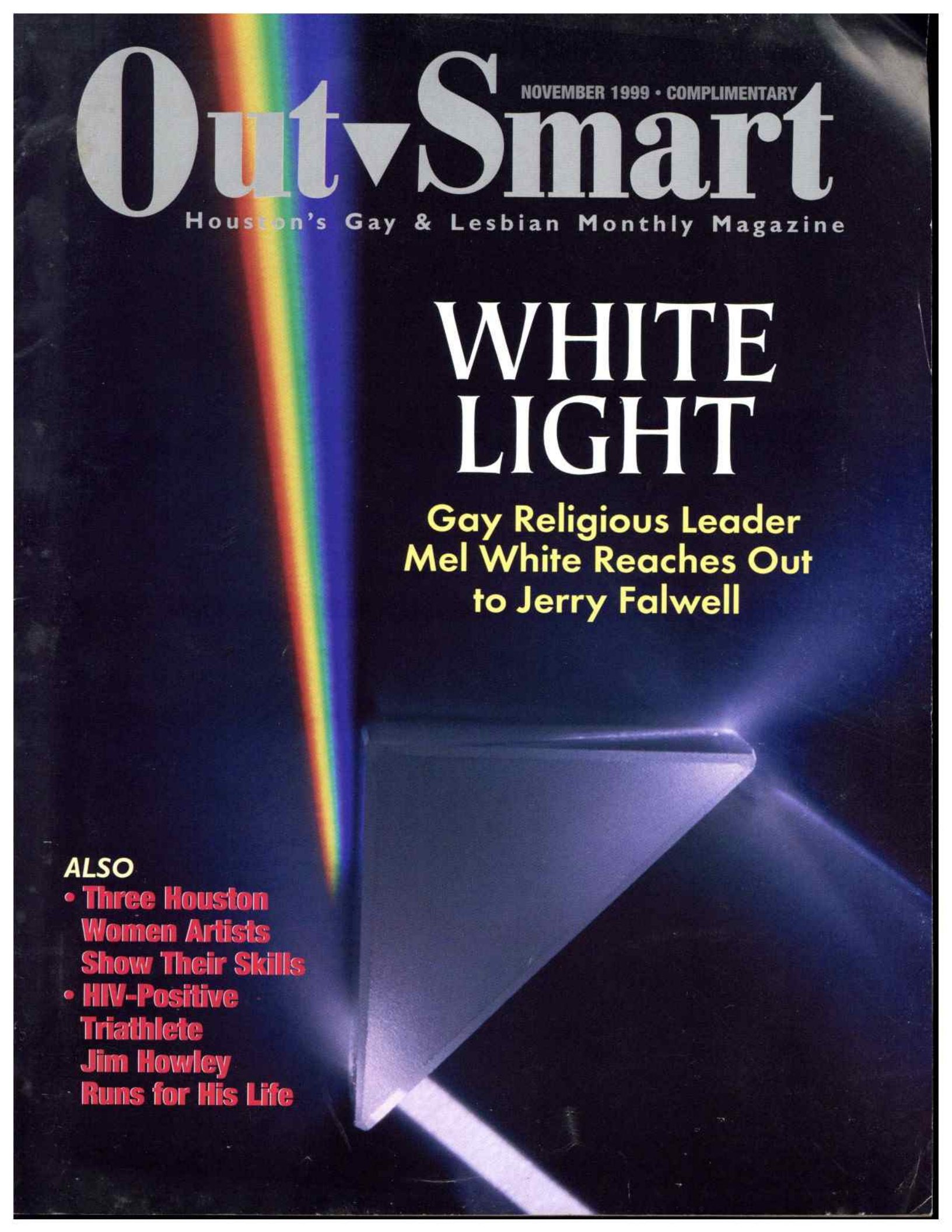




# OutSmart

NOVEMBER 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine

## WHITE LIGHT

**Gay Religious Leader  
Mel White Reaches Out  
to Jerry Falwell**

### ALSO

- **Three Houston Women Artists Show Their Skills**
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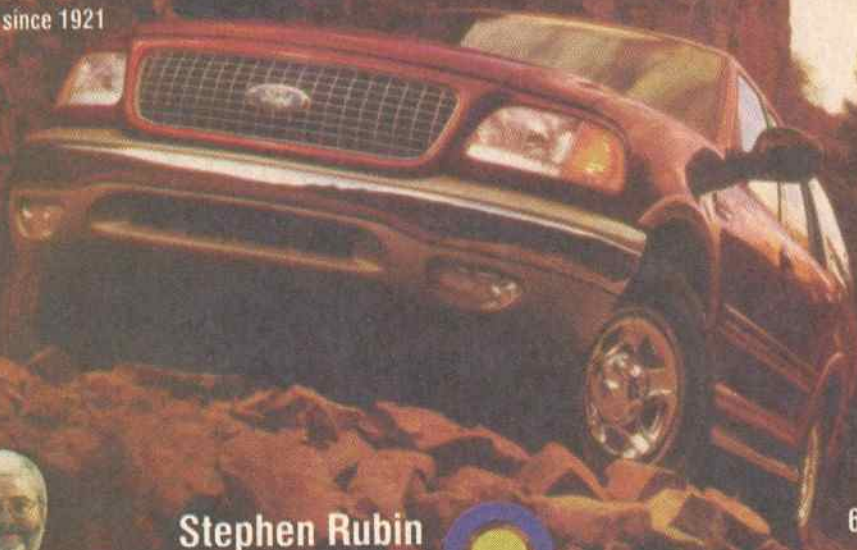
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# THE LOVE GODDESS RULES

I was having a bad day when I walked into Lobo and saw *OutSmart* magazine [Oct.]. The cover with Frankenstein and Elsa Lanchester (or was it Madeline Kahn?) immediately made me smile. When I got home I started thumbing through the magazine, and while reading the interview with "Love Goddess" Judy Tenuta, I was rolling on the floor with laughter. I thought I'd bust a gut when she said Bette Davis looked like one of the trees from *The Wizard of Oz*. Thanks for letting my day end on a higher note.

—Fred R. Hatcher  
Houston

# JUDY & CHUCK & CHRIS & CARL

I just wanted to write and tell you how much I enjoy the interviews in *OutSmart*. It is just one of the reasons I love *OutSmart* so much. The other reason I love it is for Chris (hunk-a-hunk-a-burnin' love) Sill's GrooveOut column. I just wish you could make his picture a little bit bigger.

Oh yeah, back to the interviews. The one with Judy Tenuta was great. The part about Camilla Parker Bowling Ball being in the Kentucky Derby was cute, but her description of Bette Davis looking like one of the trees from *The Wizard of Oz* was brilliant and absolutely hysterical!

And the interview with Chuck George was really nice, too. It showed us a side of "Gorgeous George" (even though I voted for that other hunk-a-hunk-a-burnin' love, Carl Parker) that I am sure not many of his viewers get to see...his compassionate side.

Anyway, thanks for bringing us so many great interviews, and keep up the good work.

—Marcus Donahoe  
via the Internet

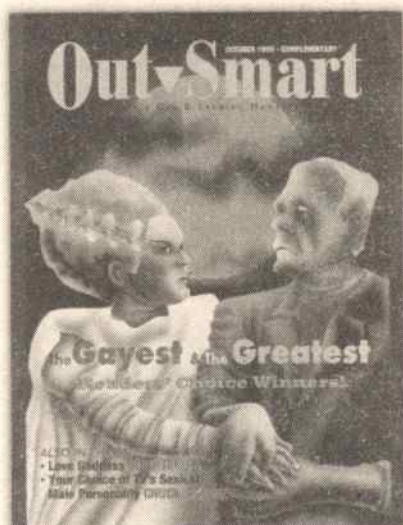
# LAMBDA STILL RISING

In a recent *OutSmart* article discussing gay and lesbian bookstores [TimeOut, Oct.], Joe Ramunni of Crossroads Market is quoted as saying: "Lambda Rising has been getting beaten about the head really badly and A Different Light...is now considering closing their stores, because they are losing money."

When I asked Ramunni about that quote, he denied making it. Whether he made the quote or not, it is untrue as far as it refers to Lambda Rising Bookstores [with four locations in Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Md.; Rehoboth Beach, Del.; and Norfolk, Va.]. Despite the encroachment of deep-pocket mega-chain and dot-com bookstores that have had a harsh impact on most independent bookstores around the country, Lambda Rising remains strong financially and continues to enjoy broad community support and increasing sales at all of its stores. We will stock and sell more books, videos, music, and other merchandise than any other gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender specialty bookseller in the world.

We are celebrating our 25th year in business this year, and by the look of things, we'll be around at least another 25 years. Perhaps by then, homophobic attitudes outside our community and divisive rumormongering inside it will finally have abated.

—Deacon Maccubbin  
Lambda Rising Bookstores  
Washington, D.C.



# "RAINBOW" STANDS FOR...

Most of us in the Houston gay community have gone to great lengths to bring the gay and lesbian community together. There are establishments in town that are breaking down the efforts of so many.

A couple of years ago, there were a couple of "men's clubs" that seemed to discourage female patrons by charging a cover charge to women and not men. Another prohibited women from bringing their purses into the club. These actions seemed unsettling and gave women the message that their business was not wanted.

Well, things seemed to be getting better until the new Club Rainbow opened. They have a policy that charges women a \$5 cover charge and men \$10 [See *OutSmart*, Oct., "Club Rainbow—Where the Boys Aren't" by Daryl Moore]. This club advertises that they are "the finest upscale club in Houston." I believe that they have missed the mark with this one. The classiest women in this community are not going to put up with their male friends being treated this way.

Our community faces many challenges to have equal rights in our day-to-day lives. How would you feel if because you were gay you had to pay double for dinner or a movie? We do not need these practices in our community. Until I hear that these practices are discontinued, this classy lesbian and her friends will go where all are welcome.

—RAB  
via the Internet

I am a gay woman, and my brother is also gay. We have been around the gay scene in Houston for 30 years. We moved away from Houston approximately three years ago, he to Washington County, me to Austin County.

I had not been out in a couple of years and noticed a new female bar; Club Rainbow, was open in the Montrose area. I asked my brother to accompany me to Houston for dinner at the very nice restaurant, Sonoma; the food and service were top-notch. We arrived at Club Rainbow at about 9:30 p.m. and had no sooner gotten inside the doorway when a woman with short-cropped whitish-blond hair stated that the cover would be \$5 for me and \$7 for my brother. I was stunned by this discrimination, being we are all gay.

This hostile hatred of men in a women's club that's supposed to be a professional upscale establishment was very upsetting to me. I had not witnessed such

discrimination since Mama Jo ran The Ranch on South Main and charged gay women a higher cover than men (at that time, The Ranch was for men). At around that same period of time, J.R.'s had banned women from wearing jeans to try and stop lesbians from entering their establishment. I knew why J.R.'s attempted to do so—because of the daily fights between lesbians and their weekly tearing up of the women's restrooms, some of which I had witnessed....

Going into the millennium, how do we expect Congress to treat us as equal human beings when we don't treat our fellow gays as equals because of gender? We gays are all striving for the same things in life—freedom to be ourselves without discrimination, worldwide!

Needless to say, on a scale of one to 10, Club Rainbow rates a zero in my book and will never see a dime of my gay money. I hope others in the gay community will react by spending their hard-earned money in gay establishments that treat customers equal, no matter what their gender.

My brother and I proceeded to J.R.'s, the Mining Company, and the BRB and had a very good time; we were made to feel right at home and appreciated!

I needed to get this off my chest and let the gay community know about prejudice among our own people.

—Nevada Dyer  
Bellville, Texas

# EATING FOR TWO

The Progressive Dinner hosted by Progressive Men was a huge success. Thank you for your valuable participation....

As you know, the event benefited two organizations: AssistHers and An Uncommon Legacy Foundation. The goal of AssistHers is to help women live as normally as possible while coping with a life-threatening or debilitating illness. An Uncommon Legacy Foundation provides direct financial support to social, cultural, health, and educational projects and programs that meet the needs of the women's community.

Your gift will go a long way in helping us provide support to women in our community. On behalf of our organizations and the women we serve, thank you.

—Tori Williams (AssistHers)  
Janine Brunjes (An Uncommon Legacy Foundation)

# CORRECTION

Gallery Furniture was not the only winner for Best Furniture Store (Outerloop) in our Gayest & Greatest Readers' Choice Awards. Cantoni, located at 9889 Westheimer, tied with Gallery for first place. The error occurred in the transference of text from the disk to the layout of the feature article. *OutSmart* regrets the error.

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# In&Out

News IN our community & OUT in the nation

## DEDICATED TO THE ONE I LOVE

*Candlelight march and AIDS quilt dedication in November*



TERESA DIMENNO

**F**riends and family of AIDS sufferers are invited to join the Houston chapter of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in a candlelight march on Tues., Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. The march will remind Houston of those who have lost the battle with AIDS and keep alive the hope for a cure.

The march will start at the AIDS Memorial Quilt Workshop in Chelsea Market on Montrose and end at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where AIDS Memorial Quilt panels will be dedicated in a public ceremony. Eighteen new panels will be dedicated to the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Jackson Hicks, former executive director of the NAMES Project Foundation (the Houston chapter of the AIDS Quilt) and currently a corporate board member of the museum, will deliver the keynote speech.

The candlelight march and quilt dedication also kicks off AIDS awareness week in communities and schools, the internationally recognized "Day Without Art" observed by museums, theaters, and artists, and numerous fund-raising activities hosted by various AIDS service organizations.

Those interested in viewing the entire quilt can now visit the AIDS Memorial Quilt website ([www.namesproject.com](http://www.namesproject.com)) and see the quilt's 43,000 panels in high-resolution photographs, thanks to MGI Software's donation of its Zoom Server. The Zoom Server is a top-of-the-line software application that allows the viewer to zoom in on sections of the quilt.

For more information, contact the Houston chapter of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at 713/526-2637, or visit the website at <http://www.namesproject.org>.

## AREA 2000

*Kelly Gale Amen to receive humanitarian of the year*

**A**IDS Foundation Houston's annual black-tie gala has been set for January 29, 2000, at Vine Street Studios in downtown Houston.

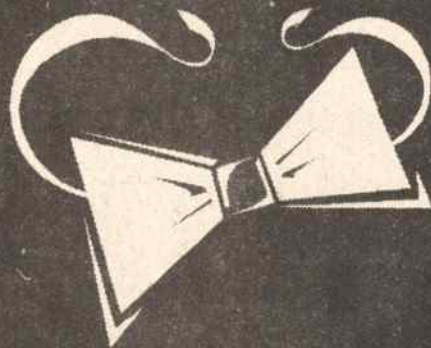
Christened AREA 2000 (Artists Reaching an End to AIDS), the gala is a fund- and awareness-raising event and auction that brings the work of many participating artists together in one dynamic and educational experience.

"We are very excited about AREA 2000," says Sara Selber, executive director at AIDS Foundation Houston. "There has been incredible support from the art community to not only raise much-needed funds, but to make this gala a completely unique event for the guests and to show, through artistic impression, why we should all care about this disease."

Chaired by Nancy Littlejohn, the gala will also honor Kelly Gale Amen as AIDS Foundation Houston's Humanitarian of the Year for his longstanding support, compassion, and tireless efforts.

"When we thought of who should be honored as Humanitarian of the Year, Kelly was a natural choice," continues Selber. "He has time and time again unselfishly dedicated himself to making a difference in the lives of so many people in need."

Jazz great Kelly Gray and OrchestraX will entertain, in addition to several performance artists. The dinner will be provided by Houston's premiere caterer Jackson Hicks. Tables start at \$2,500; individual tickets are \$150. Anyone interested in attending AREA 2000 should contact Selber at 713/623-6796.



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## MOUNTAIN DUE

*Mayor host women's summit*

**M**ore than 1,000 women and men are expected to attend the "Mayor's Summit for Women: Women United—Celebrating the Past, Building the Future," to be held Nov. 19-20 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Star Jones, co-host of the syndicated talk show *The View* and author of *You Have to Stand for Something or You'll Fall for Anything*, will be the opening keynote speaker. Additional speakers include: Sheila Wellington, president of Catalyst, a national organization that tracks women in corporate America; Mari Montoña-Harmon, an expert in multicultural education; and Cathy Bonner, president of The Women's Museum opening in Dallas in 2000.

The conference will celebrate the diversity of women and the gains they have made over the past century through workshops, art and historical exhibits, and expert speakers. In

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## In&Out

addition, conference attendees will forge an action-based agenda that will ensure positive change for women in Houston.

The summit is being organized by community leaders, including Mayor Brown, the City of Houston, the Greater Houston Women's Foundation, the Houston Area Women's Center, the League of Women Voters, the National Organization of Women, and Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas. For more information or to register for the conference, call 713/528-6798, or visit the website at [www.womenunited.org](http://www.womenunited.org).

## YOU'VE GOT HATE MAIL

*NGL.org calls for AOL boycott*

**N**ationalGayLobby.org, an Internet-based gay and lesbian lobbying organization, is proposing a boycott of America Online, Inc., starting at noon on Nov. 16, unless AOL agrees to clarify its censorship and enforcement policies.

NGL has set a deadline of Nov. 15 for this clarification. If the deadline isn't met, NGL will call for a "worldwide boycott" against AOL and its banner advertisers.

The controversy started when a gay man's online profile was deleted because he described himself as a "submissive bottom." AOL contacted the man and told him that his description violated the company's terms-of-service agreement and asked him to alter his profile.

However, a search conducted by Wired Strategies revealed that among the profiles of the 20-million-members are users who describe their hobbies as "fag shooting," "queer bashing," and "killing blacks, Jews, and Asians."

What the NGL seeks to clarify from AOL is why "submissive bottom" was offensive while "killing blacks, Jews, and Asians" seems to be OK.

Other organizations, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, have also called on AOL to clarify their policies regarding how AOL determines what is permissible and what is offensive.

To determine the amount of support for the proposed protest, NGL posted an opinion poll on their site asking AOL members and non-members alike whether the gay community should boycott AOL. Of the more than 75,000 visitors to their site, 75 percent indicated that they would support a boycott.

AOL has until Nov. 15 to discuss the terms-of-service clarifications with the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, who have offered to head-off the boycott by sitting down with the Internet giant.

An AOL spokesperson wasn't available for comment.

## ANGELS IN KILGORE

*Play continues in spite of religious protest*

**T**he controversy started when local churches launched a petition drive to halt the Kilgore Community College production of Tony Kushner's play, *Angels in America*. The reason for their opposition can be summed up with this statement in their petition: "This play is absolutely full with vulgar and explicit scenes, including one with two men embracing and kissing."

## In&Out

Kilgore Community College president William Holda defended the play against charges of obscenity and countered threats with tighter security, including metal detectors at the theater entrance.

"The play really talks about the disconnected nature of today's society and life without intimacy and the need for those who are suffering," said Holda, adding that canceling the play would be a surrender of academic freedom.

Vocal opposition from local churches and politicians in Kilgore, an oil town of 11,600 people about 120 miles east of Dallas, did little to deter people from attending. A marquee outside the First Baptist Church read: "We too say 'no' to the play at KC." About 30 protesters picketed outside the theater on opening night, but many of the demonstrators were thought to be "professional" and from an out-of-town Baptist church group.

Despite this opposition, including protesters who held up signs saying, "God hates Fags," the play was described by director Raymond Caldwell as "a positive box-office response." Describing *Angels* as "one of the most moral plays I have read," Caldwell still edited out nude scenes and some of the more graphic sexual scenes, but left in the strong language.

*Angels in America* tells the story of a group of people, mainly homosexual men, trying to make sense of the world. It won the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for drama and a Tony Award for best play.

## BASHING DEFENSE

### Homophobia-plea for Shepard's killer

In defense of the beating, pistol whipping, fence posting, and even tual death of Matthew Shepard, attorneys for Aaron McKinney are hoping that jury homophobia will compromise the conviction for their pathetic client.

One of the main defensive arguments is that Shepard was an intoxicated sexual prowler who approached McKinney and Russell Henderson in Laramie, Wyoming's Fireside Lounge. McKinney's defense also includes testimony that he suffered an abusive childhood that included forced fellatio by the neighborhood bully at age seven and a "confusing" encounter with a male cousin at 15. Jeffrey Montgomery of Michigan's Triangle Foundation said he was shocked at how far the defense was taking it, calling it "gay-bashing" and "a scoundrel's defense."

In its opening statement, the defense team's co-captain Jason Tangeman contends it was Shepard who approached McKinney, ostensibly asking for a ride home but actually seeking sex. McKinney reacted with uncontrollable rage and, the defense argued, should be convicted of manslaughter rather than first-degree murder, or murder in the commission of a felony—either of which could lead to the death penalty. In his statement to the police, McKinney said, "I don't know what happened. I blacked out. I felt possessed. It was like I left my body...I didn't intend to kill him...I just hit him too hard."

The prosecution contends that Shepard was lured out of the lounge to be robbed. Albany County District Attorney Cal Rerucha scoffed at the idea that McKinney's behavior toward Shepard could be excused by his own youthful victimization. He characterized McKinney as a "cold-blooded savage."

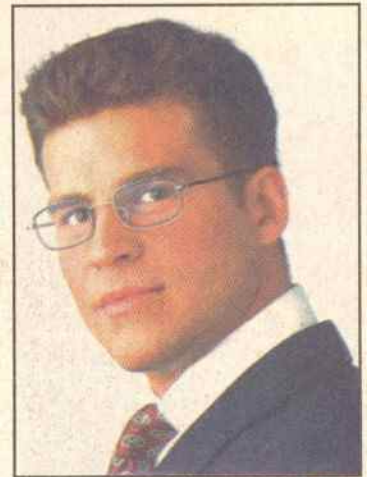
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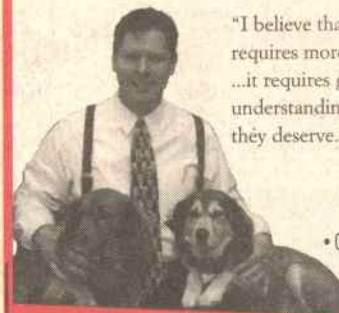


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# Business News



**Dr. Stewart Zuckerbrod**

**Dr. Stewart Zuckerbrod**, M.D., ophthalmologist, has been certified to perform Intacs surgery, a non-laser procedure for low-level nearsightedness. Intacs corneal ring segments are FDA-approved and offer immediate improvement in vision. Greater flexibility is offered because Intacs can be removed or replaced. Call Dr. Zuckerbrod for more information regarding the procedure at 713/668-9118.

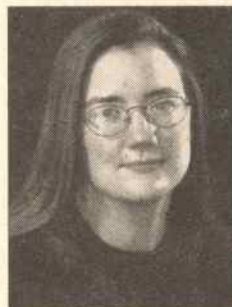
Congratulations to **Ron Delaney**, owner of **Ron's American Limousines**, for the new edition to their stable of luxury vehicles—the spacious 2000 Lincoln Town Car sedan. The Town Car is available for corporate transportation and airport transfer service. For 24-hour service, phone 713/686-3337.

**Dr. Randy Mitchmore**, D.D.S., of **LifeSmiles**—a dental practice of care, service, and relationship—and his dental team are Las Vegas-bound. After returning from a previous trip on Oct. 20-24, the dental team will again attend the Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies to study advanced anterior aesthetics (advanced cosmetic dentistry for upper and lower front teeth) on Nov. 17-21. Dr. Mitchmore was an exhibitor at Empower '99 and received over 100 entries to the Sonicare giveaway, which was won by Nancy Perrin. LifeSmiles is located at 2617 W. Holcombe Boulevard at Kirby, suite E. For appointments, call 713/592-9300.

**Houston Grand Opera for Everyone!** Houston Grand Opera director **David Gockley** has introduced a new graphic look for the opera company, including a new logo and a redesigned website. By introducing online, single-ticket sales, HGO has made it convenient for its customers to purchase tickets. Customers can call 713/227-ARTS, visit the box office at Wortham Theatre Center, or set their browser to [www.houstongrandopera.org](http://www.houstongrandopera.org).

**Alley Theatre** is expanding its artistic staff. The Alley Theatre will begin its 1999-2000 season with three impressive additions to its staff: **James Black**, an Alley Theatre resident-company actor for 13 years, takes on a new role as associate director; **Kevin Rigdon** joins the Alley as associate director/design; and **Malcolm Nicholls** is the new resident sound designer. Alley Theatre is located at 615 Texas Avenue, and the box office can be contacted at 713/228-8421.

The **AssistHers Health-Care Seminars** presents "Update on Pain Research" on Saturday, Nov. 13 and will be conducted by Cathy Clancy, Ph.D., LMSW-ACP, a representative of M.D. Anderson Pain Research Department. The seminar is free. For more information, call 713/521-4628.



**Sara Kellner**

**Diverse Works Artspace** is pleased to announce the hiring of **Sara Kellner** and the promotion of **Loris Bradley**. Kellner will be joining the staff as the executive director, and Bradley has been appointed managing director. Kellner will be responsible for all aspects of DiverseWorks including overseeing the

administrative and development functions, as well as working with the board of directors artist board. Kellner will officially begin her new position this month. DiverseWorks is located at 1117 East Freeway (off N. Main at Naylor), 713/223-8346.

**Stages Repertory Theatre** has named **Douglas Mitchell** playwright-in-residence through the 2000-2001 season. Stages will present a festival of Mitchell's plays for three consecutive weekends, April 28-May 13. Stages will assist Mitchell with the development of new plays. Mitchell, who has been on the Rice University faculty as a linguist for 20 years, began writing plays in 1990. Now at the age of 69, his work is gaining national attention. Call Stages for play dates and times at 713/527-8669. Stages is located at 3201 Allen Parkway.

**The Golden Room** celebrates its 17th anniversary on Friday, Nov. 12. The Golden Room was founded in 1982 by sisters-in-law **Supatra Yoto** and **Kay Sudjai**, both natives of Thailand. The celebration kicks off on the 12th with an evening of classical Thai dancing and music. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. and entertainment at 8:30 p.m. For reservations and information, call 713/524-9614.

**Houston's Theater District** has launched an eye-catching informative website providing current information about Houston's Theater District. Descriptions, ticket information, and links to the websites of Alley Theatre, Da Camera of Houston, Houston Ballet, Houston Broadway Series, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Symphony, Society for the Performing Arts, and Theatre Under The Stars are featured. Also included are venue descriptions and photographs with maps and directions to each location. The website address is [www.houstontheaterdistrict.org](http://www.houstontheaterdistrict.org).

**Simon & Associates**, attorneys at law, have moved to new offices to better serve their clients. **Russell C. Simon** established Simon & Associates in 1993. The firm specializes in bankruptcy (Chapter 7 liquidation, Chapter 13 reorganization), personal injury, business litigation, powers of attorney, and more. Visit their new location at 1620 Westheimer, between Dunlavy and Mandell. For appointments and information, call 713/524-6000.



**Stephen A. Haddock**



**Alicia F. Babin**

**Mary G. Reinbolt**, managing partner of **The LoftonGroup, LLC**, and **Loft & Home Essentials**, is pleased to announce two staff additions and one promotion. The LoftonGroup, designers of custom candle and home fragrance collections, welcomes **Stephen A. Haddock** as account manager and **Lynne Caldwell** as account coordinator. Loft & Home Essentials, Houston's source for distinctive candles, accessories, and bath products, has named **Alicia F. Babin** corporate sales manager. The LoftonGroup and Loft & Home Essentials is located at 1009 Missouri at Montrose Blvd. They can be reached at 713/527-0770.

