

SPLASH ISSUE

MAY 2007

Q MONTHLY MAGAZINE

THE FACE OF AUSTIN'S GAY COMMUNITY

SUMMER'S BACK! (AND SO ARE WE)

do

The American Twenties
The Full Monty at Arts on Real

learn

Hate Crimes Bill Reintroduced
News from Across the Nation

explore

Vancouver's Summer of Festivals
Titanic Marks Anniversary In Victoria

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION IN SUPPORT
OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

Project Transitions'

Texas Swing '07

Friday, June 1st 8-Midnight

FEATURING LIVE MUSIC BY ALVIN CROW
BBQ • Auction • Dance Lessons

Dance Lessons 7 - 8 pm
Tickets \$40 • \$35 in Advance

Saengerrunde Hall
1607 San Jacinto

For more info call (512) 454-8646
or visit ProjectTransitions.org

Proceeds benefit Doug's House, Roosevelt Gardens & Highland Terrace

P.S. Tickets are available in advance for \$35 at :Top Drawer Thrift (4902 Burnet), Tapelenders Video (1114 W. 5th St.-Ste. 201), Book Woman (918 W. 12th St.), by calling (512) 454-8646, or \$40 at door night of event.

OILCAN HARRY'S

The place to be!!!

The Best Music
The Hottest Staff
The Newest Videos
The Biggest Parties
The Best Margarita in Austin

Simply...The Best!
Austin's #1 Bar



Oilcan Harry's
211 W. 4th St.
Austin, TX
512.320.8823
www.oilcanharrys.com

RAIN

ON 4TH



FRIDAYS

HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS

\$2.50 DOMESTICS & WELLS
& \$3.50 CALLS
THE BEST IN NEW
DANCE MUSIC WITH
DJ DALLAS

SATURDAYS

DJ FILTHY RICH
SPINS ALL NIGHT

SUNDAYS

CELEBRITY

WITH HOSTS
GOLDIE HAYNES &
VANESSA GORDON

217 B W. 4TH ST. AUSTIN, TX
512.494.1150
WWW.RAINON4TH.COM

Q MONTHLY MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL STAFF

Chase Martin
Publishing Editor
(512) 233-6533 X101
chase@qmonthlyaustin.com

ADVERTISING STAFF

Matt Mock
Advertising Director
(512) 233-6533 X102
matt@qmonthlyaustin.com

NATIONAL SALES

Rivendell Media, Inc.
1248 Route 22 West
Mountainside NJ 07092
(908) 232-2021

WRITERS

Angela D'Amboise
Richard Labonte
Chase Martin
Bryan Ochalla
Robert O'Neil
Duane Wells

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Chase Martin

PRINTER

Horizon Printing
Austin, Texas

CONTACT INFORMATION

Q Monthly Magazine
(800) 497-5920 toll free
(512) 233-6533 phone
(866) 539-7097 fax
www.qmonthlyaustin.com

info@qmonthlyaustin.com

© 2007 PlanetChase, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Q Monthly Magazine is published 12 times a year by PlanetChase, LLC. Reproduction without written permission from the publisher is strictly prohibited. Q Monthly Magazine cannot accept responsibility for unsolicited materials. All rights in letters, manuscripts, drawings, or photographs sent to Q Monthly Magazine will be treated as assigned for publication and copyright purposes and are subject to Q Monthly Magazine's right to edit and comment editorially. The publisher does not assume responsibility for statements made by advertisers.

do

- 7 The American Twenties**
HRC Exhibition Explores Decade's Cultural and Social Changes
- 8 The Full Monty**
- 9 Daily Planner**
- 12 BookWoman To Host Reading & Booksigning**
Canadian Authors Stop in Austin to Promote Their Latest Works

learn

- 21 Federal Hate Crimes Bill Re-introduced in Congress**
More Than 210 Law Enforcement, Civil Rights, Civic and Religious Organizations Support
- 21 Across The Nation**
- 26 UT Holds Its First Annual Queer Conference**

play

- 29 Book Marks**
 - *Dog Years: A Memoir*
 - *Voices Rising*
 - *The Target*
 - *Androphilia*
- 31 Music Notes**
 - *Elton John*
 - *Tim McGraw*
 - *Hilary Duff*
- 33 In Theaters**
 - *Grindhouse*
- Now Playing**
 - *Disturbia*
 - *Perfect Stranger*
 - *The Reaping*
- 35 Out On DVD**
 - *Smokin' Aces*
 - *My Sister Maria*

explore

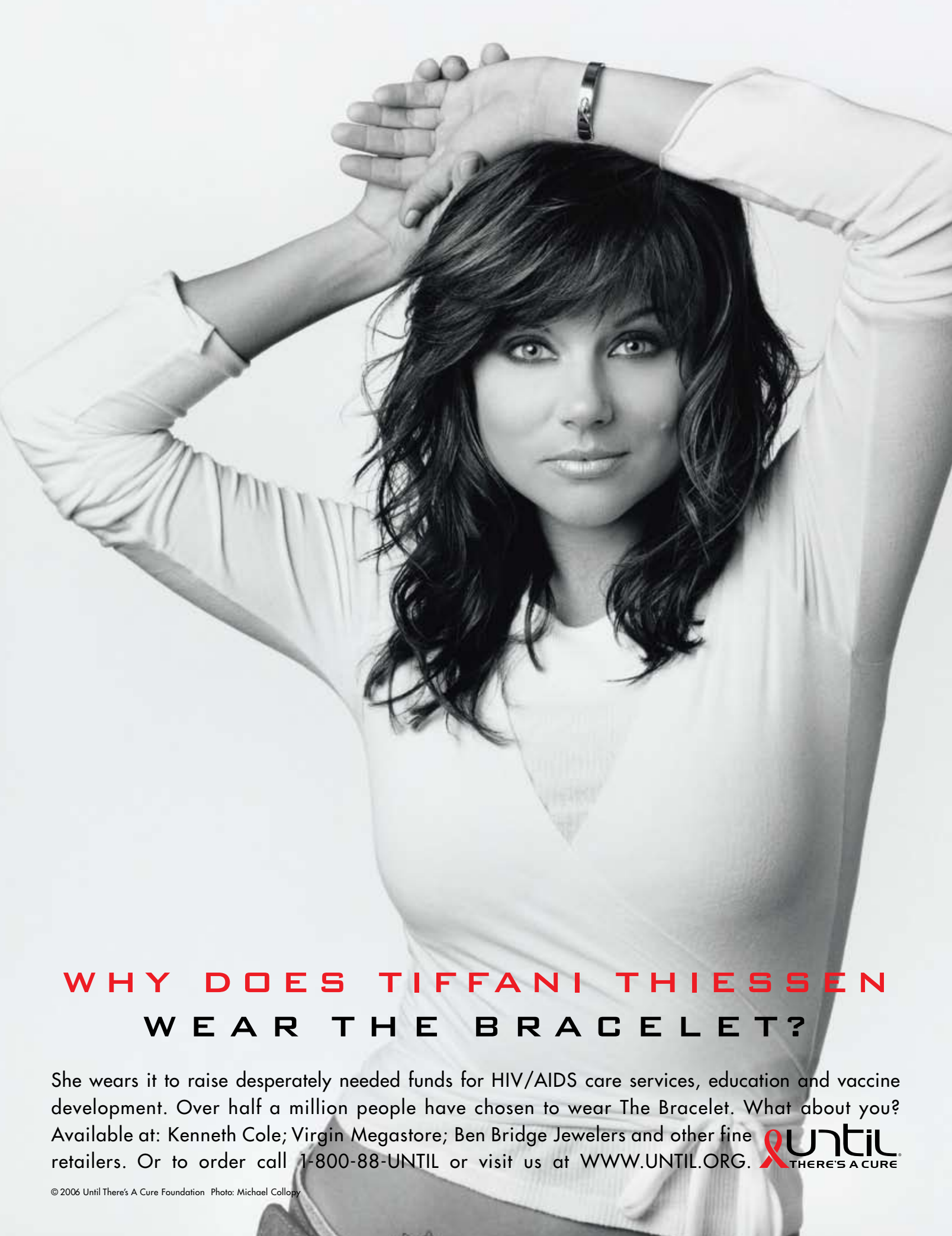
- 37 Vancouver's Summer of Festivities**
A Look at Festivities Lined Up for Summer 2007
- 39 Titanic Marks 95th Anniversary in Victoria**
British Columbia Capital Banks on the Lure of the Titanic
- 40 W Austin Hotel & Residences Takes it to the 'Austin City Limits'**
- 41 Out & About In Mesa Verde**

drink


- 43 Bar Guide**

enjoy

- 45 Q Scopes**
- 46 Q Puzzle**



**WHY DOES TIFFANI THIESSEN
WEAR THE BRACELET?**

She wears it to raise desperately needed funds for HIV/AIDS care services, education and vaccine development. Over half a million people have chosen to wear The Bracelet. What about you? Available at: Kenneth Cole; Virgin Megastore; Ben Bridge Jewelers and other fine retailers. Or to order call 1-800-88-UNTIL or visit us at WWW.UNTIL.ORG.  **UNTIL**
THERE'S A CURE

The American Twenties

HRC Exhibition Explores Decade's Cultural and Social Changes

The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center's exhibition *The American Twenties* explores the decade's profound cultural and social changes, including ambiguities, contradictions, contrasts and conflicts as well as the many ideas and ideologies that were born or came to fruition in the 1920s.

Featuring more than 400 items that highlight and define the era, the exhibition illuminates the achievements and events that characterized the period. The exhibition runs from January 30 to July 29 at the Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin.

With the opening of this exhibition, the Center begins its commemoration of its 50th anniversary year. *The American Twenties* is the first of one of many exhibitions and programs planned in a year dedicated to "Celebrating the Imagination."



Courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center

Gordon Conway
Presentation drawing in the "Jazz Lint" series
Ca. 1924-1928

"This exhibition is an exploration of the 1920s through the literature and art that was to become quintessentially American and quintessentially modern," said Rodney Phillips, guest curator of the exhibition and former curator and administrator of the New York Public Library.

The United States emerged from World War I with wealth and power and an urge to remake itself. In the decade's struggle to define the future of America, a plethora of issues were argued and fought out in poetry, novels, political tracts, music and the movies. The exhibition takes a deeper look at many of the crucial events and ideas that shaped the period.

As these fundamental issues came to the surface, the idea of the "modern" was crystallized and the "American" century born.

"The exhibition offers visitors a unique opportunity to witness the emergence of a distinctly modern American culture," Phillips said.

Themes explored in this all-gallery exhibition of materials drawn from the Ransom Center's collections include "Remembering the War," "Babbitts and Bohemians," "Modernist Monuments," "Strike!," "The Rise of Women," "The Dream Factory: Los Angeles," "House and Home," "Cops and Robbers," "Cowboys and Indians," "The New Negro," "In the American Grain," "The Voice of the People," "New York" and "Chinese Shadows."

This spring, in conjunction with the exhibition *The American Twenties*, the Harry Ransom Center presents the museum theater program *Voices of the American Twenties*. The program includes four short one-act plays, approximately six minutes each, designed to complement the exhibition



Courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center

Ernest Hemingway in a World War I uniform. The uniform he wears is most likely from his service in the American Red Cross.

by animating characters and themes examined therein. One piece is performed each weekend on Saturday and Sunday at 1 and 3 pm. The pieces rotate each weekend through July 29.

The American Twenties can be seen at the Ransom Center Galleries on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 am to 5 pm, with extended Thursday hours until 7 pm. On Saturdays and Sundays the galleries are open from noon to 5 p.m. The galleries are closed on Mondays. Free, guided tours of the exhibition are offered every Saturday at 2 pm. ■

The Full Monty

Arts On Real and Naughty Austin Productions Present Yet-Another-Austin-Premier

Arts On Real Theater and Naughty Austin Productions, one of Austin's most popular theater-producing teams, embarks on its eleventh year of successful Austin shows with the Tony-Award winning musical, *The Full Monty*, with music and lyrics by David Yazbek, directed by Blake Yelavich, musical direction by David Blackburn, and choreography by Walter Songer.

Naughty Austin Productions begins its eleventh season of producing hit Austin shows with this fantastic musical comedy about self-respect, self-esteem, and all of the things we hide behind.

The Story: Pittsburg, Present. Once a bright community "on the move", the city has fallen into ruin after the steel factories are closed and thousands of men lose their jobs. Jerry is a former worker and about to lose his son because he can't pay for joint custody. His friends (and former co-workers) aren't

doing much better: Dave is depressed and convinced his wife isn't interested in their marriage anymore; Malcolm has to take care of his mom and is suicidal; and Harold has been lying to his wife for six months about his unemployment.

After stumbling across Keno at a Chipendales dance club and seeing how many women are paying to see Keno (fifty dollars times a thousand women equals... "a lot of money"), Jerry realizes that if they can do it, so can he. The guys pull together, adding Horse and Ethan to the line-up. But Jerry realizes that they have to offer something that the "real thing" doesn't... so these guys are going "the full monty", which means going totally nude! As Jeanette, their feisty aging pianist tells the crowd: "They may not be young, they not be pretty, they not be very good, but they're there, and for one night only, with nothing to lose, they're daring to go The Full Monty!"



The Full Monty opens May 17th at Arts on Real Theater, and will run Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays for seven weekends. Tickets are \$25 to \$35 and now available online at www.artsonreal.com/tickets.html or by calling (512) 472-2787.

Arts On Real Theater celebrated its fourth anniversary at its location April 1st, and its first four years of underdog success was recently featured on the cover of the nationwide theatre trade magazine *Dramabiz* (seen on-line at www.dramabiz.com). Arts On Real Theater is located at 2826 Real Street in East Austin, and can be reached by calling (512) 472-2787 or by visiting www.artsonreal.com. ■



niche marketing UP A FEW NOTCHES



Marketing Strategies
Direct Mail
Web Design & Marketing
Brochures
Collateral Design
Street Marketing

Newsletters
Package Design
Advertising Strategies
Logo Design
Broadcast Advertising
Interactive Advertising

1 : tuesday

CAPITAL AREA PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS

5:30 pm
Twin Oaks Library
2301 S Congress Ave #7
Contact: Cecilia Crossley
☎ (512) 444-0956
✉ chair@capdemocrats.org

ASIAN AMERICAN DEMOCRATS OF TEXAS

6:30 pm - Dinner
7 pm - Meeting
First Chinese BBQ Restaurant
10901 N Lamar Blvd
Contact: Ramey Ko
✉ ramey.ko@gmail.com



STOMP

8 pm
The Paramount Theatre
713 Congress Ave
☎ (866) 4GET-TIX
🌐 www.austintheatre.org
Tickets: \$29⁵⁰/\$38⁵⁰/\$47⁵⁰/\$52⁵⁰/\$58⁵⁰

Stomp has been an answer on Jeopardy!, nominated for an Academy Award, won two Emmy Awards for the HBO special Stomp Out Loud, and jammed with everyone from Quincy Jones to Big Bird. Rather than using conventional instruments, the ensemble uses everyday objects to create amazing sounds and celebrate rhythm.

AUSTIN GAMBLERS BOWLING LEAGUE

8:30 pm
Dart Bowl
5700 Grover Ave
☎ (512) 452-2518 Alley Info Only
Contact: Tom Leger
✉ hottbowler2xxx@yahoo.com
🌐 austingamblers.wetpaint.com

Austin's first and best gay bowling league! Bowlers and non-bowlers are welcome! The handicap league awards additional pins to each bowler according to their average to level the playing field for all.

2 : wednesday

DEMOCRACY FOR TEXAS

6:30 pm
Scholtz Garden
1607 San Jacinto Blvd
Contact: Fran Vincent
✉ fran@democracyfortexas.org

STOMP

8 pm
The Paramount Theatre
713 Congress Ave
☎ (866) 4GET-TIX
🌐 www.austintheatre.org
Tickets: \$29⁵⁰/\$38⁵⁰/\$47⁵⁰/\$52⁵⁰/\$58⁵⁰

UNIVERSITY DEMOCRATS MEETING

8 pm
UTC 2.102A on the UT Campus
Contact: Nick Chu
✉ president@udems.org

Every Wednesday during the Fall and Spring semesters

LIVE MUSIC AT THE CHAIN DRIVE

9 pm
Chain Drive
504 Willow St
☎ (512) 480-9017
🌐 www.myspace.com/1chaindrive

The Chain Drive is trying to create a non-typical gay bar scene where GLBT people and their friends can hang out and listen to live music. You won't hear your typical gay bar music here and the bands vary from set to set and from week to week. Check the Chain Drive's MySpace page for updated info.

3 : thursday

CINCO DE MAYO MUSIC FESTIVAL

5:30 - 11pm
Fiesta Gardens
1901 Bergman Ave
☎ (512) 867-1999
🌐 www.austincincomemayo.com
Cost: \$5 all day, free for children under 10

The Austin Cinco de Mayo Music Festival is a celebration of Hispanic heritage combining live music, food, arts & crafts, carnival, contests, and good old fashioned family fun. Bring the whole family out to Fiesta Gardens especially since the kids are free. Take advantage of the carnival specials. Other events include the annual Jalapeño Eating Contest and Polka Dance contest.



