm and sweet.

Regina's husband, broken by the family's experience, Horace Giddens (Ric Hodgins) is in cahoots with the maid, Addie, (Bebe Wilson). He is intent to save his daughter from having to live out the rest of her life with Regina. That really surprises Addie because it involves leaving her a large amount of money and she is Black, but then he is the most open minded man in the family, if not the whole town.

Laurie Arriaga, as another of the family wives, Birdie, almost married Horace. Her horrible husband warned him off (watch the broken violin). I didn't like her during the first act, because she was, well, too bird-like for words. But that is her mask, and when she finally breaks it, the whole play shifts beneath your seat. She, Horace and the daughter make a wonderful surrogate family. If only the older two characters had stronger backbones...

When Leah Englund, as Alexandria (the daughter) was animated, I really believed that she was young, also every word from her mouth. Unfortunately, those times when she had to be more mature, she started talking very slowly, emphasizing every word and lost her charming appeal.

This whole show is done in a very traditional style. It's almost like cinemascope, in a way, too. The set, by Mark A. Lewis, is so very wide that when the whole family is present and they spread out, there was no physical way that I could see all of them at once.



Christy Watkins & Laurie Arriaga in *The Little Foxes* - Photo by Jeff McMorrough



Elizabeth Bunch and Kristine Nielsen play the doubting relatives of Elwood P. Dowd in the Alley's production of the classic *Harvey*.

Harvey (at The Alley through May 9) by Mary Chase is a well known story - wonderfully touching, very philosophical one but one that some people might have thought that would be way to sweet. Are you kidding? This was directed by Gregory Boyd. That may couldn't do treachery if he tried.

The title character is a 6'1 1/2" 'Pooka' in the form of a white rabbit. In Boyd's hands is maybe a bit scary. Heck, even the set for the sanatorium, 'Chumley's Rest' is remarkably huge, all white and institutional. That set alone scared me the first time I saw it. When *Harvey* goes walking through it, he was slightly reminiscent of Frankenstein. To me, anyway. But it worked!

Some think that James Black is a bit over-exposed. He usually has a bit of bombast in his roles. I like it. Some don't. Well, surprise! He was remarkably different in the role of Elwood P. Dowd, *Harvey's* friend. He is small enough and basically charming. In line with Boyd's vision, he seems likely to drink with afternoon bar drinkers. All in all, wondermous!

Myrtle Mae (Elizabeth Bunch) is not an easily shocked young lady. She is a wannabe flapper who yearns to be shocked in fact. It's fresh and very funny!

Veta Louise (Kristine Nielson) is all affluter as Elwood's sister in the The most perfectly comic way. Hooray! I loved her.

The philosophy, while timeless, is one that our time usually only pays lip service to. We see people like Elwood as nuts, not successful. But Elwood is. He marches quite happily to his own drummer. He has, as he states, "wrestled reality for forty years and has finally won." Only he hasn't yet. He still has to come out and be accepted by his own family, who are living with him. Elwood's problem is not that he sees *Harvey*, it is the failure of those who don't. How many of us who are told to conform end up losing magic in our lives when we try to?

ActOut at the Alley is a special evening with each production for the LBGT theatre going community. It starts with a party before the show. Good food, good music, good conversations, good party. You are guaranteed that if a joke is aimed at the gay part of the audience you won't be alone laughing at it. You can find out more on ActOut at the Alley website.

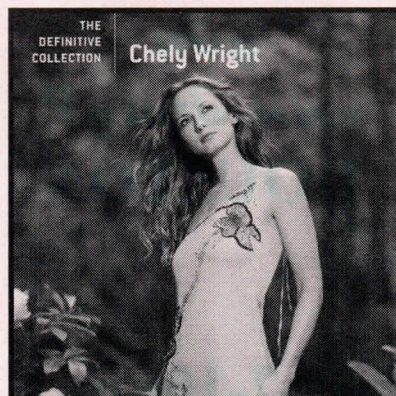
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PEOPLE REVEALS IDENTITY OF OUT COUNTRY SINGER

by AKA William

It's been a breathless week of parsing statements, scrutinizing verbal slips, and piecing together arguments in support of one celebrity over another, but we now have the answer. TMZ is reporting that the big celebrity coming out on May 5 in *People* Magazine is Christian country singer Chely Wright.