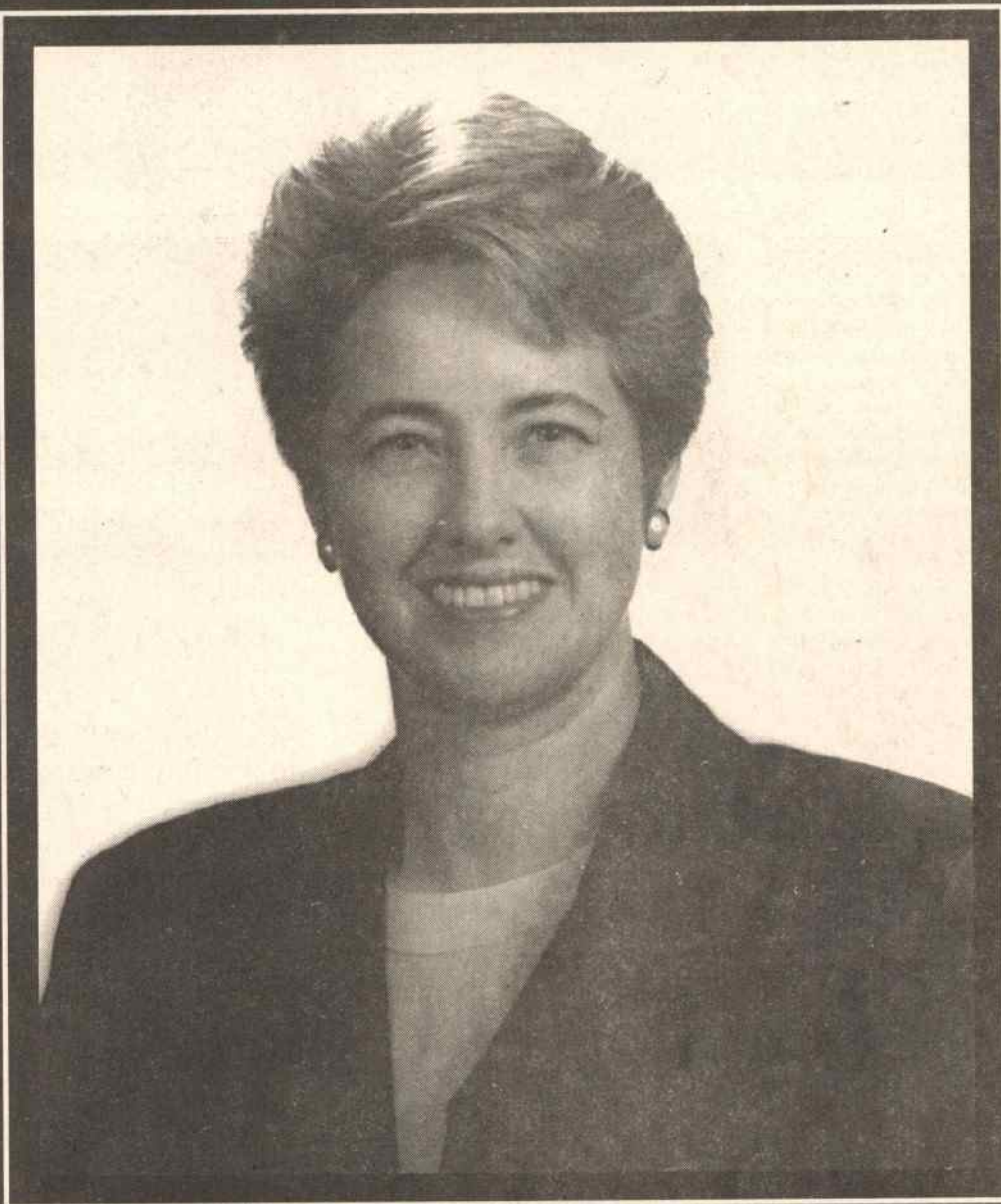
**Lois Kemp**, hypnotherapist and humorist, presents **Kemp Consulting**, an offering of keynote seminars, hypnotherapy, and a large dose of heart-warming humor. Kemp, RN, MA, CHT, founded Kemp Consulting in 1990 after an extensive career in critical-care nursing and hospital administration. The focus of her 10-year private practice is holistic, supportive, and change-oriented. Kemp's nationally



**Lois Kemp**

presented seminars—Managing Stress With Humor, Take Control of Your Healthcare, and Living With a Loss—are designed for corporations, nonprofit organizations, special interest groups, hospitals, and healthcare clinics. The seminars provide insights, tools, and techniques that encourage harmony and healing. Kemp also offers group and individual hypnotherapy sessions that focus on the mind/body approach to healing, stress reduction, and the possibility of freedom from limiting habits and beliefs. Kemp earned an associate and bachelor's degree in nursing, a master's in clinical psychology, and American Council of Hypnotherapy Examiners certification as a clinical hypnotherapist. Kemp can be reached at 281/384-1325, or forward e-mail to [LEKConsult@aol.com](mailto:LEKConsult@aol.com).

If your big news affects the community, we want to hear about it! Send your news release by the 15th of the month to OutSmart Magazine, c/o Laurie Jones, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006. Fax news briefs to 713/522-3275 or e-mail to [letters@outsmartmagazine.com](mailto:letters@outsmartmagazine.com).



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## TIMELINE 1994-96

Each month OutSmart continues its timeline series on the past 30 years of Houston gay history.

by Tim Brookover

**1994** Following the 1993 March on Washington, thousands of re-energized gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals returned home to establish a wave of new service and social organizations in their communities. In Houston, the years after the historic event saw the founding of a number of groups that remain fixtures today. Businessman and activist Jay Hollyfield created the **Hollyfield Foundation**, which was endowed by his estate upon his death from AIDS-related conditions in 1994. This prominent organization continues to provide grants in the fields of HIV/AIDS service and gay and lesbian civil rights. The foundation also offers meeting space to organizations at its headquarters, the Hollyfield Center, a venerable building on Albany recalled by gentlemen of a certain age as the Officers Club. Another organization with an advocacy mission, **It's Time, America!**, became the first group with a national scope seek-

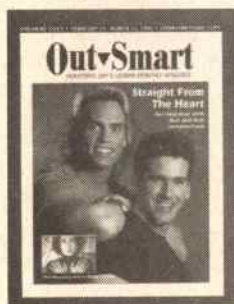
ing to secure the rights of transgendered and gender-variant persons. Formed during the 1994 Transgender Law Conference, **It's Time, America!** works at the federal, state, and local government levels to influence legislation. **SISTERS**, a support group for African American women, began meeting at the Montrose Counseling Center. Two popular social groups, the **Houston Area Bears** and the **Rainbow Ranglers**, arrived on the scene. The former promotes "friendship and brotherhood among like-minded men," according to a local bear website, and raises

money for charitable efforts. The latter promotes Western dancing. Finally, inspired by the March on Washington, the founding fathers and mothers of **OutSmart** magazine launched this publication.

**1995** A group of business-minded types founded the **Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce**, now one of the most visible organizations in the community. Best known for sponsoring the annual Empower expo in October, the chamber offers network-

ing opportunities for members and guests at monthly dinner meetings and other events, a small-business counseling service through the University of Houston, and a business mentoring program. The chamber is now helping to identify the next wave of community powerhouses through its ongoing Leading and Learning Initiative. **The Center for AIDS** opened as an information and advocacy organization that shares news on medical treatment and scientific advances in HIV/AIDS.

The center continues to perform this critical work through a newsletter, regular forums and informal mixers, and a useful website. A Houston chapter of the national **Uncommon Legacy** organization began advocacy and fundraising for causes of interest to and benefiting lesbians. The group awards



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Janine Brunjes, an original Uncommon Legacy member



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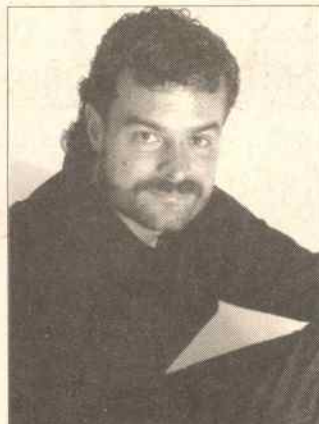
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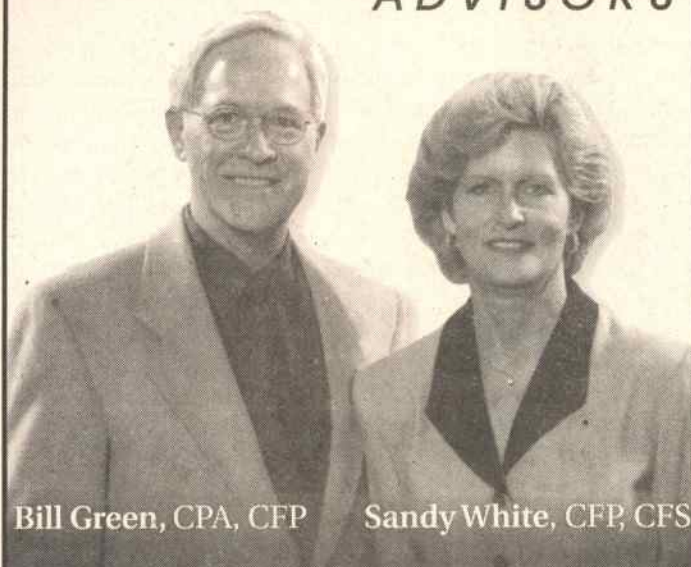
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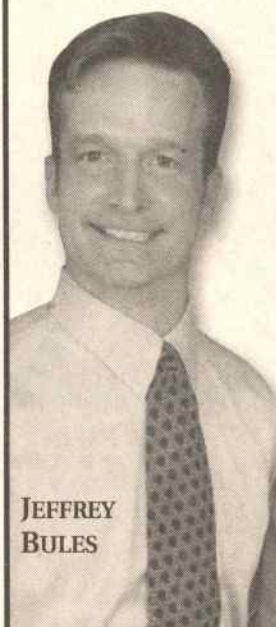
raising for causes of interest to and benefiting lesbians. The group awards scholarships to promising students with leadership potential, and awards grants to fund projects and organizations that contribute to the community's health, education and culture. Legacy also promotes philanthropy among women and demonstrates the growing power of lesbian giving. Another advocacy and social group, the **African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance**, got its start in 1995.

**1995 AssistHers** started serving women with life-threatening or debilitating illnesses this year. A corps of trained volunteers provides direct care, including emotional support, meal preparation, shopping, hospital and home visits, pet care, transportation, and other nonmedical duties. Assistance often extends to a woman's partner, caregiver, or family. Another organization for women, **Lesbians United in Coalition**, debuted. Two now-prominent gay and lesbian employee groups at major local firms—the **Chase Bank PRIDE Team** and **SEAShell** at Shell Oil Company—demonstrated the growing acceptance of the community within corporate America. The **Garden And Yard Society** (GAYS), an association of gay men and women interested in gardening and landscaping, started keeping things beautiful on the home front; this group also wins best acronym. **Queer Artists Collective (QuAC)** began striving to create a new arts culture in Houston. For the next three years, this group of people in their 20s (more commonly known as QuAC) presented exciting, challenging performances and events, including the 1997 Homolmprovement. In July 1999, QuAC gave its final show, Y2Q. The individual QuAC artists promised to continue pushing queer art into the next century.

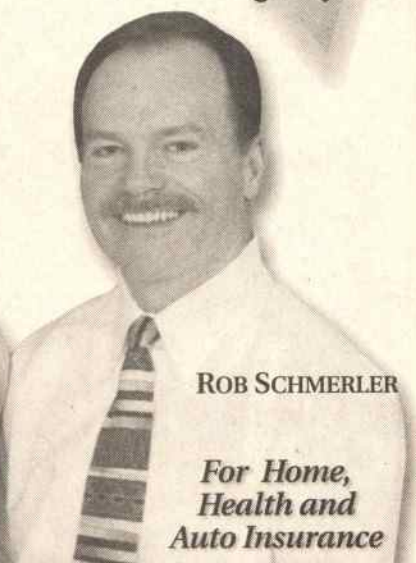
*Timeline constructed from personal interviews, personal recollections and documented information.*

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continued from page 11

## AMAZON VS. AMAZON

### *Battle of the Amazon company name*

**A**ttorneys for the Amazon Bookstore Cooperative, a feminist bookstore that's been a Minneapolis institution for 30 years, are seeking a protective order so that its female owners aren't subject to answering questions about their sexuality during their civil suit against Amazon.com. They say such matters are irrelevant.

The bookstore sued the Internet booksellers over its use of the name Amazon, claiming that it is creating confusion with the public. The lawsuit seeks to force Amazon.com to change its name and pay an unspecified amount in damages.

While the Amazon Bookstore opened in 1970 as a cooperative, it never registered its name with the federal government. It claims rights to the name due to its more than 30 years of use.

Amazon.com claims that the two businesses

cater to two different audiences. By questioning the sexuality of the bookstore owners, it seeks to prove that the bookstore caters to lesbians specifically, while Amazon.com has a broader, general-interest customer base.

"If you're not in the same business, the likelihood of confusion declines dramatically," said Amazon.com spokesman Bill Curry, who also noted that the bookstore waited more than three years before filing the trademark lawsuit.

During the pre-trial depositions, questions regarding sexual orientation were posed to Barbara Wieser, president and general manager of the Amazon Bookstore, as well as several of the cooperative's board members.

"Have you had any interest in promoting lesbian ideals in the community?" Amazon.com attorney Paul Weller asked board member Johanna den Boer.

After an objection by the bookstore's attorney Mathias Samuel, den Boer said, "Can you be a little clearer?"

"I'll ask you this," continued Weller. "Are you gay?"

Samuel objected again, then den Boer replied, "I'm not going to answer you."

The questions outraged Wieser. "What does our sexual preference have to do with a trademark case?" she asked. "Nothing."

"I think it's important that a jury understand how Amazon Bookstore Cooperative represents itself to the public, and I think as part of that, it's important for the jury to know, for example, whether the people who work in the bookstore have a particular sexual orientation," said Weller, who also apologized several times regarding the personal nature of these questions.

The motion for the protective order notes that under this logic, the president of Amazon.com, Jeff Bezos, should be subject to the same type of questioning.

"One would think that both Mr. Bezos and his counsel would have taken offense at this line of questioning and refused to answer," said the motion filed by Samuel and Michael Florey of Fish & Richardson.

Federal Judge Richard Kyle had already denied a request for an injunction to prohibit Amazon.com from using the name Amazon in the twin cities metropolitan area, saying he could find no evidence of irreparable financial harm to the bookstore.



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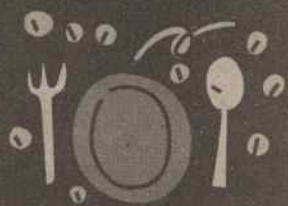


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## A Taste of Houston

Tapas-style reviews

### OutSmart Restaurant Guide

#### Baba Yega

2607 Grant St. (Missouri St.)  
713/522-0042

Definitely funkier 10 years ago, before Dante's inferno. Colossal burgers and expanded vegetarian menu lets carnivores and herbivores eat in harmony. Rare patio dining makes for great people watching. \$

#### Boulevard Bistrot

4319 Montrose (just past Richmond)  
713/524-6922

Houston's culinary queen Monica Pope delves into culinary wanderlust every time she mixes a drink with her signature fruit-infused alcohol. Her eclectic New American menu includes a Mediterranean sampler plate and salad Nicoise that you'll dream about until your next visit. Come for Sunday brunch, where funk meets haute couture, and taste scones the size of Mars, fluffy frittatas, and a dreamy cherry chocolate bread pudding. \$\$

#### Chapultepec

813 Richmond Ave. (@ Montrose)  
713/522-2365

A sentimental favorite, and the place where the bold and beautiful can nurse their hangovers 24 hours a day. Get a bite of Tex-Mex at its best—no lard, only the freshest meats and vegetables, and the nicest owners you'll ever meet. Francisco Valle and his wife Thelma came across the Mexican border with four quarters and created a Richmond haven that's stood in its original spot for more than 25 years. Olé. \$

#### Churrascos

2055 Westheimer (@ S. Shepherd)  
713/527-8300  
9705 Westheimer (@ Gessner)  
713/952-1988  
1320 W. Bay Area Blvd. (Friendswood)  
281/461-4100

The best thing that's happened to carnivorous Dixie since barbecue. The operative word here is beef—mouth-watering, succulent prime beef tenderloin basted with their signature chimichurri sauce (made from olive oil, fresh garlic, parsley, and spices) and char-grilled to order. Great grilled vegetables, empanadas, and seafood, too, but the pièce de résistance is the creamy tres leches dessert, which other restaurants have failed to imitate successfully. \$\$\$

#### Dalat Vietnamese Bistro

3241 Southwest Fwy (Buffalo Spdwy & Edloe)  
713/669-9375

A delightful little bistro with rare patio seating, right in Westpark's new restaurant row. Already known for its fresh chicken or pork vermicelli bowls, Vietnamese grilled fish hand wraps, and giant, perfectly textured calamari. With great food, no wait, and excellent service, go now before it rises to restaurant fame. \$



#### COST GUIDE

The cost guide reflects the average cost of dinner for one person with one drink and tip. Deduct about 25 percent for average lunch prices.

\$=\$15 and below (inexpensive)  
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\$\$\$=\$31 to \$50 (expensive)  
\$\$\$\$=\$51 or more (very expensive)

#### Dessert Gallery

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713/522-9999

A charming haven for dessert addicts, where Sugarbusters devotees and the calorie-challenged enter at their own risk. Convince your dentist to go public, buy up as many shares as you can afford, and inform the public of this after-dinner sweet fest. Put more clearly, their chocolate-dipped cookies make Mrs. Fields taste store-bought. \$

#### Golden Room

1209 Montrose (@ Dallas)  
713/524-9614

True to its name, this gold-gilded Thai-Chinese will have you rubbing elbows with the entire room—literally. Some find it a bit too intimate for private conversation, but the chicken wraps, spicy curries, and flavorful soups are meant for sharing, so dig in. Just don't burn your tongue. \$\$

#### Lai Lai Dumpling House

9262 Bellaire Blvd.  
713/271-0080

The best dive on Bellaire, not to mention the best Chinese for the least bucks. No kidding—how about feeding a group of 12 for under \$50? Soothe your soul with the Tofu Hot Pot, chock full o' steaming fresh vegetables and firm chunks of tofu. Or the pork- and veggie-filled dumplings, or the green onion pancakes, or just about anything on their menu. Top off with a fortune cookie and you're set till your next craving. \$

#### La Strada

322 Westheimer (@ Taft)  
713/523-1014  
5161 San Felipe (@ Sage)  
713-850-9999

Yes, they do more than Sunday brunch. It's called award-winning cuisine and matching wine list avail-

continued on page 21

# Hot Wok

review by Shelley Barnes

When was the last time you took a two-year sabbatical to eat your way around Asia? In your previous life, maybe? Or in a really great fantasy? For restaurateur Andy Tan, it was just part of the job. Already owning two Houston-based Chinese restaurants called Oriental Gourmet, Tan wanted a departure from traditional Chinese cooking without delving too far west into the trendy fusion confusion of the '90s. So after a two-year eating orgy tasting every classic dish throughout Asia, Tan compiled the best Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese, Mandarin, Hunan, Szechuan, and Cantonese dishes and wrapped them in one neat, cozy little package called Hot Wok.

Admit, the dozen or so times I've passed this jewel while whisking off to Galveston, it registered as one of those fast-food chains. The kind that aren't particularly clean or memorable but that'll hold you 'til dinner. Even though its inconspicuous location off the feeder road at Nasa Road One (next to Hooters) confirmed this image, Hot Wok's fare is neither fast nor forgettable. It's Asian innovation, and far more deserving of fame than its high-traffic competitors such as P.F. Changs.

Contrary to the hustling pace of inner-loop eating, this place isn't nearly so interested in turning tables as it is in catering to you, its discerning diner—not simply to your taste buds, but to your sense of adventure. For Hot Wok is definitely a walk on the hot side of predicable Chinese cuisine. Not in piquancy, but in originality. Take, for instance, the Create Your Own Stir Fry Wok Bar overflowing with an array of crispy fresh vegetables as original as they are varied—a harvest of several types of mushrooms, cabbage and onions, sweet red bell peppers, carrots, celery, bok choy, broccoli, tofu. The list goes on, and you'll unwittingly defy social etiquette by compulsively heaping this accessible garden into your already oversized bowl. Don't be embarrassed. Andy, his siblings (all co-owners), and the wait staff are sympathetic; you're not the first diner to succumb to greed. So you may as well go with the moment and sample all 12 sauces featured in the wok bar, ranging from spicy basil, Szechuan-garlic, and Thai curry to Hunan, Satay, and peanut. And if you're really on a roll, add one or a combination of meats like chicken, beef, shrimp, or calamari.

Once you've exhausted yourself with choices, you can witness the well-seasoned chefs do what Hot Wok does best.



**Shrimp with Garlic Sauce includes jumbo shrimp, mushrooms, snow peas, carrots seared in a tangy sauce of garlic, ginger, soy, sugar, and pepper.**

"The wok is our preferred method of cooking," says Tan, speaking of his native Vietnamese and Chinese cultures, even though the stir fry concept originated in Hong Kong. "At its high temperature, it

seconds to retain the brilliant colors of the vegetables. It's transferred almost immediately into a sizzling hot wok, stirred once or so with a dribble of vinegar, cooking wine, water, and the chosen sauce. The entire process takes about 90 seconds, enough time to transform your towering mound of vegetables into an Asian masterpiece.

If you find all this culinary freedom intimidating, you can always order from the menu, although the broad

choice of dishes and cultures may be equally challenging. But don't despair. Tan eases the potential overwhelm by listing most dishes under their place of origin—or at list including it in the name—making your trek through Asian cuisine much easier to navigate.



**Andy Tan at the Wok Bar**

requires very little oil and retains most of the food's natural nutrients and flavors."

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Want Thai? Start with the Chicken Lettuce Wraps, an appetizer that at \$4.25 is enough for a very hungry diner. This '90s favorite is Asia's answer to tacos: tender morsels of spiced chicken in a light brown sauce scooped into cool iceberg lettuce leaves. The Pad Thai (\$6.95) is a fulfilling rendition of a Thai favorite—thin rice noodles, bean sprouts, and scallions stir-fried with chicken, shrimp, and egg in a sweet and sour tamarind sauce and topped with chopped peanuts (even better with some fresh lime squeezed over the top).

If it's Vietnamese you want, choose the Chicken Satay (\$4.25), skewers of chicken breast cooked in spicy peanut and curry sauce. Then follow with the Vietnamese Vermicelli (\$4.50), angel-hair noodles stir-fried in Vietnamese fish sauce with your choice of grilled pork, beef, or chicken and served with fresh mint. Or you can taste unconventional Vietnamese and go with the Flambe Steak Cube (\$8.95), filet mignon cooked in butter, soy, and stir-fried with green beans, onions, and red peppers.

The Hunan-inspired General Tso's Chicken (\$7.95) is another standout. Chunks of marinated chicken breast are tossed in a near-boiling sauce of

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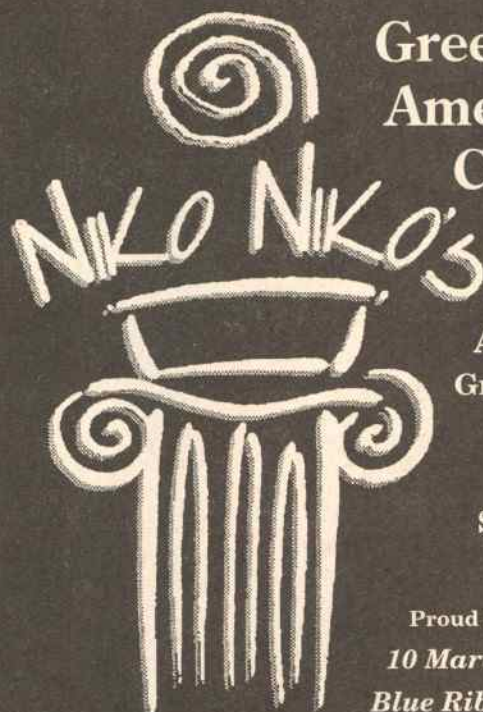
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sugar, soy sauce, hot pepper, and a touch of oyster sauce, creating an unbeatable sweet and sour coating with just the right texture and crunch.

For spicier tastes, head to Northern China for some Szechuan favorites like Kung Pao chicken, beef, or shrimp (\$6.95-\$8.95, depending on the selected meat) tossed with fiery red peppers, roasted peanuts, and spicy brown sauce. My favorite was the Shrimp with Garlic Sauce (\$8.25) with truly jumbo shrimp, mushrooms, snow peas, carrots seared in a tangy sauce of garlic, ginger, soy, sugar, and pepper.

"We use basic sauces for each type of cuisine, but we use just the right amount of each ingredient," says Tan. "More or less doesn't give you the result you want. And that's the secret of good cooking." Tan applies this philosophy to his dessert menu as well. It's sparse but, like the rest of his menu, has just the right ingredients. No Lichi fruit with sweet rice here—that would require canned fruit, and there are no canned foods on the premises. Instead, Tan trades Chinese tradition for American, serving desserts like Chocolate Mousse Cake, a scant \$2.95, fluffy and moist, served with a dollop of real whipped cream. And Crème Brûlée (\$3.50) with the anticipated burnt sugar crust, covering a creamy custard with a hint of vanilla. Add cheesecake and an assortment of sorbets and ice cream, plus a full bar stocked with standard and premium liquor and an appropriate selection of wines, and you've got the best of Asia with an Americanized aperitif a mere 20 minutes from the loop.

At about \$10.00 for an average dinner ticket, it beats the cost of eating your way through Asia. And if a 20-minute drive seems like an eternity, just look at it this way: It's more time to build up an appetite.

#### Hot Wok

20798 Gulf Freeway Webster, Texas 77598  
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## A Taste of Houston

### OutSmart Restaurant Guide

continued from page 18

able to the entire population seven days a week. Two hip locations differ in style and mood, but not in the yummy, unconventional pastas or reliable bellinis. \$\$

#### Niko Niko's 2520 Montrose 713/528-1308

Dishes up authentic Greek food with Kalamata olives as salty as they get. Caters as much to vegetarians as meat lovers. Grab a chicken and spinach pita on the go or chat outdoors over a plate of humus. Bring your own ambience—everything's plastic except the food. \$

#### Stone Mill Bakers (lunch only)

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713/349-0077

2518 Kirby Dr.

713/524-6600

Yeah, they feature exquisite breads and giant cinnamon rolls, but don't get hung up on the name or you'll miss some amazing sandwiches. How about turkey on cranberry pecan bread, or curried chicken on thick, chewy Dakota bread, or vegetarian on jalapeño cheese bread? Call ahead for snappy lunch boxes filled with the gourmet sandwich of your choice, chips or fruit, and a cookie the size of a Frisbee (the chocolate chocolate chips are heavenly). \$

#### Toopees Café

1830 W. Alabama

713/522-7662

This gay coffee-house hangout is also a full-fledged neighborhood café catering to all people hungry and hip. Stop in for a morning latte or late-evening bonding session, or spend a leisurely lunch with a good book and a great sandwich. Devotees sum it up in one word: scones. \$

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# Queer Queers

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

## Elizabeth Taylor

(Talk, 10/99, Paul Theroux)

"If there is a constant in her endlessly altering life, it is the friendship of gay men. Husbands and lovers have come and gone, but there has always been a gay man—and usually more than one—acting as escort, confidant, friend—almost sister. Roddy McDowall was one such friend, from 1943 when they appeared in *Lassie Come Home* until his death in 1998. So were Rock Hudson, Tennessee Williams, Halston, Malcolm Forbes,

Andy Warhol, Truman Capote. Actors, directors, fashion designers, hairdressers, writers, nearly all of them adoring and—even she admits—among the closet friends she has had in her life. Some of her lovers have been abusive, but there is not a recorded instance of even a spat with one of her gay friends."

Elizabeth Taylor (seen here in 1963's *The V.I.P.s*): Very Important Person to gay men.



## Ellen DeGeneres

(Curve, 11/99, Laurie K. Schenden)

Presently living on a farm but spending time in L.A., according to *Curve* magazine, "DeGeneres has been at work on a new television show, which may or may not be destined for NBC...." DeGeneres says, "We have wild peacocks that come to our door every day. I think NBC is sending them.... If another network would send, like a giant eyeball [i.e., CBS] to the house, it would be a sign...."



## Wes Bentley

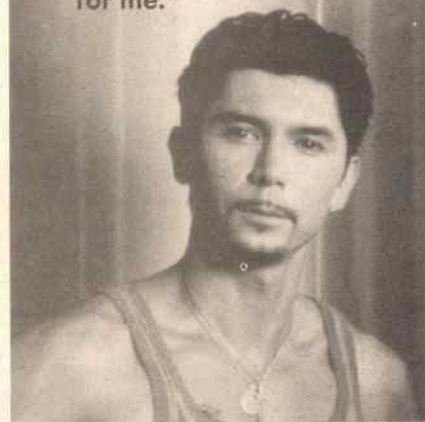
(Us, 11/99, Marc S. Malkin)

"In the dark new dramatic comedy *American Beauty*, 21-year-old Wes Bentley plays a drug-dealing teenager who writes his beloved's name in gasoline on her front lawn and ignites it in order to win her attention. In real life, Bentley has gotten similarly creative when angling for a date. 'In high school [in Sherwin, Ark.], I was interested in this girl, so I borrowed a friend's cheerleading uniform, made myself up and went in front of the whole school at an assembly,' he says. 'But we never got together. I guess when you try too hard....'"

## Lou Diamond Phillips

(Movieline, 11/99, Dennis Hensley)

**Dennis Hensley:** What convinced you to take the small role last year in *Another Day in Paradise* as hot-tempered thug who happens to be gay?  
**Lou Diamond Phillips:** Please. When I read the line, "I can kick your ass as well as f--- it," I thought, "This is a role for me."



## Anne Heche

(Curve, 11/99, Laurie K. Schenden)

"I kind of see myself as filling this gap between straights and homosexuals because straights truly don't know," she says. "And now that I'm on the other side, I think I can kind of fill those gaps a little. And that's why I talk about it so much...."

"People tell you 'Just keep silent, we know,'" she said. "But in these times of Matthew Shepard and now [Billie Jack Gaither] in Alabama, it's not time to shut up, it's time to get louder."



Anne Heche (pictured here in 1998's *Return to Paradise*): Very Important Person to gay people.