UT WOMEN'S SOFTBALL:

Baylor
6:30 pm
Waco, Texas
🌐 www.texassports.com

STOMP

8 pm
The Paramount Theatre
713 Congress Ave
☎ (866) 4GET-TIX
🌐 www.austintheatre.org
Tickets: \$29⁵⁰/\$38⁵⁰/\$47⁵⁰/\$52⁵⁰/\$58⁵⁰

FIRST THURSDAY

🌐 www.firstthursday.info

Merchants of the historic, pedestrian-friendly strip keep their doors open until 10 pm with music, arts, crafts and food vendors creating a street-party atmosphere the first Thursday of every month. Parking is available at the Austin American Statesman lot at Congress & Riverside and also at the County lot on E. Live Oak (a block East of Congress). Please respect the folks in our neighborhood by not blocking streets or driveways and not leaving trash in their yards. There are extra trash receptacles set up on The Avenue for your convenience.

4 : friday

CINCO DE MAYO MUSIC FESTIVAL

5:30 pm - 12 midnight
Fiesta Gardens
1901 Bergman Ave

Gay & Lesbian
RAINBOW
Pages™

Join us on May 9, 2007



RAINBOW Night an
Evening to socialize & network and promote
Rainbow Pages advertisers and AGLCC Members

Our First Sponsor for this monthly event is the AGLCC Chamber
They will have prizes to give and we will enjoy happy hour prizes
and FREE hors d'oeuvres

FOR LOCATION AND MORE INFORMATION CALL & ASK FOR :

Roberto Candelaria
Austin Marketing Manager

512 719-3200

Sam Bible
Associate Publisher

www.rainbowpages.net

☎ (512) 867-1999

🌐 www.austincincomemayo.com

Cost: \$5 until 8pm; \$8 after 8pm, \$5 for seniors and students (with ID), free for children under 10

B SCENE AT THE BLANTON

6 - 11 pm

The Blanton Museum of Art
University of Texas at Austin
MLK Blvd & Congress Ave

☎ (512) 471-7324

🌐 www.blantonmuseum.org

Cost: \$5 for members; \$10 for non-members.

Happy Birthday Blanton! Join us for our monthly art party and celebrate the anniversary of the grand opening. Enjoy live music by the Alice Rose, cash bar, gallery tours, art activities, and much more. Tickets are available at the museum.

**UT MEN'S BASEBALL:****Missouri**

6:05 pm

Disch-Falk Field

1300 E MLK Blvd (at Comal)

☎ (512) 477-6060

🌐 www.texassports.com

Tickets: General Admission - \$5

Youth, \$7 Adult, Reserved - \$10

STOMP

8 pm

The Paramount Theatre
713 Congress Ave

☎ (866) 4GET-TIX

🌐 www.austintheatre.org

Tickets: \$29⁵⁰/\$38⁵⁰/\$47⁵⁰/\$52⁵⁰/\$58⁵⁰**5 : saturday****SHINER GASP!**

7 am - Ride Starts

Met Center

8201 E Riverside Dr

☎ (512) 771-4680

🌐 www.shinergasp.com



It's time for the annual pedal from Austin to Shiner, Texas to benefit the Lance Armstrong Foundation! So, tune up your bikes and get ready for one of the most unique cycling events in Texas! Join thousands of cyclists as they depart from Austin and ride 90 miles through small towns and scenic byways to the historic Spoetzl Brewery in Shiner, Texas

ASH DASH:**5K for Mental Health**

8 am - Walk Starts

Austin State Hospital

4110 Guadalupe St

☎ (512) 419-2147

🌐 www.ashvolunteers.org



The USATF certified course is a mostly flat, fast, double loop course all on Austin State Hospital grounds. Come race a season PR! The walk is a one (or two) loop around

our beautiful park-like campus. Check out the gorgeous old oak and pecan trees and beautiful rose bushes. Proceeds benefit Austin State Hospital children and adults with mental illness. Post Race food will be provided. Stay and tour the historic Austin State Hospital Building constructed in 1857.

SHOES FOR AUSTIN 5K AND KID'S 1K

8 am - 5K Run/Walk Start

9 am - Kid's 1K Start

The Green at La Frontera

301 Sundance Parkway

Round Rock

☎ (512) 479-7463

🌐 www.shoesforaustin.org



The 2007 Shoes for Austin 5K (Certified (TX02002JF) 5K race course) and Kid's 1K will be held, rain or shine. Both events will start and finish on "The Green" at La Frontera Shopping Center in Round Rock, Texas. All proceeds generated from the event go directly to buying new shoes for kids in need. Be a part of this fun, family event.

Event highlights include food and refreshments; fun activities for the kids, including a bouncy house, Youth Interactive obstacle course, and visit from Maggie, the cow, herself; cool prizes provided by New Balance and Round Rock Premium Outlets; and fun, energizing music by Mariachi En Fuego.

STRIDES FOR CHANGE

8 am - Registration Opens

9 am - Opening Ceremonies

9:30 am - Walk Starts

Old Settlers Park

3300 E Palm Valley Blvd,

Round Rock

☎ (512) 445-4976

🌐 www.stridesforchange.org



MADD is excited to host its first national signature walk event, Strides for Change. This scenic walk begins at the Rabb Pavillion and loops around the lake at Old Settlers Park. The event is free to participate in and features entertainment, a health and safety fair, kids' games, and more.

THE OLD PECAN STREET FESTIVAL

11am - 10pm

East 6th (Old Pecan) Street

☎ (512) 443-6179

🌐 www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com

The largest whole family event in Central Texas featuring 200 plus art and crafts exhibitors, 40 plus vendors dozens of bands, dance lessons multicultural performers and more than 300,000 beautiful people.

Now introducing Theatre at the Pecan Street Festival.

YELLERDAWG /**SATURDAY SAGES DEMOCRATS**

11 am

Tres Amigos Restaurant

1801 S Capital of Texas Hwy

Contact: Bill McAfee

✉ bmcafee@austin.rr.com

CINCO DE MAYO MUSIC FESTIVAL

12 noon - 12 midnight

Fiesta Gardens

1901 Bergman Ave

☎ (512) 867-1999

🌐 www.austincincomemayo.com

Cost: \$5 until 8pm; \$8 after 8pm, \$5 for seniors and students (with ID), free for children under 10

**UT MEN'S BASEBALL:****Missouri***Presented by Sprint*

2 pm

Disch-Falk Field

1300 E MLK Blvd (at Comal)

☎ (512) 477-6060

🌐 www.texassports.com

Tickets: General Admission - \$5

Youth, \$7 Adult, Reserved - \$10

STOMP

5 pm & 9 pm

The Paramount Theatre

713 Congress Ave

☎ (866) 4GET-TIX

🌐 www.austintheatre.org

Tickets: \$29⁵⁰/\$38⁵⁰/\$47⁵⁰/\$52⁵⁰/\$58⁵⁰**STONEWALL DEMOCRATS**

7:30 pm

Magnolia Cafe South

1920 S Congress Ave (at Johanna St)

Contact: Christina Ocasio

✉ christina@stonewallaustin.org

🌐 www.stonewallaustin.org

Monthly club meetings are the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm.

6 : sunday**THE OLD PECAN STREET FESTIVAL**

11am - 8pm

East 6th (Old Pecan) Street

☎ (512) 443-6179

🌐 www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com

AUSTIN CINCO DE MAYO MUSIC FESTIVAL

12 noon - 10pm

Fiesta Gardens

1901 Bergman Ave

☎ (512) 867-1999

🌐 www.austincincomemayo.com

Cost: \$5 all day, free for children under 10

**UT MEN'S BASEBALL:****Missouri**

1 pm

Disch-Falk Field

1300 E MLK Blvd (at Comal)

☎ (512) 477-6060

🌐 www.texassports.com

Tickets: General Admission - \$5

Youth, \$7 Adult, Reserved - \$10

BookWoman To Host Reading & Booksigning

Canadian Authors Stop in Austin to Promote Their Latest Works

BookWoman will host Caro Soles and Anthony Bidulka on Monday, May 8 at 7 pm for a reading from their latest works followed by a booksigning.

Caro Soles will read from her latest books, *Drag Queen in the Court of Death*, and *The Danger Dance*.

Drag Queen in the Court of Death is a tense and haunting thriller about a staid history professor who needs to face his past, and unravel a mystery that's 25 years old, in order to forge a future. Set against the flamboyant backdrop of drag queens and the troubling personal and political realities gay men endured in the 1960's, Michael Dunn-Barten must uncover the truth about his dead ex-lover.

The futuristic space adventure *Danger Dance* once again features the pleasure

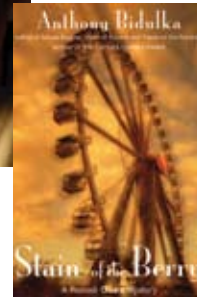
loving hermaphrodites of The Mercurian National Dance Company who are wrenched from their tranquil life and thrust into an unexpected world of espionage, danger and political intrigue.

Noted author Caro Soles has published six novels and two short story collections under a pseudonym as well as *The Abulon Dance*, the first in the science fiction series *The Mercurians*.

Arthur Ellis Award nominee / Lambda Award winner Anthony Bidulka will read from his latest Russell Quant mystery, *Stain of the Berry*.

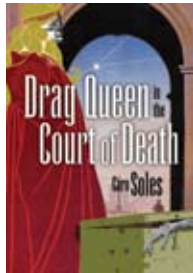


In *Stain of the Berry* the family of a suicide victim hires private detective Russell Quant to find the real cause of death. As Quant narrows the suspects, the action moves from Saskatchewan, through Vancouver, and finally to the Canadian Arctic. He stays one step ahead of the Boogeyman only to find himself on a perilous suspension bridge between idyllic childhood and adult violence.



With sharp writing, descriptive flair and wry humor, Bidulka's mystery series (there are four in all) tells the story of the first, and perhaps only, half-Ukrainian, half-Irish, gay, novice, ex-farmboy, ex-cop, Canadian, prairie, private detective being written about today anywhere!

BookWoman is located at 918 West 12th Street near the intersection with Lamar Boulevard. ■



STOMP

3 pm & 7 pm
The Paramount Theatre
713 Congress Ave
☎ (866) 4GET-TIX
🌐 www.austintheatre.org
Tickets: \$29⁵⁰/\$38⁵⁰/\$47⁵⁰/\$52⁵⁰/\$58⁵⁰

AUSTIN WRANGLERS VS. TAMPA BAY STORM

3 pm
Frank Erwin Center
1701 Red River St (@ MLK Blvd)
☎ (512) 471-7744
🌐 www.uterwincenter.com
Tickets: \$15/\$20/\$30/\$40/\$45/\$95

CAPITAL CITY MEN'S CHORUS: WHICH WAY DO YOU SWING? SPRING CONCERT

4 pm
Central Presbyterian Church
200 E 8th St (at Brazos St)
✉ ccmc.austin@io.com
🌐 www.ccmcaustin.org
Tickets: \$15 in advance / \$18 at the door
The birth of cool -- Jazz -- is our most human,

organic, ans sensual musical language, born of America. Join the Chorus, along with Austin.s own David Chenu Ensemble, as we explore our roots through Jazz and Latin standards. Come along and discover which way you swing.

TOP DRAWER COUTURE

7 - 10 pm
Top Drawer Thrift
4902 Burnet Rd (at 6th Street)
☎ (512) 472-5050

Almost Impatient Productions presents Top Drawer Couture '07, hosted by the Austin Chronicle's Stephen Moser. This runway fashion show features reconstructed clothing made from items taken from the racks of Top Drawer Thrift, as well as original styles created by local designers. The elements of all reconstructed outfits featured in the show come straight from the racks of Top Drawer Thrift and total no more than \$20 per ensemble! Top Drawer Couture '07 also features a live DJ, intermission entertainment, and a tantalizing assortment of spring-inspired hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

A pre-show tent sale featuring a special vintage rack and live music will be held 12 noon - 7 pm. Come enjoy live performances by The Studebakers, Frantic Mantra, The Guise, Brooks Chambers, Muppetone, Muchos Backflips! and more.



REO SPEEDWAGON

6 pm - Doors, 7 pm - Show
The Backyard
13101 Highway 71 West (@ RR 620)
☎ (512) 263-4146
🌐 www.thebackyard.net
Tickets: \$37/\$47/\$57

Majic 95.5 and Direct Events Present An Evening with REO Speedwagon

7 : monday

BOOKSIGNING/READING: Caro Sole & Anthony Bidulka

7 pm
BookWoman
918 W 12th St (at Lamar Blvd)
☎ (512) 472-2785
🌐 www.ebookwoman.com

Noted author Caro Soles has published six novels and two short story collections under a pseudonym as well as *The Abulon Dance*, the first in the science fiction series *The Mercurians*. Caro is also the founder of *Bloody Words*, Canada's first annual conference for readers and writers of mysteries. She teaches writing at George Brown College in Toronto.

Anthony Bidulka has enjoyed time well-spent and misspent in the worlds of academia, accounting, footwear, food services and farming. With sharp writing, descriptive flair and wry humor, Bidulka's mystery series (there are four in all) tells the story of the first, and perhaps only, half-Ukrainian, half-Irish, gay, novice, ex-farmboy, ex-cop, Canadian, prairie, private detective being written about today anywhere! An avid traveler, reader and party-giver, Anthony lives in Saskatoon where he is at work on his next novel.

8 : tuesday

SOUTH AUSTIN DEMOCRATS

5:30 pm - Dinner

6 pm - Meeting

Opal Devine's Penn Field

3601 S Congress Ave

Contact: Alicia Del Rio

☎ (512) 947-6354

✉ ava1227@prodigy.net

AUSTIN AREA COMPREHENSIVE HIV PLANNING COUNCIL:

Business Meeting

6 pm

One Texas Center

505 Barton Springs Rd (at S 1st St)

☎ (512) 974-2615

🌐 www.ci.austin.tx.us/hivcouncil/

The mission of the HIV Planning Council is to develop and coordinate an effective and comprehensive community-wide response to HIV/AIDS, through consumer-driven coordinated and collaborative efforts, which addresses the needs of the community as a whole, including those infected individuals traditionally not served, or underserved.

All meetings of the HIV Planning Council are open to the public to attend and comment. The diversity of the community affect by HIV and AIDS is reflected in the members of the Council. If you are interested in helping to develop long-term planning or determining how federal funds are allocated, the Council is actively recruiting new members. Call the offices of the HIV Planning Council or visit the website for an application.

LAKE TRAVIS DEMOCRATS

6:30 pm

Lakeway Activity Center

105 Cross Creek

Contact: Ed Benjamin

✉ president@laketravisdemocrats.org

AUSTIN GAMBLERS BOWLING LEAGUE

8:30 pm

Dart Bowl

5700 Grover Ave

☎ (512) 452-2518 Alley Info Only

Contact: Tom Leger

✉ hottbowler2xxx@yahoo.com

🌐 austingamblers.wetpaint.com

9 : wednesday

GAY & LESBIAN RAINBOW PAGES PRESENTS Rainbow Night

Time TBD (check website for info)

Location TBD (check website for info)

Contact: Roberto Candelaria or Sam Bible

☎ (512) 719-3200

🌐 www.rainbowpages.net

Enjoy and evening to socialize and network and promote Rainbow Pages advertisers and AGLCC members.

The sponsor for May is the Austin Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. They will have prizes to give while you enjoy happy hour prizes and free hors d'oeuvres.



DAMIEN RICE

8 pm

Bass Concert Hall

510 E 23rd St (at Robert Dedman Dr)

☎ (512) 471-1444

🌐 www.utpac.org

Tickets: \$29⁵⁰/\$39⁵⁰

Thanks to his raw and seductive lyrics and voice, this young Irish singer/songwriter is hailed as the decade's most evocative troubador.

"At once spare and elegant, with an equal flair for whisper-quiet simplicity and orchestral bombast, Damien Rice's music conveys emotional intensity and straightforward beauty at the same time." — NPR

LIVE MUSIC AT THE CHAIN DRIVE

9 pm

Chain Drive

504 Willow St

☎ (512) 480-9017

🌐 www.myspace.com/1chaindrive

10 : thursday

CAPITAL AREA DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

11:30 am - Networking, 12 noon - Lunch

Nuevo Leon Restaurant

1501 E 6th St

Contact: Megan Woodburn

☎ (512) 538-1329

✉ cadw@cadw.org

COOCHIE COO AT THE PEACOCK

7 pm

The Peacock

515 Pedernales

☎ (512) 276-8979

✉ beatsagogo@aol.com

🌐 www.ultraultra.net

Ultra-Ultra's lessie night at The Peacock (every other Thursday). Drink, dance, chit-chat, mingle, flirt with the bartenders. In the weeks to come, look for theme nights, sketch comedy, this, that and the whole homo other! Cochie Coo starts early and leaves late. Honey-bunny, you are free to step aboard or stop off at any given time and there's no cover.

AN EVENING WITH STEPHEN MILLS



8 pm

The Paramount Theatre

713 Congress Ave

☎ (866) 4GET-TIX

🌐 www.austintheatre.org

Tickets: \$17⁵⁰/\$28/\$35/\$44

The Golden Anniversary Season closes with three world-premiere works by Stephen Mills set to the music of J.S. Bach and John Cage. The international award-winning choreographer Stephen Mills, now in his seventh year as artistic director of Ballet Austin, asks you to join him in a special tribute to Ballet Austin's next 50 years.

HARRY CONNICK JR.