A new album and a book coincide with Wright's Coming Out

There's been a big buzz over the last week as to which celeb was announcing he/she was gay ... we knew it was going to be unveiled in *PEOPLE* mag next week (it had been speculated here that it would be Selby Lynne). Wright has a book coming out this week as well — it's called, "Like Me." And she has a CD coming out too — called "Lifted Off the Ground."

The 39-year-old singer scored a #1 country song back in 1999 with "Single White Female," when she was named Academy of Country Music new artist of the year.

Wright is the first major country artist ever to come out. She has been romantically linked to a number of celebs, including Brad Paisley.

This is a big deal in the country world. Chely is rolling the dice on her career ... it's unclear how traditionally-conservative country fans will react.

Here's the thing. Jennifer Knapp, the Christian singer, just came out a few weeks ago (and gave a memorable smackdown to an anti-LGBT pastor on Larry King). I'm wondering if Knapp's announcement won't make Wright's coming out just a little, well, incidental.

Country singer Chely Wright's reasoning was sound. "There had never, ever been a country music artist who had acknowledged his or her homosexuality," she tells *PEOPLE*. "I wasn't going to be the first."

But now Wright is changing her tune. "Nothing in my life has been more magical than the moment I decided to come out," she says.

Wright, 39, recalls of her youth in the South: "I don't have a memory in my life that doesn't include the dream of making music." But during her childhood and rapid ascent to fame in the country world, she also experienced a community in which homosexuality was shunned. "I hid everything for my music," says Wright.

The singer-songwriter, who has won both an Academy of Country Music and a Country Music award, will later this week release her memoir, *Like Me*, as well as her first album in five years, *Lifted off the Ground*.

She'll also appear on the Today Show Wednesday to discuss her personal journey.

Queer Music Heritage for May: The Pansy Craze

In the late 1920's and early 1930's in the nightclubs in the country's major cities, Openly gay performers experienced a surge in popularity, so much so that the phenomenon became known as 'The Pansy Craze'. This show will not only give an overview of the forces of history that enabled, and later, destroyed The Pansy Craze, but also I'll share with you the rare music of the performers involved.

Part 1 will cover the history and the major artists, and Part 2 will provide more by the main players and also music related to that time in our culture.

A side comment is that this is a show I worked especially hard on, as the amount of research required was tremendous, matched by the challenge of doing justice to the history in a short amount of time.

I realize this show certainly may Not be the musical cup of tea of many people, but I just feel this period of time needs to be documented and the music and information gathered as a resource.

You can stream or download the show anytime, at

<http://www.queermusicheritage.com/may2010.html>

Thanks for listening,

JD Doyle

<http://www.OutRadio.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:

www.Audiofile.org

All segments of all three shows are archived.

Listen for the Queer Music Heritage as part of KPFT's **Queer Voices** on Monday night, 9pm to 11pm. KPFT, Pacifica Radio is at 90.1fm, or via website at www.kpft.com

Center president honored by Houston Transgender Unity Committee

Tim Brookover, president of the Center board of directors, received the Champion Award at the 18th annual Houston Transgender Unity Banquet on Saturday, May 1. The Champion Award is presented "to a non-transgender individual who has stood up as a staunch supporter of the transgender community."

The Houston Transgender Unity Committee organizes the yearly banquet. Brookover serves on the Unity Committee board of directors and chairs the committee that coordinates selection of recipients of the Peggy Rudd Transgender Scholarships.



Todd Parker
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Designer/Creator



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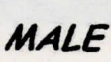
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Mayor Parker cont. from Pg. 1

Hilary Hilton in TIME wrote:

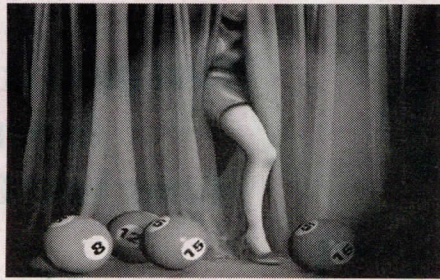
It's not every Democrat who quotes Calvin Coolidge after spending 100 days in office as mayor of Houston. But then Annise Parker, 53, has never fit the mold. She's a demure, pearl-wearing lesbian businesswoman with three kids and a longtime partner.