# Deep Inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

**SHOWTIME'S DIRTY PICTURES** If nudie pictures and sadomasochistic imagery are your idea of fine art (that's certainly mine), then sign up for Showtime. The cable network has announced that it's shooting a fact-based TV movie, called *Dirty Pictures*, about the controversial 1990 museum exhibit of homoerotic images by famed gay shutterbug Robert Mapplethorpe. The controversy resulted in obscenity indictments for both the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, which put on the exhibit, and its artistic director, Dennis Barrie, as well as a barrage of protests against the National Endowment for the Arts, which partially funded the photo show. Both the museum and Barrie were later acquitted, but the NEA took a near-fatal blow it's never recovered from. James Woods,



Ellen DeGeneres (seen here in 1993 when her sitcom was titled *These Friends of Mine*): Is she entering a beauty pageant?

recently seen in *The General's Daughter*, has signed on to portray Barrie in the telepic, which will examine both sides of the controversy. Woods, who is vocal about his anti-censorship stance, has a history of cable films with queer content; he starred as Roy Cohn a few years ago in *Citizen Cohn*, the HBO drama about the infamous closeted right-wing kingmaker. Frank Pierson, who helmed the 1976 Barbra Streisand/Kris Kristofferson version of *A Star Is Born*, will direct *Dirty Pictures*, which is set to air in May 2000.

**MORE "MONSTERS" FOR CONDON** Bill Condon, the openly gay director of *Gods and Monsters*, is considering another "monster movie." He's looking at turning the novel

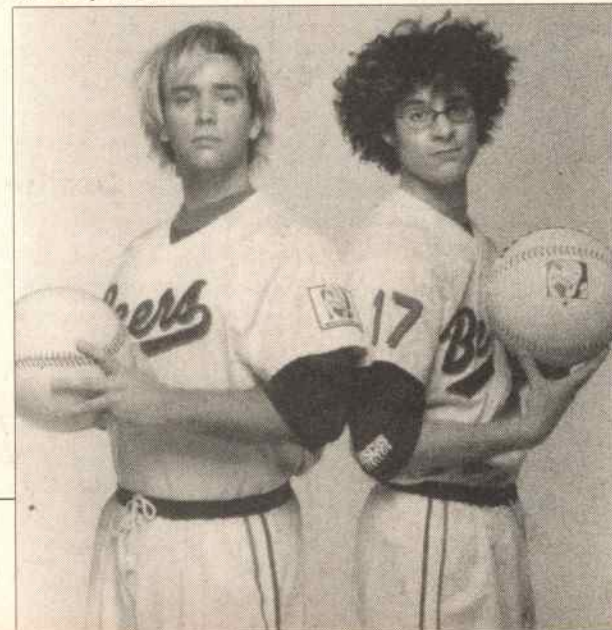


James Woods (pictured here in last year's *John Carpenter's Vampires*): Is he shooting *Dirty Pictures*?

*Invisible Monsters*, by *Fight Club* author Chuck Palahniuk, into a feature film. *Monsters* is the quirky and often exhausting revenge tale of a disfigured former model who hits the road—a la *Thelma and Louise*—with her husband (whom she forces to take estrogen) and her new mentor/girlfriend, Princess Brandy Alexander, who is in the process of gender reassignment. Together, they get even with ex-boyfriends and others. While the project doesn't seem like a natural for the big screen, Condon likes challenges. Let's hope he rises to the occasion.

**STROKING THE PYTHON** Matt Stone and Trey Parker, the creative force behind Comedy Central's irreverent animated series *South Park*, have scored the Holy Grail:

Trey Parker (left) and Matt Stone (pictured here in 1998's *BASEketball*): Have the *South Park* couple stumbled across the Holy Grail?



They've received permission (and a blessing) to re-work the comedy routines of the legendary Monty Python troupe. The British funny guys have actively policed any alteration of the troupe's routines and sketches, even bringing copyright lawsuits against ABC and the BBC back in 1976. But Stone and Parker have convinced the surviving Python members (Eric Idle, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Michael Palin, and Terry Jones—Graham Chapman died in 1989) to let them spin Monty Python's revered "dead parrot" skit into an animated short starring the *South Park* kids—Cartman as John Cleese, Kyle as Palin, and, of course, Kenny (who dies in every episode of the cartoon show) as the parrot. The spoof, called "The Dead Friend," will be part of a Monty Python 30th-anniversary television special, which will also include both classic material and new sketches by Monty Python members.

**ELLEN DOES THE PAGEANT CIRCUIT** Ellen DeGeneres is doing the beauty queen thing—sort of. The lesbian comedienne is attached to star with Meg Ryan in an untitled project about a '70s beauty pageant whose outcome is called into question some 20 years later. Producer Bob Kosberg is currently searching for a writer on the project.

**LOUGANIS DIVES INTO MUSICAL THEATER** Olympic diver Greg Louganis has traded in his Speedo for the next two months...for an unflattering black dress. Louganis is currently starring in an all-male production of *Nunsense* in the Hollywood, Florida. He plays the habit-clad Sister Robert Ann. While Louganis might not be as confident about singing on stage as he is about leaping off the high board, it's not the buff brunette's first foray in the theater—among other things, he's starred in an off-Broadway production of *Jeffrey* and in a Chicago production of Larry Kramer's *Just Say No*.

Romeo San Vicente's python is named "Monty." You can reach Romeo (and Monty) in care of this publication or via e-mail [RomeoDeep@aol.com](mailto:RomeoDeep@aol.com). For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit [www.popcornq.com](http://www.popcornq.com) or [www.gay.com](http://www.gay.com).

TOP TO BOTTOM: NEIL JACOBS/COLUMBIA PICTURES INDUSTRIES; MICHELLE LAURIA/CAPITAL CITIES/ABC; SAM EMERSON/UNIVERSAL CITY STUDIOS PRODUCTIONS

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# Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's December issue is 5 p.m., Monday, November 15.

## NOVEMBER

3 & 17

**HIV Testing.** The Montrose Clinic is offering free confidential HIV testing and counseling, 6-9 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. The center: 713/524-3818. The clinic: 713/830-3000.

4-6

**English Roses and The Night We Called it a Day.** by award-winning performer David Cale, take a deep plunge into life and love in today's society. *English Roses* is a collection of monologues concerning three displaced English people living in America; *The Night We Called it a Day* is a story of the romance between a young English man and woman which is thrown into turmoil when the man's mother jumps from the roof of a building. 8 pm @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Frwy. (I-10 at North Main). Tickets \$17 (\$10 students, \$9 members). 24-hr. reservation line: 713/228-0914.

5 & 6

**ComedySportz**, the nationally celebrated improvisational comedy show, celebrates their ninth anniversary with two special matches that feature four charter members of the Houston troupe, and loyal fans will set the games list by choosing the games of their choice. 8 pm @ Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. at 17th St. Admission is \$10. Reservations/info: 713/868-1444. (On Nov. 8, the Houston ComedySportz joins 25 other ComedySportz clubs from around the nation to make the Comedy League of America @ the River Café on Montrose Blvd. More info: 713/868-1444.)

7

**HAMS Ride to Schulenberg.** The Houston Area Motorcycle Society (HAMS) will meet at the West Gray Café at 9 am and leave for Schulenberg at 10:30 am. More info: 713/688-1300.

11

**Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company.** The Society for the Performing Arts presents movement with a message. Founder and artistic advisor Yehudit Amon, a survivor of Auschwitz, pioneered "cause as dance" within the Kibbutz Movement, drawing talent from Kibbutz members. Her disciple, artistic director Rami Be'er, gives tribute to Amon in *Aide Memoire*, a work that pummels the senses. 8 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. For more info: 713/227-4SPA.

13

**The Houston Black Tie Dinner** is a nonprofit volunteer organization com-

prised of men & women whose mission is to fight AIDS, prejudice, & discrimination, while taking a firm stand on health issues that affect both men & women. This year's dinner, which is expected to sell out with 1,200 guests, will benefit 15 nonprofit organizations. The honored speaker is U.S. Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); the first openly lesbian elected official in Congress. \$150 per person. A silent auction begins at 6 pm, with dinner at 8 pm in the Grand Ballroom of the George R. Brown Convention Center. More info: 713/522-2311.

13

**Pirates of Penzance** is a comical love story about Frederic, who as a child was mistakenly apprenticed to the pirate band by his hard-of-hearing nursemaid. Complete with bungling policemen, pirates with hearts, and a gaggle of giggling sisters, this is a top-notch musical production presented by Richard Sheldon's prestigious Opera a la Carte company; so audiences can be assured that it will bring to life just the right mixture of song, speech, fantasy, buffoonery, & irreverent subject matter that is essential to operetta. Two performances, 3 & 8 pm, @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. Tickets (\$16.50-\$51): 800/821-1894.

14

**Military Ball.** Atten-shun! If you're looking for a few good men—or women—then the Military Ball, sponsored by the Executive and Professional Association of Houston (EPAH), is the place to be from 4-8 pm. Actually, you'll find more than a few good men and women—a special U.S.O. show will en-

tertain the "troops" at 6 pm. This year, People With AIDS Coalition of Houston and Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals have been selected as beneficiaries. Military Ball attendees are encouraged to wear military attire from their favorite branch of the armed forces, although it is not mandatory for attendance. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door @ Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto. At ease.

14

**Faith, Health, & Healing** is a series of lectures exploring the connection between spirituality & wellness. This morning's lecture is by Blair Justice, Ph.D., professor of psychology at U of T School of Public Health and author of *A Different Kind of Health: Finding Well-Being Despite Illness*. Another book, *Visits With Violet* (to be published this year), features Violet T. Gilbert as a prime example of resilience. *Who Gets Sick: How Beliefs, Moods and Thoughts Affect Health* has been published in four languages. Dr. Justice is noted for a pioneering pilot study comparing the effects of imagery, support, & standard care on immune function and psychosocial measures in women who had completed treatment for breast cancer. 10 am @ St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama (at Woodhead).

14

**Dinner to Benefit Animals.** The Villa Capri restaurant will be hosting the second annual Thanks for Our Animals Benefit Dinner for the Homeless Pet Placement League. Tickets are \$20 per person with proceeds assisting the Homeless Pet Placement League in its

continuing efforts to combat the pet overpopulation problem, as well as help aid Houston-area stray and abandoned cats & dogs. The award-winning Villa Capri is located in an elegant old home on the shores of Clear Lake in Seabrook, and specializes in seafood & pasta from the island of Capri. In addition to the dinner, a silent auction consisting of many animal-related items will be held. The evening's entertainment will be provided by magician Paul Driscoll. More info: 713/862-PETS or visit [www.HPPL.org](http://www.HPPL.org).

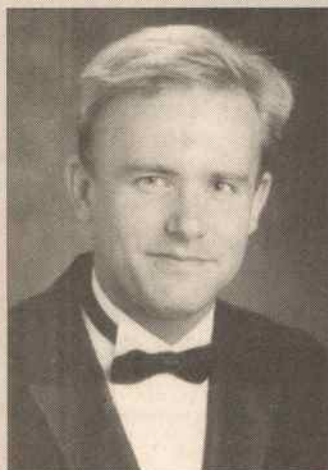
14

**Loralee Cooley** has worked professionally as a storyteller since 1997. With a background in piano & theater, she discovered early on that she wanted to tell stories; so this will be a delightful performance of story-spinning folk tales, folk songs, historic stories & remembrances from her childhood & family. One performance (3 pm) @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. Tickets (\$12): 800/821-1894.

17

**Outer and Inner Space and Poor Little Rich Girl by Andy Warhol.** Warhol, who experimented with video before other artists had begun to realize its potential, intended *Inner and Outer Space* (1965, 33 minutes) to be presented as side-by-side, simultaneous projections of two reels. Edie Sedgwick, a superstar among the crowd at the Warhol hangout called the Factory, is profiled as she talks with her own image projected on TV. *Inner and Outer Space*, a restored print, is followed by *Poor Little Rich Girl*, which also stars Edie

## Creation Conductor



**CRAIG HELLA JOHNSON** (pictured) conducts Haydn's *Creation* for the launching of Houston Masterworks Chorus' 1999-2000 concert season. The oratorio *The Creation* is a delightful and inspirational narrative based on a libretto compiled from the first chapter of Genesis and the seventh and eighth books of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. • Johnson is the founding artistic director of the New Texas Festival as well as the artistic director of the Victoria Bach Festival and director of choral activities at the University of Texas at Austin. He will be conducting the 160-voice chorus, soloists, and orchestra at Rice University.

### Haydn's Creation

**Date:** Fri., Nov. 12 & Mon., Nov. 15  
**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Where:** Stude Hall at Rice University

**Cost:** \$20, \$25, & \$30

**Phone:** 713/529-8900

**Web:** [www.neosoft.com/~houmast](http://www.neosoft.com/~houmast)

Sedgwick. Enamored of Sedgwick, Warhol made 12 films with her in 1965. This one is a day-in-the-life documentary with traces of fiction (also 33 minutes). 7 pm @ the Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet. Admission is free. On Thursday, Nov. 18, attend a free screening of Andy Warhol's *Empire* (1965), which will be projected in the parking lot of Brazos Bookstore, 2421 Bissonnet. In the event of rain, the screening will take place on Fri., Nov. 19.

**18-20, 26 & 27**

**Jonah and the WWWhale: a biblical techno-fantasy.** Houston's own dadaNetCircus extends mythology into the Information Age with this multimedia production. This play is a modern retelling of one of the world's most spiritual, yet slapstick stories about a man swallowed up inside the belly of a whale for disobeying the call of God. To tell the story, the troupe creates a multimedia theater using a diverse palette of sounds, images, icons, & computerized "pixel-puppet" characters. Media samples from the Internet & pop entertainment are remixed in a way analogous to the way rappers scratch & sample interactively with their hands on turntables. Live performers are added, including members of the EZ-Credit

LIFETIME TELEVISION

# Parton Premieres



**DOLLY PARTON**, the eternal drag queen, stars in the Lifetime original movie *Blue Valley Songbird*, based on her hit single of the same title. • Leanna Taylor (Parton), a talented singer well known on the Nashville country/western club circuit, has always been content touring small venues with her band and longtime boyfriend Hank (John Terry, who played Jean Smart's gay husband in Lifetime's *Change of Heart*). However, when her estranged mother calls to inform her that her father has passed away, the news opens a wound that Leanne has had sealed

for years. With the help of her new guitarist (country/western singer Billy Dean), she realizes she must come to terms with her troubled past before she can move forward and achieve national success.

## Blue Valley Songbird

### Dates/Times:

Nov. 1 at 8 p.m.  
Nov. 7 at 3 p.m.  
Nov. 10 at 8 p.m.  
Nov. 13 at 3 p.m.  
Nov. 28 at 1 p.m.

**Where:** Lifetime Television

## Also in November on Lifetime

### Intimate Portraits

**Pam Grier:** Nov. 1  
**Loni Anderson:** Nov. 15  
**Mary Steenburgen:** Nov. 22  
**Cheryl Ladd:** Nov. 29  
**Time:** 6 p.m.

Check local listings for repeats during November

# Cabaret Karen



**KAREN AKERS.** One of the most regal of cabaret singers, and one of the original stars of the Tony Award-winning musical *Grand Hotel*, Akers' voice has been touted as "...an instrument with the power of Streisand's, the dark passion of Piaf's, and the lean irony of Dietrich's"—*LA Herald Examiner*. With intelligence and riveting theatricality, her deep, coarsely textured contralto bursts into French repertoire like "Non, je ne regrette rien," along with torch & the best of American theater. Presented by the Society for Performing Arts.

### Karen Akers

**Date:** Fri., Nov. 12

**Time:** 7 & 9:30 p.m.

**Where:** Jones Hall

**Cost:** \$38

**Phone:** 713/227-4SPA

Theater who perform original, aquatic dance throughout the play. 8 pm @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Frwy (I-10 at North Main). Tickets \$12 (\$10 students, \$8 members). 24-hr. reservation line: 713/228-0914.

**19**

**Illinois Jacquet.** Da Camera Jazz presents Houston's own legendary tenor saxophonist Illinois Jacquet, who makes his first hometown appearance with his Big Band. 8 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Tickets are \$27-\$37 (students/seniors \$14-\$19). For more info: 713/524-7601.

**19 & 20**

**OrchestraX** presents a tribute to Mozart. Inspired by Peter Shaffer's play *Amadeus*, the show will feature Mozart classics including *The Magic Flute Overture*, opera arias from *The Magic Flute* and *Don Giovanni*, *The Prague Symphony*, *Piano Concerto K.488*, and of course *Requiem*. "Amadeus, Madman for the Millennium" will be joined by special guest soloists at 7 pm @ Prague, 402 Main. For more info: 713/225-ORCX (6729).

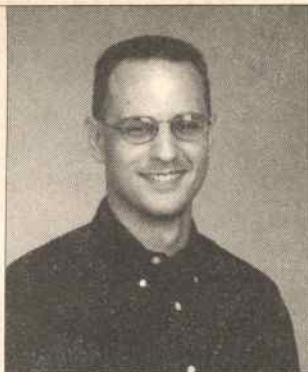
**20**

**7th Annual Warehouse Art**

**Crawl** provides an opportunity for the public to see the work of over 90 Houston-area artists. You can see where & how they work and have the chance to meet & speak with the artists about what they do & why they do it. It's also a great opportunity to see many of Houston's oldest & most charming warehouse spaces. Simply park at one of the warehouse/studios (call for list of names) or in the specially designated free parking under I10 between Main & San Jacinto, and take one of the free Metro Trolleys which run continuously from 2-8 pm. Admission is free. Art Crawl T-shirts will be on sale, and many of the warehouses will give away one or more pieces of art. Info: 713/229-9760.

**20**

**1776** is a musical that celebrates the birth of our nation and portrays the courage, commitment, & determination of a group of men who created a new, democratic nation, freed us from subordination, & released us from obligation to any foreign power. Two performances, 3 & 8 pm, @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. Tickets (\$16.50-\$51): 800/821-1894.



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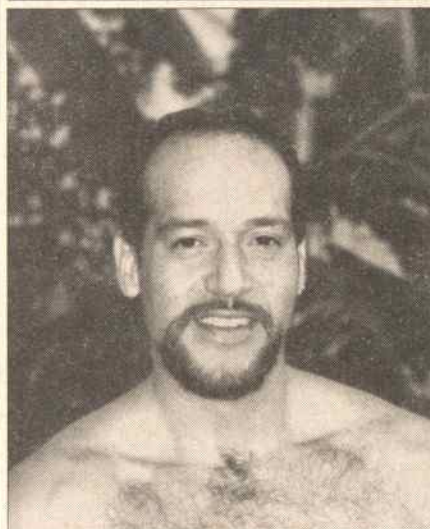
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**21**

**HAMS Thanksgiving Party.** The Houston Area Motorcycle Society (HAMS) give thanks with a potluck dinner from 6:30-8:30 pm. Plenty of motorcycle parking available. Location/more info: 713/688-1300.

**25**

**Thanksgiving Service.** Everyone is welcome at MCCR's Thanksgiving service with a luncheon to follow. 11 am @ MCCR Houston, 1919 Decatur. For more info: 713/861-9149.

**25-28**

**AutoRama.** The 40th annual O'Reilly Auto Parts AutoRama, the world's largest indoor automotive event, will feature customized cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, & hot rods. More than 2,000 exhibits of the most amazing chopped, channeled life-size hot wheels (both past & present) fill the floor. Admission at the gate is \$12 (\$4 children under 12). Thurs. 5-10 pm; Fri. & Sat. 11 am-10 pm; Sun. 10 am-8 pm @ the Houston Astrodomain Complex.

**26-28**

**Some Like It Hot.** Billy Wilder's 1959 four-star classic film follows two unemployed musicians (Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon) who witness the St. Valentine's Day massacre in 1920s Chicago. To escape retaliation from gangsters, the two buddies disguise themselves as women and join an all-girl band headed for Miami.



**Some Like It Flaming Hot:** Tony Curtis (left) and Jack Lemmon do drag and join an all-girl band in order to avoid being killed. Marilyn Monroe (inset), a member of the band, falls for Curtis... not when he's in drag, however.



Marilyn Monroe, at her best as one of the band members, sings "I Wanna Be Loved by You." Friday & Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday at 7 pm @ the Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet. Tickets \$5 (members/seniors 55+/students with ID \$4).

**26 & 27**

**Camelot** is a story of love, desire, & betrayal all set against a tapestry of medieval pageantry as it unveils King Arthur's holy quest for a virtuous society. 8 pm, @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. Tickets (\$16.50- \$51): 800/821-1894.

**29**

**The Passion and Power of Butch/Femme Relationships,** a special forum on this issue in many lesbian relationships, will be presented at 7 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

## PLANNING



**Some Like It Sweetened With Honey:** The a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock (above) come to Houston for only one night. (Clockwise from top): Aisha Kahill, Shirley Childress Johnson, Carol Maillard, Nitanju Bolade Casel, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Ysaye Maria Barnwell.

**Some Like It Spiritually Broad:** The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston presents "In the Spirit," a program that covers a broad range of holiday music from the Jewish, Christian, and more modern traditions. Pictured at right on opposite page is Dr. Dave Faber, artistic director of the chorus.

**4**

**Sweet Honey in the Rock** is a Grammy Award-winning a cappella group whose repertoire includes songs that touch on many issues of moral & human value, such as environmental issues, women's issues, & human rights. The African-American sextet has deep musical roots in the sacred music of the black church—spirituals, hymns, & gospels—as well as jazz & blues. Sweet Honey in the Rock will perform a benefit concert for St. James School, which is known for its diverse student population. 8 pm @ Hannah Hall Auditorium on Texas Southern University campus. Tickets are \$25 (\$10 students) and are available at St. James School, 3129 Southmore Blvd., 713/521-9884.

**4 & 5**

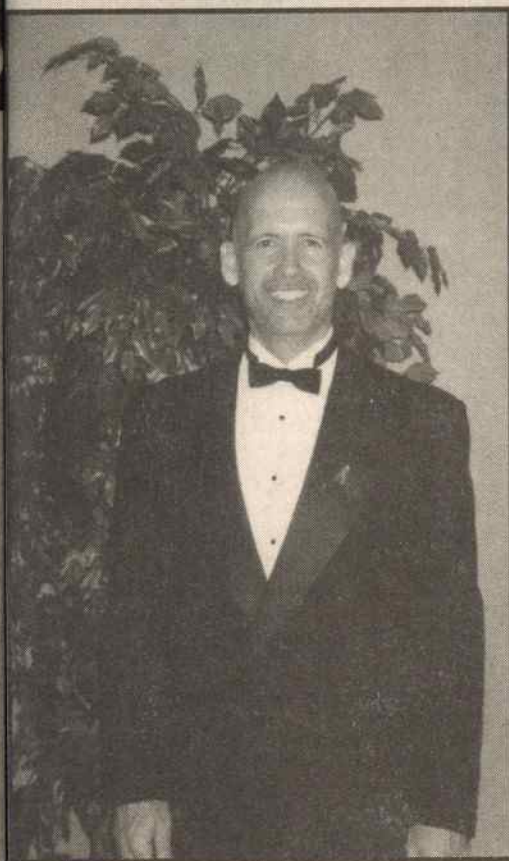
**U.S. Rep. Barney Frank** (D-Boston) is scheduled to participate at a fund-raising dinner on Dec. 4 and a brunch on Dec. 5, both hosted by Stonewall Democrats-Houston. Frank is an openly gay member of Congress and has been a national leader on gay/lesbian issues; he is also a founding member of the National Stonewall Democratic Federation. Final arrangements are pending, but both dates were secured at press time. For more info: 713/854-8773.

**5**

**Help the Needy.** B'nai B'rith and the Houston Chapter of the Texas Society of CPAs are participating in a citywide clothing, toy, & food drive. Your gifts of non-perishable food, clothing, & toys will be donated to the Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston Hunger Coalition; receipts will be issued for those who want to take a deduction for tax purposes. There will be a truck to hold the items collected from 8 am-sundown @ the Jewish Community Center, 5601 South Braeswood.

4 & 5

**Gay Men's Chorus of Houston** presents "In the Spirit," the first concert of their 21st season, which reflects the more spiritual nature of this season's theme, "Family Values." • With a program covering a broad range of holiday music from the Jewish, Christian, and more modern traditions, including Kwanzaa, the chorus is attempting to show that, regardless of one's religious persuasion (or lack of), we—the gay and straight communities, all colors and all nations—are one in the spirit of the family of humankind. The program might thus seem a bit "religious" to some, but these songs are presented in the same spirit that drove the Civil Rights and other movements and continue to raise the hopes and pride of all peoples. • And it promises to be far from a dull evening! Many of these songs have the chorus members bouncing to the quick jazz and rock rhythms, but others are soft enough to keep the audience on the edge of their seats, waiting for the final breath of the final note. "In the Spirit" promises to be a concert of many emotions, far from the staid "let's just sit here and watch" programs put on elsewhere during the holidays. • The chorus also continues its long tradition



of performing at least a few songs not in English, and the Hebrew and Gullah in this concert are no exception. • The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston presents two shows only: 8 pm on Saturday and 3 pm on Sunday @ the Kaplan Theatre at the Jewish Community Center's I.W. Mark's Theatre Center, 5601 South Braeswood. Tickets are \$18 from chorus members and at the door, or they may be purchased through Box Office Tickets by phoning 1-800-494-TIXS. For more information on purchasing tickets, joining the chorus, or how you can support the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, call 713/521-7464 or visit <http://www.gmch.org>.

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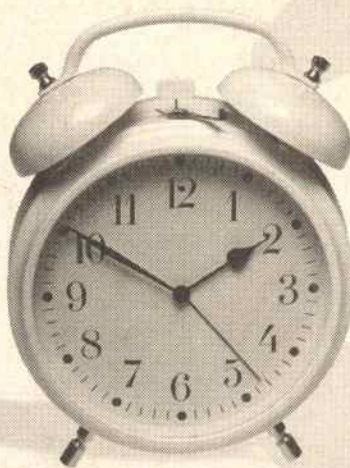
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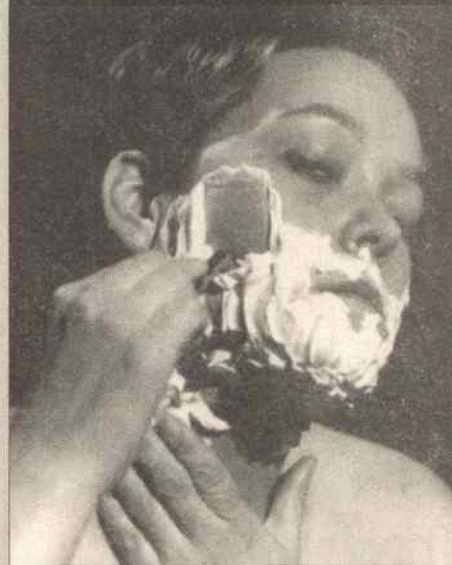
## BRANDON TEENA

### IS THE SUBJECT OF A NEW FILM AND PLAY

**THE PLAY.** The true story of Brandon Teena is that the 21-year-old female lived as a boy. He fooled classmates and even a steady girlfriend, and then—true gender revealed to an outraged community—was brutally raped and murdered. Now, added to the several books, recent documentary, and the feature film *Boys Don't Cry* is the first work to attempt to tell the story from Brandon's point of view. • "I wrote this in reaction to all the sensational journalism about Brandon," says lesbian playwright Leigh Silverman, a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with a dual degree in directing and playwrighting. "I did a ton of research, but I found nothing about who she was." • Silverman's play does not focus on the crime or the trials, but rather on the inner life of Brandon, territory that has been eclipsed by public interest in the murder and the sexual mechanics. • Revealed through confession and flashback during four days spent in a Falls City, Nebraska, detention center, "*Brandon Teena* is a work of fiction based on instinct and my wild imagination," says Silverman. "I wanted to know who Brandon had been and why, and how he lived as a man. How does someone even begin to imagine themselves in a different body? I knew it had to be a one-person show as told from Brandon's point of view. And since lying was a survival mechanism for Brandon, it was a special challenge to write a solo show about someone who wasn't a reliable witness. I've tried to boldly examine this very complicated life, including all the ambiguities, unanswered questions, and extraordinary circumstances." • *Brandon Teena* receives its first production outside of New York City at The Little Room Downstairs Theater. The production is directed by Little Room artistic



Actress Hilary Swank (above) stars as Brandon Teena in *Boys Don't Cry*, which, at press time, was scheduled to continue its run at River Oaks Theatre into November. • Erica Schmidt (below) is seen here in the New York production of *Brandon Teena*; Natalie Maisel stars in the Houston production at The Little Room Downstairs, Nov. 5-20.