'MY NEW ORLEANS TOUR'

8 pm

Bass Concert Hall

510 E 23rd St (at Robert Dedman Dr)

☎ (512) 471-1444

🌐 www.utpac.org

Tickets: \$31⁵⁰/\$52/\$67

Connick is currently on a national tour in support of his two new albums, *Oh, My NOLA* and *Chanson du Vieux Carré*. On these albums Connick puts new spins on New Orleans



National Asian & Pacific Islander
HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
MAY 19



For more information, please visit these Web sites:
www.omhrc.gov/hivaidsobservances
www.aids.gov and
www.hivtest.org

classics, capturing the unique spirit and beauty of his hometown. "New Orleans is a city of paradox. Sin, salvation, sex, sanctification, so intertwined yet so separate," says Connick. "Jazz, gospel, brass band, rhythm and blues, country, funk aren't all the styles played in New Orleans," he emphasizes. "But they're the ones I wanted to play around with."

PROMENADE POPS WITH CLASSICAL MYSTERY TOUR: A Tribute to The Beatles

8 pm
Palmer Events Center
900 Barton Springs Road
☎ (512) 476-6064
🌐 www.austinsymphony.org
Tickets: \$25/\$40

The world's most acclaimed tribute to The Beatles performs live in concert with the Austin Symphony! Classical Mystery Tour features performances of more than 30 Beatles tunes played and sung exactly as they were written by the Fab Four. Hear timeless classics, including "Yesterday," "Eleanor Rigby," "Imagine," "Hey Jude," "All You Need is Love" and much more!

11 : friday

GUERRILLA QUEER BAR

6 – 9 pm
Location TBD (check the website for details)
🌐 www.smokingbanana.com

The Austin Outpost of the Guerrilla Queer Bar increases the entertainment options for the Austin gay community by allowing us to roam to venues outside of the half-dozen or so Authorized Gay Bars™. This is an opportunity to get creative, see the straight world together, and enjoy ourselves beyond the confines of the gay club scene. "Don't Clone, Colonize"

WEST AUSTIN DEMOCRATS MEETING

7 pm
Howson Library
2500 Exposition Blvd
Contact: Suzy Reid
☎ (512) 474-2696
✉ info@westaustindemocrats.org

UNIVERSITY DEMOCRAT

8 pm
UTC 2.102A on the UT Campus
Contact: Nick Chu
✉ president@udems.org

AN EVENING WITH STEPHEN MILLS

8 pm
The Paramount Theatre
713 Congress Ave
☎ (866) 4GET-TIX
🌐 www.austintheatre.org
Tickets: \$17⁵⁰/\$27/\$39/\$44/\$56/\$65

PROMENADE POPS WITH CLASSICAL MYSTERY TOUR: A Tribute to The Beatles

8 pm
Palmer Events Center
900 Barton Springs Road
☎ (512) 476-6064
🌐 www.austinsymphony.org
Tickets: \$25/\$40

12 : saturday



CHUY'S 24TH ANNUAL HOT TO TROT 5K AND KIDS K

8 am - Kid K Starts
8:30 am - 5K Starts
Hula Hut
3825 Lake Austin Blvd
☎ (888) 439-2489 x25
🌐 www.chuys.com

Join us for the 24th Annual Hot to Trot 5K & Kid K. The race benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas. Registration for the Timed/Competitive, Fun Run/Walk, Wheelchair Timed or Kid K is available online or pick up an entry form up at any Chuy's location including Shady Grove & Hula Hut. Registration forms will also be available at area RunTex locations. One t-shirt is included with the price of registration and sizes may be chosen at Packet Pick-Up and Registration, which will be held at the race site week before and day of the race.

Strollers are welcome to participate, we just ask that those individuals line up at the back of the crowd. Due to safety issues, only one dog per adult participant will be allowed at this year's race and dogs must be on a leash and accompanied at all times.



MARCH OF DIMES WALKAMERICA

9:30 am - Registration
10:30 am - Walk Starts
Auditorium Shores
☎ (512) 477-3221
🌐 www.walkamerica.org

WalkAmerica is one of the largest walking events both locally and nationally, generating thousands of dollars to support the March of Dimes campaign for healthier babies. Hundreds of volunteers throughout the Austin community solicit contributions from individual sponsors and then participate in the fun-filled morning of walking to celebrate their efforts to save babies from premature birth and other health problems.

YELLERDAWG/SATURDAY SAGES DEMOCRATS MEETING

11 am
Tres Amigos Restaurant
1801 S Capital of Texas Hwy
Contact: Bill McAfee
bmcafee@austin.rr.com

UT MEN'S BASEBALL: TBA

6:05 pm
Disch-Falk Field
1300 E MLK Blvd (at Comal)
☎ (512) 477-6060
🌐 www.texassports.com
Tickets: General Admission - \$5
Youth, \$7 Adult, Reserved - \$10

AN EVENING WITH STEPHEN MILLS

8 pm
The Paramount Theatre
713 Congress Ave
☎ (866) 4GET-TIX
🌐 www.austintheatre.org
Tickets: \$17⁵⁰/\$27/\$39/\$44/\$56/\$65

13 : sunday

MOTHER'S DAY

AN EVENING WITH STEPHEN MILLS

2 pm
The Paramount Theatre
713 Congress Ave
☎ (866) 4GET-TIX
🌐 www.austintheatre.org
Tickets: \$17⁵⁰/\$28/\$35/\$44

BRIGHT EYES

with Oakley Hall & McCarthy Trenching

8 pm
Bass Concert Hall
510 E 23rd St (at Robert Dedman Dr)
☎ (512) 471-1444
🌐 www.utpac.org
Tickets: \$25/\$28

Bright Eyes announces the 2007 national tour includes a stop in Austin at the UT Performing Arts Center! Just in time for the band's 7th studio album, *Cassadaga*.

Bright Eyes are the musical vehicle of Conor Oberst, a young singer/songwriter from Nebraska who first attracted the attention of the indie music world in 1994— when he was

just 14 years old— as the singer and guitarist for Commander Venus (disbanded in 1997).

Bright Eyes is a band anchored by Oberst's, multi-instrumentalist/producer Mike Mogis, Nate Walcott, and a rotating lineup of collaborators. The lineup of Bright Eyes players has included Andy LeMaster, Ben Kweller, Gillian Welch, David Rawlings, Janet Weiss, Jason Boesel, John McEntire (Tortoise) M. Ward, Maria Taylor and Rachael Yamagata.

14 : monday

RAINBOW SKATE NIGHT

8 - 11 pm

Skate World Austin

9514 Anderson Mill Rd

☎ (512) 258-8886 (Rink Info Only)

Contact: James Svetlik

(512) 296-0381

✉ jsvetlik2003@yahoo.com

🌐 www.main.org/rainbowskate/

Cost: \$6, inc. skate rental, or bring your own.

A monthly rollerskating event for the Austin gay and lesbian community. Rainbow Rollerskating is a fun way skate and meet people. We often get turn-outs of 30 people of all age ranges. Proceeds to benefit Austin Mpowerment. Additional donations will also be accepted at the door.

15 : tuesday



ANNE LAMOTT

6:30 pm - Doors/Bar

7:30 pm Show

The Paramount Theatre

713 Congress Ave

☎ (866) 4GET-TIX

🌐 www.austentheatre.org

Tickets: \$43⁵⁰

Author Anne Lamott takes complicated issues and breaks them down with her quirky, self-effacing sense of humor. From alcoholism and motherhood to religion and family, Lamott uses a personal honesty in her writing that comforts and inspires. She is the author of six novels including Crooked Little Heart, as well as four non-fiction works including Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life.

AGLCC MONTHLY MEETING

6:30 pm

Mangia Pizza

8012 Mesa Dr (at Spicewood Springs Rd)

Contact: Alfred Engstrand

☎ (512) 474-4422

✉ programs@aglcc.com

🌐 www.aglcc.com

Cost: \$15 per person

Come relax from your workday to network with your friends and other AGLCC members. Fee will include salad, pizza buffet, bread, and desserts. There will be several vegetarian options available as well.

LATINOS FOR TEXAS

7:00 pm

Kerbey Lane Café

2606 Guadalupe

Contact: Sabas Avila

✉ sabas@latinosfortexas.com

AUSTIN GAMBLERS BOWLING LEAGUE

8:30 pm

Dart Bowl

5700 Grover Ave

☎ (512) 452-2518 Alley Info Only

Contact: Tom Leger

✉ hottbowler2xxx@yahoo.com

🌐 austingamblers.wetpaint.com

The Siphon & Q group PRESENTS

PRE-SPLASH BEACH BALL

A BENEFIT FOR AIDS SERVICES OF AUSTIN

EMCEED BY MADINE HUGHES

BEACH ATTIRE IS ALLOWED AND ENCOURAGED

\$250 CASH PRIZE FOR BEST BEACH ATTIRE

OILCAN HARRY'S
211 WEST 4TH STREET
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2007
11PM - 2:30AM

DONATIONS TO ASA ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR

OUR SPONSORS

ABSOLUT Country of Sweden VODKA

OCH Oilcan Harry's

Q MONTHLY MAGAZINE

UNAPOLOGETIK

16 : wednesday**CENTRAL AUSTIN DEMOCRATS**

6:15 pm
New World Deli
4101 Guadalupe St # 100
Contact: Glen Coleman
327-1066
✉ glenofaustin@yahoo.com

SOUTHWEST AUSTIN DEMOCRATS

6:30 pm - Social, 6:45 pm - Program
Hampton Public Library
5125 Convict Hill Rd
Contact: Albert Gonzales
☎ (512) 280-4900
✉ email4agg@yahoo.com

KEEP AUSTIN BLUE

6:30 pm - Socialize, 7:15 pm - Meeting
Mother Egan's Irish Pub
715 W 6th St
Contact: Sharron Hargis
✉ sharron@keepaustinblue.org

LIVE MUSIC AT THE CHAIN DRIVE

9 pm
Chain Drive
504 Willow St
☎ (512) 480-9017
🌐 www.myspace.com/1chaindrive

17 : thursday**BLACK AUSTIN DEMOCRATS MEETING**

6 pm
Judge Richard Scott's office
1811 Springdale Rd #110
Contact: Richard Franklin
✉ richardf3rd@yahoo.com

LEO KOTKKE**with special guest Tom Rush**

7 pm - Doors/Bar, 8 pm Show
The Paramount Theatre
713 Congress Ave
☎ (866) 4GET-TIX
🌐 www.austintheatre.org
Tickets: \$29⁵⁰ / \$35⁵⁰ / \$40⁵⁰

An Austin favorite and a Paramount perennial, Leo Kottke is back by popular demand! He is a legendary acoustic guitar virtuoso who has developed a cult following over the span of a 30-year career of recording and performing. Blending folk, jazz, and blues influences into a signature finger-picked style of syncopated, polyphonic music, Kottke's instrumental music movement has never being confined to just one genre. His brand of finger picking retains the drive, fluidity and inventiveness that have made his performances at The Paramount legendary.

18 : friday**HIV VACCINE AWARENESS DAY**

May 18th marks the tenth annual HIV Vaccine Awareness Day. This annual observance is a day to recognize and thank the thousands of volunteers, community members, health professionals, and scientists who are working together to find a safe and effective HIV vaccine. It is also a day to educate our communities about the importance of preventive HIV vaccine research.



On May 18, show your support for HIV vaccine research by wearing your AIDS ribbon upside-down to symbolize a "V" for vaccines and the vision of a world without AIDS.

PARAMOUNT 91ST ANNIVERSARY GALA w/ MAVIS STAPLES

6 pm - Doors/Bar, 7 pm Show
The Paramount Theatre
713 Congress Ave
☎ (866) 4GET-TIX
🌐 www.austintheatre.org
Tickets: \$19/\$24⁵⁰/\$36⁵⁰ (Concert Only)

Join us for the biggest party of the year as we celebrate the Paramount Theatre's 91st birthday. First, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee and legendary performer Mavis Staples will treat you to an exhilarating performance at the historic Paramount. Afterwards, continue the fun at the ultimate after-party located 400 feet above Congress Avenue on the 30th floor of the Frost Bank Tower with a 360 degree view of the city.

Not only will the band that backed Prince during the half-time show at this year's Super Bowl, Grupo Fantasma, perform, but we also have the city's largest, most exclusive live and silent auctions. The entire evening will be extraordinary - we have thought of everything...dinner, drinks, music, dancing, auctions, parking and more! The attire is Cocktail Casual to keep things cool, but the whole night will be unforgettably hot, hot, hot!


**UT MEN'S BASEBALL:
Texas A&M**
State Farm Lone Star Showdown

6:30 pm
College Station, Texas
🌐 www.texasports.com

PRE-SPLASH BEACH BALL

11 pm - 2:30 am
Oilcan Harry's
211 W 4th St
☎ (512) 320-8823
🌐 www.oilcanharrys.com

The Siphon Group and Q Boyz of ASA invite you to the Pre-Splash Beach Ball, a benefit for AIDS Services of Austin. The evening will be emceed by Nadine Hughes. Sponsored by the guys at Oilcan Harrys as well as Absolut Vodka, UNAPOLOGETIK Apparel and Q Monthly Magazine, there is no cost to attend but a donation to benefit ASA is suggested and can be made at the door. To help get every one in the mood for Splash, beach attire is allowed and encouraged and there will be a \$250 cash prize for the best outfit.

19 : saturday**2007****AUSTIN ARTHRITIS WALK**

9 am - Walk Starts
Westlake High School
4100 Westbank Dr
☎ (512) 370-1505
🌐 www.austinarthritiswalk.kintera.org

The Arthritis Foundation would like to invite you to participate in one of the fastest growing fund-raising events of its kind in the country. The 2007 Austin Arthritis Walk is a signature event of the Arthritis Foundation, which celebrates those battling arthritis while simultaneously raising money and awareness to prevent, control and cure arthritis, the nations leading cause of disability. The funds raised through the Austin Arthritis Walk directly support arthritis research, health education and government advocacy initiatives to improve the lives of people with arthritis.

The Austin Arthritis Walk is a community event in its truest sense. Teams of people from medical groups, schools, churches, neighborhoods, civic groups and businesses come together to show support for those who battle this disease. It is more than just an event... it creates a sense of community that one can see and feel. It is like the world's largest support group. Even more than that, it serves as a statement that this community is serious about curing arthritis.

Opening Ceremonies for the event begin at 9:00 am, immediately following close to 500 participants will begin walking to show their support of the more than 46.4 million Americans currently battling arthritis or chronic joint symptoms. You won't want to miss this community event that is like no other!

YELLERDAWG/SATURDAY SAGES DEMOCRATS MEETING

11 am
Tres Amigos Restaurant
1801 S Capital of Texas Hwy
Contact: Bill McAfee
bmcafee@austin.rr.com

UT MEN'S BASEBALL:
Texas A&M
 State Farm Lone Star Showdown
 6:05 pm
 Disch-Falk Field
 1300 E MLK Blvd (at Comal)
 ☎ (512) 477-6060
 🌐 www.texassports.com
 Tickets: General Admission - \$5
 Youth, \$7 Adult, Reserved - \$10

20 : sunday

UT MEN'S BASEBALL:
Texas A&M
 State Farm Lone Star Showdown
 2:00 pm
 Disch-Falk Field
 1300 E MLK Blvd (at Comal)
 ☎ (512) 477-6060
 🌐 www.texassports.com
 Tickets: General Admission - \$5
 Youth, \$7 Adult, Reserved - \$10

**AUSTIN WRANGLERS
 VS. ORLANDO PREDATORS**

3 pm
 Frank Erwin Center
 1701 Red River St (@ MLK Blvd)
 ☎ (512) 471-7744
 🌐 www.uterwincenter.com
 Tickets: \$15/\$20/\$30/\$40/\$45/\$95

21 : monday

NORTH BY NORTHWEST DEMOCRATS
 6 pm
 Texpresso
 2700 W. Anderson Ln, in the Village
 Shopping Center
 Contact: Jan Soifer
 ☎ (512) 657-0556
 ✉ jan@lssfirm.com

22 : tuesday

AGLCC LUNCHEON
 Time TBD (check website for info)
 Location TBD (check website for info)
 Contact: Alfred Engstrand
 ☎ (512) 474-4422
 ✉ programs@aglcc.com
 🌐 www.aglcc.com

Take a break from your workday to network with other AGLCC members.

There will be door prizes given away at each meeting. If your business or organization is a member of AGLCC and would like to donate items (gift certificates, promotional items with your business logo, gift baskets, etc), please bring them to each meeting or contact Programs Director if you have questions.

**AUSTIN AREA COMPREHENSIVE
 HIV PLANNING COUNCIL:
 Various Committee Meetings**

Meetings start between 5 - 6 pm
 One Texas Center
 505 Barton Springs Rd (at S 1st St)
 ☎ (512) 974-2615
 🌐 www.ci.austin.tx.us/hivcouncil/

All meetings of the HIV Planning Council are open to the public to attend and comment.

HRC TUESDAY TOGETHER
 Time TBD (check website for info)
 Location TBD (check website for info)
 ✉ info@hrcaustin.com
 🌐 www.hrc.org/austin

**NORTHEAST TRAVIS COUNTY
 DEMOCRATS**
 6:30 pm - Meet and Greet
 7 pm Meeting starts
 Contact: Dave Taylor
 ☎ (512) 251-4645
 ✉ mrdave9735@aol.com

At the home of Dave Taylor, 403 S. 3rd St., in Pflugerville right under the water tower.