When she quoted Silent Cal in her first state of the city address, in April, saying, "There is no dignity quite so impressive and no independence quite so important as living within your means," it was a sign she would focus on her city's \$100 million budget shortfall during her time in office. And so she has. The fourth largest city in the U.S. is having its belt dramatically tightened.

"I feel like a mom planning a family budget," she says. "We're going to make sure we still have plenty of healthy vegetables, but we might have to cut back on dessert for a while."

Look for the complete list and more information

www.time.com/time/specials

**Queer Bingo is Back!**

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 5, and the return of Queer Bingo!

Rebranded First Saturday Queer Bingo, the regular bingo game and social event will be held by the Center on the first Saturday of the month. The new venue is the second-floor private room at the One's A Meal restaurant (815 Westheimer). The time has been moved to 4-6 p.m. to give all of the First Saturday Queer Bingo fans a chance to get their bingo on and still have time for their Saturday-night plans. Proceeds will support Center programming

The Queer Bingo nights were extremely popular and one of the most successful fund-raisers held in the community. Theme nights, such as 'Brokeback Bingo' with western attire or "Superhero" with costumes made the evenings even more fun. Stay tuned for details.

Benefit art show and sale in June

The artist and gallerist Te-Jui Fu has announced plans to organize an art show and sale in June with proceeds benefiting the Center. The show will take place Friday, June 18, and Saturday, June 19, in Fu's gallery space in Galleria 3 adjacent to Macy's.



Members of various branches of the Military protest "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" at the White House. Lt. Dan Choi, second from left has been an outspoken leader using civil disobedience to bring attention to the failed policy started by the Clinton Administration

MILITARY TELLS CONGRESS: KEEP GAY BAN FOR NOW

TELLS CONGRESS THEY NEED PLAN FOR DEALING WITH OPPOSITION FROM THE RANKS

WASHINGTON – Senior Pentagon leaders on Friday (April 30th) warned Congress not to tamper with the ban on gays serving openly in the military until they can come up with a plan for dealing with potential opposition in the ranks.

In a strongly worded letter obtained by The Associated Press, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen told the House Armed Services Committee that forcing policy changes on the military before it's ready would be a mistake.

"Our military must be afforded the opportunity to inform us of their concerns, insights and suggestions if we are to carry out this change successfully," Gates and Mullen wrote to the panel's chairman, Missouri Democrat Ike Skelton.

Gay rights advocates want legislation this year that would freeze military firings of openly gay service members, and some senior Democratic senators have said they want to offer such a bill.

But other lawmakers, including Skelton, have said they are uneasy about lifting the ban and don't want to act before the force is ready. Despite the statistics that so an overwhelming majority of voters and service members are in support of lifting the ban.

President Barack Obama has said the 1993 law, known as "don't ask, don't tell," unfairly punishes patriotic Americans and asked Congress to repeal it.

Gates expressed concerns over altering housing arrangements and if gay partners were to be allowed military benefits.

If Congress acts before Dec. 1 date Gates has established for completion of the study, "it would send a very damaging message to our men and women in

uniform that in essence their views, concerns and perspectives do not matter," he and Mullen wrote to Skelton.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said that if Congress doesn't act this year it would send the message to gay troops that "the impact on them and their families does not matter to the military leadership, including their commander in chief."

Gays to Congress and the Military: End it Now
by Eric Alva

On May 11, I'll be joining hundreds of other current and former members of the military at the Veterans Lobby Day to deliver one clear message to Congress – "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" must end this year.

HRC and Servicemembers United are working to make this event as high-profile and effective as possible, and the head count matters. A lot. We need all hands on deck.

I was the first American soldier wounded in Iraq;

I signed up for the Marines when I was just 19 years old. I served for 13 years, from Somalia to California to Japan, and then shipped out to Iraq. Three hours into the start of the ground war, I stepped on a landmine and almost lost my life.