ABOVE: BILL MATLOCK/FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES; LEFT: DIXIE SHERIDAN

director Richard Laub, and features Natalie Maisel, seen most recently in *The Little Room Downstairs' Parental Discretion*. All performances are at 8 p.m., **Nov. 5-20** (Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays) @ The Little Room Downstairs, 2326 Bissonnet, between Greenbriar and Kirby. Charge by phone (Visa, MC, Amx, Discover): **713/522-LRDS (5737).**

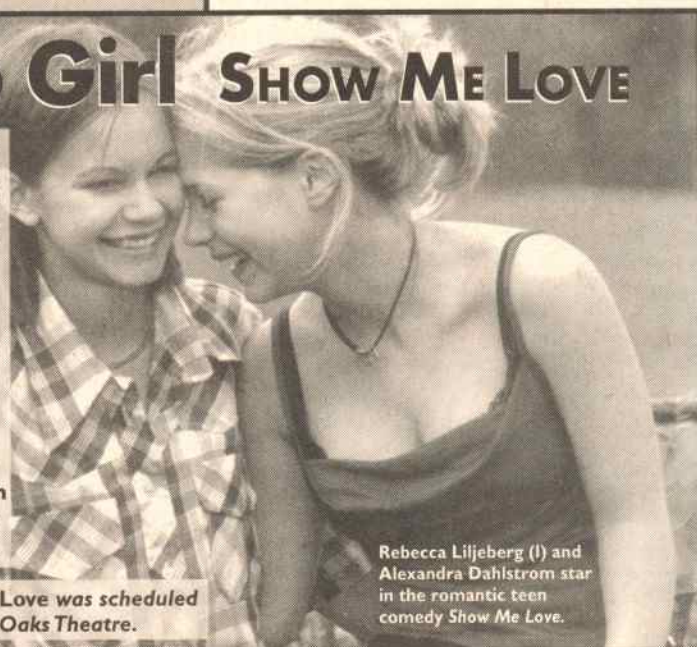
**THE MOVIE.** From the middle of America emerged an extraordinary double life, a complicated love triangle, and a crime that would shatter the heartland. In Falls City, Nebraska, Brandon Teena (Hilary Swank) was a newcomer with a future who had the small rural community enchanted. Women adored him, and almost everyone who met this charismatic stranger was drawn to his charming innocence. But Falls City's hottest date and truest friend had one secret: He was a female living as a male. • Back home in Lincoln, just 75 miles away, Brandon Teena was a different person caught up in a personal crisis that had haunted him his entire life. Like many young people, he made costly mistakes, and when he inadvertently trespassed between his new love Lana (Chloe Sevigny) and her reckless friend John (Peter Sarsgaard), the mystery unraveled into violence. In a single, short life Brandon Teena was at once a dashing lover and a trapped outsider, both an impoverished nobody and a flamboyant dreamer, a daring thief and the tragic victim of an unjust crime. • *Boys Don't Cry* explores the contradictions of American youth and identity through the true life and death of Brandon Teena. What emerges from a dust-cloud of mayhem, desire, and murder is the story of a young American drifter searching for love, a sense of self, and a place to call home.

At press time, *Boys Don't Cry* was scheduled to continue its run at River Oaks Theatre into November.

## Girl to Girl SHOW ME LOVE

ELIN AND HER TEENAGE friends are growing up in a small town. Nothing ever happens until Elin makes an unexpected move—she goes to the wrong party—and her life takes a different turn. Stuck in the middle of two love interests and a hilarious small-town life, Elin tries to come to terms with her real self.

At press time, *Show Me Love* was scheduled to start Nov. 26 at River Oaks Theatre.



Rebecca Liljeberg (l) and Alexandra Dahlstrom star in the romantic teen comedy *Show Me Love*.

## PERFORMING ARTS

• **Beautiful Thing** is a heartwarming, comic tale of two high school lads coming of age in Eastend London. When they discover their love for one another, it becomes the "beautiful thing" in their otherwise difficult lives. You may have seen the acclaimed film by the same title; now see the stage play upon which the film was based. Unhinged Productions presents this play from Nov. 18-Dec. 12 (weekends only) @ The Little Room Downstairs Theater, 2326 Bissonnet (between Greenbriar & Kirby). Tickets \$20. Info: 713/398-7577.

• **A Christmas Carol.** This new version of the classic will feature a new scenic design, fantastic costumes, and original & newly arranged Christmas carols. Nov. 26-Dec. 30 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$35-\$49) can be purchased at the box office, by calling 713/228-8421, or at all Ticketmaster outlets.

• **A Christmas Carol.** This adaptation of the holiday favorite becomes fun-filled when actors playing Scrooge & Tiny Tim abandon a company of traveling players, and a gruff stage manager & enthusiastic prop boy are enlisted to complete this well-known cast. Nov. 5-Dec. 18 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Friday & Saturday evenings at 8 pm (no performances Nov. 26 & 27). Tickets \$10; seniors/students \$8. Reservations recommended. 713/726-1219.

• **Houston Grand Opera** opens its 45th season with Verdi's *Aida*, the tragic story of an Ethiopian slave girl in love with an Egyptian general who is torn between loyalty to his country and his love for her. Through Nov. 13. • The Houston Grand Opera also presents Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Enjoy the combination of comedy & drama as Don Giovanni's overactive libido pilots him to his cosmic comeuppance. Plays through Nov. 14. • Both operas sung in Italian with English surtitles @ Wortham Center's Brown Theater, Texas Ave. at Smith. Tickets for each show (\$22-\$182); 713/227-ARTS or at the Wortham Ticket Center in the lobby of the center.

• **Hushabye Mountain.** This is the U.S. premiere of the latest play by Jonathan Harvey, the author of the off-Broadway hit *Beautiful Thing*. At the Pearly Gates, Danny waits for the go-ahead to "pass over." Escorted by Judy Garland in her starlit boat, Danny cannot be allowed through until he reconciles unfinished issues left behind. A moving and hilarious new comedy about love, loss, & moving on. Recommended for mature au-

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diences. Nov. 17-Dec. 19 @ Theater LaB. Houston, 1706 Alamo. Tickets (\$20) are available by calling the box office at 713/868-7516.

• **I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change.** You've seen the musicals about felines, lovesick nuns, teapots & candlesticks, falling chandeliers, and an unfortunate run-in with an iceberg. Now there's a musical that exposes everything many straights have secretly thought about dating, mating, & romance but were afraid to admit. But in the song "Single Man Drought," one of the female characters does admit, "I should be a lesbian. If I was born to love women, how wondrously sane I would be." Nov. 23-Dec. 12 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/52-STAGE. Tickets: preview performances (Nov. 23 & 24) \$17-24; opening performance (Nov. 26) \$40-\$46; after the opening performance \$26-\$37.

• **The King Stag.** A delightful & highly imaginative excursion into the famed Commedia period of the 18th century. Love stories abound, misunderstandings collide, & the tale is told enchantingly with actors, puppets, & all the magical accoutrements of theater. Nov. 12, 13, & 19-21 @ University of Houston School of Theatre. Ticket cost/more info: 713/743-2929.

• **Praise the Lord and Raise the Roof!** After taking in a friendly white drifter, the members of an African-American church congregation struggle to reconcile their prejudice with their Christianity amidst fear & suspicion about a rash of local church burnings. Playwright Celeste Bedford-Walker says, "This spiritual offering during this Christmas season will be an inspirational evening of great gospel singing that will start your adrenaline pumping & a performance that will bring the roof down." Nov. 18-Dec. 26 @ The Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main, 713/520-0055.

• **State of the Union.** Grant Matthews is a successful businessman with no heady political aspirations, but when he's encouraged by his mistress (a prominent newspaper publisher) to run for the presidency, he embarks on a speaking tour of the country with his estranged wife, who is well aware of his indiscretions. She encourages him to be more than a political puppet, much to the dismay of his campaign manager. Nov. 13-Dec. 19 @ Main Street Theatre, 2540 Times Blvd., 713/524-6706. Tickets to preview performances (Nov. 13, 14, 17) \$7.50-\$10; regular performances \$15-\$20.

## THEATER Young People

• **The Days & Nights of King Arthur.** InterActive Theater Company's tales of King Arthur allow audience members to choose the knights' greatest adventure! Beginning in

the days when England was without a king, young Arthur draws the sword from the stone to become the King of England. But his reign is threatened by enemies. So he assembles a round table of noble knights. But Arthur's sword is stolen. Now the knights must set forth on their most challenging quest. But how will they proceed? Whichever way the audience chooses—the outcome is for the audience to know and the actors to find out! Through Dec. 18 (no performances Nov. 23-27) @ Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd.; Tuesdays-Fridays at 9 & 11 am, Saturdays at 11 am. Tickets \$5 per child/adult. For reservations/more info: 713/862-7112.

• **Rudolph Rides Again** is a heart-warming tale of Santa's dilemma when he discovers that he left Mrs. Santa's favorite elf in Houston on Dec. 24. Ever clever, Santa sends another elf and the retired reindeer, Rudolph, to Houston to search for Alvin, their missing elf friend. Nov. 6-Dec. 18 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219. Saturdays at 11 am & 1:30 pm. Tickets \$5. Reservations recommended.

• **That Was Then, This Is Now** is geared toward young adults in 6th-12th grades. Set amid the social unrest of the late '60s, this drama reflects the turbulent times as seen through the eyes of adolescents. When Mark is orphaned, he goes to live with Byron's family, and the two boys become as close as brothers. But when Byron discovers that Mark is dealing drugs, he must decide whether to protect Mark or report him to the police. Gritty, intense, & emotionally charged, this play deals with issues of growing older & growing apart, of personal morality versus social codes, and of seeking peace as opposed to plotting revenge. Tickets \$9.50 adults, \$7.50 students/seniors. Nov. 5-20 (Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 3 pm) @ Main Street Theatre at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose. Info: 713/524-6706.

• **The Toys Take Over Christmas.** This delightful story of a misguided toy maker & his life-sized dolls is back by popular demand. The play includes a beautiful Victorian set, enchanting doll costumes, holiday music & dance—and a visit from Santa. Nov. 19-Dec. 23 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Pkwy, 713/52-STAGE. Through Dec. 18: Fridays at 11:30 am, Saturdays at 11:30 am & 2 pm; Dec. 20-23: 11:30 am. Tickets are \$8; all seats are reserved.

## RADIO

• **After Hours** (Radio) Saturdays, midnight to 3 am. Featuring the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Carper. KPFT 90.1 FM.

• **Lesbian & Gay Voices** (Radio) Mondays, 8-9 pm. Features, news, music, interviews, reviews, and commentary. KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-4000.

## ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

• **Andy Mann: VideoMusic Video** features a 16-monitor video matrix displaying video footage shot at DiverseWorks and set to music composed by Mann. The video imagery is derived through the act of making music & reacting to music. In this way, the music itself invents the final music video. Like turning a Rubik's Cube, this large-scale matrix wall of monitors will be changed weekly. Guests are also given the opportunity to participate in the exhibit as volunteer VideoMusic stars in a projected talent show. The exhibit will also feature a large-scale Sparkle Box, a recent addition to a series of video kaleidoscopes for which Mann is known. Nov. 13-Dec. 18 (opening reception Nov. 12, 6-8 pm) @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway (off N. Main at Naylor), 713/223-8346.

• **Art Classes for People With HIV: The Art League of Houston** is offering free art classes for people with HIV. The ongoing course meets every Thursday & Friday from 1-4 pm at the Art League, 1953 Montrose. Mixed media projects for the artist and non-artist. Constructive art-making in a relaxed atmosphere. Focus is on the healing power of art. More info: 713/523-9530. **The Museum of Fine Arts Houston** is offering free art classes for those with HIV/AIDS. Patrick Palmer begins his 9th year offering art instruction. Abstract painting, linoleum-cut greeting cards, & ceramics are some of the media offerings for the fall semester. Class is limited to 16. Everything is free, even lunch! The classes meet at the Glassell School of Art every Friday, 1-4 pm, 5101 Montrose Blvd., room 202. For more info: 713/639-7500 or 713/526-1118.

• **The Artfull Garden** is a new outdoor sculpture gallery exhibition. There will be 17 artists' interpretations of the theme "It Moves," with a wide use of materials ranging from mylar to concrete to plant material. Expect the unexpected. The gallery, located at 241 Reinicke @ Lacy, is free & open to the public Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am-5 pm and is also visible from the street from sunup to sundown.

• **Diego Rivera: Art and Revolution.** Rivera (1886-1957) fused the innovations of European Modernism with the traditions of Mexico's pre-Columbian past and its indigenous people. Famous and controversial, he helped to define the terms of the Mexican-American cultural dialogue that continues to this day. More than 80 paintings & drawings in a variety of media, including paintings rarely or never exhibited in the U.S., will be on view. The exhibition is presented in four thematic sections: the first two trace Rivera's transformation from an academic painter to his embrace of the international avant-garde; the third examines his maturing vision as a humanist and political artist; the final section surveys his artistic innovations in easel painting, watercolors, and drawings during the last three decades of his life. Through Nov. 28 @ The Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300.

• **Entres Fronteras: Photographs by Diana Molina** is a collection of photographs portraying Hispanic and indigenous cultures of Mexico, focusing on the Sierra Tarahumara in Chihuahua, The Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Oaxaca, the Yucatan Peninsula, and several Charros in Texas. Images depict borders crossed, not only by division of territory, but also by the influence of ideologies, customs, commercialism, styles, economics, and views of life. Presenting a cultural and sociological representation of various aspects of

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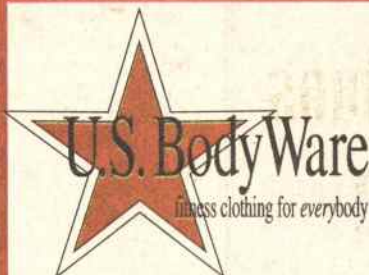
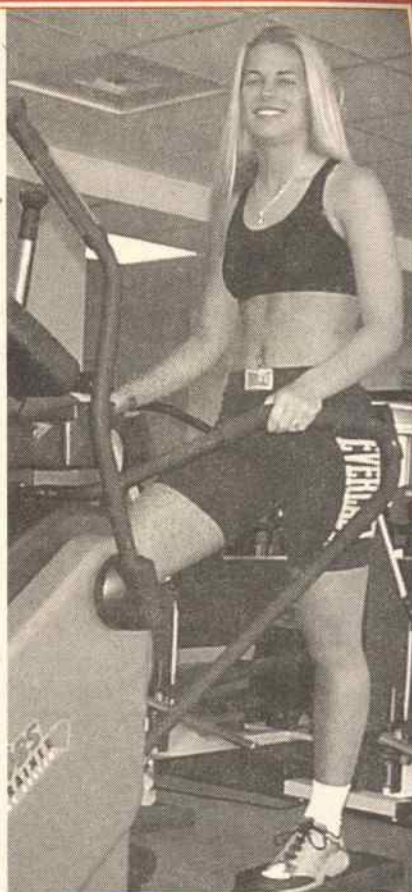


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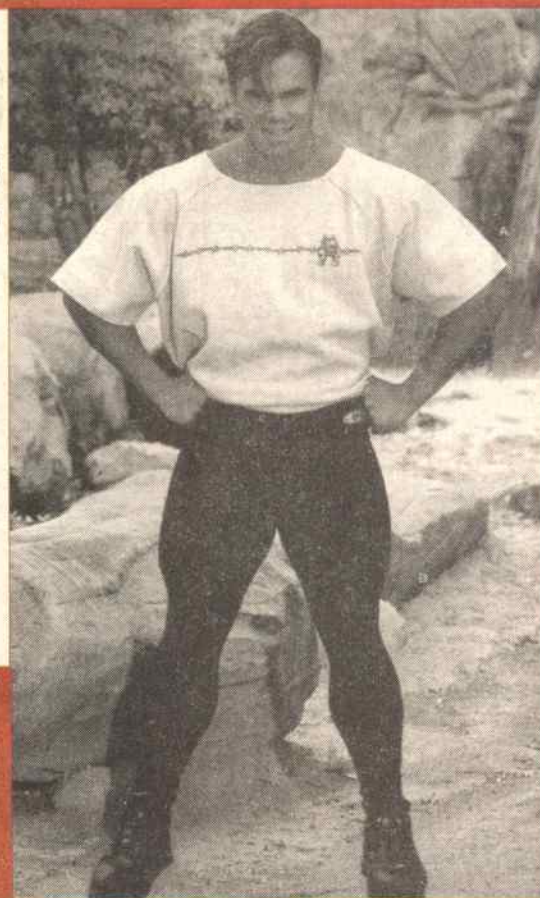


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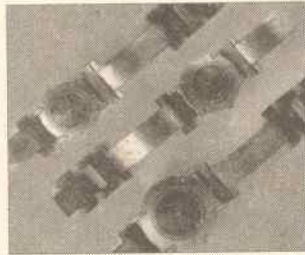
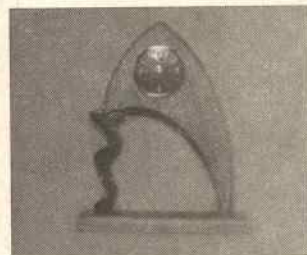
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Mexican life, the exhibit reveals images of traditional festivals, ceremony, and daily lifestyle along with the environment in which the people exist. Through Mar. 12, 2000 @ the Houston Museum of Natural Science in the John P. McGovern Hall of the Americas Temporary Gallery on the 3rd floor, in Hermann Park across from Miller Outdoor Theater. Admission is \$4 adults, \$3 children 3-11 (free to members). More info: 713/639-4629. For info in Spanish: 713/639-4603.

• **Hospice: A Photographic Inquiry** investigates the power and growing importance of hospice care, an alternative approach to health care for the terminally ill. Five nationally renowned photographers were commissioned to explore hospice from their own perspectives. Each artist's diverse approach to the project has resulted in work which consistently rises above physical distress and imminent death to show us the humanity and spirit embedded in this ultimate journey of life, and in the ordinary people who are its subject. Curated over a three-year period, this exhibition is presented in five distinct projects, each telling an individual story. The exhibition consists of approximately 140 photographs and a variety of multimedia components. Through Dec. 19 @ Blaffer Gallery, the Art Museum of the University of Houston, The gallery is located on the university's main campus off I-45 South and housed in the Fine Arts Bldg., the third building from the corner of Cullen Blvd. and entrance #16. For more info: 713/743-9528.

### • Lisa Mellinger: Garden

**Hoses in Different Poses.** Viewing the mundane with humor & wit, Mellinger paints a sensitive & sensual update to the still life idiom that takes form in her naturalistic oil paintings of the common domestic garden hose. In this work, she compounds metaphors imbedded in this everyday object with mischievous whimsy & subtly expressive use of color. Mellinger's paintings create a strangely erotic & evocative garden you will want to visit. Nov. 13-Dec. 4 (opening reception Nov. 12, 6-8 pm) @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/223-8346.

• **Maus, An Exhibition by Art Spiegelman** recounts the history of Spiegelman's Jewish-Polish parents who survived Nazi persecution & internment in Auschwitz between 1938 & 1945. Through Jan. 4, 2000, @ Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline, 713/942-8000.

• **New Paintings and Sculptures** features the return of John Calaway to the Houston art scene after an eight-year absence. The showing includes

seven large-scale abstract oil paintings and five mixed-media sculptures, including kinetic works whose rich poetic quality offers a powerful commentary on the waning industrial age. The thematic focus of the exhibition is on the complex contradictions between the end of the industrial age and the dawn of our digital era. Through Nov. 14 @ Winter Street Art Center, 2123 Winter Street, 713/861-3782. Website: www.winterstreet.com.

• **Peter Shelton: sixtyslippers** is comprised of 60 cast iron cymbal-shaped hanging forms that vary slightly in profile and diameter, hovering just above the floor in a pattern that responds to the shape of the gallery in which it is being exhibited. Referencing not only musical instruments, pendulums, lily pads, and stupas (ancient Indian architectural forms), the piece ultimately addresses a relationship to the body as the viewer is slowly enveloped in a field of delicately swaying forms. Through Dec. 12 @ the Contemporary Arts Museum 5216 Montrose Blvd., 713/284-8250.

• **Positive/Negative** is a show of black-and-white photographs by people



Positive/Negative: Friend by Ron

living with HIV/AIDS who participate in the Positive Art Workshops at the Glassell School of Art at Houston's Museum of Fine Arts. Houston artist Patrick Palmer teaches the workshops, which are provided at no charge. The museum presented the exhibition last February and plans a 2nd exhibition in February 2000. However, through Jan. 10, 2000, these photographs will be on display @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

**CALENDAR  
DEADLINE  
for OutSmart's  
December  
issue:  
5 p.m.,  
Mon., Nov. 15**

## GrooveOut

by Chris Sill

# COSMOS 1999

## MONTREAL'S BLACK&BLUE

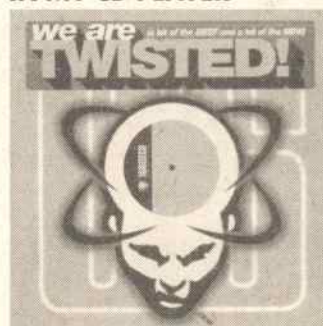
It has become the premier event on the circuit. It amasses tens of thousands of gays, lesbians, and trans-gendered from around the globe. It is the largest gay benefit party in the world. But just what is Black&Blue? It is the creation of the BBCM Foundation (Bad Boy Club Montreal), a celebration "of dance music, common positive energy, friendship and fun." Now in its 10th year, Black&Blue has become Canada's leading gay-based fundraising organization. • And just what attracted this year's estimated 65,000 participants to the week-long festival? Well, two things. First, the unparalleled caliber of its main event party, and second the wide variety of other social activities. It's no secret that Black&Blue is one of the best parties in the world, and one of the biggest. So big in fact that this year Montreal's Olympic Stadium played host to a reported crowd of 31,000! • Working the theme "Cosmos 1999," the stadium was transformed into a lunar base inspired by the 1970s British television series *Space 1999*. The base was powered by 1,000,000 watts of lighting effects and 350,000 watts of sound. Using real-life video and slide projections, four mind-blowing lasers, and more than 100 artists and dancers, three incredible multimedia shows portrayed space in relation to science fiction and inspired hope for a cure for HIV/AIDS in the millennium. This was truly an other-worldly, yet spiritual experience. Top circuit DJs Victor Calderone and Abel, along with Montreal's Mark Anthony, kept the crowd dancing at warp speed all night. Performances by Funky Green Dogs, Soulsearcher, and Veronica were well-received, but Kristine W proved why she is the Queen of Black & Blue with her show-stopping set. • Away from the parties there was plenty to do and



Chris Sill spins tunes at Rich's. You can reach him in care of OutSmart magazine or at [csill@infohwy.com](mailto:csill@infohwy.com).

see. Coinciding with the Cosmos theme was a fantastic art exhibit at Montreal's Museum of Fine Arts. And a modern dance ensemble performed at a local theater. The BBCM sponsored their own art exhibit and auction entitled "Debut" under the artistic direction of Kat Coric. The show carried the theme "Each problem finds its solution" and included works by gay and lesbian artists from Canada and the U.S. Its silent auction raised an impressive \$9,000 for the BBCM! Other activities included a dinner cruise, guided tours of downtown and old Montreal, a gay and lesbian travel expo, and benefit film screenings for Montreal's gay and lesbian film festival. • Once again Black&Blue has proved itself to be one of the gay social events of the year. Its professionalism in all areas keeps this event on top and ensures its success well into the millennium. For more info, check out [www.bbcm.org](http://www.bbcm.org).

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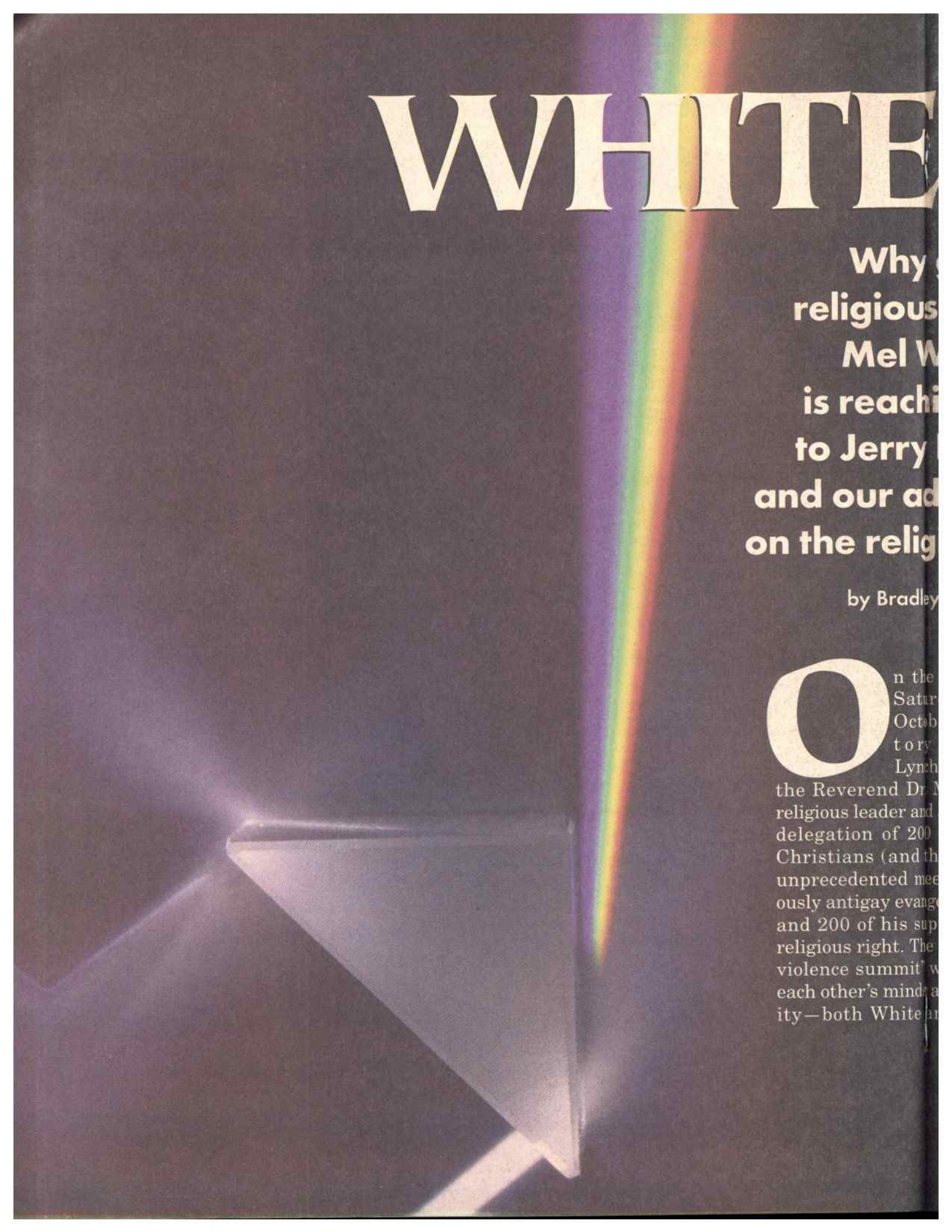
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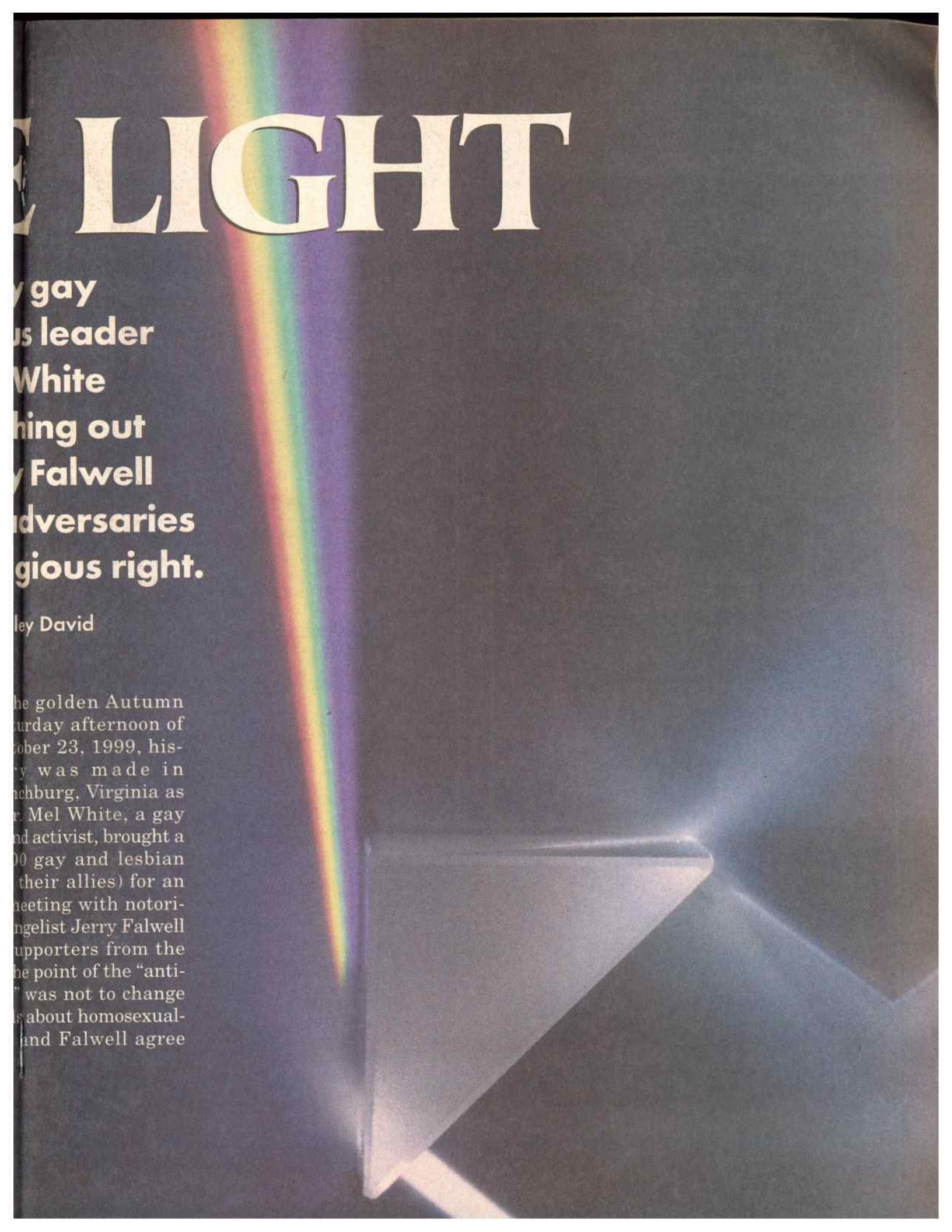


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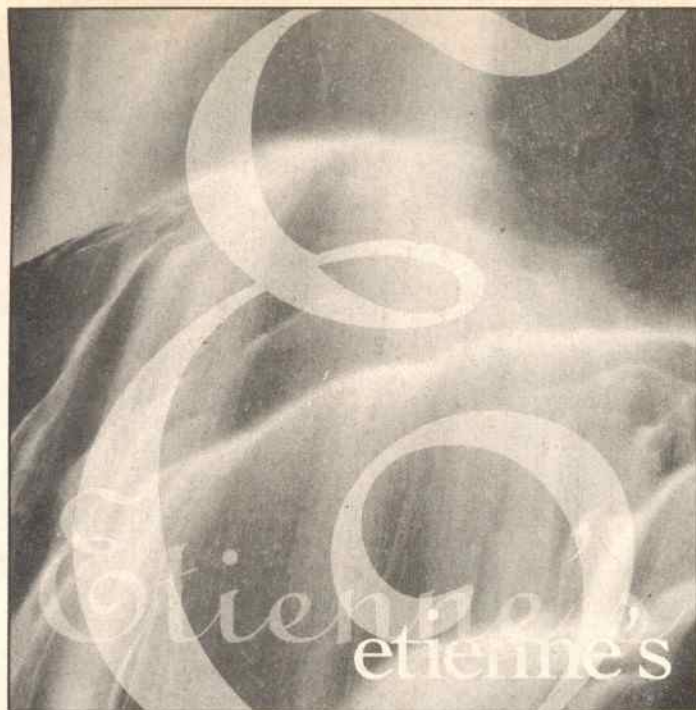
# E LIGHT

A vertical rainbow light beam shines down from the top left corner of the page. In the lower right foreground, a white, triangular object, possibly a piece of paper or a small sculpture, is partially visible, casting a soft shadow. The background is a dark, textured surface.