AUSTIN GAMBLERS BOWLING LEAGUE
 8:30 pm
 Dart Bowl
 5700 Grover Ave
 ☎ (512) 452-2518 Alley Info Only
 Contact: Tom Leger
 ✉ hottbowler2xxx@yahoo.com
 🌐 austingamblers.wetpaint.com

The Siphon & Q
 group
 presents

White Party
 A BENEFIT FOR AIDS SERVICES OF AUSTIN

RAIN on 4th
 Saturday, May 26, 2007
 10pm - 2:30am

Emceed by Miss Kelly Kline

Donations to ASA
 accepted at the door

sponsors



UNAPOLOGETIK

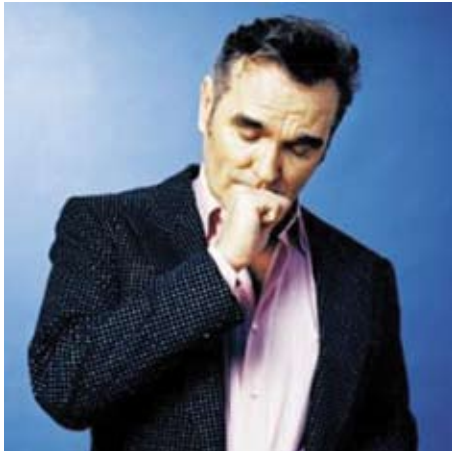


23 : wednesday**LIVE MUSIC AT THE CHAIN DRIVE**

9 pm
Chain Drive
504 Willow St
☎ (512) 480-9017
🌐 www.myspace.com/1chaindrive

24 : thursday**COOCHIE COO AT THE PEACOCK**

7 pm
The Peacock
515 Pedernales
☎ (512) 276-8979
✉ beatsagogo@aol.com
🌐 www.ultraultra.net

25 : friday**NO EVENTS REPORTED****26 : saturday****MORRISSEY**

6:30 pm - Doors, 8 pm - Show
The Backyard
13101 Highway 71 West (@ RR 620)
☎ (512) 263-4146
🌐 www.thebackyard.net
Tickets: \$39/\$41

WHITE PARTY

10 pm - 2:30 am
RAIN on 4th
217B W 4th St
☎ (512) 494-1150
🌐 www.rainon4th.com

The Siphon Group and Q Boyz of ASA invite you to the White Party, a benefit for AIDS Services of Austin. The evening will be emceed by Kelly Kline. Sponsored by the gracious host, RAIN on 4th as well as UNAPOLOGETIK Apparel and Q Monthly Magazine, there is no cost to attend but a donation to benefit ASA is suggested and can be made at the door.

27 : sunday**2007 RUN FOR THE ROVERS**

8:30 am - Walk Starts
Williamson County
Regional Park, Leander
☎ (512) 689-6328
🌐 www.bluedogrescue.com



How can you support animal adoption and welfare in Central Texas? Participate in Blue

Dog Rescue's second annual 5K, Run for the Rovers! All proceeds from the event (presented by Premier Animal Hospital) benefit Blue Dog Rescue, a local 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer organization working to place adoptable, homeless dogs with forever families.

The race is primarily for human participants, but you can register your canine family members for the run as well. Each four-legged participant will receive a goody bag. All dogs must be spayed or neutered, current on vaccinations (including rabies), friendly with other dogs and people, and be on leashes. One canine per person please!

New for 2007! We've added a Kids K to start at 8 am, so bring the whole family plus Fido! Prizes that'll get your tail waggin' will go to the top 3 in each age group, plus the top five canine participants.

**AUSTIN WRANGLERS VS. PHILADELPHIA SOUL**

3 pm
Frank Erwin Center
1701 Red River St (@ MLK Blvd)
☎ (512) 471-7744
🌐 www.uterwincenter.com
Tickets: \$15/\$20/\$30/\$40/\$45/\$95

28 : monday**MEMORIAL DAY****CAPITAL OF TEXAS TRIATHLON**

7 am - Olympic Starts
9 am - Sprint Starts
9:30 am - First Tri
Auditorium Shores
🌐 www.captextri.com



First Tri: 400 meter swim . 10K bike . 5k run
This is the perfect event for athletes new to triathlon or as a season opener for longer distance races in the summer.

Sprint Tri: 750 meter swim . 20k bike . 5k run
Sprint distance athletes can choose to participate in Age Group, Clydesdale, Athena or Trisome (relay) divisions.

Olympic Tri: 1.5k swim . 40k bike . 10k run

Olympic Distance athletes can choose to participate in Age Group, Clydesdale, Athena or Trisome (relay) divisions.

Trisome: 1.5k swim . 40k bike . 10k run Relay division of Olympic distance event. 7:00 am . Monday, May 28, 2007 750 meter swim . 20k bike . 5k run Relay division of Sprint distance event.

29 : tuesday**AUSTIN GAMBLERS BOWLING LEAGUE**

8:30 pm
Dart Bowl
5700 Grover Ave
☎ (512) 452-2518 Alley Info Only
Contact: Tom Leger
✉ hottbowler2xxx@yahoo.com
🌐 austingamblers.wetpaint.com

30 : wednesday**AUSTIN TEJANO DEMOCRATS**

5:30 - 7:30 pm
El Mercado Restaurant (private meeting room)
1702 Lavaca St
Contact: Sylvia Camarillo-Brittain
☎ (512) 784-5810
✉ austintejanodemocrats@yahoo.com

TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRATS

7 pm-8:30 pm
Terrazas Branch Library
1105 E Cesar Chavez St.
Contact: Blair Dancy
☎ (512) 468-1961
✉ bdancy@austin.rr.com

LIVE MUSIC AT THE CHAIN DRIVE

9 pm
Chain Drive
504 Willow St
☎ (512) 480-9017
🌐 www.myspace.com/1chaindrive

31 : thursday**NO EVENTS REPORTED**

A Toast to Hope...

Napa winery launches online wine retail store to help fight AIDS

O'Brien Cellars, a brand of O'Brien Family Vineyard, a family-owned winery located in the Oak Knoll District of southern Napa Valley, has created for wine connoisseurs and community advocates an innovative way to bridge their cultural tastes with their social conscience.

Bart & Barb O'Brien, the owners of O'Brien Cellars, have launched Wine for Hope, an online wine retail store that automatically donates 20% of all sales to Academy of Friends, an organization dedicated to raising funds granted to a diverse set of HIV/AIDS direct care and prevention education agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"As California business owners, my wife and I feel it is our responsibility to give back to the community and show support for the important causes of our time," said Bart O'Brien, owner of O'Brien Cellars. "As winemakers, we want to offer wine lovers some of the best wines Napa Valley has to offer. Wine for Hope lets us do both. With one click of the mouse, Wine for Hope shoppers

can have great wine shipped to their front door, while making a contribution to the fight against AIDS."

The O'Briens soon plan to invite other Napa Valley wineries to participate in the program and offer Wine for Hope shoppers a broader selection of wine. "Eventually," says Mr. O'Brien "this may become a major wine portal for the community of people interested in becoming involved in the fight against AIDS and giving hope to people living with the disease."

Over the last year, O'Brien has involved his winery in several other progressive causes. In 2006, the winery became a statewide sponsor for Equality California (EQCA), the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organization in the state fighting to end the ban on same-sex marriage. The winery now donates all wine for the EQCA Equality Awards dinner events. The winery also recently launched an online program similar to Wine for Hope entitled Wine for Equality, which automatically donates 20%



of all sales generated from O'Brien Cellars' online Equality Wine Store to EQCA. O'Brien Cellars was also the wine sponsor for the San Francisco Pride Celebration 2006.

"Wine for Hope is yet another step toward our goal of helping to make a difference in the world," said O'Brien. "We believe Bay Area wine lovers will appreciate the opportunity to make a contribution to Academy of Friends with their purchase of fine Napa Valley wines."

For more information about Wine for Hope, visit www.wineforhope.com.

For more information about O'Brien Cellars and O'Brien Family Vineyard, visit www.seductionwine.com and www.obrienfamilyvineyard.com. ■



donate. volunteer. get involved.

PREVENTION SERVICES | HIV TESTING | CASE MANAGEMENT | DENTAL CLINIC | LEGAL SERVICES | FOOD BANK

WWW.ASAUSTIN.ORG
(512) 458-AIDS

Federal Hate Crimes Bill Re-introduced in Congress

More Than 210 Law Enforcement, Civil Rights, Civic and Religious Organizations Support

Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., and Mark Kirk, R-Ill., re-introduced the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (LLEHCPA), a critical piece of legislation providing local police and sheriff's departments with federal resources to combat hate violence, in the U.S House of Representatives.

Gay groups such as the Human Rights Campaign and the Matthew Shepard Foundation hailed the bill's introduction and joined with more than 210 law enforcement, civil rights, civic and religious organizations actively supporting its passage.

More than 100 other members of Congress joined Conyers and Kirk in introducing the bipartisan bill. The Senate is expected to introduce a bipartisan companion bill next month.

"Each year, thousands of Americans are violently attacked just because they are black, female, Christian or gay. These crimes not only harm individuals, but they terrorize entire communities. It's the responsibility of our government to protect all Americans. After more than a decade of delay, it's time for Congress to provide local police and sheriffs' departments with the tools and resources they need to put away society's most vicious criminals," Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said in a release.

Caroline Fredrickson, director of the ACLU Washington Legislative Office, was similarly bolstered by the introduction of the bill. "The ACLU believes we need a stronger federal response to criminal civil rights violations with clear protections for free speech and free association," she said in a release. "As introduced, the bill includes an important

provision protecting 1st Amendment rights, seeking to punish acts of discrimination, not bigoted beliefs."

"The reintroduction of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act in the House of Representatives last night marks a very important moment for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community," added Judy Shepard, executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation and mother of Matthew Shepard, in a separate release. "For far too long violence motivated by hatred against GLBT individuals has gone unrecognized by the Federal Government as well as many local agencies.

"The LLEHCPA will provide local law enforcement with the added resources and support needed for investigating and prosecuting serious hate crimes that are not currently included in existing law," she continued. "The investigation of Matthew's murder and the trial of his killers cost Albany County in Wyoming more than \$150,000. This unplanned financial burden forced the Sheriff's Department to furlough five of its employees. If the LLEHCPA had been the law of the land in 1998, this reduction in vital staff could have been averted, while still ensuring that justice was served for my son."

Because there is no federal law mandating states and municipalities to report hate crimes, they are often underreported. However, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's own statistics, based on voluntary reporting, show that since 1991, more than 100,000 hate crime offenses have been reported to the FBI, with 7,163 reported in 2005, the FBI's most recent reporting period. Violent crimes based on sexual orientation constituted 14.2 percent of all hate crimes in 2005, with 1,017 reported for the year.

The LLEHCPA gives the Justice Department the power to investigate and prosecute bias-motivated violence where the perpetrator has selected the victim because of the person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. It provides the Justice Department with the ability to aid state and local jurisdictions either by lending assistance or, where local authorities are unwilling or unable, by taking the lead in investigations and prosecutions of violent crimes resulting in death or serious bodily injury that were motivated by bias. It also makes grants available to state and local communities to combat violent crimes committed by juveniles, train law enforcement officers or assist in state and local investigations and prosecution of bias-motivated crimes.

A wide coalition of national organizations has called for the passage of the LLEHCPA legislation. Some of those supporting this legislation include: the National Sheriffs Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, 31 state attorneys general and the National District Attorneys Association.

Both the Senate and House have voted in favor of legislation to combat bias-motivated violence in the prior Congresses. Most recently in the 109th Congress, the House of Representative approved its hate crimes bill as an amendment on a bipartisan vote of 223 to 199. House and Senate votes were held in the 106th and 108th Congresses as well. In the 108th Congress, the Senate passed the measure by an overwhelming vote of 65-33, with 18 Senate Republicans voting yes, and the House approved it on a bipartisan vote of 213-186, with 31 Republicans voting yes. ■

Human Rights Campaign Hails Introduction of Healthy Families Act

Legislation provides vital protection for GLBT families

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., recently introduced the Healthy Families Act, a bill that guarantees American workers seven days of paid sick leave to recover from their own illness or to care for a sick family member, including families headed by same-sex couples. The Human Rights Campaign worked to ensure this bill was drafted to include gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families.

"Passage of this valuable legislation would assist millions of Americans in committed, long-term relationships caring for a same-sex partner or family member. No American family, gay or straight, should have to choose between caring for a sick family member or losing their paycheck," Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said in a release. "We applaud Senator Kennedy and Representative DeLauro for introducing this legislation that is inclusive of all families."

The HRC Workplace Project works with corporate America to help companies enact inclusive employment policies that are responsive to the needs of GLBT families. As of January 1, 53 percent of the Fortune 500 corporations offered health benefits to employees' domestic partners.

"Thankfully, much of corporate America understands that meeting the needs of GLBT families allows them to maintain a more competitive and healthy workforce," continued Solmonese. "We urge the federal government to follow their lead by passing the Healthy Families Act."

Disney Opens Up Weddings to Same-Sex Couples

Walt Disney announced on April 5 that it has decided to open up its Fairy Tale Weddings service to include same-sex couples. The company had previously only allowed same-sex couples to have weddings at the Disney resorts' meeting rooms.

"We are updating our Fairy Tale Wedding guidelines to include commitment ceremonies," Disney Parks and Resorts spokesperson Donn Walker told Reuters. "This is consistent with our policy of creating a welcoming, respectful and inclusive environment for all of our guests."

The change in policy came about after a gay guest inquired about the Fairy Tale Wedding service, Walker explained to Reuters. In March, popular gay Web site AfterElton.com took issue with the company's previous policies.

The Fairy Tale Wedding has a minimum cost of \$8,000. For that price, guests get someone who will plan their wedding, food, drinks, flowers, decorations for the table, and the ceremony itself. There is also an option to get taken to the wedding by a Cinderella coach, to have trumpeters announcing the

couple, and to have Mickey and Minnie Mouse as wedding guests.

Conservatives, such as the Southern Baptist Convention, have been angry at Disney for years over what they perceived as its furthering of the "gay agenda," according to Reuters. Various conservative organizations have boycotted the company because of this. Reuters says these groups have been upset with Disney's policy of giving health insurance to same-sex partners of Disney workers; permitting a "Gay Day" on their property; and the airing of *Ellen*, the popular sitcom which starred Ellen DeGeneres, on Disney-owned ABC.

Walker said that the change in policy is all about extending equal rights to all its customers. "We are not in the business of making judgments about the lifestyle of our guests. We are in the hospitality business and our parks and resorts are open to everyone," Walker explained to Reuters.

Colorado Closer to Approving Same-Sex Adoption

Same-sex couples can adopt each other's children in Colorado thanks to a bill given preliminary approval by the Senate, reports the *Colorado Springs Gazette*.

The bill passed on a party line voice vote over the objections of critics who accused majority Democrats of trying to override the voters' will.

"This bill is about the homosexual agenda, and it's not about what's best for children," said state Sen. Scott Renfro, R-Greeley, who also said the measure "undermines marriage," reports the Associated Press.

Sen. Ted Harvey said that voters might have been somewhat supportive of civil unions for gay and lesbian couples, but he has no doubt about where they stand on adoption by same-sex couples.

"The people of the state of Colorado, who may be split on civil unions, are not split on and are very adamant against same-sex adoptions," he said according to the AP.

The *Gazette* reports that the bill's sponsor, Sen. Jennifer Veiga, D-Denver, disagreed.

"HB1330 does nothing to recognize any relationships," Veiga said, reports the *Gazette*. "What it does is recognize that there are gay couples out there who have kids."

Veiga pointed out that the bill does not allow a gay couple to adopt a child that is unrelated to either partner, leaving intact



UPON LEAVING THEIR FAIRY TALE WEDDING AT WALT DISNEY WORLD, JOSH AND MIGUEL DISCOVER THE IMPORTANCE OF READING THE FINE PRINT.

Colorado's law prohibiting such adoptions.

She also argued that children growing up with two parents of the same gender fare as well as their counterparts in traditional families.

"There's no evidence that children of gay or lesbian parents are any less likely to succeed than children of heterosexual parents," she said to the *Gazette*. "You cannot determine that, simply because kids were raised by gay parents, that they're having any disadvantage compared to kids raised by heterosexual parents."

Current Colorado law allows gay individuals to adopt, but a Colorado Supreme Court ruling bars same-sex couples from qualifying for stepparent or second-parent adoptions.

The AP reports that Sen. Chris Romer, D-Denver, kicked up another round of debate when he said the bill was about "unconditional love and people joining together to raise children."

"Children do well when they are loved," he said.

A number of national organizations of health care professionals, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Society of Pediatric Psychology, have endorsed second-parent adoption laws as being beneficial to children.

Colorado Once Again Moves Toward Protecting Gays in The Workplace

Forgive gay and lesbian Coloradans if they aren't jumping for joy at the recent news that their state Senate approved a bill that would bar workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Colorado lawmakers, led by Sen. Jen Veiga, D-Denver, have passed similar bills in the last two years but both were vetoed by former Republican Gov. Bill Owens.

It's more likely than ever, however, that the state's GLBT community will be able to celebrate when all is said and done, as Democrats not only control the Colorado's House and Senate, but the governor's mansion as well.

Introduced by Veiga, the only open lesbian in the Legislature, Senate Bill 25 would make it illegal for the state's employers to hire, fire, promote or compensate workers based on sexual orientation or religion.

"People should be judged on the basis of

their employment absolutely, and not on the basis of their gay and lesbian status," Veiga told her fellow legislators on Monday, according to a report from the *Colorado Springs Gazette*.

