



Craig Biggio, at left, and Jeff Bagwell

OVERHEARD

“That’s a travesty.”

-Ex-Astro **Jeff Bagwell** on former teammate **Craig Biggio** not having been chosen for the Baseball Hall of Fame this year. Second baseman Biggio received more votes than anyone else, 68.2 percent of the 569 ballots cast, just 39 votes short of the 75 percent needed. For the first time since '96, no one will be inducted. Bagwell himself was third in the running. “It’s OK by me about me,” he told a reporter. “I hurt for [Biggio].”

PASSING THROUGH

Bass Desires

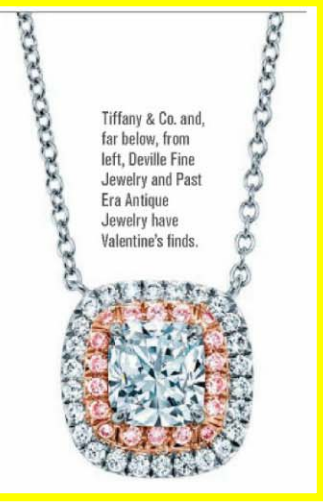
People know **Rudy Giuliani**, the former NYC chief called America’s Mayor for his resolve after the 9/11 attacks, as a tough-talking leader and former presidential aspirant. But an opera buff? On Feb. 7, Giuliani hits Houston, not only one of his favorite cities for golfing but also the global HQ of his Bracewell & Giuliani law firm, to emcee HGO’s “Concert of Arias.” (See calendar.) —*Jeff Gremillion*



So you’re an opera guy? I have been since I was 13. I lived in Long Island... and on Friday nights I would travel to the Met [in Manhattan] with a friend, and we would stand in line to see performances... standing room. Now I carry around two iPods because I have too many operas [and classical pieces by Bach and Mahler] to fit on one. I have 28,000 songs. **Can you sing?** When I was very young, I tried out for the church choir, and the nun told me I had a monotone

voice. I was insulted and very upset. I cannot sing. So I admire anybody who can. **Switching to politics. Some say a candidate conservative on economics and security but moderate on social issues like abortion, gay rights and immigration might’ve beaten Obama.** I tried that in ‘08. We Republicans give away New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts... California... Washington... Oregon. We give them all away on, basically, social

issues. We need a candidate who doesn’t create the feeling we’re going to take away people’s rights. Republicans... believe the less government the better. It shouldn’t be interfering in my decisions about health care. We should lower taxes, so people get to make a choice with their own money. ... Same thing with your personal life. In a country like ours, when we have this vast disagreement of religion and morals, we have to allow people to make their own choice.



Tiffany & Co. and, far below, from left, Deville Fine Jewelry and Past Era Antique Jewelry have Valentine’s finds.

LUST HAVE

Love Rocks

Fall in love with fine jewelry this Valentine’s Day! Local designer **Liz Glanville of Deville Fine Jewelry** (5700 Woodway, Ste. 250, 281.501.3810) offers diamond-encrusted “Love” rings (\$860) in gold or rose gold with white diamonds, or white gold with edgy black diamonds. **Past Era Antique Jewelry** (3433 W. Alabama St., 713.621.3433) touts a vintage ruby-and-diamond double-heart brooch from the late 19th century (\$3,650). And **Tiffany & Co.** (in the Galleria, 713.626.0220) celebrates the romantic holiday with a pendant from its new Soleste collection. The sparkling, cushion-cut white diamond is bordered by 18K rose gold inlaid with pink diamonds, hung from a platinum chain. —*Elena Lacey*



RUDY GIULIANI PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; BAGWELL AND BIGGIO PHOTO BY ALAN DELLEON/ZUMA IMAGES