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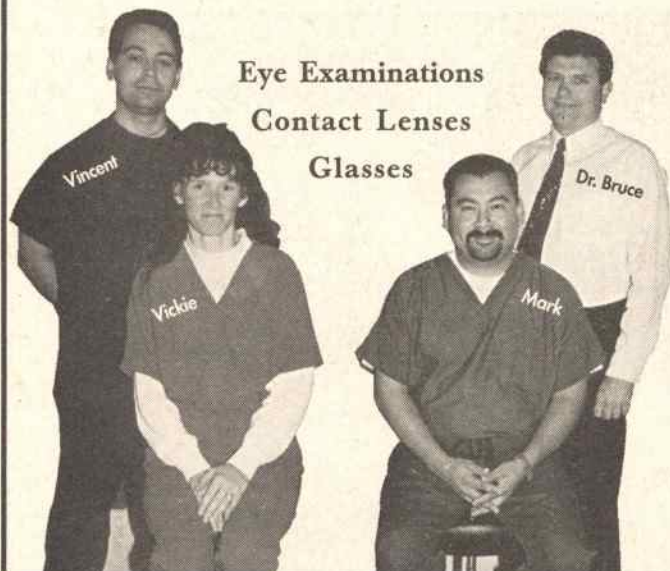


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that won't be happening any time soon—but to begin a civil discourse about the need to stop demonizing each other and to curb the inflammatory rhetoric on both sides of the issue.

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times," White describes the meeting in one of several telephone interviews for this article. "We finally got inside the door, but we found out how really primitive things are there."

During the hour-and-a-half-long meeting, and at a press conference that followed, Falwell repeated his broken-record mantra—"Love the sinner, hate the sin"—and placed gay people in the same category with alcoholics, drug addicts, and unwed mothers as worthy of his brand of Christian love.

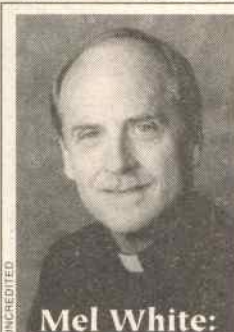
"I was really concerned about this continual spiritual violence, as I'm calling it," says White. "We faced a lot of it in Lynchburg. I think Jerry is really making steps toward understanding who we are, but he has a whole constituency that needs to be assured that he hasn't changed his position. He was so busy assuring his constituents, he didn't realize that we were just being whacked, whacked, whacked—'sinner, sinner, sinner.'"

While the event was considered a huge success—Falwell's willingness to participate was seen as an astonishing victory in itself, and the meeting received an avalanche of gay-friendly coverage in the mainstream media—not everybody was supportive of the attempt at a spiritual meeting of the minds. Protesting outside the closed-door summit were some

40 gay and antigay activists, including the cartoonish Rev. Fred Phelps of Topeka, Kansas, who showed up with his "God Hates Fags" signs.

"Falwell used to teach the Bible word for word, but now he's going off and meeting with these fags and going against everything he's ever taught," Phelps told reporters. "He always says 'hate the sin, but love the sinner,' but it's impossible to separate the two. Does a judge send the crime or the criminal to jail?"

At the other end of the spectrum of protesters was radical



**Mel White:**  
"I thought  
it was wrong  
to be gay....  
I was on  
valium  
and really  
half-crazed  
trying not  
to be gay."

gay activist Bob Kunst, the leader of a Florida-based organization called the Oral Majority (a play on Falwell's now-defunct political group, the Moral Majority). Kunst brought along a large doll of Tinky Winky, the "Teletubbies" children's TV character that Falwell was roundly ridiculed for condemning recently after the *Washington Blade* jokingly suggested Tinky might be gay.

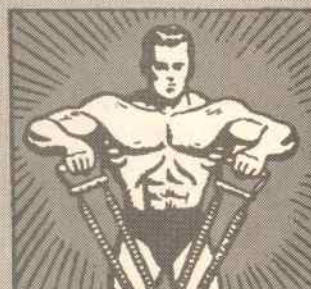
Kunst said White and Falwell

"are both a disaster," calling White a "self-hating homosexual" and Falwell a "war criminal in the war against AIDS." On the Internet, other gay critics of White suggested his meeting with Falwell was analogous to "a bunch of Jews sitting down with Hitler."

"My feeling is that people like Bob Kunst are really angry, and they have reason to be," says White. "They have reason to be angry at the church and they have reason to be angry at Falwell. They're just so angry that we would sit down at a table with Jerry, because they think Jerry is going to use us."

*continued on page 40*

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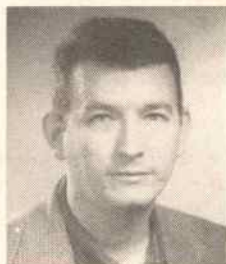
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## WHITE'S DRAMATIC JOURNEY

Part of what made the meeting such a provocative news story was that Falwell and White have been friends since the days when White was a closeted pastor, seminary professor, and author who ghost-wrote two books for Falwell—his 1984 autobiography *Strength for the Journey* and a later book about abortion entitled *If I Should Die Before I Wake*.

White's dramatic journey from self-loathing, secretly gay minister to leader of the gay and lesbian religious movement was chronicled in his own 1994 book *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America*, which led to a major profile of White on *60 Minutes* and appearances on *Larry King* and other national talk shows.

The 59-year-old White says he struggled with his sexuality from the age of 14. Growing up in Santa Cruz, California, where his father was mayor, White attended a fundamentalist church that preached against homosexuality. He says he spent almost 30 years trying to change who he was, even resorting to the kind of so-called "conversion therapy" that the religious right has recently been pushing in full-page newspaper ads.

"It was pretty typical of what they're doing today, only there was some much more extreme stuff like electric shock treatments and exorcism," White says. "My aversive therapy began informally early on when pastors would pray with me and help me try and get over it. It was based on prayer, fasting, discipline, and being celibate. As I got older, I resorted to the more extreme things, then finally I slit my wrists."

White was married for 23 years and is the father of two grown children. He says his ex-wife, Lyla, was aware of his sexual orientation and that they tried to deal with it in therapy

together for the entirety of their marriage. The couple separated in 1982 and divorced three years later after White met Gary Nixon, his current life-partner of 15 years. Lyla is very supportive—she wrote the forward to *Stranger at the Gate*—and the two are now proud grandparents.

During the years he was ghost-writing for Falwell—as well as for other conservative figures like Pat Robertson, Billy Graham, Jim and Tammy Bakker, and Oliver North—White says he never wrote "a single line of antigay rhetoric."

"I was just a hired gun," he says. "Because I had a doctorate in religion, my publisher [Simon and Schuster] often hired me out to these religious leaders who needed ghosts. I knew how to speak their language. At that time, however, I thought it was wrong to be gay, and that's why I was going through all those treatments. So I was in the midst of a mess of my own at the time. I was on valium and really half-crazed trying not to be gay."

White publicly came out of the closet on Pride Sunday, June 27, 1993, when he was installed as dean of the Metropolitan Community Church's Cathedral of Hope in Dallas. In 1995, he became MCC's minister of justice (an unsalaried position), and the following year, he and Gary moved back to Southern California. They now make their home in Laguna Beach, where they have recently started Soulforce, an organization they say is "committed to teaching and applying the principles of non-violence on behalf of sexual minorities."

## CONFRONTING THE RELIGIOUS WRONG

In February of 1995, White was arrested for "trespassing" at Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network. The story of his arrest and his subsequent 22-day prison fast

*continued on page 42*

## *A Personal Account* OF THE HISTORIC MEETING WITH JERRY FALWELL by Don Davis

I was one of the 200 members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and allies community to meet with Rev. Jerry Falwell and 200 of his followers in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Having been raised a Southern Baptist, holding my undergraduate degree from a (then) Southern Baptist university, and having lived all of my life in vastly Southern Baptist communities in North Carolina and Virginia shapes my perception of the gathering. My perception is also shaped by my 20 years as a queer activist in the South...the fact that my lover of 14 years died of AIDS in 1996...the fact that I am not a member of the people-of-faith community...and the fact that many of my friends have been hurt or killed by antigay violence.

As I expected, Falwell and his followers were gracious and hospitable. (A typical Southern trait which has little to do with anything in the final analysis.) In their eyes, we queers are sinners, we're going to hell, that's it for that...could you please pass me the lemonade and take a little for yourself before you do?

Something happened that I did not expect though: Jerry Falwell said he was sorry for what he has said about us because perhaps some of what he has said may have led to antigay violence. Duh! WAIT! Jerry Falwell apologized!!! That's a new one for me. In all my dealings with folks like Falwell, I know about the rarest thing one can ever expect is for someone like him to actually admit that something they have done or said is wrong. Jerry went the next critical step to say that he is going to be more careful about what he says in the future because he wants to stop the violence.

I'm of a mind to think this is a remarkable, positive step.

Among the 200 of us, there were three gay/lesbian graduates of Liberty Baptist University (Jerry's college in Lynchburg). Those folks spoke through tears and with passion directly to Jerry. There were dozens and dozens of clergy from many different religions who stood firm in their belief in love, compassion, and understanding. There was Rev. Mel White who worked for and with many leaders of the radical religious right movement in this country before coming out himself.

Surrounding us were the pictures of all the human beings who were murdered in recent months...the known victims of hate crimes.

As I thought about why I felt compelled to attend this meeting in Lynchburg and considered what might actually come of it all, I looked at the pictures. I thought of the people represented by those pictures who were savagely beaten and murdered. I decided that the reason I was there was because I know that the hate directed toward us every day is derived in large measure from the hateful rhetoric which spills out of our TV sets, our radios, from our pulpits, and from our corner taverns every day. It's important that we tell folks when they hurt us; it's important that they know that hateful words can translate to hateful acts.

I care deeply and passionately about violence. I hold Jerry and many others responsible for words that have led and continue to lead to violent acts. I abhor that Jerry heard condemnation of his words this weekend from 200 of us and we looked him in the eyes when we told him and his followers our stories. He told us he's going to try

to do better; we've told him that we'll hold him to his word and we'll go back to him if he lies to us. Jerry's new promise isn't necessarily much, but it is more than we've had before from a continuous leader of the radical religious right in this country.

Now we need to hold Jerry to his new standard. If he falls back to his hateful ways, we should remind him again and again of his promises. We should look him in the eye again and again. We should actively engage others who believe as he does and tell them of the pain and violence their words subject us to.

Also, we should renew our efforts across this country to stop violence, to stop acts of verbal violence whether those words come from a preacher, a co-worker, a politician, a parent, or a neighbor. As we at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force know, our work must take place at every level and at every venue because equality begins at home.

Davis is a resident of Williamsburg, VA and a member of the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

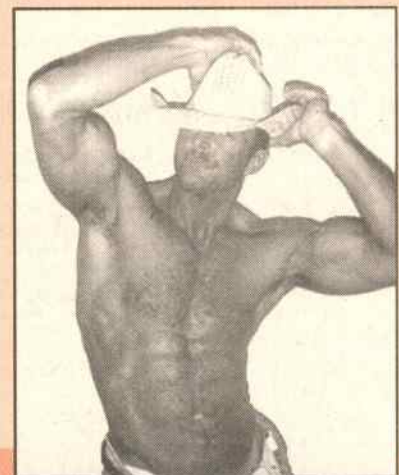


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continued from page 40

made headlines around the country and prompted Robertson to publicly denounce antigay violence.

Some four-and-a-half years later, White signaled his interest in confronting Falwell. On June 5 of this year, he wrote the first of a series of "Open Letters to Jerry Falwell."

"I've been reading your autobiography again—it still moves me," the letter began. "And I'm not just saying that because I wrote it."

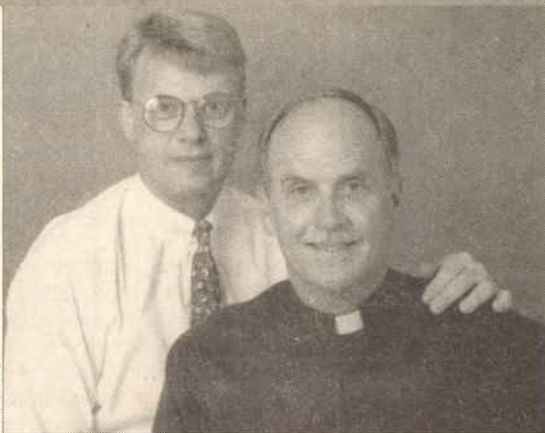
White then called attention to the fourth chapter of that book in which Falwell described his transformation from being a staunch segregationist in 1964 to repenting and baptizing the first black member of his church in 1968.

"Could it be that you are blind to a tragic new reality, that the consequences of your antihomosexual rhetoric are as evil for the human family as were your sermons against integration?" White asked in the letter.

Responding in the July issue of his *National Liberty Journal*, Falwell urged White to return to his wife, stating, "The issue, Mel, is that you have sinned against scripture, the Lord Jesus, the church at large, and your own dear biological family."

In his second "Open Letter," White threatened to mobilize 5,000 gay Christians for an October protest outside of Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg. After a personal meeting with Falwell in August, however, the two agreed instead to attempt the impossible—a rational dialogue between gay and antigay Christians.

White attributes Falwell's change of heart to the much-publicized recent murders of Matthew Shepard and Billy Jack Gaither, after which



Mel White (right) and his partner Gary Nixon

Falwell was severely criticized for helping create a nationwide atmosphere of hate with his antigay rhetoric.

"When so many people were blaming him for it, I think he had to look at his heart and say, 'Could that be?'" says White.

Two months of back-and-forth negotiations preceded the historic meeting. White asked Falwell to arrange housing for the gay delegates with his church members, but Falwell balked, citing a biblical passage saying Christians shouldn't house unrepentant sinners. Instead, members of 24 supportive local churches opened their homes to the delegates.

The original plan also called for the delegates to share a meal at the meeting, which was important to White as a symbolic breaking of bread. Again, Falwell nixed the idea, saying that the Bible instructs Christians not to eat with sinners.

White's delegates included 200 people from 30 states. (Texas was represented by five delegates, all from the Austin area.) Before being chosen, each delegate had to take a 17-email course in nonviolence through White's Soulforce website. Noted delegates included Rev. Jimmy Creech, the Methodist minister fired from his Nebraska church for performing a same-sex commitment ceremony, as well as three gay graduates of Falwell's Liberty University.

Also a member of "The Lynchburg 200" was Mary Lou Wellner, whose lesbian daugh-

ter committed suicide after years of rejection from her family.

An elaborate series of peace offerings included a \$20,000 donation from White's delegation to Habitat for Humanity, along with an invitation to Falwell's supporters to help them construct a home in Lynchburg. Gifts presented to the Falwell delegation included ti-leaf leis from representatives of the Hawaii Marriage

Project, as well as ceramic angels created especially for the event by a gay artisan.

## CURBING OUR OWN RHETORIC

Perhaps the most difficult task for the gay delegation was apologizing for their own rhetoric against Falwell and the religious right. Falwell pointed to recent anti-Christian "hate crimes" like the killings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado and at Fort Worth's Wedgewood Baptist Church. The evangelist said gay activists have sent him threatening letters and even containers of AIDS-tainted urine.

"I think that's the most profound question that can be asked right now: How do we talk to our enemy about his faults?" says White. "Gandhi said you start by stopping talking about your enemy and talk to him. You do it in love, you do it in respect, and you do it relentlessly. This meeting is just a symbolic start, but it is a first. It is the first time gay people and members of the religious right have even been in each other's churches."

Asked if the religious right will ever understand that just by repeatedly calling us sinners, they may be contributing to antigay violence, White recounted the story of an exchange between his partner Gary and Falwell at their initial meeting in August:

"After Jerry admitted he had to tone down the rhetoric,

continued on page 47



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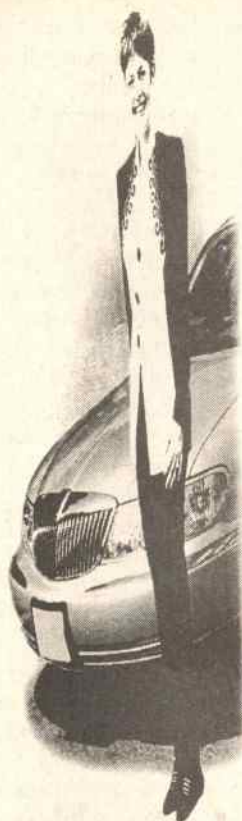
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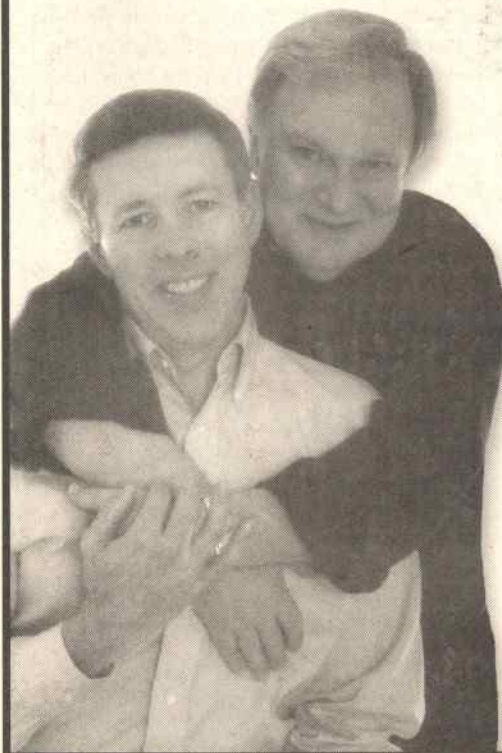
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# ***RUNNING***

## ***for His Life***



***Triathlete  
Jim  
Howley  
inspires  
others  
living  
with HIV***

*by Bradley David*



BOTH PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM HOWLEY

**W**hen Jim Howley tested positive for HIV in the early '80s, his life went into a tailspin. He spent most days self-destructing on a steady diet of two grams of cocaine, a bottle of vodka, and two packs of cigarettes.

"I was basically trying to off myself," Howley says.

Luckily, he didn't succeed. A few years later, after he had been diagnosed with full-blown AIDS and given just 18 months to live, he decided to start training to compete in a triathlon—the grueling athletic event that combines long-distance swimming, cycling, and running.

"I couldn't run around the block, and in the pool I couldn't swim a lap," he says. "Persistence and my love of life kept me going."

With only two T-cells, he finished his first triathlon and soon after ran the Los Angeles Marathon. At 38, he has now competed in over 40 triathlons and last year completed the prestigious Ultraman event in Hawaii, which consists of a 6.2-mile swim, a 262-mile bike ride, and a 52.4-mile run.

Now up to 350 T-cells and with an undetectable viral load, Howley spends almost all of his time working to enlighten and inspire others with his story.

"It all started in '96 when I did my first Hawaiian Iron Man," he says. "That's when I got a lot of exposure—I went on *Rosie* and *Oprah*, and I was getting continuous phone calls and letters from people, not only with AIDS but with other diseases, wondering how they could kind of do what I was doing and get their lives back. It started slowly, then I went across the country to speak and it just snowballed from there. Basically I travel around, and I talk about what people might be able to do with their lives—not so much doing triathlons, but taking back their lives and getting some control and seeking treatment."

For the last three years, Howley has been promoting AIDS awareness through his "Transcontinental Triathlon for Life," where he literally runs, bikes, and swims 3,500 miles from Los Angeles to New York City in a 52-day period.

"I bike almost the whole way from Los Angeles to Chicago," he explains. "I swim across the Colorado River and across parts of Lake Michigan and Lake Erie. Then from Chicago to New York, I mostly run the whole way."

Having finished this year's coast-to-coast triathlon on June 7, he's happy to be home in Santa Barbara, Calif., where he lives with his

partner Randy, a gymnastics coach at UCLA, and operates his own organization called Positive Challenge.

"We have a staff of four people and were growing each year," he says. "Since I began doing the Transcontinental Triathlon to promote athletics and knowledge about HIV and AIDS, we've started to take physically challenged athletes with us—wheel-chair athletes and blind athletes—and we raise money for children along the way.

"Different city officials or hospitals may call us and say, Hey, we have this special kid who needs this, this, or this," he continues. "Because I have AIDS, we reach out to a lot of kids with AIDS, but it's everything—kids in Special Olympics, kids in wheelchairs...we do a lot with kids in wheelchairs because a lot of my friends are wheelchair athletes. We also do things like sending kids to Camp Heartland [a camp specifically for kids with AIDS]. Anything they need to pursue their quality of life."

Rigorous athletic pursuits aside, Howley credits the new AIDS drugs for his current state of health. During the past nine years, he has survived testicular cancer and has battled CMV, a life-threatening disease common and sometimes fatal in AIDS patients, which took part of Howley's eyesight. Still, he continues to travel around the world competing in triathlons in places like New Zealand and Germany, and hopes to do a Trans-Australia "Triathlon for Life" next year. He also went back and finished college and went on to earn a master's degree in clinical psychology. He works as a volunteer staff therapist at Pacific Pride Foundation in Santa Barbara.

Howley travels frequently, speaking to many different kinds of groups.

"The people I really try to reach out to are under-treated folks—inner-city folks, women, African Americans, minorities, IV drug users," he says. "I just feel that the face of AIDS is changing so quickly. I think a lot of groups just really aren't knowledgeable about what's available as far as treatment and help."

One of his main focuses has become stressing the importance of HIV-positive people staying on their medications.

"The problems are really changing,

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### Workshop Schedule

March 10–11–12, 2000  
June 9–10–11, 2000  
September 15–16–17, 2000  
December 1–2–3, 2000

where people are looking to take drug holidays and doing this thing called pulse therapy, where they are stopping their treatment," says Howley. "There are side effects to all the medications—there always have been—and also I think the trend I'm seeing is that today people aren't losing 10 friends a week or 10 friends a month. People say, 'Why should I take it today? I'll be OK.' And they won't be OK. The virus comes back even more virulent. I'm really trying to focus on ways to help people motivate themselves to not let this happen."

He also cautions audiences about recreational drug use.

"Coming from a two gram-a-day background, I know drugs are fun," he says. "I don't preach about it because I think they're out there—you know, ecstasy is fun, coke's fun, they're all fun. The problem is people let their defenses down. That's how I got infected. I remember who I was with and getting stoned and not saying no to unsafe sex. It was just one of those things. And recreational drugs can also totally shoot

**"Coming from a two gram-a-day background, I know drugs are fun.... You know, ecstasy is fun, coke's fun, they're all fun. The problem is people let their defenses down."**

your immune system, so if you are already infected, you're cutting your chances."

Howley often speaks to high school groups about safe sex and is a strong advocate of condom use, even between partners who are both HIV-positive.

"There's a greater chance at that point of somebody getting a different resistant strain," he warns. "At this point, I've been on these medications for 10 years, and if I had unprotected sex with somebody, God knows what they'd get. They'd probably get a virus that's resistant to everything. That's the way it is out there."

"Every time I speak, I ask how many people know somebody in a monogamous relationship, and everybody raises their hand," he continues. "And then I ask how many people know somebody who's cheated. Almost the exact same amount of people raise their hands. It's like, Yeah, you're in love, that's great—but human nature sometimes says other things. There's no reason not to wear a condom. It's just a way of protecting yourself."

Howley will be the keynote speaker at Body Positive's 11th anniversary party on Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. at Stages (food served at 6:30); for more info on the party, call 713/524-2374. For more information on Howley, visit his website at [www.tri4life.org](http://www.tri4life.org) or call 805/898-7878.

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## White Light

continued from page 42

and after he agreed to the summit, he said, 'You know, Mel, I'll always see you as a sinner, and I'll see you and Gary as living in sin, but, you know, I'm going to love you and hate your sin.'

"And my partner, who is very reticent about this kind of thing, jumped to his feet and put his arm around me, pointed his finger and leaned down into Jerry's face and said, 'We have been in a loving committed relationship for 15 years. I love this man and he loves me. My father just died—he was in a coma for so many days—and Mel was there beside me. I have helped raise Mel's children and his grandchild. You can't say, Jerry, that you love us until you love us as we are.'"

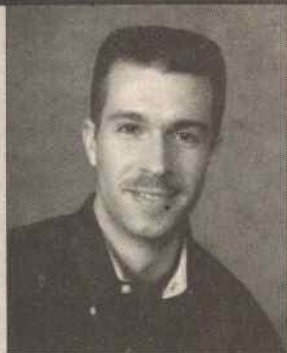
According to White, Falwell was dumbfounded, but Ron Godwin—Falwell's associate and former president of the Moral Majority—leaned across the table, took Nixon's hands in his and said, "Gary, you're just going to have to give us some time."

"To me, that is a fantastic story," says White. "He didn't say, 'Don't yell at us!' He said, 'Give us time.'"