Although Democrats seemingly agreed, Republicans by and large did not. Sen. Greg Brophy, R-Wray, asserted that gays and lesbians do not meet the definition of a protected class, while Sen. Tom Wiens of Castle Rock, offered a slew of amendments to the bill regarding religious expression. All were defeated on party-line votes, while Veiga's original bill passed by a vote of 20 to 15.

The measure must pass another vote in the state Senate before it can be sent to the House and eventually Democratic Gov. Bill Ritter for consideration.

Massachusetts Gov. Orders Recognition of 26 Same-Sex Marriages

Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick reversed an action by former Gov. Mitt Romney when he ordered Massachusetts' Department of Public Health to record 26 out-of-state same-sex marriages.

The unions in question were blocked by Romney, a Republican presidential hopeful, from being registered in the state's vital records.

According to the *Boston Globe*, an aide said the Democratic governor wanted to reverse action taken by the former governor that the new administration sees as discriminatory.

About 8,000 same-sex couples have wed in Massachusetts since the Supreme Judicial Court ruled in 2003 that the state Constitution guarantees gays the right to marry. A few other states offer civil unions with similar rights for gay couples, but only Massachusetts allows gay marriage.

In March 2006, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled that Romney and then state Attorney General Thomas Reilly could use a 1913 law to prohibit out-of-state couples from marrying in Massachusetts if their home state explicitly prohibits same-sex marriages.

Gay couples from Rhode Island are the only ones allowed to wed in Massachusetts after a judge ruled last September that the state's laws do not explicitly ban same-sex marriages.

Still, two of the 26 couples whose marriage were not recorded by the Romney administration were from Rhode Island, according to the governor's office.



Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick

"It appears like the prior administration was politicizing a routine administrative function," Patrick's spokesman Kyle Sullivan said, reports the Associated Press. "There was no legal basis for separating these certificates in the first place."

Eric Fernstrom, a spokesman for Romney, told the AP that the former governor was right to refuse to record the marriages because Massachusetts law does not recognize marriages between same-sex couples from outside the state.

The 26 couples affected by Patrick's decision had obtained marriage licenses in four towns where clerks defied Romney's order not to issue marriage licenses to out-of-state gay couples.

New Jersey's Civil Unions May Not Come with Health Benefits

When New Jersey made same-sex civil unions legal, many people automatically assumed that if they entered into such a union, they would become eligible to receive their partner's health benefits. But that is not what is happening, according to an article from the *Star-Ledger*.

That article looked at many same-sex couples facing problems collecting benefits, including Shannan Hauser and Jennifer Bonfilio. Bonfilio currently pays over \$400 a month for her health insurance, the paper says. When she asked her partner's insurance provider, New Jersey Carpenters Funds, about becoming a beneficiary on her partner's plan, she got a surprising answer: "I called to ask if they were going to be honoring that law and providing

THE DIFFERENCE IS IN THE SERVICE.
EXPERIENCE IT.



Ron Redder
512.657.8674



1701 W. KOENIG LANE / AUSTIN, TX 78756

www.PresidioGroup.com



Troy Hanna
512.659.7093

Austin Area Comprehensive HIV Planning Council

Are you interested in public health issues?

Are you a team player?

Are you a decision maker?

Do you have the passion to serve in an
exciting volunteer position?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions,

Call for an application today: **(512) 974-2407**

Or visit us on the web: www.ci.austin.tx.us/hivcouncil

The Austin Area Comprehensive HIV Planning Council is a group of citizens appointed by the Mayor to engage in broad-based community planning for the treatment and care of HIV/AIDS infected/affected men, women, boys, and girls in the Austin eligible metropolitan area which includes Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, and Williamson counties.

WANTED!

Council Members

me with the same coverage that they would any married couple, and I was told no," Bonfilio told the *Star-Ledger*. "The woman on the phone actually said to me: 'We do not have to obey New Jersey law.'"

David Buckel, a lawyer for Lambda Legal, says that many people are complaining about this issue. There are two major reasons, he told the *Star-Ledger*, that so many employers do not want to give the benefits. One is that they are uneducated about the civil union law. The other is that there is a law, for employers and unions that are self-insured, which lets them keep benefits from same-sex couples. The problem, Buckel says, comes from the fact that these commitments are called "civil unions," instead of marriages.

"In the employment sector in particular, folks don't understand civil unions, and then when they come to understand what they are they find ways to disrespect them," Buckel told the *Star-Ledger*. "After all, the state has said that these relationships aren't worthy of marriage."

But, says the *Times*, some companies have reversed their policy—only after they have heard from lawyers, journalists and the couples themselves.

According to the paper, there are already two dozen complaints regarding this issue. This, says the *Times*, provides "the groundwork for a legal challenge to the civil union law that would essentially re-petition the Supreme Court for same-sex marriage."

Though the civil union law was passed in an attempt to give same-sex couples greater equality, Steven Goldstein, a chairman for Garden State Equality, believes the New Jersey civil union law now highlights the lack of equality same-sex couples really have. "How can you call it equal protection when you have to go through hell maybe to get your civil union recognized?" Goldstein said to the *Times*. "Why should gay couples have to take those steps? That's not equal protection under the law. That's why we're fighting for marriage equality."



Gay Group Suspicious of Revision to Ohio's Adoption Laws

Rep. Thomas Brinkman Jr., who is sponsoring a revising of Ohio adoption laws, told *Gay People's Chronicle* the bill won't prevent LGBT people from adopting or fostering. Still, the gay rights group Equality Ohio, which has viewed the proposal, called House Bill 7, is concerned that there will be a ban on gay adopting and fostering, based on Brinkman's history: "Brinkman was a sponsor of last year's attempted adoption ban and he is the person who sued Miami University for providing domestic partner benefits to employees," the group said in an e-mail to *Gay People's Chronicle*.

Furthermore, Brinkman is associated with a group called Citizens for Community Values, which is considered an anti-gay organization, and Phil Burrell, the group's president. Brinkman assisted CCV when they were trying to prevent Cincinnati's LGBT human rights ordinance from being passed in 2006. CCV is also putting together a Family Lobby Day on April 25th, and the group's website says that stopping gay adoption and foster parenting are two of its top priorities, says Equality Ohio.

Another concern of Equality Ohio's is that an adoption ban bill might come from someone else, perhaps someone from the Senate.

A 2006 Ohio adoption ban bill, called Hove Bill 515, was co-sponsored by Ron Hood, a former representative, and stopped by Jon Husted, a House Speaker and Republican. That bill would have prevented queer people from adopting or fostering, and would have stopped foster kids, regardless of sexual orientation, from so much as even being put in a home in which a gay person lived—even if that person was not the child's foster parent. Husted objected to the bill because he was adopted himself, and didn't want to back a bill that would stop children from being adopted by supportive parents, says

the publication. Husted, who still holds those same views, told *Gay People's Chronicle*, through his spokesperson, that he is not worried about Brinkman's bill.

Gay Rights Laws In Oregon Pass With Little Debate

Gay and lesbian couples in Oregon celebrated after the Senate passed a bill protecting them from discrimination in housing, work and public places.

"It is a good day for Oregon," said Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, who carried the bill to the floor. "This is the last step in the legislative process. We just get better and better as a state the more inclusive we are."

According to the *Oregonian*, little debate transpired in the Senate over this issue, voting 19-7 in favor of the anti-discrimination bill. Senate Bill 2 passed in the House after two hours of debate. Gov. Ted Kulongoski has said he will sign the bill, which emerged from a task force he created last year.

Sen. Brad Avakian, D-Bethany, said that despite the lack of fanfare, there was lots of emotion on the Senate floor during the vote.

"To complete a struggle that has gone on for so long was a feeling of relief," he said to the *Oregonian*, "and of satisfaction that Oregon is a better place today than it was yesterday."

The bill that passed would ban discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people in employment, housing and access to public accommodations. If it passes, Oregon would become one of 18 states with laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The second bill would enable same-sex couples to enter into contractual relationships that grant them the same benefits offered to married couples under state law. The bill refers to the relationships as "domestic partnerships."

Oregon would join Vermont, Connecticut, California and New Jersey in offering civil unions or domestic partnerships to same-sex couples. Massachusetts allows gay couples to marry. Hawaii extends certain spousal rights to same-sex couples, along with cohabitating heterosexual pairs. The Washington Legislature recently approved a limited domestic partnership bill that was signed into law.

An opponent of the bill, state Rep. Dennis

Richardson, told the Associated Press that a fairer approach would be to allow a more limited range of marriage-style benefits to two people who live together. "This bill is in fact marriage by another name," Richardson told

the AP.

Washington Governor Signs Domestic Partnership Law

Gay and lesbian couples in Washington celebrated after Gov. Chris Gregoire signed into law a measure to create domestic partnerships, effectively granting them the same rights that come with marriage.

The law creates a domestic partnership registry and provides enhanced rights for same-sex couples, including hospital visitation rights, the ability to authorize autopsies and organ donations and inheritance rights when there is no will.

"It offers the hope that one day, all lesbian and gay families will be treated truly equal under the law," said state Sen. Ed Murray, who is one of five openly gay lawmakers in the Legislature, reports the Associated Press.

To be registered, couples have to share a home, not be married or in a domestic relationship with someone else and be at least 18.

Unmarried, heterosexual senior couples will also be eligible to register if one partner is at least 62. Lawmakers said that provision, similar to one in California law, was included to help seniors who are at risk of losing pension rights and Social Security benefits if they remarry.

"This is a very proud moment for me as governor, to make sure the rights of all of our citizens are equal," Gregoire said, reports the AP.

"Love manifests itself not in some cookie-cutter way," the governor said, reports the *Columbian*. "Love comes in many forms. Our families are different, but every one of our families deserves our undivided support."

The *Columbian* reports that Sen. Murray, who led the campaign for last year's gay rights bill, called the domestic partnership bill "a significant step in undoing the hurt this Legislature inflicted" on gay and lesbian couples in 1998 when it passed the Defense of Marriage Act, defining marriage as between one man and one woman.

Couples can register in person with the secretary of state's office in Olympia, or by mail. ■



Washington Governor Chris Gregoire

University of Texas Holds Its First Annual Queer Conference

From Friday, April 13th, to Sunday, April 15th, the University of Texas at Austin held its first annual Queer Texas Conference. Conceived in just six weeks by the Queer Students Alliance, this event was a major success, with more than 150 queer and queer-friendly students and activists getting trained, in addition to 20 conference staff members participating and more than 40 presenters speaking. One of the presenters was gender-rights activist and writer Kate Bornstein. All in all, there were 30 different sessions available for participants, covering all different types of subjects.

Jake Holbrook, the Public Relations Director and main fundraiser for the QTC, says he can't believe how fast they were able to organize such a huge undertaking. "When we actually sat down and looked at the numbers, and took into account how quickly everything came together, it didn't seem possible," he said in the press release. "We pulled together a statewide conference



Queer Texas Conference

in only six weeks all while keeping up with school and our other jobs."

A responsible team made the conference possible, remarked Angie-Faye Brown, the co-director of the QSA, in the release. "I think all of the work on the conference, though difficult, was made easier by the team that we've assembled. In the fall, we grew from a staff of two to six, and then added eight internship positions in the spring. This conference wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of our board members and interns."

This conference is just one of many impressive projects the QSA has put

together since its creation. They have also published an almost 200-page report on the state of LGBTQI life at the college; sent eight representative students to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change Conference in Kansas City (which inspired the QTC); and got the Pride and Awareness Week celebrations together.

Liz Adkins, web and graphics director for the Alliance, said she feels confident knowing they were able to pull off such a successful conference the first time around: "If the first one went this fabulously, I can't wait to see where it goes next year and all those after!" ■

mercury
MENS FASHION HOUSE

11:30AM-7:00PM
TUESDAY-SATURDAY
or by appointment

507 W. MARY STREET | 512 462.2066
[RIGHT OFF SOUTH FIRST]

Discover the meaning of true
one-on-one personal training

Resistance
EXPERIENCE ELITE PERSONAL TRAINING

For more information visit call (866)768-5933
austinelitetraining.com

Take the Next Step Towards a More Spectacular YOU!

Bring this ad for 10% off any package
Or \$10 off your first session.
Private exercise studio. No gym membership required.



inspire

theodore roosevelt

“

The President is merely the most important among a large number of public servants. He should be supported or opposed exactly to the degree which is warranted by his good conduct or bad conduct, his efficiency or inefficiency in rendering loyal, able, and disinterested service to the Nation as a whole. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that there should be full liberty to tell the truth about his acts, and this means that it is exactly necessary to blame him when he does wrong as to praise him when he does right. Any other attitude in an American citizen is both base and servile. To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public. Nothing but the truth should be spoken about him or any one else. But it is even more important to tell the truth, pleasant or unpleasant, about him than about any one else.

”

Theodore Roosevelt
Kansas City Star
07 May 1918



Financial Planning for Domestic Partners

Similar Goals. Different Challenges.

Domestic partners may share similar goals with married individuals, yet they face unique challenges when it comes to financial planning. We will help you develop a plan that's appropriate to your needs—one that takes into account not only where you want to go, but also how you want to get there.



For information, call:

Lynn Slayton Yeldell, Financial Advisor

512-479-5217 800-548-6166

lynn.yeldell@ubs.com

98 San Jacinto Boulevard, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78701

www.ubs.com/fa/lynnnyeldell

You & Us

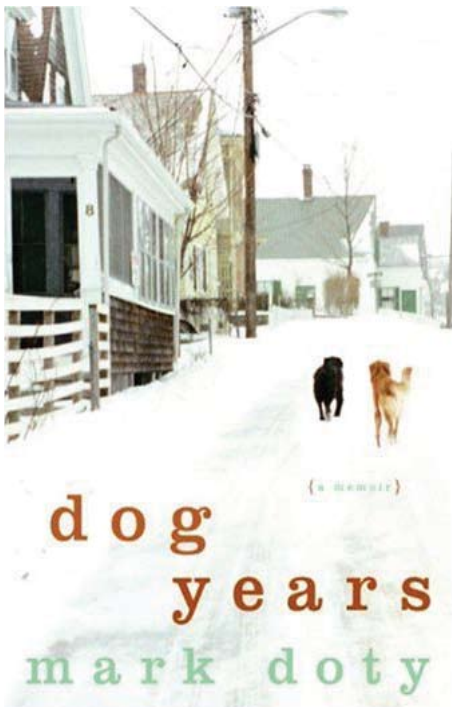


Book Marks

by Richard Labonte

Dog Years: A Memoir

by Mark Doty



Dog Years by Mark Doty
HarperCollins
224 pages, hardcover

Got a dog in your life? Get ready, as you read, to grin with recognition and to weep in sympathy. Dogs Arden and Beau were minor characters in *Heaven's Coast*, Doty's elegant memoir about the AIDS death of his lover Wally more than a decade ago. This equally elegiac remembrance is all about the pooches. Memories of romps in the woods and runs on the beach, celebrating the joyous physicality of a beloved pet, are rendered with tender amusement; those moments when a dog's eyes reflect a man's soul, expressing the intricate mystery of how dog and man meet in the world, are analyzed with poetic emotion. There's no end of books about the role dogs play in our lives, about their ever-present unconditional love and their ineffable connection to our moods; Doty breaks no new ground in this joyous, heartbreaking celebration of the bond between man and mutt. The triumph of *Dog Years* is how Doty illuminates the lives - and the deaths - of his dogs with a lyrical and philosophical intensity that is warmly compassionate. ■

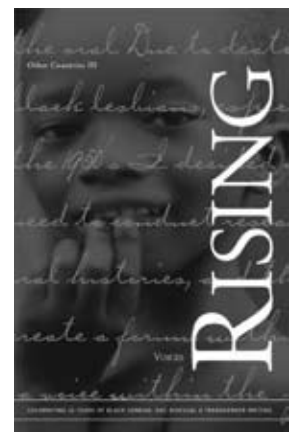


Mark Doty's seven books of poetry and three books of nonfiction prose have been honored with such distinctions as the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN/Martha Albrand Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, a Whiting Writers' Award, a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writers' Award, and, in the United Kingdom, the T. S. Eliot Prize. He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ingram Merrill Foundation, and the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. He is a professor at the University of Houston and lives in New York City.

Voices Rising: Celebrating 20 Years of Black LGBT Writing

edited by G. Winston James
and Other Countries

Other Countries was founded 20 years ago as a collective committed to black gay male writers and writing, back when a mere handful of emerging African-American voices could be found on gay bookstore shelves. This hefty collection of more than 100 contributions from more than 60 writers expands on Other Countries' original focus on men to include essays, short stories, poems, interviews, and play excerpts from lesbians as well as bisexual and transgender writers. The result is a rich and hefty reader, and a generous testament to black literary accomplishment. Established authors like Jewelle Gomez, Marvin K. White, Cheryl Clarke, Reginald Shepherd, Letta Neely, and Samuel R. Delany stand out - but dozens of younger, newer voices also "rise" in this historic anthology, so many so good that singling out even a few would do a disservice to the rest. *Voices Rising* is a hymn to the power of words to build community, expression, realization, dreams, and explore the complexities of identity. ■



Voices Rising
RedBone Press
586 pages, paperback



**HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®**

Throughout the year, HRC hosts and sponsors several events in your community to raise awareness in our community, attract a growing and diverse membership and help raise money to support HRC goals. Plus, we have a lot of fun!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 19

A Day at the Winery
Fredericksberg, Texas
Time TBA

We will join our friends from HRC San Antonio at a winery in Fredericksberg,. Complete details will be forthcoming, but save this date!

