

Shannon Ola, left, comforts her son, Seth, as they flee rising floodwaters from Hurricane Rita, which struck Jean Lafitte, La.



RIC FRANCIS/Associated Press

# Hurricane Rita

Four pages of coverage inside, pages 8A to 11A

- Weakening to a tropical storm, Rita spares lives and property, as damage is expected to be less than Katrina.
- Red Cross volunteers must be prepared to act within 24 hours of notification.
- Rita is affecting Kansas farmers' grain shipments.
- 1.5 million are without power in Texas and Louisiana.
- Insurance companies prepare for thousands of claims, and lawsuits.

# NEWSUNDAY

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## A debate is raging within the Christian faith: What role, if any, do gays and lesbians have in today's church?

The word "lie" in the Bible's original Hebrew has several meanings. It could mean "rest," "sexual connection" or "decease."

Thou shalt not lie with  
mankind, as with  
womankind:  
it is abomination.

Lesbianism is never specifically mentioned in the Hebrew Bible.

LEVITICUS 18:22 (KING JAMES VERSION)

This word is generally translated as a "rebellion against God." The New International Version translates this word as "detestable."

**It's all a matter of words.  
The analysis continues on page 12A.**

**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
High: 78. Low 68. See page 16A

Our 98th  
year, #10  
5 sections  
68 pages



**IN MUSE:**

**UNCONVENTIONAL ART GALLERIES:** Garage Art, a group of Columbia artists, wants to show that exhibiting work isn't limited to museums. The group uses barns, cattle stockyards and other non-traditional spaces, too. **Page 1C**

**IN FAITH:**

**PRAYING FOR A RETURN:** The Order of Ursuline Sisters' 278-year presence in New Orleans was interrupted by Hurricane Katrina. After escaping the storm, the group is hoping to regroup and return soon. **Page 8C**

**IN HEALTH:**

**THE HEALTH COSTS OF KATRINA:** In the rush to rescue hurricane survivors, few records were kept. Information on thousands of evacuees scattered across the country will be hard to find. Public health experts attempt to sort it out. **Page 10C**