I was the first American soldier wounded in Iraq; I received a Purple Heart, and President Bush visited me in the hospital. As I slowly recovered, the shame of this policy that forced me and thousands of other soldiers to hide began to enrage me.

I traveled to Washington and came out with my story, which was all over the national news. The response blew me away. Almost every single Marine I'd served with – gay and straight – called me with support. And I've been fighting this fight ever since

- continued Pg. 11

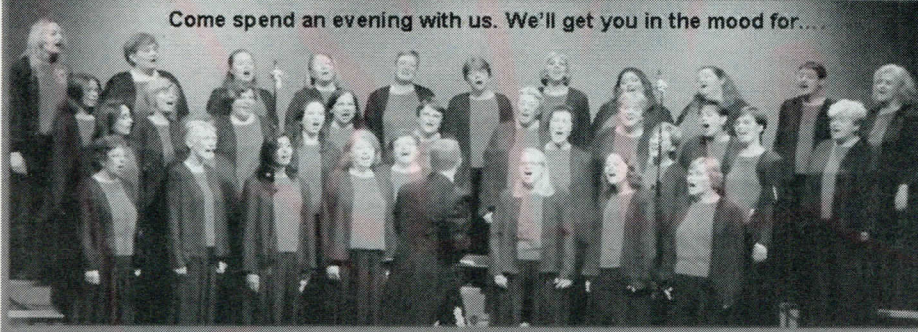


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www.BayouCityPerformingArts.org, or call our office at 713-521-7464



Should Rekers Rent Boy Have Been Outed?

from AKA William
by Andrew

Anti-gay activist George Alan Rekers found himself in a pinch yesterday, when it was revealed he had been globetrotting with a rent boy. Gays had a laugh, for Rekers has crusades against us for decades. But what about the rent boy? He's been dragged into all of this, and now his picture has been plastered all over the Internet.

The Miami New Times broke the story yesterday: 61-year old Rekers, a founding member of the homophobic Family Research Council and officer for the National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality, had flown in from Europe with a 20-year old rent boy, whom they called "Lucien." The paper took a picture, which left Rekers "discomfited," but did not publish it, lest they "out" the boy. [They now have, although the boy's face has been blurred.]

This being the information age, it wasn't long before alternate outlets dug up the picture and published it. The first was the NSFW site Unzipped. Other websites, some hesitant, others not so much, soon followed suit. AKA William did not post pictures. I think William made the right decision.

Past right wing outings often involve second parties, like when male prostitute Mike Jones revealed that Evangelical pastor Ted Haggard had hired him. The difference there, though, is that Jones was the one who outed Haggard, and got a book deal out of it. "Lucien" seems to be a pretty innocent bystander in all of this.

Clearly Rekers deserved to be outed. He has made his entire career about fighting gays, who he claims are mentally ill. "Lucien," however, still has his life ahead of him. This could ruin it. One friend agrees it's an unfortunate situation, but argues, "His role in the story was needed, whether it be the use of his photo and name or not. Showing him helps to make the story real and makes it more difficult for Rekers to explain it away." That may be true, but this rent boy stigma won't wash away fast.

I don't know why Lucien's working as a rent boy. And, frankly, I don't care. Now, without even a day to prepare, he's had his face spread around the globe. It won't be long, I'm sure, until someone puts a name to it. [But, on the bright side, maybe he can make a buck off this. He's probably going to have a hard time finding work elsewhere.]

SCANDAL continued from Page 3

-fully and responsibly served God throughout Catholic history. To scapegoat them and deprive them of their pulpits is a tragedy for the people they serve and for the church. Yours is a problem of abuse, not sexual orientation.

I will pray for your church and for you, as I hope you will pray for my church and for me. In Luke 12:2-3, Jesus tells us: "Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the rooftops."

And may God have mercy on our souls.

Your brother in Christ,

Gene Robinson

V. Gene Robinson was elected bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire in 2003 as the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church. He is also a part-time senior fellow at the Center for American Progress.

EDITOR'S NOTE: My column BEE-LINES does not appear in this issue so that I could include this eloquent statement by the Rev. Robinson

RECIPES WANTED

GLSEN Houston is working on recipe book that can be sold as a fundraiser for their new chapter. If you have a recipe that you would like featured, please email it to LGBTQallies@gmail.com by May 10.

Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network

Speakers

Sheila Jackson Lee
Bill White
Tabatha Coffey

Keynote Speaker

Meredith Baxter

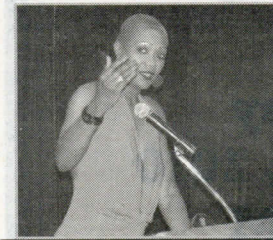
Entertainment

Suzanne Westenhoefer
Crystal Waters

Time to dress up all fancy and get your party on to help raise the funds to the support the work of the Human Rights Campaign



Mayor Parker and spouse Kathy Hubbard crack up during speech at the annual Transgender Unity Banquet



CM Jolanda Jones at Unity Banquet (winner of the Brenda Thomas Award)



Right: Armando Reyna, Mr TGRA 2011 Royalty Candidate & Brandy Vogue (aka Alex Martinez) 2nd Alternate in the Cinco De Mayo Pageant ~ Photo courtesy of Armando Reyna



TG Center Grand Opening:

L to R: Darin Quintero, Cristan Williams, CM Wanda Adams, Phyllis Frye, Jackie Thorne, Josephine Tittsworth, Lou Weaver, Andrea Miller

Left: ED of the National Center for Transgender Equality Mara Keisling and Mayor Parker.

~ photos from Cristan Williams

IMPORTANT SURVEY Social Justice Sexuality Initiative

Survey to focus on Peoples of Color in the LGBT community

A team of researchers are mounting an endeavor titled the Social Justice Sexuality Initiative. Using Facebook, the survey will focus specifically to gather research regarding sexual minorities in people of color communities. A key part of this enterprise will be a large repeated cross-sectional national survey that will investigate the sociopolitical experiences of Black, Latina/o, as well as Asian and Pacific Islander lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.

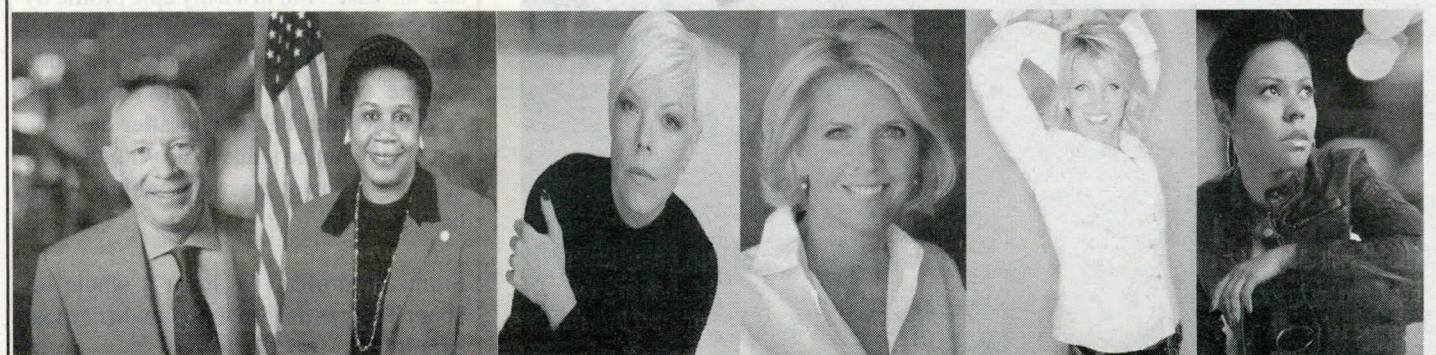
Continued next column

More specifically, this project is interested in better understanding how identity enhances or inhibits the experiences of this target population around four major themes:

Accessing health - and community - based services; participating in civic and social engagement; more specifically, organizing and mobilizing both within and across varying racial and sexual identity based groups; family formations and dynamics; and religious participation, experiences, and attitudes.

<http://www.facebook.com/lf74f8;www.socialjusticesexuality.com/survey/>

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SINGING COMPETITION RETURNS PRIDE IDOL

from press release

Houston's premiere singing competition - returns for a 4th year of amazing singers and surprises. The new competition brings big changes, including a bigger venue, a new host and a new judge.