*This event is open to
Federal Club members and guests.*

June 23

Federal Club Day at the Lake
The Home of John Hogg & David Garza
12 noon - 4 pm

John Hogg & David Garza are opening up their lake access area for a day of fun. If you have a boat, lake access and dock are available. Bring food for you & drinks to share!

*This event is open to Federal Club and
Federal Club Council members and guests.*

September 8

Dinah Lakeshore
Lake Austin
8 pm

Please join HRC Austin as we present the 2nd Annual Dinah Lakeshore event.

Details will be provided
as we get closer to the event.

For more information on upcoming events or to find out how to become a member of HRC:

www.hrcaustin.org
info@hrcaustin.org

The Target

by Gerri Hill



The Target by Gerri Hill
Bella Books
276 pages, paperback

The formula for your typical Bella Books romance - in this case, a romance-adventure mix - doesn't change much from book to book: two lesbians who don't want to fall in love do, after many misunderstandings. What sets Hill's fiction apart from that formula is the quality of her plots and her prose. The lesbians destined for love in this well-crafted novel are women's-self-help guru Sara, estranged daughter of a virulently homophobic presidential candidate, and Colorado homicide detective Jessica, assigned by mysterious federal agents to shadow Sara on a two-week mountain hike. Their inevitable romance evolves from prickly to passionate around evening campfires, and the adventure kicks in when a sniper hired by equally mysterious meanies starts picking off women on the hike. The race to safe haven that follows is brisk and thrilling, and Hill's account of how the mystery of both the shadowy federal agents and the thuggish killers unravels is nicely unpredictable. *The Target* isn't literary art, but it hits the entertainment spot. ■

Androphilia: A Manifesto Rejecting the Gay Identity, Reclaiming Masculinity

by Jack Malebranche



Androphilia by Jack Malebranche
Scapegoat Publishing
144 pages, paperback

It's guaranteed that anyone reading this review of *Androphilia* in a gay community newspaper will despise the book. The author's thesis, after all, is that there really ought not be anything like a "gay community," and if there is, he wants no part of it. Nope. He's a masculine fellow, a man's man who just happens to sleep with other men. So it's tempting to write this screed off with a gay-icon quote (he's not fond of gay adoration of divas, by the way) from, say, Bette Davis, something like, "But ya are, Blanche." But that's too simplistic a response to what is in fact a heartfelt argument that "the gay identity" is too sissy, too socialist, and way too libertine for this man-loving man. There's a history of queer intellectuals insisting that they're too masculine to represent perceived gay stereotypes: Andrew Sullivan, Bruce Bawer, and Daniel Harris come to mind. Malebranche's manifesto is an extreme manifestation of their kind of stereo-phobia. Let's just hate the book, acknowledge the author's personal honesty and articulate passion, and leave it at that. ■

Music Notes

by Duane Wells

Tim McGraw

Let It Go

He makes cowboy hats look sexy and he sings pretty darn good too. With *Let It Go*, Tim McGraw, proves once again that he knows how to make a country record with crossover appeal, while simultaneously remaining true to his 'jeans and cowboy boots' pedigree. Whether or not you like country music, I dare you to resist the urge to tap your toe to the contagiously twangy hook of the album's first single "Last Dollar (Fly Away)" or to not be seduced by the sentiment of the jazzy, more adult contemporary "Suspicious". Sappy romantics will also likely swoon with delight as McGraw sings an obligatory love ballad titled "I Need You" with his country superstar wife, Faith Hill. They might all be steeped in country, but Tim McGraw strikes all the right chords on *Let It Go*. ■



Elton John

Rocket Man: Number Ones

Most artists whose careers have lasted more than three decades tend to have a great many greatest hits collections to their credit. So it comes as little surprise that with 35 years of music making under his belt, Sir Elton John has already released his fair share of retrospective collections.

Over the years, Sir Elton has collected his hits, reworked his hits and even made sequels to his hits. So how did the rocket man himself decide to commemorate his 60th birthday? Why he threw a big party in NYC attended by the likes of Donatella Versace and Barbara Walters, which he followed by performing his 60th concert at Madison Square Garden to an audience of friends that included Former President Bill Clinton, Whoopi Goldberg and Rosie O'Donnell and, of course, he released a digitally remastered collection of his greatest hits from the last thirty years entitled, *Rocket Man: Number Ones*.

If you don't already own an Elton John greatest hits collection, *Rocket Man: Number Ones* is an ideal, if not particularly original or illuminating, starter set. With all of John's #1's like "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road", "Bennie & The Jets", "Philadelphia Freedom" and "Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me", plus other classic Elton John staples like "Your Song", "Tiny Dancer" and "Candle In The Wind", *Rocket Man: Number Ones* is a quite pleasant trip down the golden path of one of pop music's greatest living icons.

However the real reason to purchase *Rocket Man: Number Ones* is the Limited Edition CD/DVD Package, on which you'll find not only the hits but five Elton John music videos including my personal all-



time favorites "I'm Still Standing" and "I Guess Why They Call It The Blues" as well as live performances of the John's legendary number one songs taken from his triumphant Las Vegas Red Piano Show, which capture Sir Elton at his very best.

That said, though I love Elton as much for his *Tantrums and Tiaras* as for his chart-topping grooves and admirable fundraising efforts on behalf of HIV/AIDS, I have to say that other than serving up digitally remastered versions of some of his biggest hits, *Rocket Man: Number Ones*, doesn't offer anything that we really haven't already seen before. In fact, the Elton John -- Greatest Hits 1970 - 2002 Box Set, is a much more compelling tribute to the piano man's career.

But critiquing a life like Elton John's from where I sit is a bit like splitting hairs. At 60, the man is an openly gay pop legend, with a catalogue of hits, a knighthood, a successful relationship and a career that continues to thrive. So instead of picking this one apart, I'll just give this latest Elton John offering a kiss for luck and wish Elton a happy 60th year. ■

Hilary Duff

Dignity

It would be almost too easy to write off Hilary Duff's just released CD, *Dignity*, as just another piece of teen pop fluff without even giving it spin. But I wouldn't do that if I were you. There I said it.

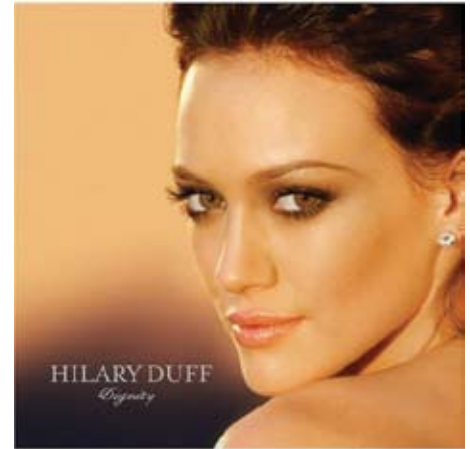
Now I'm not going to tell you that your life will be altered in any way after listening to Duff's *Dignity*, but I will say that you might be pleasantly surprised at what you'll hear. By adopting a more mature sound, complemented by more grown up lyrics spread across fourteen infectious, if candy coated, Top 40 ready tracks, teen pop princess Hilary Duff makes a compelling plea to be taken seriously as an adult pop star on her fourth album, a task, which, as we all know, is no small undertaking. Dare I bring up Debbie (now Deborah) Gibson or Tiffany?

At its best, *Dignity* is one of those sinfully sweet dance pop confections that is enjoyable in spite of its hefty calorie count. In fact, the thing I applaud most about *Dignity* is the way it revels in its soda pop personality. There aren't many genuinely pop albums hitting

record store shelves these days, so the fact that *Dignity* is one of them, and unashamedly so, is worth a few brownie points.

While tracks like "Stranger" and "Play With Fire" summon up bouncy dance floor memories akin to those inspired by some of Kylie Minogue's best dance recordings, there can be no denying the shimmering appeal of equally glossy pop gems like "Happy", "With Love" and "Gypsy Woman", on which Duff provides glimpses of her own emerging musical style.

However, the most intriguing aspect of Duff's evolution on *Dignity* involves the burgeoning talent she displays as a songwriter with a certain catty appeal. Opting for the first time to co-write many of the songs on *Dignity*, Duff bares her lyrical claws brilliantly on the disc's scathing title track when she sings about the girls in Jimmy Choo's who'd 'show up to the opening of an envelope'. Again, it's not life changing, but it's just about as much fun as breezing through a tabloid while standing in line at the grocery store.



The downside to *Dignity* is that it almost sinks under the weight of too many tracks that sound too much alike. With fourteen songs, Duff's album could have done with a bit of judicious editing, but hey ... at 19 I thought I had a lot to say too. Besides, even during lulls, *Dignity* manages to still remain listenable, if not particularly original.

There's no question that teenage girls have found a lot to love about Hilary Duff over the years, but now with *Dignity*, she's giving another generation a few good reasons to love her as well. ■



CYNDI LAUPER
ERASURE
DEBBIE HARRY
THE DRESDEN DOLLS
THE GOSSIP
THE MISSHAPES
MARGARET CHO

AND SPECIAL GUEST:
ROSIE O'DONNELL

SATURDAY
JUNE 23, 6PM
DALLAS, TEXAS
SMIRNOFF MUSIC CENTRE

FOR DETAILS & TICKET INFO:
WWW.TRUECOLORSTOUR.COM

Special Offer



**Special Concert Rate
for Q Monthly Readers**

MELROSE HOTEL DALLAS
\$139 per night + tax

You must book your reservation through Darian Rausch Travel by calling (512) 535-6806 before **Wednesday, May 23, 2007** to qualify for this special offer.

In addition, Darian Rausch Travel will make a donation to the HRC-Austin for each room booked through the agency.



**DARIAN RAUSCH
TRAVEL**

In Theaters

Grindhouse: Planet Terror & Death Proof

by Angela D'Amboise

In an interview with *Out Magazine*, actress Rose McGowan lamented that in gay clubs, lesbians rarely talk to her. She says her sister theorized it's because she doesn't give off a gay vibe.

Note to the McGowan sibling—whatever you call the vibe she's giving off in *Grindhouse*, the new double feature, B-grade horror collaboration from directors Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino, it works. McGowan is all woman, all action hero, and all sex—so much so, you can almost hear the echo of lesbians collectively putting away their copies of *Bound* for the first time in a decade every time Rose purrs a line.

Now McGowan doesn't actually play gay in the film. She's Cherry, a pole dancer who dreams of a career in stand up comedy and bids her leg an unfortunate bon voyage

when a slew of zombies descend upon her and tear the thing clean off. They've been contaminated with an experimental substance folks have been testing cross town, and now they're out for blood in Rodriguez's *Planet Terror*, a gore fest better than anything you're likely to see at Blockbuster.

That's mostly because Rodriguez gets the joke—and wrangles up a top notch cast, including Marley Shelton and Stacy "Fergie" Ferguson, who do play lesbians. Marley's the sexy doc testing someone behind her hubby's back while Fergie is the hell on wheels hard ass making her way cross town to be with her girl in a run down Volvo.

McGowan, while straight, plays the ultimate bad ass—replacing her leg with a gun when it goes astray, something littered throughout the trailers for *Grindhouse*. She aims, she shoots, she has a string of random talents (most involve contorting her body into a variety of pin-up like poses) that bring out the action hero inside. That and she rides a bike! Need I say more?

Hot as McGowan and company are in *Terror*, the superior film is Tarantino's *Death Proof*, named for a stunt car so embossed in steel no accident is powerful enough to kill the driver. The passenger? Different story.

Kurt Russell is said driver, peeping tom of sorts for a bevy of beauties in and around Austin, Texas. His first group of victims are less interesting than his second. They're led by hottie radio personality Jungle Julia, played by Sydney Tamiia Poitier (every inch the looker as her father), taking her girls out for a drunken bar crawl before high tailing it to the lake for a weekend girl's getaway. Julia's a bitch, of course, and mouths off to drunken mysterious drifter Mike (Russell), approaching the ladies for the lap dance Julia promised

her friend would give one lucky man on her radio show.

With some swindling, he gets the dance, then takes an aloof hippie (McGowan again) for a ride in his car. You can imagine what happens, both to McGowan and to the four girls heading for the lake. It's gory, it's grotesque, it's classic Tarantino, shot so artistically, you forget you're watching the dismemberment of female limbs.

Far superior are the second group of women (Rosario Dawson, Tracie Thoms, Mary Elizabeth Winstead and real life Tarantino stuntwoman, Aussie Zoe Bell as herself). Thoms and Bell are stuntwoman, driving cross country to the set of a new film—Dawson does make-up and Winstead is in the cast. Daredevil Bell sees an ad in the paper for mint condition American muscle car in the paper and has to drive it—strike that. Ride on the hood while Thoms guns the engine to nearly 100 miles per hour.

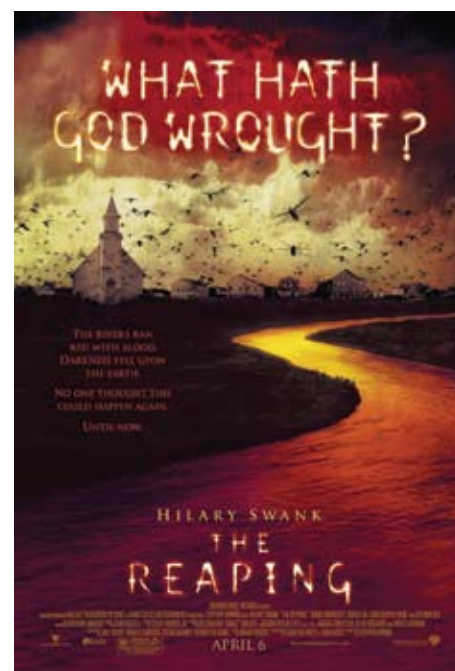
You can see it coming—what you can't see coming is that these three badass ladies (Winstead has since been dropped as collateral for the car) aren't your typical road thriller victims. This is a Tarantino flick, for Christ sake, packing the wallop of Uma in *Kill Bill* times three. And while Rodriguez has the camp and the style of the B-grade double bill down, Tarantino (by accident or purposefully) actually manages to make an engaging movie, one with compelling dialogue, a trio of killer female roles and an absolute meltdown from Russell that reminds you Goldie's other half is actually a halfway decent actor.

Audiences (and particularly you ladies who love ladies) have been having a hoot in these *Grindhouse* screenings. Skip the seven crappy new releases making their way to theatres this weekend and see the one I can vouch for. ■



Now Playing

Disturbia, Perfect Stranger, The Reaping



Disturbia

DreamWorks Pictures
Starring: Shia LaBeouf
104 minutes

Rated PG-13 on appeal for sequences of terror and violence, and some sensuality.

Troubled kid Kale (Shia LaBeouf) is under house arrest for the summer. When boredom sets in, he begins to spy on his neighbors, eventually discovering that one of them is a serial killer. What follows is a modern retelling of the classic Hitchcock thriller *Rear Window*, updated with a teenage cast, high-tech spy gear, more violence, and a jacked-up body count. It's a somewhat dumb-yet-efficient teen suspense jolt-fest, and the presence of the handsomely creepy David Morse is such a standard-issue example of typecasting that it's like modern movie code for "this is the bad guy, in case you hadn't already guessed." But it works on its own terms, even if the spirit of Grace Kelly and Jimmy Stewart is nowhere to be found.

Grade: B

Kinsey Scale: 1 (Co-star Carrie-Anne Moss, as Kale's long-suffering mother, is always a welcome sight for lesbian audiences.)

Perfect Stranger

Sony Pictures
Starring: Halle Berry, Bruce Willis
109 minutes

Rate R for sexual content, nudity, some disturbing violent images and language.

When her old friend Grace (Nicki Aycox) turns up dead, investigative reporter Rowena (Halle Berry) suspects her pal's latest lover, adman Harrison Hill (Bruce Willis). Determined to catch a killer, Rowena embarks on a dangerous game, going undercover at Hill's firm and using her seductive wiles on the sleazy businessman. This monumentally silly thriller starts off well, smartly setting up the circumstances surrounding the murder, but it soon devolves into foolishness. Far too much dialogue is wasted on pointless exposition, while the growing number of red herrings and suspects quickly becomes comical. Berry's beauty and Willis' tawdry charm are formidable assets, not small considerations, since with suspense and logic in short supply, only their devoted fans are likely to warm to this lame mystery.

Grade: C-

Kinsey Scale: 3 (As the movie starts, Rowena is working on a story about a closeted senator and his Mark Foley-like affair with an intern. According to office scuttlebutt, Hill's executive assistant is a lesbian.)

The Reaping

Warner Bros. Pictures
Starring: Hilary Swank
96 minutes

Rated R for violence, disturbing images and some sexuality.

Ex-minister Katherine Winter (Hilary Swank) lost her faith and now delights in debunking miracles, bragging that so far she is 48 for 48. But on a trip to investigate a Louisiana river seemingly filled with blood, she finds herself knee-deep in plagues and facing the idea that biblical prophecy is coming true. This would-be horror movie, with its Cliff Notes' Christian allegory and cheesy, obvious story, offers little in the way of chills. Apart from the locusts, not even the plagues - frogs, lice, and boils among them - are impressive, victims themselves of a plague of poor special effects. There is one real mystery, and that is how the producers managed to snag top-flight talents like Swank and Stephen Rea for such an inferior project.