*Bradley David is a freelance writer based near Dallas.*

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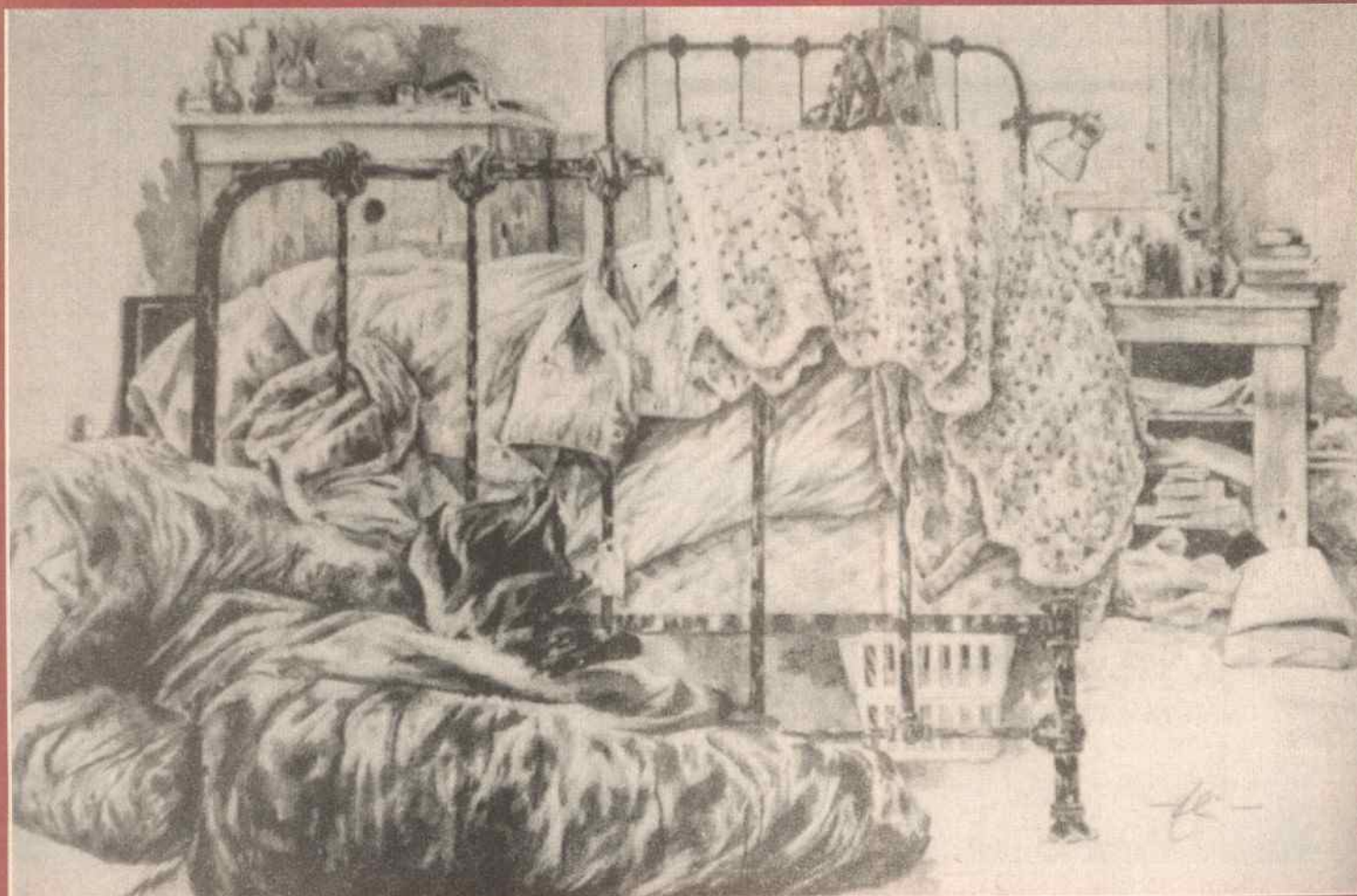
**F**ollowing the most successful Houston Women's Festival to date, the Athena Art Project is co-sponsoring the upcoming show of three of the artists who exhibited in this year's visual arts show: Tina DeRamus, Xue Yang, and Ali Jones. • DeRamus' work was to have gone directly from the Women's Festival to Toopees Café. Ali Jones, already

scheduled to have a show on Nov. 12, invited DeRamus and Yang to join her. • The board members of the Athena Art Project then decided to co-sponsor the event. The goal of the Athena Art Project is to promote and highlight the talent and creativity in the women's community by, among other things, providing a forum for local talent and organizing art shows

for visual artists. The Athena Art Project was organized with these principles in mind: Art can and does change the world; women are worthy; and the Gulf Coast region, and Houston in particular, is fertile ground for creativity and art appreciation of all kinds. • Ali Jones was the featured artist at the 1998 Houston Women's Festival and got her start there. Xue

# Women Drawn to Draw

## Three Houston Artists Show Their Skills

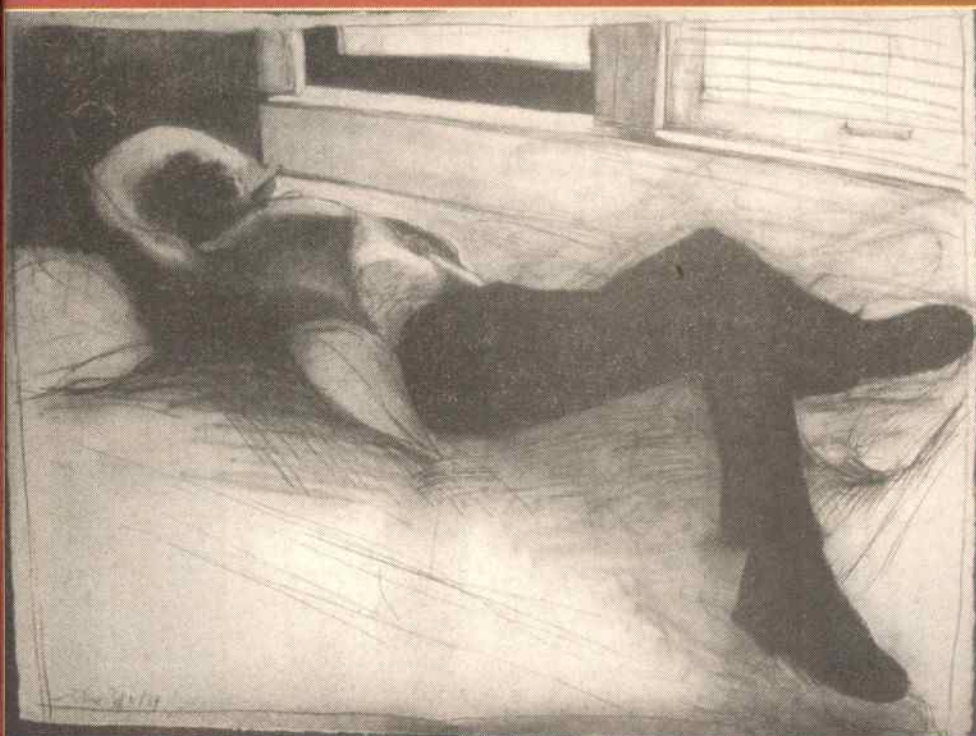




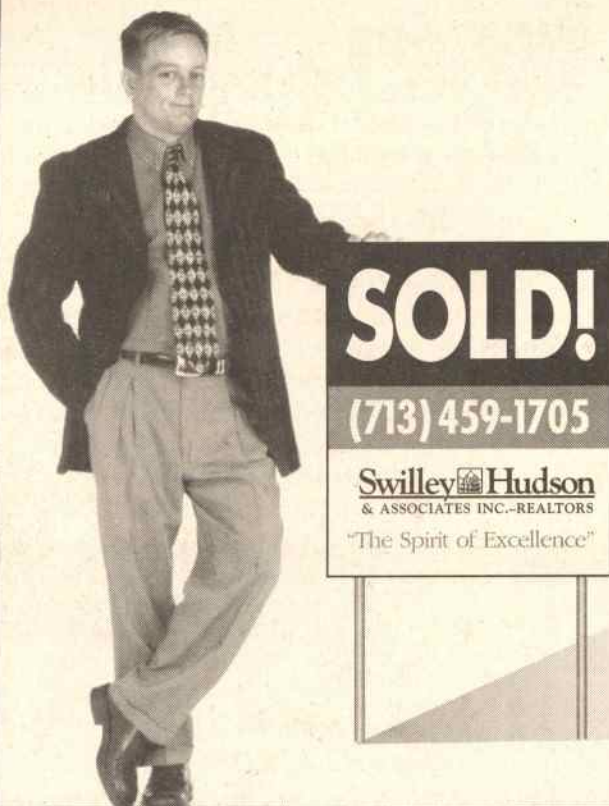
**Three on a Couch (l-r):** Ali Jones sports a mustache made from the hair of Tina DeRamus; apparently unaware of the prank is Xue Yang.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** "After the Weekend" is an exquisite drawing from the skilled hands of artist Ali Jones.

**THIS PAGE:** The beautiful self-portrait (right) shows the talented Tina DeRamus in a pensive mood, while the drawing (below, right) shows DeRamus' humorous side; and yes, it also shows the "shapely" side of her lover Jama. Artist Xue Yang presents us with a sensual drawing (below, left) that's easy on the eyes.



Yang entered this year's juried show and is yet another case of a woman in our community whose art was previously unseen due to lack of venue or forum. Her work is spectacular; yet, until this year's festival, it was stored away once completed. • The public is invited to the opening of this three-woman show, which takes place on **Friday, Nov. 12 from 6-9 p.m. @ 2500 Summer St.** (better known as the David Adickes Sculpture Works Gallery). The gallery is located at the end of Summer St., just west of Taylor/Sawyer, about a mile from downtown Houston. It is a historic, three-story building housing various artists' studios on the first and second floors and gallery space on the top floor. Plenty of free parking is available. • For more information, please call 713/521-9686, or e-mail [hwfestival@earthlink.net](mailto:hwfestival@earthlink.net) or [howl@texas.net](mailto:howl@texas.net). Be sure to add your name to the Athena Art Project mailing list via [www.hwfestival.org](http://www.hwfestival.org).



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## LeftOut

by Daryl Moore

# Bill Clinton— His Own Worst Enemy—

## The Best Presidential Friend Gays and Lesbians Ever Had

**F**or seven years, Bill Clinton has self-destructed and self-resurrected. He risked his presidency for a tryst with a thong-wearing intern. He has shamed himself, his family, and his party.

He came in with grand promises and great aspirations. He will leave not with a bang, but a whimper. And no one—more than I—am ready to see him go.

But, I will waive goodbye to Clinton's presidency with great trepidation. Because, with Bill Clinton, I know what I have. I have a president who is politically brilliant and personally weak. One who promises a lot and delivers a little. One that created great expectations, but greater exasperation.

And while I am disappointed about what Clinton could have done but didn't, I cannot overlook what he did—or tried to do—for gays and lesbians.

**He Tried to Lift the Ban.** Perhaps Clinton's best intention resulted in his worst defeat. As soon as he took office, Clinton announced he would issue an executive order lifting the ban on gays and lesbians serving in the U.S. military. Right-wing Republicans—and a few phobic Democrats—threatened to enact legislation overriding him if he persisted. So, Clinton equivocated and we ended up with the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that became law. What seemed like a decent compromise at the time has resulted in an increased number of gays and lesbians being discharged. And, while gay Republicans blame Clinton for pass-

ing a federal statute that has ended up hurting us, they refuse to acknowledge that the "compromise-gone-bad" directly resulted from their own opposition.

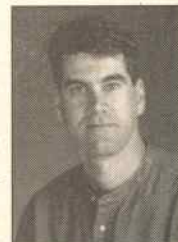
**He Supported the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).** On employment non-discrimination, Clinton never equivocated. He issued an executive order barring antigay discrimination in federal employment. The Republican Congress excused itself from complying. Clinton then supported, lobbied for, and promised to sign ENDA if it reached his desk. Unfortunately, it lost by one vote (50-49). Not surprisingly, both senators from Texas, Gramm and Hutchinson, voted against it.

**He Appointed Openly Gay and Lesbian Individuals.** One year after taking office, Clinton appointed Roberta Achtenberg as assistant secretary at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She was the first openly gay or lesbian appointee ever to receive Senate confirmation. Then, he appointed Bruce Lehman as assistant secretary of commerce and commissioner of patents and trademarks. Later, he appointed James Hormel to be an ambassador. Every time, he was challenged for appointing a gay or lesbian. Every time, he stood by his appointee.

**He Invited Gay and Lesbian Activists to the White House.** In 1998, Clinton invited a dozen gay

*continued on p. 52*

Daryl Moore is a lawyer in Houston. He has a general practice and is board certified in civil appellate law. Daryl Moore can be reached at [DarylMoore@Outsmartmagazine.com](mailto:DarylMoore@Outsmartmagazine.com).



## Pain and Clinton in LaLa Land

**T**he president is big on pain. He has felt our pain. He has brought pain to his marriage. He has witnessed "the pain...gay and lesbian Americans have endured." And Lord knows he has given us pain.

Bill Clinton went to Los Angeles last month to speak about pain to the very same group of gay politicians he brought to tears seven years ago. The occasion was another annual dinner of L.A.-based Access Now for Gay and Lesbian Equality (ANGLE). He told them, as he did in 1992, "I have a vision for America and you are part of it."

Why the audience did not burst out in uncontrollable laughter at that moment is one of the great political mysteries of the age.

Instead, in the course of Clinton's rambling 30-minute address, they interrupted him with applause or approving chuckles 41 times. And for Clinton's labors they gave him and his smiling comrades \$850,000, a record donation for a gay political event. This looniness—perhaps to be expected in celebrity-obsessed LaLa Land—is the consequence of having a president for whom politics is therapy and an audience for whom sycophancy is principle.

Clinton did allow that, in the time since his first ANGLE speech, "I could have done better." But he added, "We're a long way from where we were." Let's see just what that means.

Start with Clinton's promise to end the ban on gays in the military. From 1982 to 1994, discharges from the military because of

homosexuality declined *every year*. Since 1994, the year "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" became law, military discharges for homosexuality have *risen every year*.

Life for gay service members is more painful now than it was before Bill Clinton told us he had a vision for America and we were part of it. And no future president can undo that damage with a stroke of the pen since, for the first time in American history, we have a federal statute that singles out homosexual sex for punishment.

Yes, there have been a lot of firsts for gays during Clinton's tenure. Look at gay marriage. In early 1996, Clinton loudly approved a proposed ban on federal recognition of gay marriage before a bill had even been drafted, much less introduced and voted upon. The result was the Defense of Marriage Act. Clinton signed DOMA—we should never, never forget this—even as he chased Monica around his desk.

Who can forget that Clinton then trumpeted his hypocritical defense of marriage on Christian radio stations? ANGLE can. No president can undo this damage either since, for the first time in American history, we have a federal statute that explicitly defines marriage to exclude gay couples.

Clinton didn't mention these developments in his L.A. speech. He also didn't mention one of the painful little spin-offs of DOMA—a divisive statewide ballot initiative Californians will face in March that would define gay marriages out of existence.

Think about it: Clinton goes to California and fails to stand up

*Dale Carpenter, an attorney, serves on the national board of directors of the Log Cabin Republicans. He is the winner of two Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutRight@aol.com](mailto:OutRight@aol.com).*

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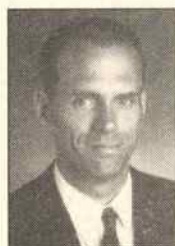
The many regular activities at the Community Center include the AVES Men's HIV Support Group, Black Gay and Lesbian Coalition Weekly Meetings, Lesbian Coming-Out Group, Lesbian Movie Night, Men's Coming-Out Group, Montrose Writers Workshop, and Wednesday Lunch Brunch. Computer classes start soon. Call for details.

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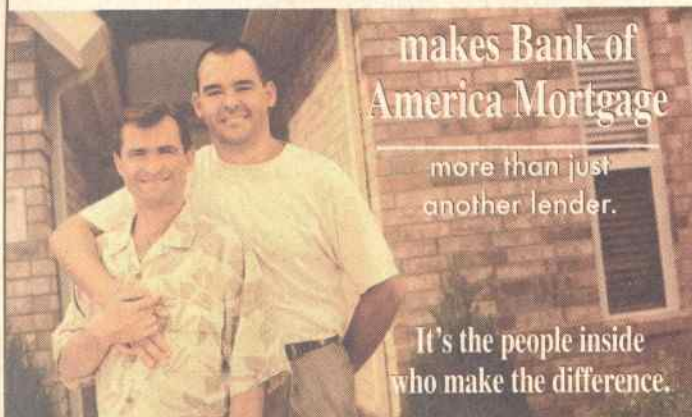
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**JULIA A.  
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### LeftOut

continued from p. 50

and lesbian activists to the White House. He was the first president ever to do so. At the meeting, Clinton pledged his continued support for ENDA and announced that he had put forth five openly gay/lesbian individuals for administration jobs that require Senate approval.

**He Signed the Defense Of Marriage Act (DOMA)** Clinton signed DOMA. No excuses here. Clinton sold out. He should have vetoed the bill and didn't. Now we have a federal statute that defines marriage to exclude gays and lesbians. Gay Republicans rightfully bash Clinton for this spineless act. When they do, they usually forget to mention, however, that their party sponsored the bill, passed it in both houses, and sent it to Clinton's desk for his signature.

So, while I'm admittedly sick of Bill Clinton's follies, I cannot forget that he is the first president to even raise gay and lesbian issues. And, I worry about what will happen when he's gone because I'm not optimistic that Al Gore or Bill Bradley—who

are both right on gay and lesbian issues—will be elected.

I'm worried that George W. Bush will be elected. And Bush, who says "every human being deserves to be treated with dignity," opposes gay and lesbian adoptions. He opposes ENDA. And, he single-handedly killed hate-crime legislation in Texas.

So, while Bill Clinton should have done better, I worry: Is this as good as it gets for gays and lesbians? At least for four, eight, or 12 years.

### OutRight

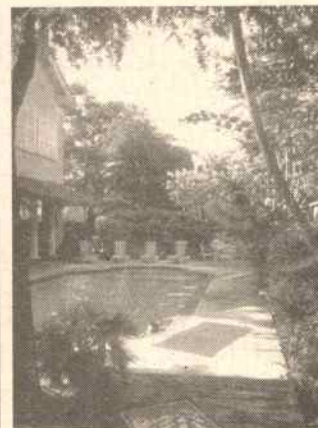
continued from p. 51

against the most viciously antigay referendum the state has seen in two decades. It's just more disgraceful political cowardice, to be sure. But for once Clinton's conspicuous silence may be an unintended benefit to the cause. There are, after all, few public figures in America less credible on the subject of marriage than Bill Clinton.

There's the pain of AIDS, too. Remember Clinton's Manhattan Project to cure the disease? Neither does he. The Republican Congress,

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those inveterate warriors of the far right, twice exceeded Clinton's pitiable budget proposals for assisting AIDS patients too poor to pay for their drugs.

"But the mean Republicans stopped him from doing more," cry Clinton's indefatigable gay defenders. It doesn't matter to them that in every instance the president has either betrayed us, abandoned us, or not lifted a finger to help us.

"But he's done so much!" they counter. In his L.A. speech, the Man himself listed exactly three things he's done for us. First, he claims he supports ENDA, the bill that would forbid antigay job discrimination across the country. Second, he wants to pass a federal hate crimes law. And finally, he's given openly gay people some tasks in his administration.

The first two are nothing. Clinton has not given one speech focusing on the necessity or rationale for ENDA. When he and congressional Democrats reigned supreme in the first two years of his presidency, they didn't even hold a hearing on the bill. True, Clinton

issued an executive order barring antigay discrimination in federal employment. But even that laudable act was saved from congressional oblivion only by the courageous work of people like Rep. Jim Kolbe, a gay Republican.

There's no evidence that a federal hate crimes bill would actually prevent antigay crimes. Clinton's support of the proposal is just another way to tell us he feels our pain. And gee, wouldn't it be nice to stop it?

Then there are the openly gay appointees, dragged out of their hovels every time someone questions Clinton's pro-gay credentials. I'm sure they're all good people. Quick: can you name one?

Perhaps you thought of the capable and urbane James Hormel, a big Democratic campaign donor, the one gay person in seven long years Clinton took pains to defend. As they say, you have to start somewhere. Luxembourg is somewhere.

All in all, I think I'd ask for my money back. You can get a whole lot of aspirin for \$850,000.

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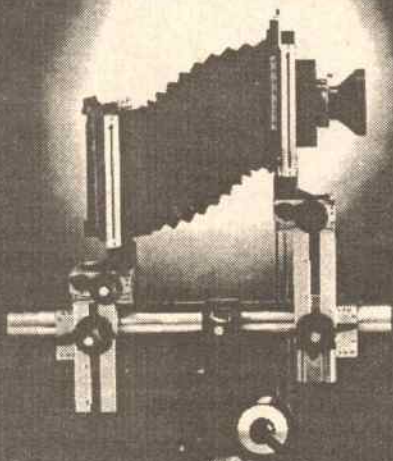
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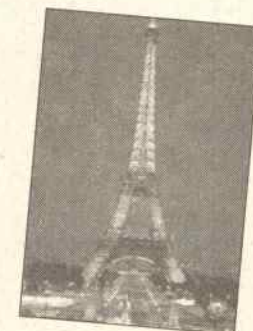
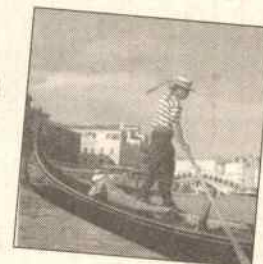
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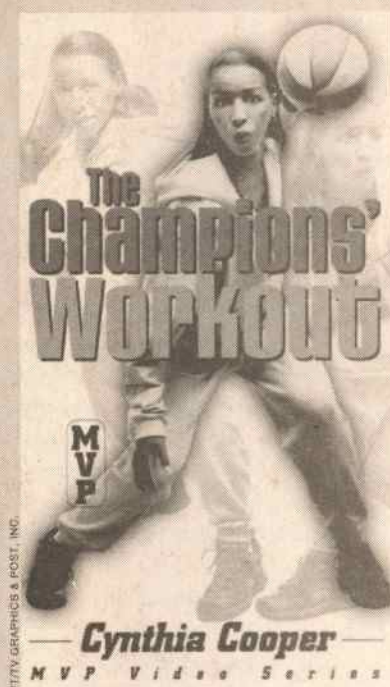


Sandra Wilkins, Owner  
The Travel Partnership, Inc

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## LookOut

by Laurie Jones



Houston Comets star Cynthia Cooper hits a winning three-pointer with her new three-part video series entitled "The Cynthia Cooper MVP Video Series." Cooper, a college star at University of Southern California, Olympic Gold Medalist, and a three-time Women's National Basketball Association champion with the Houston Comets, shines brightly in her debut effort on video.

Program one is appropriately named "A Champion's Secrets for Success" (40 minutes). Cooper delves into what has made her a champion in basketball and in life. Dedicating this video to her mother, who passed away in February, Cooper emphasizes the importance of staying focused and how to live with passion. Cooper, with the charm of a professional motivator, encourages children that it is "OK to be yourself, unique and different."

Program two is "Raise Your Game—Scoring Secrets of a Superstar" (40 minutes), the most basketball-oriented of the three videos. Fundamentals and special techniques are highlighted with special assistance from the late Kim Perrot. The emphasis is offensive basketball with advanced routines for dribbling, passing, and shooting.

Program three, "The Champions' Workout" (40 minutes), examines Cooper's fitness routine with her strength and conditioning coach, Anthony Falsone, and includes weight training, specific stretches and exercises, and a nutrition program that enables Cooper to maintain her excellent physical condition.

The videos will appeal to the aspiring basketball star, faithful Comets fans, or anyone who needs motivation, as Cooper says, to "be the best you can be." The content as well as the video quality is excellent and is accompanied by slick graphics and entertaining music. The videos can be purchased individually for \$19.95 or as a set for \$49.95 by calling 1-800/561-3435 or via the Internet at [www.vt-tv.com/mvp](http://www.vt-tv.com/mvp).

## ReadOut

### Don't: A Reader's Guide to the Military's Anti-Gay Policy

by Janet E. Halley. Duke University Press, \$14.95 paper.

Halley, a law professor at Stanford, presents a compelling case for the unconstitutionality of the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy regarding gays in the military. Halley outlines the players involved in and the events leading up to the Clinton administration's cave-in on the issue of gay service members. She shows how the current policy purports to dismiss personnel for illegal conduct rather than for status. But it has actually created a witch hunt, in which military officials use hearsay and surveillance to seek out "propensity" for homosexual conduct. This, Halley maintains, endangers all service members, not just gay ones. Though her argument is occasionally dense, this slim book will help non-lawyers and lawyers alike grasp the fundamental issues involved in this controversial and misunderstood policy.

### Gay Essentials: Facts for Your Queer Brain

by David Bianco. Alyson, \$12.95 paper.

Bianco is the author of the popular history column, Past Out, which appears in gay newspapers across the country. This entertaining book gathers together 101 of those columns and arranges them in rough chronological order—from Sappho all the way to the Clinton administration. Each essay concisely answers a question about an event or historical figure in the queer past, such as: "Were there any gay heroes in the American Revolution?"; "Who was Natalie Barney?"; "Was J. Edgar Hoover gay?"; "What was the Lavender Menace?"; and "How did homosexuality lose its official status as a mental illness?" Bianco spins his stories in a lively, often humorous style that will appeal to both gay and straight readers.

### Gore Vidal: Sexually Speaking: Collected Sex Writings

by Gore Vidal, edited by Donald Weise. Cleis Press, \$24.95 cloth.

This is the first collection of Vidal's nonfiction writings on sex and gender, and it's a real treat. Although Vidal has resisted identifying as "gay," he has certainly had a lot to say about homosexual oppression, as in the insightful essays "Sex and the Law" and "Pink Triangle and Yellow Star." Vidal is at his wittiest in his lengthy book reviews: His delicious skewering of Dr. David Reuben's infamous *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex* will make you chuckle out loud. Literary pieces on Oscar Wilde and Somerset Maugham are a bit drier than the rest. The book's finale—an interview with Larry Kramer in which the two dish the dirt about Washington, Lincoln, and other historical figures—is a gem.

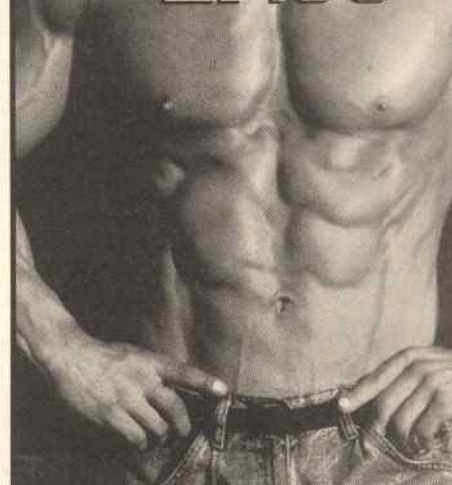
### FEATURED EXCERPT

"The title of the current number-one nonfiction best-seller [*Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex*] is cute as a bug's ear, and we know what Freud thought of those who were cute about sex. ('Very uptight'—Sigmund Freud, M.D.) If a jocose approach to sexual matters is a mask for unease, then David Reuben, M.D. ('currently in private psychiatric practice in San Diego, California') is in a state of communicable panic, and I would be most unwilling to have him privately practice psychiatry on me, even in San Diego, the Vatican of the John Birch Society."

—from "Doc Reuben" by Gore Vidal (1970), in *Gore Vidal: Sexually Speaking: Collected Sex Writings*

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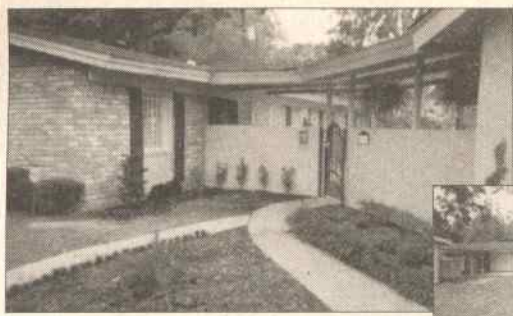
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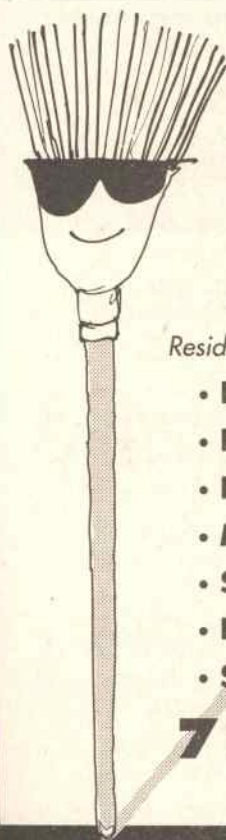
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## TravelOut

by Sandra Wilkins

When only the best will do...

# A Look at Travel Guide Books

"True ease in writing comes from art, not chance,

As those move easiest who have learn'd to dance..."

—Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

I've been in the "word" business longer than the travel business, 25-plus years now. I worked for *Private Eye Magazine* in London in the '70s, a totally irreverent romp of a satirical publication, making mince of the Royal Family long before it was fashionable. I was a high school English teacher for a couple of years, until I realized I spent far more time babysitting brats than teaching them anything. Journalism and language as career were set aside for several years as I dove into every aspect of the travel industry. My voyage with *OutSmart* these past five years as travel columnist has joyously re-united me with the written word and allows me the luxury of writing about my own travel experiences. Not only do I plan travel for others as a career, I too travel, and I travel quite a lot. Like you, I prepare relentlessly for my trips, whether they are to new places or to places I'm re-visiting. What do we do when we start dreaming of far-off places? We consult travel guide books.

Since I'm both a travel agent and a journalist, I am familiar with the entire gamut of travel guides. I've spoken often of the merits of this one or that one; some are good for one thing, others are good for another. For instance: *Fodor's* are excellent for what, where, when, how much. Stephen

& Alexandra Mayes *Birnbaum's Guides* provide essential information with a good deal of excellent writing and sensitivity to time and place. I enjoy *Rough Guides*, though their presentations on paper are truly "rough," by which I mean all black-and-white text with lots of gray-screened highlights. The *Lonely Planet* guide books are thorough, well-written, and many are lovely to the eye, employing good color photography to accompany their text. Who doesn't like the geeky Rick Steves, whose publications have been pumped-up by his "Europe Through the Back Door" series on TV? There is a plethora of travel "guide books" out there. There are wonderful travel journeys and personal travel accounts, written as narratives instead of "guides," as I discussed in the Sept. '99 issue of *OutSmart*.

But, to my mind, the most excellent and least-known guide book series are *Insight Guides*, whose motto is "Only the writing outshines the photography." These exquisite books are published by a company that was founded in 1856 by Gustav Langenscheidt, and are now in their third decade of publishing in the U.S.