Open auditions on May 2nd launched the season. This year's competition will be the toughest yet with the most talent group of singers Houston has ever heard.

Greeting those auditioning were our new PRIDE Idol Emcee Tye Blue. Tye joins Idol after a successful musical theater run spanning the globe as both a performer and director. "I am thrilled and honored," says Blue, "to be joining forces with the PRIDE Idol team to guide Houston's premiere vocal talents into the spotlight! Now... what to WEAR!?"

This year's host bar is Meteor, which offers both the contestants and the crowd a superior PRIDE Idol experience. The competition will be visible on Meteor's eight video screens, and singers will have access to a first-rate playback system.

Returning as judges this year are Joey Guerra, who also assumes the role of PRIDE Idol director; and Ernie Manouse, Emmy-winning PBS host/producer and vice-president of PRIDE Houston. New to the judging table is Miss Money, an accomplished singer, rapper, and music producer from Houston.

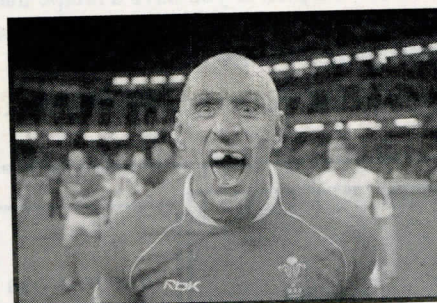
Last year's PRIDE Idol winner, AJ Cabrera, recorded a four-song demo with Grammy-winning Urbana studios and performed at both Houston and Galveston's Pride Celebrations. He also participated in a pair of Michael Jackson tribute shows.



2010 PRIDE IDOL Judges and the Audition finalists at Meteor, May 2nd

The shows for the contest will be Thursday nights, starting May 13th at 10pm. Other dates are:

May 20, 27th and June 3, 10, 17 with the finale on June 24th. All are welcome to attend and cheer own their favorite each week during the competition. Meteor is located at 2306-08 Genesee St (From Montrose go on Fairview toward downtown, right where the street makes a jag and becomes Tuam, the club is to your left.



Would you date this guy?

Out Rugby Star Gareth Thomas as to be featured in Sports Illustrated Profile

by AKA William

Wed, April 28, 2010 - When Welsh rugby star Gareth Thomas came out in December, he was the only openly gay male athlete in the world. Four months later this is still the case. And in a truly epic profile by Gary Smith, appropriately titled, "Gareth Thomas ... The Only Openly Gay Male Athlete" we get a whirlwind accounting of his life both before and after he came out. And what he plans to do with the first active gay male American athlete when he comes out.

From the profile, we learn a whole lot about Thomas as the embodiment of masculinity:

He's 6'3" and 225 pounds of muscle. He's broken his nose five times, fractured both shoulders and lost eight teeth. He's drunk his mates under the table and brawled by their side. He's been named to the Welsh national rugby team more times than any other man.

We also learn that the 25-year-old likes older guys, his wife was pregnant when he told her he was gay, his nickname is "Alf." (Yup, after the TV alien) and he calls everyone "butt" which is short for "butty" which means something like 'mate'.

And about his astonishment that America is lagging behind, gay-male-athlete-wise, Thomas says, "All the diversity in America, and no one there has done this? ... A rugby team ... in Wales. A country of coal miners. I thought THAT would be the harshest environment for a man to come out in, but no.... Why has America created an environment that's not open to gay sportsmen, butt? So tell me, butt. I really want to f---in' know what's going on in America!"

So do we.

But Thomas has a plan for the day an active gay male athlete comes out in the United States. Smith writes:

Someday, a gay male athlete in a mainstream U.S. sport will step forward and cross the threshold that lesbian athletes did long ago. And when that day finally dawns, Alf has this crazy idea. He'd love to go to the U.S. and climb onto the highest rooftop with that guy. Not to jump off. To stand tall beside him, to break the link between homosexuality and weakness, and to scream, "I'm gay! He's gay! We're gay!" And see how far the echo carries.

Pretty far I imagine.