Grade: C-

Kinsey Scale: 1 (Swank won her first Oscar for playing transgender youth Brandon Teena in *Boys Don't Cry*, while Rea dated transsexuals in *The Crying Game* and *Breakfast on Pluto*. Co-star David Morrissey was in *Basic Instinct 2*, and co-star William Ragsdale had a recurring role on *Ellen*.)

Out On DVD

Smokin' Aces & My Sisters Maria

Smokin' Aces

by Robert O'Neil



Universal Pictures

Starring: Ben Affleck, Andy Garcia, Alicia Keys, Ray Liotta, Jeremy Piven, Ryan Reynolds, Peter Berg, Martin Henderson, Taraji Henson, Common

109 minutes

Rated R for strong bloody violence, pervasive language, some nudity and drug use

S *Smokin' Aces*, a mindless and easily forgettable offering from *Narc* director Joe Carnahan, showcases the assassination of Buddy "Aces" Israel (Jeremy Piven). Israel, an egocentric magician, has pissed off numerous high-ranking mob connections and planned to testify against them through arrangements with the FBI (represented by Ray Liotta and Ryan Reynolds).

When the film begins, he is hiding in a guarded hotel penthouse biding his time between heavy drugs and sleazy hookers. When mob-boss Primo Sparazza (Joseph Ruskin) orders Israel's death, several professional hit-men and women (included in the all-star lineup are Ben Affleck, Peter Berg, Martin Henderson, Nestor Carbonell and scene-stealers Taraji P. Henson and musician Alicia Keys in her first full-length film role) are separately contracted to kill the hopeless magician and return with his heart. Bullets fly in every direction and a bloodbath ensues as the professional assassins compete brutally against one another.

Carnahan's note-worthy cast and colorful Las Vegas-based production design are reminiscent of Steven Soderbergh's *Ocean's Eleven* efforts while the characters, dialog and ultraviolence aspire to be more like an early Tarantino offering (or any of the copious rip-offs that attempted to capitalize on the popularity that followed *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction* during the mid '90s). Hasty and almost disorienting editing that appears to be tailored for those with attention deficit disorder and ludicrous plot twists ensure that *Smokin' Aces* will fall

far below the expectations of the average discerning viewer.

Action fans, however, that are willing to ignore the competent but completely unoriginal craftsmanship and the senselessness of the plot may find enough pleasure in the handful of engrossing action sequences to justify a guilty home viewing or two in surround sound. ■

Coming to DVD in May

May 1

Dreamgirls
The Hitcher

Melrose Place: The Second Season
Will & Grace: Season Six

May 8

The 4400: The Complete Third Season
Because I Said So
Mrs. Doubtfire (Behind-the-Seams Edition)
That '70s Show: Season Six

May 15

American Dad: Volume Two
Carlos Mencia in: The Best of Funny is Funny
ER: The Complete Seventh Season

May 22

Apocalypto
Epic Movie
Kyle XY: The Complete First Season
The O.C.: The Complete Fourth Season
Scrubs: The Complete Fifth Season

May 29

Hannibal Rising
Katharine Hepburn 100th Anniversary Collection

My Sister Maria

by Bryan Ochalla



Rainbow Releasing
Starring: Maximilian Schell
91 minutes
Unrated

Feeling a little too chipper these days and want to be brought back to earth? Pop in a copy of *My Sister Maria*, Maximilian Schell's semi-documentary about his once-famous sibling.

In case the name doesn't ring a bell, Maria Schell was an international movie star in the '50s, having appeared with Gary Cooper in *The Hanging Tree* and Yul Brynner in *The Brothers Karamazov*. She made more than 70 movies by the time all was said and done.

The way she looks and acts in *My Sister Maria*, you'd be forgiven for thinking all was said and done long, long ago. In reality, Maria continued to garner noteworthy roles throughout the '70s and '80s (she even played a Krypton elder in 1978's *Superman: The Movie*).

As her career slowed down, however, her failed relationships piled up, and Maria couldn't seem to cope with it all. By the time Maximilian and his pesky camera shows up, she's a shocking mess, sitting around her Austrian chalet surrounded by multitudes of televisions (some displaying her own movies, though other programs abound as well).

Is that what Maximilian is out to show the

world—how far his once-famous sister has fallen? Unfortunately, it appears so. The director builds up the audience by showing how wonderful her life was during her prime, only to bring it all crumbling back down just past the half-way point when he introduces us to the modern day version of his older sibling.

You see, along with many truly heartbreaking scenes showing Maria's depressing existence are strange "re-enactments" involving the actress herself as well as Maximilian, his wife and their children.

It's a strange gamble for a director to take—especially one who wants to call his creation a documentary—and it doesn't pay off at all. In fact, I'd go as far as saying it completely ruins the experience. Once you're on to the fact that some of the scenes have been staged, how are you supposed to believe the reality of the rest of it?

That's a shame, because it's clear there's a fascinating story to tell here—not just about the rise and fall of Maria Schell, but about the frailty of fame as well. It's just too bad her brother was too lazy to wait for real moments to pass by his camera instead of creating them himself. ■

**Tired of getting the "run around town"?
Relax! Kick Off Your Shoes!**

**LET US HANDLE
ALL
YOUR PRINTING CHALLENGES**

**CALL TODAY!
512-291-3847**

- SCREENPRINTING
- EMBROIDERY
- VINYL SIGNS & BANNERS
- VEHICLE GRAPHICS
- BUSINESS ITEMS
- MARKETING TOOLS
- PROMOTIONAL ITEMS
- GRAPHIC DESIGN
- LOGO DESIGN
- TYPESETTING
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- AND MUCH MORE!



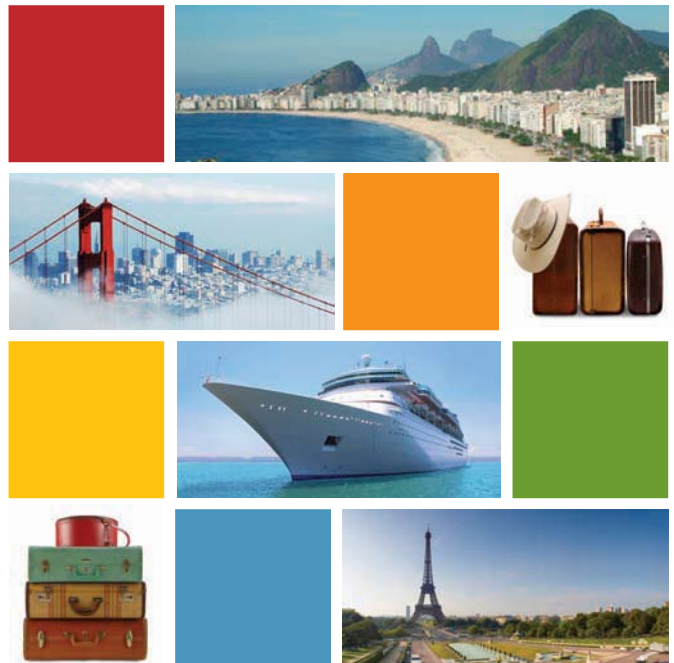
Join us for a
Free Consultation
and the coffee is on us!

Your "ONE STOP PRINT SHOP"

www.imagewearhouse.net
100% Locally and Women Owned and Operated



Featured Member At:
www.aglcc.org



**DARIAN RAUSCH
TRAVEL**

www.rauschtravel.com

(512) 535-6806

Vancouver's Summer of Festivals

A Look at Festivities Lined Up for Summer 2007

by Duane Wells

To complement its gay-friendly atmosphere, Vancouver will offer an exciting line-up of festivals for tourists and residents alike this summer. As the temperature rises, the artistic and cultural focus of the city shifts outdoors with festivals and events happening almost every week from May through September. This year Vancouver's guests will be treated to everything from waterfront performances of Shakespeare to jazz, folk music and fireworks.

Here's a look at what Vancouver's lined up for summer 2007:

Vancouver International Children's Festival

May 14 - 21

www.childrensfestival.ca

First something for the family. Packed with music, theatre, dance, storytelling, puppetry, circus arts and lots more, the Vancouver International Children's Festival appeals to the spirit and endless curiosity of children. Now celebrating its 30th year, this year's festival presents shows like the "Jabali African Acrobats", a trio of puppet shows with the ancient art of the "Vietnamese Water Puppets" and even a marionette theatre.

Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival

May 31 - September 23

www.bardonthebeach.org

With open-air tents in Vanier Park set against a natural backdrop of sea, sky and mountains, visitors and locals can enjoy four of the Bard's performances this summer: The Taming of the Shrew, Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar and Timon of Athens.

Tickets start at CAD\$17 for matinees with performances Tuesday through Sunday in June, July and August.

Special events include "Bard-B-Q and Fireworks" (a play and BBQ followed by Celebration of Light fireworks - July 25 and 28, August 1 and 4), "Celebrating Red & White" (a play plus a wine tasting - August 18), "A Merry Evening of Opera" (Vancouver Opera Orchestra and UBC Opera Ensemble in concert - August 20, 27 and September 3) and for the kids, "Young Shakespeareans" (workshops for youth aged 8 to 18, July and August).

Vancouver International Jazz Festival

June 22 - July 1

www.coastaljazz.ca

For 10 musical days, the TD Canada Trust Vancouver International Jazz Festival brings headliners Sonny Rollins, Chris Botti, Cesaria Evora and Holly Cole to Canada's West Coast. Each day from noon to the wee hours, jazz of all styles and stripes can be heard in venues across the city. This year's ticketed events include. In addition to ticketed events, there are also several free events. The full festival line-up will be posted at www.coastaljazz.ca.

Vancouver Folk Music Festival

July 13 - 15

www.thefestival.bc.ca

The Vancouver Folk Music Festival characterizes the laid back attitude and style of the West Coast. The festival brings to Jericho Beach folk and roots musicians from around the world along with food vendors and an art market. A full schedule

of this year's performers will be available in June, but tickets are on sale now at www.thefestival.bc.ca.

Celebration of Light Fireworks Competition

July 25 and 28, August 1 and 4

www.celebration-of-light.com

The HSBC Celebration of Light is Vancouver's annual international fireworks competition and brings together talented pyro-technicians from three countries (Spain, Canada and China this year). Teams light up the sky over Vancouver's downtown core and English Bay with a show choreographed to music. These often incredible displays draw crowds of more than 1.5 million people over the four-night celebration where guests like to pull up a blanket and enjoy a picnic during the free show. ■

New Requirements for Travelers

As of January 23, 2007, travelers arriving by air from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda will be required to have a passport or other secure, accepted document to enter or re-enter the United States. This requirement will be extended to all land and sea border crossings as early as January 01, 2008. For more information, visit the US Department of State's travel website.

travel.state.gov

American Airlines Launches New Austin - Seattle Route

New AA Flight Offers the Only Nonstop Service

American Airlines began a new nonstop service from Austin to Seattle Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The first flight departed Austin at 8:15 am at Gate 13 after the inaugural service celebration. American's new, daily nonstop between Austin and Seattle will not only be convenient, it's productive for business.

"Microsoft has more than 150 employees being serviced by ABIA in the Austin area. Collectively, we fly to the Seattle area at least 500 times a year. This nonstop flight will save our employees and company more than 2,000 hours of travel time. Combine that with our new Windows Mobile 6.0 platform and Microsoft gains another full employee year of productivity," said Scott Emigh, Director of Microsoft Technology Center South Central District (of U.S.), based in Austin.



"The Austin and Seattle markets are important to American and its customers," said Henry Joyner, American's Senior Vice President - Planning. "We've done very well with our other flights between Austin and the West Coast - we expect this one to be a success as well."

The service will be operated with 136-seat MD80 aircraft featuring 16 First Class and 120 Main Cabin seats. The schedule for American's service between Austin and Seattle, effective April 10, 2007 is as follows: Flight 1893 departs Austin 8:15

am, arrives Seattle 10:25 am; Flight 1960 departs Seattle 3:55 pm, arrives Austin: 9:55 pm.

"This new service to Seattle has been desired by business and leisure travelers," said Jim Smith, Executive Director, City of Austin Aviation Dept. "The schedule allows one to fly to Seattle for business and return in the same day. Leisure travelers from Austin will be able to more easily reach the recreational destinations of the American Northwest as well as facilitating travelers from Seattle coming for fun in Austin." ■



I want to go to a
place where I never
have to call my
boyfriend my brother

Introducing our new **Rainbow Rate**

\$89 per night

To enjoy personalized service at Wyndham Hotels and Resorts, don't forget to use your **ByRequest Number** when making your reservation. Your Request is our Pleasure!
1-800-WYNDHAM

Rainbow Rate available only at Wyndham Garden Hotel Austin. Rates and rooms are subject to availability and do not include tax, tariff and daily service charges. Not applicable to groups or prior reservations. Blackout dates and other restrictions apply.



**WYNDHAM
GARDEN HOTEL**

Woodward Conference Center

**3401 S. IH 35 in Austin • (512) 448-2444
www.WyndhamAustin.com**

Titanic Marks 95th Anniversary In Victoria

British Columbia Capital Banks on the Lure of the Titanic

by Duane Wells

On April 14, 2007 - 95 years to the day the Titanic struck the iceberg that sent it to the ocean floor – the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, BC launched a six-month presentation of Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition until October 14, 2007. This traveling exhibition features more than 280 artifacts recovered from Titanic's undersea resting place in a series of galleries that trace the life of the "unsinkable" ship - from its design and construction through to its discovery, recovery and conservation. As visitors climb the gangplank, boarding passes in hand, they will become immersed in the passenger experience.

Authentically recreated first- and third-class corridors and cabins, outdoor café and boiler room are appointed with artifacts recovered from the shipwreck site 12,500 feet below the surface of the North Atlantic Ocean. The Royal BC Museum is the first venue in Western Canada to present this assembly of artifacts collected by RMS Titanic Inc., the only company in the world authorized to recover artifacts from the Titanic wreck site. For more information visit www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

First Class Fare at the Fairmont Empress

Restored to her turn-of-the-century beauty and poised to celebrate her 100th anniversary in 2008, The Fairmont Empress Hotel in Victoria, BC will showcase a Dine and Discover Package in celebration of Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition showing at the Royal BC Museum April 14 - October 14, 2007. The package includes one-night accommodation in a Fairmont room, two tickets to Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, a Titanic-themed chocolate amenity and a \$50.00 CDN food and beverage credit. Rates begin at CAD\$289 (USD\$249).

Starting in April and running throughout the Titanic exhibition, guests can also savor a unique selection of Titanic-inspired courses featured on the daily fresh sheet of the Empress Dining Room. Recipes and menus which were served on-board the Titanic will be offered with the Chef's modern twist. Also, the Willow Stream Spa at The Fairmont Empress is offering the Titanic - Power of the Sea Thalasso Kur spa treatment designed to harness the power of the sea and its healing properties.

Hotel Grand Pacific Offers Titanic Times Two

The Hotel Grand Pacific in Victoria, BC will offer two Titanic-themed packages to suit both couples and families in honor of Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition. The RMS Titanic Package includes one night in a deluxe "stateroom" including Titanic-inspired Edwardian cocktails for two in the Pacific lounge and two tickets to Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition. Guests will be treated to aesthetically-recreated amenities in their room to make them feel like First Class passengers. Rates for the RMS Titanic Package begin at CAD\$189 (USD\$163) based on double occupancy.

Designed for families, the Unsinkable Pajama Party includes two nights in a deluxe guestroom for two adults and two children, goody bags with a Titanic book for the kids, a free in-room kids' movie or two Nintendo sessions, bedtime cookies and milk for the kids and free admission for the whole family to the Royal BC Museum, Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition and the National Geographic IMAX Theatre. Rates for the Unsinkable Pajama Party begin at CAD\$435 (USD\$375).

Titanic S-"Ales" Into Spinnakers

An age-old legend that 20,000 bottles of beer were lost at sea when the Titanic sank has inspired Spinnakers Gastro Brew Pub & Guesthouses in Victoria, BC to brew a ceremonial Titanic Stout as well as two other special craft beers - The Unsinkable Molly Brown Ale and a pale ale forebodingly named Iceberg - to mark the opening of Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition. Spinnakers will also offer a Titanic-themed package including a one-night stay in Spinnakers' 1884 Heritage House, two tickets to Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, a deluxe breakfast basket delivered in the morning, a beer and chocolate pairing in the pub/restaurant and hand-made truffles and two complimentary Titanic-themed beers in the room upon arrival. Rates begin at CAD\$179 (USD\$155) based on double occupancy.

Whew! That's a lot of Titanic! No word yet on whether Leo Di Caprio or Kate Winslet will be making appearances to mark the celebration. ■

Accommodations

Fairmont Empress

721 Government St, Victoria BC V8W 1W5

☎ (250) 384-8111

🌐 www.fairmont.com/empress

Hotel Grand Pacific

463 Belleville St, Victoria BC V8V 1X3

☎ (800) 663-7550

🌐 www.hotelgrandpacific.com

Spinnakers Gastro

Brew Pub & Guesthouses

308 Catherine St, Victoria BC V9A 3S8

☎ (877) 838-2739

🌐 www.spinnakers.com



ExpressJet Brings Nine New Non-stop Flights To Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

ExpressJet began new nonstop service out of Austin with their inaugural flight going to LA/Ontario. Throughout April, May and June, they will add the following nonstops destinations from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport: Tucson, Arizona, April 2; Kansas City, Missouri, April 23; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, April 23; Corpus Christi, Texas, April 30; Jacksonville, Florida, April 30; New Orleans, Louisiana, May 14; Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 4; and Tulsa, Oklahoma, June 4. ExpressJet's ticket counter at Austin-Bergstrom is located in the east, upper level lobby.