These guides have shaped my recent trips to Italy and France. During my June visit to rural France (see *OutSmart* July & August '99 issues), the information obtained from the "Provence" series guided every move for my trip with my sister Jamie. Last year's trip to the Italian region of Umbria, where I shared three beautiful villas with friends and family, was inspired by their "Umbria" guide.

What makes these books so appealing and indispensable to the savvy traveler? Two things: the depth and breadth of the text, written by experts on each area covered, and the visual orgasm that results from the breathtaking photography. Very few travel guides include color photographs at all, much less such a wealth of magnificent color photos to accompany the text that go hand in hand with every *Insight Guide*. Upon seeing her first *Insight Guide*, Jamie exclaimed, "My God, Sandra, these pictures are better than *National Geographic*." Upon her remark I realized that these guides are indeed self-contained, single-subject equivalents of *National Geographic*. If I were just an armchair traveler, having a copy of any of these exceptional guides would be almost enough to take me there.

Each guide is beautifully organized into meaningful sections that take the reader on a progressive journey that results in genuine un-

derstanding of the place. They begin with two sections, History and Features, which cover the country's culture in lively, authoritative essays written by specialists.

The largest section of each guide is devoted to Places, which gives a full run-down of the attractions worth seeing. Then follows the Travel Tips section, full of useful information about planning, money, services, transportation, where to stay, nightlife, etc. Throughout each guide there are photographs which have been chosen not only to illustrate geography and buildings but also to convey the many moods of the country and the everyday activities of its people.

In the latest edition of *Insight Guide Rome*, there is a wonderful piece in the Features section about the Italian cinema. Under the Fascists the best directors went into hibernation, to emerge again after World War II. Stimulated by the ruins and post-war wretchedness, they gave birth to

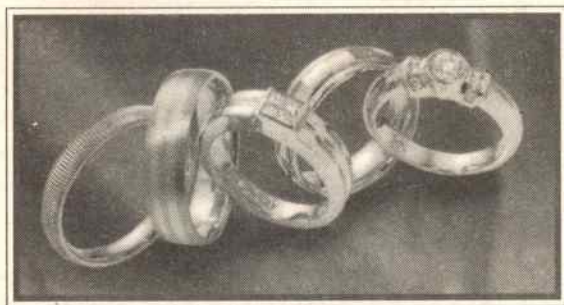
the genre known as neorealism—a vivid kind of realism which has laid the foundations for modern film.

Let me share: "Federico Fellini, who helped Rossellini write *Roma, Città Aperta* [*Rome, Open City*], summarised the unique atmosphere in Rome



Above: the baroque Fontana del Moro, designed by Bernini, in Piazza Navona.  
Left: the Roman Coliseum.

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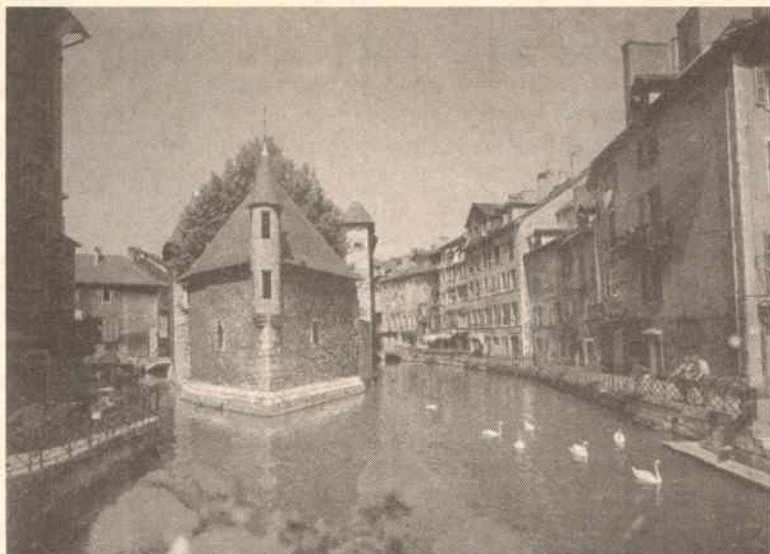
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that had produced neorealism. 'We discovered our own country...we could look freely around us now, and the reality appeared so extraordinary that we couldn't resist watching it and photographing it with astonished and virgin eyes.'

"*Roma, Città Aperta* was one of the most influential films of the time, and its unflinching confrontation with truth still unnerves audiences...and has a complex symbolic structure. Each character represents a larger element of contemporary society as well as an individual. The film elevates squalid drug addicts, priests, German lesbians and Austrian deserters until they carry symbolic import without sacrificing unique personalities."

Interestingly, it was this film that brought Ingrid Bergman into Roberto Rossellini's life. After watching the film in New York, she wrote to Rossellini: "If you happen to need a Swedish actress who can speak good English, has forgotten all her German, can express herself in



The lake and small city of Annecy

barely comprehensible French and can only manage 'ti amo' in Italian, I would be prepared to come." Shortly thereafter "Bergman arrived, and so began one of the most dramatic love stories in Roman cinematic history."

**S**o, I've been familiar with the *Insight Guides* since I bought my first—their guide to the city of Berlin, Germany. During the early '90s I was blessed to work

with large groups from all over the United States traveling to the annual International AIDS Conferences. One year the chosen sight was Berlin, and with this book in hand I was able to counsel and suggest and direct my 300-plus clients to all that was essential in Berlin, though I had never been there personally.

There are now more than 180 individual titles of *Insight Guides* available, running the alphabetical range from Alaska to Waterways of Europe.

But guess what? They can't seem to stop creating innovative travel publications. Within the past year *Insight Guides* has

teamed with the *Discovery* folks to publish a new series of travel books that inspire and astound. The new series goes under the title of *Discovery Travel Adventures*, and they intend to provide travelers with a new kind of resource to "explore a passion, not just a place." We now have *Insight Guides* and *Discovery Publishing* introducing a whole new breed of travel guides. The first six in the new series

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John Gattuso, a seasoned traveler, writer, and editor/veteran of several *Insight Guides*, has served as director of this project. Gattuso says, "You could say creating *Discovery Travel Adventures* has, in itself, been a true publishing adventure. The challenge has been to create books that give travelers both the inspiration and practical information needed to pursue their special interests."

I know the demographics of *OutSmart* readers. I know we are a pretty sophisticated, educated, well-traveled, well-heeled lot who love to travel and, while wanting to be received warmly as gay men and women, don't necessarily make the "gay" issue the focus of our much-deserved vacation dollars.

What I've seen as a travel planner these past five years is more and more gay men and women calling me to plan quality trips to wonderful places. Some of the destinations are far-flung and outrageous; many are textbook standards...Paris, Rome, London, and those countries' rural areas. But almost without exception, my clients want to experience the rich history and culture of their destination, with a passing glance at the "gayness" of their chosen vacation spot.

Please—we're here and queer and roam the net at will; we know where to sleep, eat, find sex, find bars, find fun....believe me, Mr. Fodor won't help you in this area. Nor will any of the other guides. No, stick with the formidable *Damron Guides* for the gay-specific part of your travels. That's not what I'm talking about here. What I hope to do is inspire my readers to reach out beyond that part of their travel experience and grasp the rich rewards of their destination, which can be supplemented by nongay-specific travel guides. Along these lines, you won't do better than the *Insight Guide* series.

In preparation for this column I sallied forth to our favorite bookshop haunts, including Crossroads, Lobo, Bookstop, Barnes & Noble, and Borders. While I found the most *Insight* titles at

Bookstop on Shepherd, none of our local shops seem to carry even 20 percent of the more than 180 titles now in print. Even more disappointing, the new *Discovery Travel Adventures* series is almost nonexistent in our local bookstores.

So, I can't believe I'm saying this, but like the airlines are encouraging you to book directly with them via the www and bypass your professional travel agent, I must suggest that you contact Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble.com to browse and then purchase from the entire range of the *Insight Guide* or *Discovery Travel Adventures* series of travel guide books.

Remember your first Popsicle from the "here comes the ice-cream man"? Remember your first crème brûlée? You get the point. We're beyond "Let's Go Europe" and "Europe on \$10 a Day"...go for the gold, my friends, and go far, live well, and have fun.

Till next time, cheers to you and yours!

Sandra Wilkins is the owner of *The Travel Partnership* in Houston. Her e-mail address is [outtravel1@aol.com](mailto:outtravel1@aol.com)



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# The Source

## Community

- **Adoption.** Family to Family Adoption Services is an adoption networking agency in partnership with several nonprofit adoption agencies who are dedicated to finding loving homes for thousands of orphans. They sponsor a free workshop for prospective adoptive parents seeking more info about adopting children from China, Russia, Ukraine, India, Romania, & Guatemala. Single men & women and couples from 25-57 years old are eligible. Info and/or next workshop date: 713/219-1472 or Fam2fam@aol.com.
- **After Hours** (Radio) Saturdays, midnight to 3 am. Featuring the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Carper. KPFT 90.1 FM. 713/526-4000.
- **The Amazon Society** is an intergenerational feminist organization dedicated to the elevation of women in society by addressing practical issues through the promotion of a strong mind, mentoring, & personal/economic development events. Participate in a real-life collective for women working together, make new friends, & cultivate an empowerment lifestyle! More info: Bernadine @ 713/731-0251 or e-mail: strongflower@yahoo.com.
- **The Art League of Houston** offers free art classes to all HIV-positive individuals. Complimentary lunch provided. Classes are ongoing every Thursday, 1-4 pm @ the Art League, 1953 Montrose. More info: 713/523-9530.
- **The Bar Association for Human Rights** (BAHR) is a Houston-area organization for those interested in legal issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgendered people and those living with HIV. Legal professionals, law students, & others interested in these issues are welcome. For more information, please call John Adcock at 713/951-3700 or JADCOCK@brsfirm.com.
- **BiNet** is a support/social/educational group open to all women & men exploring their sexuality or identifying as bisexual. Confidentiality is maintained within the group, & the use of assumed names is respected. BiNet is an active part of the queer community & is accepting of diverse lifestyles. Meets every Wednesday, 7:30-9 pm @ Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. For more information: 713/467-4380.
- **Black Lesbian And Gay Coalition** (BLAGC), an organization dedicated to providing visible leadership in the African-American GLBT community, meets every Monday at 7 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.
- **The Center for AIDS: Hope and Remembrance Project** provides the most current HIV/AIDS treatment information to health-care professionals, HIV-positive individuals and their caregivers, while advocating Houston as a clinical trial site, bringing innovative HIV/AIDS research to local clinics. It holds monthly Treatment Mixers for HIV-positive people to discuss openly their successes and failures concerning treatment. More info: stop by the center, 1407 Hawthorne, 9-6, M-F, or call 281/HIV-INFO.
- **Colt 45's** is an all-volunteer charity. Despite our name, you don't have to have an overwhelming love of western attire, lore, or guns to be considered for membership. All you need is a big heart and a willingness to help others when they need it the most. As a 501(c)(3) charity, and to serve the Houston HIV/AIDS community by the best means possible, Colt 45's created the AIDS Trouble-Fund, the Stone Soup Fund, & the Till Thacker III Memorial City Charity Fund. Any men or women interested in becoming a member, leave a message at 713/526-6077 or join us the 2nd Monday of each month at the BRB.
- **Dignity Houston** is dedicated to the welfare of gay/lesbian Catholics & their friends. Meets Saturdays at 7:30 pm, 1307 Yale, Suite H, 713/880-2872.
- **Executive & Professional Association of Houston** (EPAH) is established to provide a nonpolitical forum for discussion of business and community affairs, to encourage and foster social and business relationships among the membership, and to support such educational and/or charitable causes as may be ap-

proved by the membership. More info: 281/587-6066.

- **EXXON Gay & Lesbian Employees** (EGLE) meets monthly at the Montrose Library to discuss workplace issues, empowerment, social events, etc. For more information, call 713/522-6212.
- **FIRM** (Foundation for Interfaith Research & Ministry) is a nonprofit organization working with local congregations to sponsor Care Teams. Volunteers are trained to meet many of the social, physical, and emotional needs of people touched by HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, and dementia-related disorders; frail seniors; and other life-threatening conditions. Care Team volunteers view themselves as friends and extended family who can offer nonjudgmental, caring, and supportive services. All services are provided free of charge. For more info, contact the Care Team coordinator at 713/682-5995, or e-mail: firm-hou@neosoft.com.
- **GAY-INFO** can tell you the closest gay business or service to

ment & vitality of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, & supportive heterosexual businesses & professional organizations in the greater Houston area. First Monday each month. Info: 713/523-7576.

- **The Hollyfield Conference Center** provides meeting & conference facilities to the general public & offers the facilities to gay and lesbian community-based organizations at a reduced rate. 2700 Albany, Ste. 100, @ Tuam. More info or to schedule an event: Brent Arnsperger at P.O. Box 66722, Houston, TX 77266 or e-mail at Hollyfdtn@AOL.COM or phone 713/523-6900.
- **The Homeless Pet Placement League.** A nonprofit animal welfare organization that rescues & rehabilitates stray & abandoned cats & dogs. Volunteering, foster care, or adopting: 862-PETS.
- **Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.** 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm, Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd. For more info: 713/521-1000.

• **Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center,** located in the heart of Montrose, maintains drop-in hours of 6-9 pm, M-F, noon-9 pm Wednesday, and noon-4 pm Saturday. The center offers extensive information on community organizations & activities and has rental space available for meetings & events. Programming includes Lesbian Movie Night, Montrose Writer's Project, separate men's & women's coming-out groups, and Wednesday Brown-Bag Lunch. Six organizations office at the center. Volunteers & donations welcome. 803 Hawthorne at Stanford, 713/524-3818. www.neosoft.com/~hlccc.

• **Houston Pride Band** provides musical entertainment for the lesbian and gay community. They are seeking musicians of all skill levels and instrumentation. Rehearsals are held at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm. Contact Russell at 713/524-0218. Or e-mail address is HousTxBand@aol.com.

• **Houston Reconstructionist Havurah** (HRH) is an inclusive Jewish community. Core tenants of Reconstructionism are maintaining a supportive community & taking social action to repair an imperfect world. Newcomers describe the remarkable level of acceptance & warmth they encounter, regardless of background or initial level of Jewish education or observance. For more info: 713/728-5050.

• **Initiatives for Children,** a nonprofit organization promoting quality care and early education for children in the Greater-Houston area, needs volunteers for its newly created Community Relations Dept. Speakers Bureau volunteers are needed to provide info to the public at community fairs, about the agency's programs to help parents find child care and train caregivers to improve the quality of care they provide. Training will be provided to all volunteers. More info: 713/365-0313, ext. 136.

• **Integrity/Houston** is the advocacy organization for gays & lesbians in the Episcopal Church. Meets 2nd Monday of the month for Eucharist & potluck dinner, 7:30 pm @ Autry House, 6265 Main St. More info: 713/528-6771.

• **Kolbe Project** is an ecumenical outreach to gays, lesbians, & other sexual minorities modeled after the ministry of St. Francis of Assisi. Potluck & community-concern programs: first Thursdays, 7 pm. Healing Service: 4th Wednesdays, 8 pm. Spiritual Direction by appointment: HIV/AIDS hospital chaplaincy. For more info: 713/861-1800. E-mail: kolbe@neosoft.com.

• **Lesbian & Gay Voices** (Radio) Mondays, 8-9 pm. Features, news, music, interviews, reviews, and commentary. KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-4000.

• **Log Cabin Republicans,** 4th Monday of each month, 6:30 pm (social), 7 pm (meeting), Renata's, 2006 Lexington, 713/529-9100.

• **Marriages.** NO FEE for gay, lesbian, or bi marriages. Weddings are performed at anyone's private home or their church with the permission of their church's minister. I am an ordained minister through the Universal Life Church of Modesto, CA, legally authorized to perform all ministerial services (baptisms, marriages, funerals, & conduct church meetings). Lives in Galveston. E-mail address is: bruce\_37@cheerful.com.

• **Montrose Writers Project.** Gregg Rodriguez, a published essayist & playwright, leads this ongoing series. Sessions include

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men and their friends who gather to explore  
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informs our spirituality. Our experiences as queer men  
give us a unique point of view. Our sexuality is a power-  
ful spiritual gift. As queer men we have special con-  
tributions to make to society, we have special roles within  
our culture, we lead, we create, we enrich the world.  
Anyone is welcome to join the Houston Faerie Circle,  
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many different spiritual paths, from Christian to Pagan,  
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our own path and cherishing our sexuality.  
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where you are or where you're traveling anywhere in the United States or Canada. Over 25,000 listings of gay bars, restaurants, hotels, bookstores, shops, and events. More info: 888/429-4630.

• **Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston** (GLSH) is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization offering the community information & referrals to businesses, legal and medical professionals, and a variety of organizations. It also provides information on HIV/AIDS, coming out, etc. P.O. Box 66496, Houston, TX 77266-6469, 529-3211. GLSH also operates the Hate Crimes Hotline, 713/529-9615.

• **Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Educators Network** (GLSEN). The goal of GLSEN is to make schools safe for everyone—straight and gay. All interested persons are invited to attend the meetings every 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30 pm, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin @ Southmore. For updates or more information: write to GLSEN-Houston, P.O. Box 541871, Houston, Texas 77254. Call 713/529-4571 or e-mail: GLSTNHou@aol.com.

• **Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce** (GHGLCC) fosters & promotes the economic develop-

writing exercises, group readings, & discussion. \$7 per session. Meets every Saturday, 3-4:30 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

• **More Light Presbyterians of Greater Houston** is one of approximately 40 local chapters of the national MLP organization, which is dedicated to full participation of all persons in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) community without regard for sexual orientation, personal background, or human condition. The More Light Presbyterian organization works for full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgendered persons into the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including positions of leadership requiring ordination. Meets 1st Monday of each month, 7:30 pm @ the Presbyterian Church, 1110 Lovett Blvd. More info or to confirm meeting date: 281/440-0353.

• **National Organization for Women (NOW)**. Houston area chapter (Houston NOW) works for women's rights and equality in all aspects of life with particular focus on ending violence against women, combating racism, protecting reproductive rights and in support of lesbian rights. Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month with business and program meeting. Call for details at 713/665-8669 or e-mail: HoustonNOW@yahoo.com.

• **OutVote**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to registering, educating, and motivating our community to vote. For more information: 713/520-VOTE or 713/522-9837.

• **People With AIDS Coalition-Houston (PWAC)** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization of, by, and for people with HIV/AIDS that promotes independence & self-reliance so that they may live with dignity, self-esteem, & acceptance. This is achieved by providing short-term crisis intervention & long-term referrals; creating opportunities for active participation as a member of the PWA community; & providing public advocacy for the needs of PWAs. While committed to ending the epidemic, PWAC endeavors to respond with love, care, & compassion to the unmet & changing needs that arise with PWAs. 3400 Montrose Blvd., Ste. 207. Info: 713/522-5428; fax 713/522-2674.

• **Pride Committee of Houston** is an energetic group of people who meet year-round to develop/organize Pride activities in June for our community. Meets 7 pm, the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month @ the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. Board of directors meets 7 pm, the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 2700 Albany. For more info or to get involved: 713/529-6979 or fax 713/529-6929. E-mail: info@pndeohouston.org.

• **Q-Patrol** is dedicated to the prevention of hate crimes against gays & lesbians, patrols the bar areas in Montrose, & is always looking for volunteers for one Friday or Saturday night per month. Call 713/528-SAFE (7233). Web: www.members.aol.com/qpatrol.

• **Rice GALA** (Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association) seeks gay and lesbian alumni of Rice University. Contact Neal Tannahill at 713/526-6718 for more information.

• **Roundtable—The Houston Philosophy Forum** is open to anyone interested in civilized & open discussion on topics of the day. 6:30-7 social time, meeting 7 pm, the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ Café Express, 1422 W. Gray. More info: Jackie @ 779-8620.

• **SEA Change** (Support, Educate, and Advocate for Change) is open to social workers and social work students who are interested in gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgendered issues. For information, please contact Rick at 281/484-3809.

• **Second Chance Pets** is a nonprofit organization that helps stray, abandoned, & unwanted animals find permanent homes. Provides medical care & an adoption site for the animals. The animals live in foster homes during the week. Foster homes are needed (especially for dogs & cats). Also needed: volunteers for adoption days, publicity/fund-raising, & adoptive homes. More info: 281/286-3535.

• **SPECTRUM** is an employees' group of Southwestern Bell Communications which is open to both management & nonmanagement (active & retired) lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered personnel, & those who share their concerns. The group's goals include establishing domestic partner benefits, making the workplace more aware of diversity, & helping direct the company's involvement in the community. Partners are encouraged to attend & to participate. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month unless otherwise announced. To be added to mailing list & other info: 713/567-7733. SBC Intranet Site: Intranet.sbc.com/SBCWIN/corporate/aware/index.html or Internet Web Site: www.webcom.com/benny/spectrum/spectrum.html.

• **The Stonewall Democrats of Houston** give gays & lesbians the opportunity to fight for their rights: to love who they want, to be safe from hate crimes, and to be judged—on the job—by the quality of their work, not how they were born. We work to educate voters and elected officials about GLBT issues and offer opportunities to volunteer in political campaigns. At monthly meetings and events, you can talk to city and state politicians one-on-one. There are over two dozen other Stonewall chapters across the country. We meet at Bibas One's a Meal Restaurant on West Gray, upstairs in the Greek room, the last Monday of each month. Social at 6:30 pm, meeting at 7 pm. For more information: Mark at 713/854-8773.

• **Texas Human Rights Foundation**, a statewide, not-for-profit legal agency, advocates on behalf of the lesbian, gay, and HIV community and publishes the booklet *AIDS and the Law: Know Your Rights*. If you feel you have been discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation or HIV status and need legal advice or attorney referral, call their toll-free number, 1-800-828-6417, or in Houston call 713/522-0636.

• **Texas Lesbian Conference** is the only yearly statewide lesbian conference in the country. It will be in Houston in 2000. Organizational meetings are held every 3rd Sunday, 3-5 pm, at the Hollyfield Foundation, 2700 Albany. For more information, call 713/460-3435, ext. 3.

• **An Uncommon Legacy Foundation** is a nonprofit lesbian foundation established in 1990 to promote lesbian visibility, strength, & vitality and enhance the well-being of lesbians today and in future generations. Legacy supports the lesbian community by making grants to projects and scholarships to individuals that help meet the social, cultural, health and educational needs of lesbians. More info: 713/520-1142.

• **The Women's Group** is a feminist group for all women (each woman defines her own feminism) that meets every Sunday at 10:45 am in the Sojourner Truth Room, 3rd floor of the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin @ Southmore (elevator accessible). For more information, call Iris Greer Sizemore at 713/529-8571 or Laura Reich at 713/529-1886. E-mail: HouWmnsGrp@aol.com.

## Counseling/Support

• **AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH)** relies on volunteers to help meet the needs of its more than 2,000 clients. Choose from over 22 direct and indirect client volunteer programs. You'll join a pool of more than 300 talented volunteers in Hotline, Information & Referral, Buddy, Helper, Art Therapy, Stone Soup & many other programs. Whether you can commit to 4 hours a month or 40 hours a week, AFH needs your time and talent. Volunteer department: 713/623-6796. Website: <http://www.aidshep.org>.

• **Astro Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf**, general meeting every 2nd Friday of the month, 7:30 pm, Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer, 713/861-1544 via Texas Relay 1-800-735-2988.

• **AVES** (Amigos Volunteers in Education & Services). The AVES Men's HIV Support Group meets monthly @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818. Call for dates & time.

• **The Bering Lunch Bunch Gang** is a walk-in support group for persons living with HIV/AIDS who have retired. Tuesdays, 11 am @ Bering Church, 1440 Harold. Info: Russ Robinett, 713/526-1017, ext. 211.

• **The Bering Spiritual Support Group** is a nurturing space in which we whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS unite in spirit for the celebration of life through sharing our mutual support, strength, acceptance, & love. This walk-in support group meets Wednesdays, 6:30 pm @ Bering Church, 1440 Harold for potluck dinner, speaker, & small groups for newcomers, HIV+ only, positive/negative together, caregivers, & family. Info: Christine Coberly, 713/526-1017, ext. 208.

• **Bering Support Network** offers counseling, visitation, retreats, & support groups. Call 713/526-1017.

• **Centergy** — Rediscover the joy, the joy of releasing the energy at your center. Reclaim your emotions. Identify & verbalize your feelings & desires. Face & release your blocks to living freely. Create the life you want. Centergy offers weekly programs for anyone willing to face addictions: individuals, pairs, families, groups, organizations, business relations. Groups meet weekly: Mixed—Tues., 6-8:30 pm; Mixed—Wed., 7-9:30 pm; Women—Thurs., 6-8:30 pm, Southwest Recovery Place, 4726 Yoakum. Call Jackalyn Rainosek, Ph.D., @ 942-7181.

• **Chase Bank of Texas' P.R.I.D.E. Team**, a chapter of the Chase Manhattan Bank Pride Networking Group, welcomes you to be a part of equality. P.R.I.D.E. stands for People Recognizing Individual Differences Equally and is the bank's networking group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, & supportive employees. Our mission is to support the inclusion of all Chase bankers—regardless of sexual orientation & gender identification—as valued employees of the bank & to encourage an environment of equality that celebrates the individuality & diversity of everyone. The Team typically meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6 pm. More info: Richard Bielek at 713/655-5423, Elizabeth Goza at 713/216-5574, or Roy Mendiola at 713/216-8889.

• **Child Advocates** needs volunteers to help serve the nearly 3,800 children in Harris County who are in foster care because of severe, life-threatening, soul-threatening abuse. To get these chil-

**"To live joyfully is to live in hope."**

—Judith Bruder



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dren into homes that are safe, loving, and permanent, please call 713/529-1396.

• **Crisis Intervention of Houston** needs volunteers for 24-hour crisis-intervention & suicide-prevention hotline that requires 53 hours of training & a commitment of 4 hours a week; cash contributions for hotline & counseling programs. P.O. Box 130866, Houston 77219, 713/527-9864.

• **Crossroads** is a support group for gays & lesbians who are currently in full-time church work, have been in the past, or are pursuing their calling. Not exclusively for pastors—is open to chaplains, administrators, musicians, or music-, youth-, and educational-directors. 3rd Saturday of each month & socials throughout the month. Call 681-9082 for dates, time, and place.

• **Gay & Lesbian Helpline.** Our phone counselors can help you clarify & prioritize your issues & sort through options. The helpline is an anonymous & confidential safe space for you to voice your thoughts. Whether you are concerned about coming out, locating resources, or even just finding something to do on a Friday night. Let us be the ear you need. Our counselors are always friendly & supportive and have your best interest at heart. Fenway Community Health Center's Gay & Lesbian Helpline's hours: M-F 6-11 pm, Sat-Sun 5-10 pm; 1-888-340-GLBT (4528).

• **Gay & Lesbian National Hotline (GLNH)** is a nonprofit organization, providing information, referrals and peer-counseling to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities. Information is also available for those concerned with gay-related issues. The services are free and anonymous. The hours are 5-9 pm (M-F) and 11 am-4 pm (Saturdays). The toll-free number is 1-888-THE-GLNH (1-888-843-4564). E-mail: GLNH@GLNH.ORG.

• **Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston (GLSH)** is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization offering the community information & referrals to businesses, legal and medical professionals, and a variety of organizations. It also provides information on HIV/AIDS, coming out, etc. P.O. Box 66496, Houston, TX 77266-6469, 529-3211. GLSH also operates the Hate Crimes Hotline, 713/529-9615.

• **Gay Fathers of Houston** is a support group of gay men who meet every Monday, 8-9:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh, to discuss problems gay fathers share. More info or directions: 861-6181.

• **Gay Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse.** Montrose Counseling Center is offering a therapy group designed to provide a safe environment for men who share this type of experience to work together to resolve the impacts of the trauma on everyday life. Services are provided on a sliding scale basis, and insurance is accepted. Certain restrictions apply. For further information, call Shane Hennessey at 713/529-0037.

• **Gay Men's Process Group** is a general process group dealing with life issues that effect gay men (coming out, career, family, relationships/dating, etc.). More info: Daniel Garces, MS, LPC, LMFT at 713/526-8390. E-mail: daniel\_garces@yahoo.com. On-line: www.dansmnd.net.

• **Gay Men Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse** provides a safe place for reclaiming our lives through the sharing of our stories with respect, understanding, & acceptance in our journey toward healing. Offers intensive 8-week therapy group limited to 4-5 participants followed by an ongoing peer support group. Assess-

ment required. Info: Christine Coberly @ 713/526-1017, ext. 208.

• **Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Abuse** is a closed support group for gay men who are being abused in their present relationship or who are dealing with unresolved issues from a past abusive relationship. Abuse can be emotional, mental, verbal, physical, financial, or sexual. Survivors may experience low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, isolation, a deep sense of shame, or embarrassment. A support group offers a safe place to share your experiences, learn from others, or just listen. For assessment/screening or more info: Russ Robinett @ 713/526-1017, ext. 211 and leave your name & a safe phone number where your call can be returned.