BLACKHAWKLEATHER.COM

Cooking Capers with Dr. Dave

Hello ladies and gentlemen. I hope you are enjoying reading, and hopefully trying my recipes as much as I love sharing them with you. However, in this and future editions, I have been asked to only provide two recipes for your consideration; therefore, this time, I will pass on two appetizer selections. The first is sea scallops seville, and the second is petite potato croquettes.

SEA SCALLOPS SEVILLE

Many people really shudder at the thought of eating something raw. Well, even though I love my men "raw", people can relax when it comes to seville. Granted, the seafood goes in raw, but the citrus juices cook everything. So sit back and enjoy this dish.

1 cup sea scallops (about 1/2 pound)
Juice of four limes
2 Tbs. finely chopped onion
1 Tsp. finely chopped parsley or cilantro
2 Tbs. finely chopped green pepper
3 Tbs. olive oil
salt and pepper to taste

Cut the raw scallops into quarters and cover them with the lime juice. Marinate at least one hour (three to four hours is optimum) in the refrigerator. Drain. Combine the remaining ingredients with the scallops and mix thoroughly. Serve scoops of the seville on a bed of your favorite lettuce, and garnish with lemon wedges. Some people enjoy cocktail sauce served along side the seville.

PETITE POTATO CROQUETTES

I'm going to begin this recipe with a one-line introduction. My friend, Eric, and I were at a pub in Ann Arbor, Michigan after finishing a final examination in Anatomy and Physiology. Eric looked at this handsome man in the pub and remarked, "You know, he's a great looking guy, but I bet he's all potatoes and no meat!". I wonder what he meant by that comment? Oh well, here is a great appetizer made from "tiny" potatoes.

2 large Idaho potatoes (about 1 1/2 pounds) peeled
3 large eggs, lightly beaten
2 Tbs. all-purpose flour
Zest of 1 orange, finely grated
1/2 cup minced garlic
2 Tbs. chopped parsley
1 Tbs. finely chopped fresh rosemary, or 1 Tsp. crumbled, dried rosemary
2 Tbs. coarse Kosher salt
1 Tsp. freshly-ground black pepper
1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 cup vegetable oil
Orange-Rosemary Mayonnaise (recipe to follow the potato croquette recipe)

Bring a medium-size pot of water to a boil. While waiting for the water to come to a boil, coarsely grate the potatoes into a bowl of cold water. Drain and cook them in the boiling water for 2 minutes. Drain the cooked potatoes well, and pat them dry with a paper towel. Place the potatoes in a bowl



Add the eggs, flour, orange zest, garlic, herbs, salt and pepper, and combine well. To form croquettes, roll 1 Tbs. of the potato mixture in the palms of your hands to form a ball, then flatten it slightly so that it is about 1/2 of an inch across and 1/2 of an inch thick. Heat the oils in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Cook the croquettes in batches of 6 or 8 for 2 1/2 to 3 minutes on each side until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve warm with the orange rosemary mayonnaise. To reheat the croquettes, spread them out in a single layer on a baking sheet and heat for 5 minutes in a pre-heated 375 degree oven.

Orange-Rosemary Mayonnaise

1 cup fresh orange juice
1/4th. cup mayonnaise
1/4th. cup sour cream
3/4ths. Tsp. finely chopped fresh rosemary, or 1/4th. Tsp. dried rosemary

Place the orange juice in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook, swirling the pan, until the juice is reduced to a thick syrup (about 10 to 12 minutes). You should have about 1 1/2 Tablespoons. Combine the mayonnaise and sour cream in a small bowl. Add the orange syrup, rosemary, and salt to taste. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour before serving.

I hope you enjoy these appetizers. Not only can you serve them before dinner, but they go well at cocktail parties as well.



Lesbian Health Initiative Online Newsletter

Here is the link
<http://lhihouston.org/newsletter.htm>

* Read about our upcoming June 5th Health Fair from 8:15am-2pm at Legacy Community Health Services. Take advantage of our new comprehensive blood testing. Sign up for mammograms.

* See how yoga can improve sexual function.