As a special introduction to the ExpressJet brand of flying, a limited-time JetSetSM promotion rewards flyers who purchase four round-trip or eight one-way tickets between now and September 30, 2007 with one free ticket to any destination ExpressJet serves. Booking is available on www.xjet.com, by calling toll free (888) 958-9538, and through most travelers' preferred providers including travel agencies and online distributors.

With its entrance into the Austin market, ExpressJet has created new jobs and made significant investments in airport facilities and equipment. Additionally, making it easier for business and leisure travelers to come to Austin from more cities benefits the local economy. ■

W Austin Hotel & Residences Takes it to the 'Austin City Limits'

New Luxury Hotel Joins ACL at Block 21

WHotels Worldwide has announced its plans to open W Austin Hotel & Residences in Texas, in what some have dubbed the 'Live Music Capital of the World.' The new W outpost will feature approximately 250 guestrooms and 200 residential condominiums that will serve as an anchor for the City of Austin's vibrant Second Street District.

The unique mixed-use development will be located on Block 21, an entire city block at the heart of the Second Street District and will star the new home of the world-famous "Austin City Limits" public television music show in a 2,000-seat live music and event venue. Also planned for Block 21 is the new location of Austin Children's Museum as well as approximately 25,000 square feet of retail and restaurant uses and extensive outdoor space.

"Austin, with its exceptional music scene, thriving creative and high tech community and the energy and vitality of the University of Texas, has long been on W's short list of sites," said Ross Klein, President of W Hotels Worldwide. "Our quest for the perfect address in Austin has been rewarded with this unique location at the center of Austin's highly successful Second Street District. This neighborhood is now the hub of Austin's downtown and continues to attract new restaurants, retail, office and residential projects; we're thrilled to do our part to attract folks downtown, whether to live, visit, work or play."

"We are extremely pleased to have the W Hotel anchor Block 21," said Beau Armstrong, president of Stratus Properties Inc. "The collaboration between W Hotels, Austin PBS station KLRU-TV, the Austin Children's Museum, and the City has been remarkable and will make for a wonderful project to complement the new City Hall, the planned \$90 million central library, and existing and planned uses within the Second Street District. Block 21 will set a new standard for green building. Sustainable design, construction and operations will be the hallmark of our project. We will push the envelope to create a healthy environment for our residents and guests and for our community."



And just down the street, Austin Children's Museum plans a 30,000 square-foot state-of-the-art facility. "The Austin Children's Museum location in Block 21 will provide a great place for Austin families in the heart of downtown," said Mike Nellis, executive director of the museum. "We are so pleased to be part of this forward-looking project with our new neighbors, the W Hotel and 'Austin City Limits'."

W Austin Hotel & Residences will feature all of the brand's celebrated comforts including its signature Living Room experience and Whatever/Whenever[®], the hotel's 24-hour concierge service that can provide whatever guests want (from a pair of running shoes at 2 a.m. to private jet service) whenever they want it. Other highlights of the property will be several innovative restaurants and clubs, a street-level plaza, an outdoor elevated garden incorporating a swimming pool, a full-service Sweat fitness facility, a 7,000 square foot Bliss[®] Spa, and extensive indoor and outdoor meeting and banquet space.

Owners of W Austin Residences will have full use of all the hotel's facilities as well as access to 24-hour room service, daily housekeeping service and concierge services. A sales center including a model residential unit is expected to open in late summer 2007.

W Austin Hotel & Residences is expected to open in early 2010. ■

Philadelphia Welcomes New 'Gayborhood'

Thirty-six Rainbow Street Signs Dedicated By Philly Mayor

When gay and lesbian tourists next visit Philadelphia they'll find something even more welcoming in the gay friendly city.

In what represents a historic moment for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community and the City of Philadelphia, Mayor John F. Street has dedicated 36 new street signs that are permanently affixed with the rainbow flag to designate the 'Gayborhood.'

A dedication ceremony was held at 13th and Locust Streets in Philadelphia, PA where locals sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and shot rainbow confetti into the air. The street signs have been installed in the Gayborhood, defined as Chestnut to Pine Streets between 11th and Broad Streets. The rainbow-branded street signs are an internationally-recognized welcome symbol that demonstrates a city's commitment to diversity and inclusiveness.

Philadelphia's 'Gayborhood' is a place where GLBT visitors and regional residents can patronize a concentration of gay-friendly businesses, bars, nightclubs, coffee shops and restaurants. Two years in the planning, the effort to replace existing street signs with the new gay-friendly ones was championed by the members of the Philadelphia Gay Tourism Caucus with support from the City of Philadelphia, Washington Square Civic Association and Philadelphia City Councilman Frank DiCicco. The Philadelphia Gay Tourism Caucus is a non-profit organization with nearly 100 members who are dedicated to helping Philadelphia get its share of the \$54 billion gay travel market.

The rainbow symbol, sometimes called 'the freedom flag,' was created by San Francisco Artist Gilbert Baker. The six colors of the rainbow are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet. Philadelphia joins a short-list of other North American cities that have erected permanent rainbow installations in gay-friendly districts including San Francisco, Chicago, Montreal, and Toronto. For more information on gay-friendly Philadelphia, visit gophila.com/gay.

For more information on the Philadelphia Gay Tourism Caucus, visit gayphiladelphia.com. ■



The Cliff Palace in 1891, photo by Gustaf Nordenskiöld

Out & About In Mesa Verde

New National Park Package Offers Adventurous Incentives To Gay & Lesbian Tourists

Located in Southwest Colorado, Mesa Verde National Park is the nation's largest archeological preserve and features 4,000 known archeological sites, including 600 cliff dwellings.

In recognition of the growing gay and lesbian travel sector, ARAMARK Mesa Verde Company, which manages lodging and concessions for Mesa Verde National Park, has created the "Out & About in Mesa Verde" package designed specifically for gay and lesbian travelers.

For \$799 per couple, the "Out & About in Mesa Verde" package includes:

- Two nights accommodations at Far View Lodge in a specialty "Kiva" room which features upgraded amenities including custom handcrafted furniture, pillow top mattresses and terrycloth robes. Located 15 miles from the park entrance, the 150 room Far View Lodge feature private balconies and views of up to 100 miles across three states
- Breakfast for two each morning

- Dinner for two each evening at the award-winning Metate Room
- A private guided tour of Mesa Verde's ancient cliff dwellings and sites, including the famous Cliff Palace dwelling
- Welcome bottle of premium wine

To fully experience the heritage and enjoy the sights at Mesa Verde National Park which is open year round it is suggested that guests allow one to two days at the Park. However Mesa Verde guests can also opt to extend their visit with a discounted overnight stay at one of the GLBT-friendly establishments in nearby historic Durango: Leland House B&B or the Rochester Hotel.

Also, though the park is open 365 days a year, the Lodge and campground are open from mid-April to late October, which is also when most guided tours are available.

For more information on the Out & About Mesa Verde package, visit www.visitmesaverde.com. ■

Orbitz Goes Green, Launches Eco-Friendly Travel Site

If you're thinking of going 'green' the next time you travel, Orbitz has a new resource to help you along in that endeavor.

Earth Day may be a brief period of time when environmental concerns are top of mind in America, but travel website, Orbitz is working to make environmental consciousness a year-round priority, committing to help protect the planet from the inside-out.

Orbitz's innovative new approach was reportedly driven by employees' passion for major internal recycling and energy-saving efforts. The program has now grown into the launch of a pervasive corporate citizenship initiative to raise environmental awareness, beginning with the announcement of company-sponsored "voluntourism" vacations and now extending to offer travelers eco-friendly opportunities to make a difference of their own. A recent Orbitz survey found that more than half of Americans feel the U.S. tourism industry is lagging when it comes to being "eco-friendly."

This news apparently reconfirmed the Orbitz Worldwide efforts already under way, in offices from Chicago to Sydney to London, to curb its own environmental impact, and

the development, from the inside-out of eco-friendly travel tools and environmentally-focused content on-site.

"Today, Orbitz invites travelers to join our own employees around the world in making a difference when you travel," said Steve Barnhart, CEO and president of Orbitz Worldwide. "Orbitz Worldwide is committed to being a vocal proponent within the travel community, working to offset the impact our industry has on the environment, so we're enthusiastic about our partnership with a highly respected organization like CarbonFund.org and the launch of Version 1.0 of our e-microsite."

The first stage of the Orbitz eco-travel microsite is a comprehensive resource for travelers who want to find everything from eco-friendly hotels to environmental volunteer opportunities. Travelers who visit the Orbitz eco-travel microsite (<http://eco.orbitz.com>), will have access to the following information and tools:

- Articles on eco-travel designed to help people understand exactly what "eco-tourism" means, how it effects local environments and communities throughout the world and how everyone can make a difference.
- Top eco-friendly destinations. Editors from Away.com give their top picks for destinations that are doing their part to create a sustainable environment.
- Top 'green' hotels. Orbitz hotel experts

give picks on lodging properties that operate with environmentally-friendly practices and products.

- Eco volunteer opportunities. Orbitz is linking travelers to the National Park Service volunteer website where they can find rewarding opportunities to become involved in conservation initiatives during their travels.
- Eco-travel tips. Whether renting a hybrid car or taking a "to-go" coffee cup with you, Orbitz gives travelers suggestions for easy things they can do on any trip.

Orbitz is also working with partners at Carbonfund.org, a not-for-profit organization, that offsets travelers CO2 emissions by supporting viable renewable energy development, re-forestation projects and other initiatives focused on turning back the clock on global climate change.

"The travel industry has impacted the environment, and as a responsible corporate citizen, Orbitz is committing to make a difference," said Eric Carlson, Executive Director of CarbonFund.org. "We look forward to working with Orbitz and its customers to help offset carbon emissions and make environmental awareness a part of their standard operational procedures."

For more information on Orbitz's eco-friendly Protect Planet Earth initiative, go to eco.orbitz.com. ■



KāDE
studios
Design + Photography

www.kadestudios.com

Design
512.771.3632
design@kadestudios.com

Photography
512.694.5506
info@kadestudios.com

drink bar guide



1 BOUT TIME

9601 NIH 35
(North of Rundberg)
www.bouttimeaustin.com
(512) 832-5339

2 CHAIN DRIVE

504 Willow St
www.myspace.com/1chaindrive
(512) 480-9017

3 CHARLIE'S

1301 Lavaca St (@13th St)
www.charliesaustin.com
(512) 474-6481

4 THE COCKPIT

113 San Jacinto Blvd
www.cockpitaustin.com
(512) 457-8010

5 OILCAN HARRY'S

211 W 4th St
www.oilcanharrys.com
(512) 320-8823

6 RAIN ON 4TH

217 W 4th St
www.rainon4th.com
(512) 494-1150

7 RAINBOW CATTLE COMPANY

305 W 5th St
www.rainbowcattleco.com
(512) 472-5288

*Our Specials Guide will return
next month in time for Pride!*

MICHAEL THAD CARTER
PHOTOGRAPHY



Q Scopes

"Take constructive criticism, Scorpio!"

In mythology, Saturn castrated his father, Uranus, and tossed the genitals into the sea, where they arose as Venus. Saturn in Leo quincunx to Uranus in Pisces continues that struggle between invention/rebellion and order/authority. The keys to reconciling these principles are humility, respect for tradition, and empathetic adaptation.

ARIES (March 20 - April 19)

Old pleasures lately seem more "old" than "pleasurable." Take it as a sign of maturity and depth that you find greater satisfaction in productive activities. Volunteer work will offer greater rewards than you can imagine.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

You can have some fabulous parties, but be very careful whom you invite into your home. You tend to bring home inventive and spiritually dynamic individuals, which sounds good - but lying drunks can fall into that category, too!

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

Your sign is famous for talking, but you can be an excellent listener. Pay close attention to authority figures and subtle shifts in the chain of command. Measure your words carefully. Your two-cents worth can be worth a lot more than that!

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)

New philosophical perspectives can soften recent financial challenges. Whether they facilitate acceptance, cultivate long-range vision, or even offer new opportunities, you will profit from keeping an open mind.

LEO (July 23 - August 22)

Be careful of overexposure! Lurid, luscious secrets may be revealed in places that could be damaging. There are people who want whatever you have to offer. Just pick your audience very carefully, and always keep them wanting more!

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22)

Your worries aren't entirely unfounded, but they are largely exaggerated. Work with someone you trust to sort the real concerns from the paranoid fuss. This exercise could strengthen your relationship in ways you'd never thought possible.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22)

While considering long-term goals and ideals, think also about your health. Be very careful now of allergic reactions to medications. Leave your prescriptions to the professionals, but ask questions and keep them on their toes.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21)

Your brilliantly creative impulses will be more effective if you can curb your rebellious streak and take constructive criticism from experts and guidance from authorities. There are times to storm the barricades, but subversion is generally much more effective.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 20)

Your usual love of adventure is under constraints lately. Improvements at home can help you to integrate and deepen the impact of lessons and experiences already enjoyed. "What have you learned?" leads to the question, "What can you teach?"

CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19)

What's your fetish? Discussing your darkest, nastiest desires with a trusted friend, a good "sister," will help you get much clearer about what you really want. And when you know what you really want, you'll get it so much more easily!

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18)

You may resent your partner holding the purse strings tightly, but somebody has to. Your ideas about creative financing may be too creative for anyone's good. If there's anything useful in them, those ideas will survive the scrutiny of a cooler head.

PISCES (February 19 - March 19)

Regular, steady exercise is good. Sudden shifts in the routine, especially overexertion, can be dangerous. Discuss any changes with a doctor or trainer. Being wacky at work can get you whacked with harder work. Discuss any innovation with colleagues first!

Q Puzzle

Another Mixed-Up Couple

Across

- 1 Buck heroine
- 5 Endora portrayer
- 10 Neighbor of Mont.
- 14 Ventimiglia of *Heroes*
- 15 Gay horror writer John Peyton
- 16 *Frasier* actress Gilpin
- 17 Eater of forbidden fruit, and others
- 18 Glove material
- 19 Police incursion at Stonewall
- 20 An American in Paris, once
- 23 Elroy Jetson stroked him
- 24 Adolf's intimate Rohm
- 26 Lover of 20-Across
- 32 Laura Nyro's "I Met ___ on a Sunday"
- 35 International Male's business, e.g.
- 36 *Ghostbusters* goo
- 37 Sapphic poems
- 39 Trick alternative
- 41 Where to see sweaty athletes
- 42 Worlds of Ulrichs
- 44 Step in the salon
- 46 Skin decoration
- 47 Vagina, and anagram of 26-Across
- 50 SNL producer Michaels
- 51 Queer, to straights
- 55 Quick do-overs by and anagram of 20-Across
- 60 *Trick's* Spelling
- 62 Composer Ned
- 63 "___ first you don't succeed, keep on sucking till you do suck seed"
- 64 *Dallas* actor Keenan
- 65 Circuit party, e.g.
- 66 Bone below the elbow
- 67 Jackie's designer
- 68 Goes out with
- 69 AZT doses, for example

Down


- 1 Greek edition of Oprah's magazine?
- 2 Days of Our ___
- 3 Ready for anything
- 4 "Our" to Pasolini
- 5 Sometime defender of gay rights
- 6 Stick it in the slow ones
- 7 Grace ___
- 8 Barely gets, with "out"
- 9 Three couples in bed?

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21						22				
23									24				25	
			26		27	28	29	30						31
32	33	34		35						36				
37			38		39				40		41			
42				43		44				45		46		
47					48						49			
	50									51		52	53	54
			55			56	57	58	59					
60	61				62						63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

Solution on page 24

- 10 Light shower
- 11 Roster of Cain's favorites?
- 12 Well-endowed Onassis
- 13 Dan Savage memoir, with *The*
- 21 Albert, to Nathan
- 22 Greek love
- 25 Gay Day at Busch Gardens locale
- 27 Addams family member
- 28 Poet Lucien, and others
- 29 "And on this farm he had a chicken, ___"
- 30 Edmund to Colette?
- 31 Tickled pink
- 32 Ginsberg poem
- 33 Rupert Everett's *An ___ Husband*
- 34 City in Barry Humphries' homeland
- 38 Like an exciting Stephen Pyles recipe?
- 40 Fab Five syllable for many a straight guy
- 43 Performed like Rufus Wainwright
- 45 Shrek's shoe size, perhaps
- 48 Looked at a hottie
- 49 The monotony of monogamy, e.g.?
- 52 Big shooter
- 53 "Try ___ see"
- 54 These, to Lorca
- 56 Temporary superstar
- 57 Singer Fure
- 58 Director Norman of *Prelude to a Kiss*
- 59 They're trained to use paddles
- 60 Eagle, on a par four
- 61 Duvall played her in *Popeye*

WHY DOES ALAN CUMMING WEAR THE BRACELET?

He wears it to raise desperately needed funds for HIV/AIDS care services, education and vaccine development. Over half a million people have chosen to wear The Bracelet. What about you? Available at: Kenneth Cole; Virgin Megastore; Ben Bridge Jewelers and other  UNTILTM THERE'S A CURE fine retailers. Or to order call 1-800-88-UNTIL or visit us at WWW.UNTIL.ORG.



2007 - Sixth Annual a g l c c

PRIDE
PARADE

United For Diversity

Deep *in the* Heart *of* Texas

Saturday, June 2nd, 7:30pm Downtown Austin

AustinPrideParade.org