* Read about how Laura Overton of Houston made her own very personal decision after breast cancer surgery.

continued next column

DADT from Page 1

The U.S. military has discharged more than 13,500 gay and lesbian service members since DADT's implementation in 1994, including more than 800 mission-critical troops. In the past five years, the military has discharged at least 59 Arabic and Farsi linguists. Further, our government has wasted between \$250 million and \$1.2 billion enforcing the law, critical funds that could have been used to support rather than undermine our military readiness. The facts point to only one conclusion: DADT is a threat to national security and must be repealed. Repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is just one step our elected leaders can take in their commitment to keep our nation strong and safe. We call on Burr, Hagan, Kissell, McIntyre and Myrick to co-sponsor the Military Readiness Enhancement Act today and support the repeal of this wasteful and damaging policy.

Veteran's Lobby Day - from Pg.8

Watching this campaign build over the past three years, I know how important this Lobby Day is in our battle for repeal. It's our last chance to speak out before Congress takes action on the National Defense Authorization Act - the bill that should contain the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal language.

So it's crunch time. And whether you're a veteran, a friend or relative of a service member, or simply someone who believes in equality, I hope you'll support this Lobby Day and help us end "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Learn how you - and any veterans you know - can be a part of this important day.

Over the next two weeks we'll be in touch with a lot more ways you can do your part. From Twitter storms to contacting your member of Congress, you can stay involved even if you can't be in Washington that day. So please stay tuned.

My fellow veterans and I will tell our stories proudly to Congress on May 11, knowing you are supporting our fight.

In solidarity,
Eric Alva
Retired Marine Staff Sergeant
Veterans Lobby Day Volunteer

PS: To learn more about HRC's national campaign to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," or to take action right now, go to www.hrc.org/repealdadt.

www.veteranslobbyday.org

* See photos of Mayor Annise Parker and featured performer, comic Michele Balan from LHI's successful Celebration of Love Valentine's gala.

* Learn about tips to fight computer fatigue, how to bulk up your brain, cut the risk of cancer, and much more...

Do you know a woman in Houston whose personal health story would make a good feature article for LHI's newsletter? We are open to suggestions and inspiring stories about a Houston woman her health. Email your ideas to info@lhihouston.org.

LHI HEALTH FAIR COMING JUNE 5

"MARCH FOR DIGNITY AND RESPECT FOR ALL"

by Andrew Edmonson

Houston, Texas -- On Saturday afternoon, May 1, thousands of Houstonians gathered to participate in the March for Dignity and Respect for all, which began in the parking lot of a strip mall located at Bellaire and Renwick and culminated in a rally at Burnett Bayland Park, 6200 Chimney Rock at Gulfport.

The peaceful march included a contingent of about 20 members of the Houston Stonewall Young Democrats, carrying a HYSO banner and hoisting two rainbow flags visibly in the march. Some members in the group carried signs calling for recognition of binational same sex relationships.

Leaders of the march laid out several key objectives in organizing the event, including advocating:

- * For the rights of migrant workers
- * For family unity
- * For an end to all raids
- * For allowing bi-national same sex couples to stay together
- * For a just immigration reform that includes the DREAM Act & Uniting American Families Act
- * For unity amongst ALL communities

Veteran Houston GLBT activist Paul Mullan, who attended the march, observed that he had not noted a strong LGBT presence at immigration reform rallies that he participated in previously: "This is the first time I've seen that here in Houston, and I've been to a number of these marches."

Mullan continued, "At this year's May Day immigrant-rights march, there was a notable LGBT contingent flying the big, gay rainbow flag. This kind of solidarity and support between the two movements is important. The 'Teabaggers' and right-wing extremists who recently passed the SB 1070 bill in Arizona, which basically legalizes racial profiling, target both immigrants and LGBT people. We're more likely to defeat the right, if we build unity between our movements."

Although the march had been organized weeks in advance, the recent passage in April of the nation's toughest immigration legislation in Arizona - designed to identify, prosecute and deport undocumented immigrants - added a new sense of urgency and momentum to the gathering.

Marches for immigration reform were held in cities across the nation, drawing tens of thousands of participants in cities such as Dallas and Los Angeles.

In other LGBT immigration news, The Advocate's web site reports that "An outline of a comprehensive immigration reform package circulating on Capitol Hill includes a provision that would allow U.S. citizens and legal residents to sponsor their same-sex partners for residency."



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