• **Grief Groups** (bereavement, loss/estrangement) are closed 6-week groups for those who have lost a loved one to HIV/AIDS and for loss or alienation from primary emotional relationships. Mondays, 7-8:30 pm @ Bering Church, 1440 Harrold. For schedule/assessment: Christine Coberly, 713/526-1017, ext. 208.

• **Gulf Coast Transgender Community** meets 2nd Saturday of each month (cross dressing required). Open discussion 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month (cross dressing not required). P.O. Box 66643, Houston, TX 77266-6643, 780-4282.

• **HCDA** (Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous) is a support group, for transgendered people dedicated to helping those who are having difficulty accepting themselves or for those involved with a transgendered individual who is having trouble adjusting. HCDA's philosophy is that the wearing of clothing opposite to one's birth sex is but an outward manifestation of an inner feeling. HCDA is run by a licensed counselor and has been meeting since Jan. 1991. All are welcome. Meets Tuesdays, 7-9 pm @ 239 Westheimer (Suzanne Anderson Properties).

• **HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer.** open forum for sharing info. Men's mixer, 3rd Tues. of the month 7-9 pm. Women's mixer, 4th Wed. of the month, 6-8 pm, 1407 Hawthorne, 527-8219.

• **Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals** (H.A.T.C.H.) is open to gays and lesbians, age 13-20. Fridays, 7:30-10 pm & Sundays, 6:30-9 pm. Location/more info: 713/942-7002.

• **Houston Area Women's Center** provides shelter, support, and advocacy services for ALL survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. HAWC operates two hotlines, one for domestic violence (713/528-2121, TTY 713/528-3625) and one for sexual assault (713/528-RAPE, TTY 713/528-3691). Nonresidential services are provided including individual & group counseling, legal advocacy, housing advocacy, children's services, and job training. HAWC also manages the Second-to-None Resale Shop on Westheimer. All services are FREE of charge. Volunteers are always needed. Call 713/528-6798, ext. 272: 1010 Waugh Dr. @ Dallas.

• **Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents** (HGLP) support group meets to discuss issues pertaining to today's gay families. If you have children or plan to have children, this support group can help with issues like coming out, ex-spouse problems, step relationships, etc. Child-care provided. Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Dr., the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7-9 pm. More info: 713/284-4939.

• **Jewish Family Service** offers individual, couple & family counseling to individuals of all ages regardless of sexual orientation or religious affiliation. Our professional counseling staff have received training in working with gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender issues and can help individuals deal with interpersonal problems, relationship conflicts, dealing with families, HIV/AIDS-related concerns &

other issues frequently facing sexual minorities. Services are offered on a sliding-fee-scale basis. To make an appointment or for more info: 713/667-9336.

• **Just For Us (JFU)** is a social and support group for youth in the 6th through 12th grades who have gay or lesbian parents. Sponsored by Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents, 284-4939.

• **Lambda Center A.A.**, 1201 W. Clay, Houston, TX 77019. For meeting times, call 521-1243.

• **Lesbian Coming-Out Group** is open to all women regardless of age & length of time out. \$3 donation is requested but not required. 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month, 7:30 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

• **Men's Coming-Out Group.** Each meeting includes discussion, support, & a social activity. A \$3 donation is requested but not required. 3rd Friday each month at 8 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

• **The Men's Network** is for gay & bisexual men to come together in a safe & supportive environment to learn & share about issues that affect them. A donation of \$3-\$5 is requested; however, all men are welcome, regardless of their ability to pay. The 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of every month, 7:15-9 pm @ Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

• **Montrose Counseling Center** offers numerous counseling groups, including groups for men & women living with HIV, people in recovery, lesbian survivors of cancer, survivors of sexual abuse, lesbian survivors of domestic violence & more. The center needs office furniture, equipment & interested citizens to serve on boards. 701 Richmond. For more info (24 hrs.): 713/529-0037.

• **Muscular Dystrophy Association.** Houston/Gulf Coast, provides monthly support groups for adults with neuromuscular diseases, for people with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), for parents of MDA children, and Spanish-speaking groups. For the most current info on these ongoing groups, call the MDA office at 713/522-3941.

• **Out Together** is a support group where individuals & couples can share thoughts, experiences, & knowledge about mixed orientation marriages—where one spouse considers him/herself gay, lesbian, or bisexual. 1st Sun. & 3rd Thur. of each month. Confidentiality ensured. Questions: Bob 713/667-1535 (Bobtx54@aol.com) or Jackie 281/558-3159 (jackie\_mag@msn.com).

• **Overeaters Anonymous (OA).** For information about OA's 50 regular weekly meetings, call 713/973-6633.

• **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG) Houston.** General meeting with small group discussions, 1st Sunday of each month, 2-4:30 pm, Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Ave. Mid-month discussion group meets 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:30-9 pm, Church of the Epiphany, 9600 S. Gessner @ Bissonnet. 2nd mid-month discussion group meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30-9 pm, Hollyfield Conference Center, 2700 Albany. PFLAG Houston Helpline: 713/867-9020.

• **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG) Galveston County** — 3rd Sunday of each month, 2 pm, @ AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, 1405 39th St., 409/744-3200 or janettexas@aol.com.

• **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG) Woodlands** — 3rd Sunday of each month, 2 pm, Northwood Unitarian Church, 1370 N. Mill Bend Dr. For more info: 713/867-9020.

• **Project CAESAR** is the Gay Men's Health Initiative at AIDS Foundation Houston. By providing the latest information and education to the gay community, Project CAESAR intends to slow HIV infection rates among gay and bisexual men in Houston. Through self-esteem, motivational and relationships topics, the program helps uncover healthy paths buried under the pressure of everyday life. It also reaches over 20,000 men a year in the Houston area through its outreach team, The Legion. To attend a workshop, volunteer for The Legion, or to find out more info, call the Project CAESAR staff at 713/623-6796. E-mail: education@hivhelp.org.

• **PROTECT** (People Respecting Ourselves Through Establishing Community and Trust) is a walk-in support group for HIV-negative people to share our experiences, strengths, & hopes in an effort to remain HIV negative and to help ourselves understand & change behaviors that could lead to infection. Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm, Bering Church, 1440 Harrold. Info: Russ Robinett, 713/526-1017, ext. 211.

• **STEPS** is a transitional living facility for homeless young adults between the ages of 18-21. Services include free housing, GED preparation, independent living skills training in money management, housekeeping, apartment search, nutrition, HIV/STDs, drug & alcohol awareness, job search, on-site case management, counseling & referrals. After completion of our 6-9 month program, clients will be referred to independent housing and will be provided with up to 1 year of supportive services. STEPS Program provides culturally competent services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender & heterosexual young adults. HOPE Center, 3118 San Jacinto. For more info: 713/524-1992.

• **StreetWise Houston** is a drop-in/educational & support center for homeless, street, & lesbian youth, ages 13-24, located @ 202 Tuam. We provide HIV support groups, drug intervention,



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• **Support, Equality, and Awareness, at Shell (SEAShell)** is a Gay & Lesbian Employees Group whose mission is to provide support for members and co-workers, promote equality for employees regardless of sexual orientation, and create awareness in management of issues and concerns affecting people in a diverse workplace. For more information, call Becky at 713/245-1960 or Rick at 281/544-7098.

• **Tau Chi Chapter of Tri Ess** is a local support group for heterosexual crossdressers of both sexes and their spouses, and family. For info: Jane at 713/349-8969.

• **The Women's Network** is a support group established to serve the lesbian & bisexual women's community of Houston; any woman who is sensitive to & comfortable with lesbians is welcome. The network provides an opportunity to discuss women's issues in a safe environment, network with other women and socialize with old & new friends. A donation of \$3-\$5 is requested; however, any woman is welcome regardless of her ability to pay. 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

## Health

• **AIDS Housing Coalition Houston (AHCH)** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency that provides short-term, low-income, single-room housing for people with HIV/AIDS in transition. A gay-positive, all-volunteer, neighborhood-based agency which seeks public donations and public transportation. To join: 713/521-1613.

• **AssistHers** tries to help women live as normally as possible while coping with a life-threatening or debilitating illness. Eligible for service are women whose emotional, social, sexual relationships are primarily with women who have a debilitating or life-threatening disease, illness, condition. Assistance may extend to woman's partner, caregiver, family. Services provided regardless of ability to pay, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, economic status. Volunteers trained/supervised in the provision of direct care such as emotional support, meal preparation, shopping, hospital/home visits, pet care, plant/lawn maintenance, transportation, other assistance. Volunteers work as members of a Care Team, which is assigned one client, so it's realistic to expect 2 visits/week from volunteers. PO Box 131605, Houston, TX 77219-1605, 713/521-4628.

• **AVES** (Amigos Volunteers in Education & Services) provides social & healthcare services to HIV-positive individuals. Volunteer wish list: 1) fluent, or at least functional, in English & Spanish; 2) comfortable discussing sexual matters with total strangers; 3) comfortable with various ethnic & sexual cultures; 4) able & willing to commit at least 2 hours a week; 5) able to staff the hotline during office hours; & 6) willing to make at least a 6-month commitment. 4126 Southwest Frwy, Ste. 1310, 626-2837 or 1-800-981-2837.

• **Bering Omega Community Services** provides seven programs free of charge for persons living with HIV/AIDS: 1. Advocacy Program helps us keep current with HIV/AIDS issues and congress (713/524-9304); 2. Bering Care Center is a licensed adult day-care center (713/529-6071, ext 141); 3. Dental Clinic provides comprehensive dental care (713/529-6071, ext 120); 4. Financial Assistance provides comprehensive budget planning, financial counseling and financial assistance (713/520-5327); 5. Omega House provides residential hospice care (713/523-7110); 6. Sentry Program provides in-home care visits (713/524-9304, ext 103); and 7. The Bering Care Network provides counseling & support groups (713/526-1017). To volunteer or make an in-kind contribution to any of the Bering Omega Community Services programs: Joanne Reich, LMSW (713/523-7110). To sponsor a benefit or give a financial contribution: the development office (713/524-9304, ext 100).

• **bodypositive Wellness Center (BPWC)** provides a venue where qualified clients with HIV/AIDS can obtain HIV-specific nutritional assessment/counseling, supervised resistance exercise, massage therapy, chiropractic adjustments, relaxation classes, community forums, peer counseling groups, & at-cost nutritional supplements. The 3-month core program enables clients to take important measures in restoring their health & quality of life as they augment the positive effects of advanced drug treatments. (Yoga Classes are held every Tuesday at 6:30 pm and Thursdays at 12:30 pm, with a limited 15-person participation & a requested \$5 donation. Ask for Tom.) (Chiropractic Therapy services are held Tuesdays from 3-6 pm and Thursdays 9-noon. Ask for Alberto or Tom.) Info: 713/524-2374.

• **Camp Hope**, for children living with HIV/AIDS, needs sleeping bags, snacks, suntan lotions, insect repellents, toiletries, minor medical equipment (e.g. thermometer), toilet paper, toiletry kits, camper duffel bags, bed linen, fruit juices, soft drinks, and so forth. For more info: Mecie Hardin or Mike Mizwa, 623-6796.

• **Casa de Esperanza** needs new or gently used children's clothes, sizes birth to 14; new children's socks and underwear; medium, large, and extra-large diapers and pull-ups; baby wipes; paper towels and toilet paper; and food for homes that serve abused, neglected, and HIV-positive children. P.O. Box 66581, Houston 77266-6581, 713/529-0639.

• **Family Hospice** is dedicated to serving people experiencing the final phases of life & those who care for them. We provide comprehensive services through our commitment to the highest standards of care. Volunteers can assist in a variety of tasks: patient care, nursing home volunteer, respite or relief visit for the caregiver, bereavement phone calls/visits, office work, assist during training seminars, delivery person, crafts volunteer or other activities. To inquire about volunteering, call Kevin Phillips @ 713/290-1746.

• **Houston Buyers Club** provides vital nutritional supplements & info at no profit to people living with chronic illness. We welcome business from people who are not living with chronic illness; it financially supports our mission. Phone 713/520-5288; fax 713/521-7419; Web site [houstonbuyersclub.com](http://houstonbuyersclub.com); e-mail address [hbc@neosoft.com](mailto:hbc@neosoft.com); mailing address 3400 Montrose Blvd., ste. 605.

• **Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify, address, educate, serve, & empower the Houston lesbian community in all its diversity, on issues of health & well-being. Board of directors meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, 7 pm @ Hollyfield Conference Center. Volunteers are needed to assist with health fairs & other events & activities. Call 713/603-0023; write POB 130158, Houston 77219.

• **Lesbian Health Outreach Project** is a united effort of Montrose Counseling Center & Montrose Clinic to educate lesbians about risk factors for breast cancer, breast self-exam techniques, & other health concerns and to provide low-cost (sliding scale) well-woman exams that include pelvic exams, pap smears, breast exams, lab work, & referral for mammograms when needed. These services are available by appointment only at Montrose Clinic, 713/830-3000. To inquire about therapy support group for lesbians with life-threatening illness or to schedule educational presentations through Montrose Counseling Center, 713/529-0037.

• **Methodist VNA Hospice** is a nonprofit United Way agency that provides in-home care to terminally ill patients in Harris County. We are currently recruiting volunteers to provide emotional support & practical assistance to the patients in their neighborhood. Training (held on weekends) is provided to prepare you for the job. No medical skills are required. The next training session begins in September. More info: 713/630-5513.

• **Milam House** Volunteers Needed! Reach out, make a difference, show someone you care. Walk the talk at Milam House, a residential center for people living with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers work directly with the residents, providing companionship & emotional support in a one-on-one setting. More info, call 713/520-9248 or e-mail [ahhvltr@neosoft.com](mailto:ahhvltr@neosoft.com). You can also visit the Web site at <http://www.neosoft.com/MilamInfo@pwach.org>.

• **Montrose Clinic/Houston Clinical Research Network** is a community-based, nonprofit agency. It provides low- or no-cost health, social, educational, & research services; specializes in treat-

ment of sexually transmitted diseases & HIV/AIDS care. Needed: cash gifts for indigent-patient care; volunteer time from general & specialty physicians/lay persons interested in HIV counseling/office support, 215 Westheimer. Please call the clinic @ 713/830-3000 for current outreach HIV-testing sites.

• **Next Step** is a confidential educational workshop for those who are HIV positive. Topics include treatments for HIV, nutrition, safer sex, and stress management. Free T-cell count and viral load tests included. For more info or to sign up for the next workshop: Montrose Clinic at 713/830-3000.

• **Spiritual Gym** is an inner-fitness workshop. Sessions incorporate aspects of different traditions, including Tai-Chi, yoga, & breathing exercises in the quest for strength & inner peace. \$5 donation requested. Meets Thursdays, 6-7 pm, @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

• **Steven's House**, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, provides intermediate care in a homelike environment for men & women living with HIV/AIDS. Needed: soft drinks, laundry detergent, bed pillows (new), towels, twin-size comforters, twin-size sheets (extra long, fitted or flat), basic cleaning supplies, office supplies, new bicycle, chest of drawers, 2 comfortable reading chairs, lamps (table & floor), VCR, cable-ready TV for resident room, bedside tables, apartment in Montrose area for office/resident's family lodging; volunteers for tasks/services. Info: 713/522-5757.

• **Substance Abuse Research Treatment** is offered free of charge by The University of Texas Houston Health Science Center. Free research treatment programs are offered for cocaine use, and cocaine use complicated by either depression, opiate/heroin use or alcohol use; and for cigarette smoking, and cigarette smoking with alcohol use. Programs may involve individual therapy led by trained clinicians and investigational medications. For more info: 713/500-2800 or visit the website at <http://trc.uth.tmc.edu>.

• **Tobacco-Free Greater Houston** provides a list of smoke-free restaurants in the Houston area and works to promote health through the reduction of youth access to tobacco & promotion of a smoke-free environment. For free guide, send SASE to Tobacco-Free Greater Houston, POB 890769, Houston, TX 77289-0769.

• **Thomas Street Clinic** is part of the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD) providing medical, social, & educational care to the HIV/AIDS-infected person. As an outpatient clinic for the past 10 years, the clinic has proficiently served & supported residents of Harris County in understanding such a complicated disease. Educational workshops, social assistance, up-to-date research studies, & state-of-the-art medical care assists the HIV/AIDS patient daily. Located at 2015 Thomas St. @ Paschall, between I45 & N. Main. More info: 713/793-4000. For understanding of HIV education programs: 713/793-4026. For bilingual assistance: 713/793-4051. Thomas Street Clinic's Patient Advisory Board is an elected board that advises the Harris County Hospital District on matters concerning Thomas Street Clinic. Meetings open to the public, 2nd Wednesday each month, 2 pm. 3rd floor conference room, 2015 Thomas St. @ Paschall, 713/793-4000.

• **Women's Clinic**, Montrose Clinic offers a women's health clinic. Visits include complete well-woman examination, lab work, medication, & referral if needed. Fee \$40; but no one turned away. Wed. & Thurs., 5-8 pm, by appointment only, 713/830-3000.

• **Yoga**. Free yoga classes. Yoga benefits individuals by providing stress relief, better health & a clear mind, achieved by a combination of physical postures, mental exercises, breathing techniques, improved diet. Mon., Wed., & Fri. at 6:30 pm; Sat. at 9:30 am. Free meditation class on Tues. at 6:30 pm. Devanand Yoga Center, 3115 West Loop South, Ste. 21, 713/965-9642.

## Social

• **Asians & Friends Houston** is a social organization for gay Asians & their friends, made up of couples & singles. Events include potluck dinners, movie nights at members' homes or movie theaters, and large parties celebrating Asian holidays. Recognizing that many people are not out of the closet, membership is kept confidential. It's an easygoing & fun-loving group, and all are welcome. Info: 713/626-6300 or <http://members.aol.com/texasians>.

• **BiNet Houston** is a social/support/educational group which is open to bisexuals & bi-friendly individuals. More info: 467-4380. It is best to call 6-10 pm most evenings; otherwise, leave a message, & a representative will return your call utilizing utmost discretion.

• **Bluebonnet Young Democrats**. As a member of this lesbian/gay-friendly group of young Democrats in Texas, you will have a chance to make a great impact. Possible projects include trips to Austin, community forums, and other fun activities. Voice mail is 632-9974 and pager is 786-0493.

• **Classic Chassis Car Club of Houston** is open to everyone (car not necessary) who enjoys cars, trucks, models, automobilia, or hanging out with those who do! Meetings are the 1st Monday each month. Additionally, the club hosts driving tours, workshops,

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• **Garden And Yard Society** (G.A.Y.S.) is a gay gardening club for women & men. Bring your gardening friends and supporting partners. Meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 7 pm. More info: 713/661-6378, 713/520-1066, or 713/869-8245.

• **Gay Alumni Noon Group** (G.A.N.G.). Gay men & women who are 40 or older and their friends and other persons who might be interested in addressing the concerns and exploring the interests of older gays meet at 1 pm, the 2nd Saturday of each month @ the Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose. For more info: Jim @ 713/622-6918 or Robert @ 713/665-6446.

• **Gay & Lesbian Health Professionals** meets monthly, providing socials, speakers, networking, and practitioner referral line. For information or a referral, call 713/523-4700.

• **Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Alliance** (GLOBAL) is a support, social, educational, & political group for the University of Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgendered community and its allies. GLOBAL strives to educate and to be a resource to the UH community on gay issues and to provide a welcoming atmosphere for all UH students. It is one of the most active gay campus organizations in the South and is diverse in its ethnic, racial, religious, political, & gender makeup. It welcomes students from other area colleges & junior colleges, who often do not have the support & resources that UH & GLOBAL do. In addition, GLOBAL provides educational outreach programs for the entire UH & Greater Houston community. Whether you are struggling to come out, a hardcore gay rights activist, or just looking for some fellow queers to hang out with, GLOBAL is the place for you. More info: 713/743-5180. E-mail: slope22@jetson.uh.edu or briant419@hotmail.com. Write: GLOBAL, University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun Rd., Campus Activities, Box 211, Houston, TX 77204-2610.

• **Gay Men's Chorus of Houston** rehearses Thursdays, 7-10 pm @ Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh. Formal music training is not required, and singing & non-singing members are welcome. For info, leave message @ 713/521-SING.

• **Houston Area Bears** is a social organization for "bears" (hirsute men) of all sizes and their admirers. Their monthly social is held on the second Saturday of each month at the Venture-N, 2923 S. Main, 8 pm. For further info: The Grower Line, 867-9123.

• **Houston Area Motorcycle Society** (HAMS), a gay/lesbian motorcycle club, has a social at a different coffee shop in the Montrose area each Wednesday night. If you own a motorcycle or are involved with someone who does and would like to find out more about our socials & group rides, call 713/688-1300 or e-mail to: hams1999@yahoo.com.

• **Houston Outdoor Group** (HOGS) is a social group for gay men & lesbians who enjoy the outdoors. Activities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, etc. They have day trips, weekend trips (typically a 2- to 4-hour drive from Houston), usually in state parks or private campgrounds. Local social events include Saturday morning breakfasts & once-a-month potluck dinners. Call 713/KAMPOUT for info or your complimentary newsletter, or write to P.O. Box 980893, Houston, TX 77098.

• **Lambda Rollerskating Club** invites all ages to join in the fun every Tuesday, 8-10 pm, @ Tradewinds Roller Rink, 5006 W. 34th St. (off 290). Admission is \$5 (+ \$1.50 for skates). For more info: call 713/523-9620, write lrscl@neosoft.com, or visit <http://www.neosoft.com/~lrscl>.

• **Lesbian Film Night**. On the 4th Friday of each month, a flick with a lesbian theme is screened; a potluck precedes the movie, and discussion follows. A \$3-\$5 donation is encouraged, but not required. Call for title & time @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

• **Lesbian/Gay Unitarian Universalist Potluck**. The lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, friends, and families of the First Unitarian Universalists Church cordially invite you to bring a dish & join them on every 4th Friday of the month, 7 pm, First UU Church, Crane Fireside Room, 5200 Fannin. Schedule may change at Thanksgiving or Christmas. For more info: 713/526-5200.

• **LiB**, a lesbian empowerment group, promotes lesbians, jobs, networking, & businesses, 3rd Friday of each month, 7:30 pm, Holiday Inn Select, 2712 Southwest Frwy. LiB's hotline: 713/529-0077.

• **Life Begins at 40** is a singles group for gay women or lesbians over the age of 40. For those women who have been out for a long time or for those just considering changes in their sexual preferences who want a safe, healthy environment to meet other women and enjoy fellowship and loads of fun, laughter, & good times. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. @ Mulberry, 2nd & 4th Fridays, 2nd Fri: 6:30-9 pm, potluck & discussion/speaker, 4th Fri: dance, 8 pm-midnight. \$5 donation requested for each night. Info: Beth Christian 713/526-2579 or the church office 713/526-1017.

• **LOAF** is a social, networking, & support group for lesbians 50 years of age and older. For info: 713/728-3263.

• **Lone Star Nudist Group**. For gay or bisexual men who wish

to share nude experiences. Singles and lovers welcome. Monthly meetings. Nude social events, massage group, and out-of-town gatherings. Call 866-8847 for more information.

• **Lunch Bunch**. Meet the gang for camaraderie & gossip. You bring the sack lunch, the center provides the soft drinks every Wednesday, noon-1 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

• **Outrage, Inc.** is a nonprofit social group raising funds for Houston area HIV/AIDS charities by producing special events including the annual Halloween Party & the Pride Party. Meets 2nd Tuesday. Other events include beach parties, Austin splash & other socials. More info: 713/706-2508. Web site: [outrage.org/~outrage](http://outrage.org/~outrage).

• **Out Skate Rollerskating Club**. Skate every Wednesday night 8-10 pm at the biggest/best rink in Houston—Zenith Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Rd. @ Beechnut. \$5 plus \$1.50 skate rental. Everyone welcome. 281/933-5818. Website: [www.flash.net/~lauper1/](http://www.flash.net/~lauper1/).

• **Pride** is a GLBT organization at Rice University. Its goals are: to provide a healthy & safe place for Rice students who are discovering their sexuality to find understanding & develop a network of support; to educate the Rice community on GLBT issues, cultures, & history through various programming efforts; and to allow GLBT students & their allies to meet, share info, & socialize. More info: visit [www.ruf.nci.edu/~pride](http://www.ruf.nci.edu/~pride); e-mail [pride@rice.edu](mailto:pride@rice.edu); or phone 713/630-8667 (ask for Amanda).

• **Prime Timers Houston** promotes social activities for the older gay and bisexual male. Some of the activities they participate in are theater, dining out, movies, potluck dinners, card games, and weekend daytrips. For more information, call 867-3903.

• **Rainbow Fishing Club**. Monthly 12-hour deep-sea fishing trips from Galveston during Red Snapper season, January to August. To get on the free mailing list for this fishing club for gays and lesbians, call John @ 713/523-6381.

• **Rainbow Ringers**, a gay country & western dance club, teaches beginning level dance every Thurs. at 8:30 pm & advanced level dance every Wed. at 8 pm at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos. Dance classes free & open to the public. More info: 880-0670.

• **Rainbow Riders** is a bicycling club for womyn. Meets every Sunday morning. All womyn are welcome regardless of ability & experience. More info: Cookie Davenport @ 713/869-1686.

• **Scriptwriters/Houston** is a stage-and-screen writers' support and networking group. Meetings are the 1st & 3rd Mondays of every month, 7:30 pm @ Jones Theatre at the University of St. Thomas, Yoakum @ Alabama. Free. For info: 707-5194 or 523-9291.

• **Sisters** is a social/support group for African-American lesbians & friends. Meets 2nd Sunday of the month, 5-8 pm. Call 713/801-0027 for meeting location.

• **Southern Country Houston** is a nonprofit lesbian and gay dance club. All types of country western dance, including swing, are taught Wednesday nights at the Barn from 7:30-9:30. The lessons are free, and the money we raise goes to charitable & service organizations in the Houston area. More info: 713/226-2228.

• **Texas Medical Center Lambda** is a social/support organization for students, staff, & faculty in the Texas Medical Center. There is one social event each month. Info: [tmclambda@hotmail.com](mailto:tmclambda@hotmail.com).

## Sports

• **Bowling**. Join Houston's gay & lesbian bowling community for summer league fun & sport. Mixed leagues meet at Palace Lanes at 7 pm on Sundays & 6:30 pm on Wednesdays. And starting June 3, mixed leagues will also meet at Dynamic Lanes at 6:30 pm on Thursdays. The men-only league meets at 9 pm on Mondays at Palace Lanes, & the women-only league meets at 6:45 pm on Mondays at Dynamic Lanes. For more info: 713/522-9612; e-mail to [wiccado@aol.com](mailto:wiccado@aol.com); or visit [www.texasinvolvement.org](http://www.texasinvolvement.org).

• **Good Sports**. College football/basketball fans. More info: 713/523-9000 or P.O. Box 667070, Houston TX 77266-7070.

• **Houston Tennis Club**, an affiliate member of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Association, welcomes men & women of all ages & skill levels. Meets Wednesdays & Fridays 7:30-9 pm & Sundays 9 am-12 noon at Memorial Park Tennis Center. To join: 713/692-2703.

• **Houston Women's Flag Football League** (HWWFL) is a nonprofit organization open to all women, 18 & over. Competitive & recreational. Can join by bringing in your own team. More info: 713/981-6753.

• **Houston Women's Softball League** (HWSL) is a nonprofit organization for women who enjoy softball. More info: Trish Jarvis, 713/688-9468 or write P.O. Box 70666, Houston TX 77270.

• **Independent Billiard League** (IBL) is a recreational BCA-sanctioned billiard league that welcomes everyone of all skill levels, either on a team or as substitute players. We have 3-player teams that compete at various bars & clubs in Houston on Thursday nights. IBL promotes sportsmanship & friendly competition and is an excellent way to make new friends. More info: 713/524-4190, or P.O. Box 542345, Houston, TX 77254-2345; e-mail at

[info@bilhouston.net](mailto:info@bilhouston.net), or visit [www.bilhouston.net](http://www.bilhouston.net).

• **Lone Star Volleyball Association** (LSVA) is encouraging interested volleyball players to join in the fun of playing indoor volleyball. The LSVA leagues play at the Univ. of St. Thomas-Jaraback Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon (between Richmond & Alabama) on Sundays, 4:30-6:30 pm for recreational & intermediate players, & 6:30-9:30 pm for advanced players. Those who have never played with LSVA before will play for free on their first visit. If you're interested: 281/878-4629 or <http://home.worldnet.att.net/~montrosesoftball>.

• **The Montrose Softball League** (MSL) is a nonprofit adult softball league serving the greater Houston gay community since 1980. Open to both men & women of all skill levels. More info: league voicemail 713/867-3913; write to MSL, P.O. Box 541954, Houston TX 77254-1954; visit [www.montrosesoftballleague.com](http://www.montrosesoftballleague.com); or e-mail [MSL@QMAIL.COM](mailto:MSL@QMAIL.COM).

• **Golf**: weekend playdays, beginners clinics, & short-game clinic. After-work playdays: Wednesdays at 5:30 pm (Sharpstown) and 6:00 pm (Jersey Meadows). For more info: 281/589-7380, or visit [www.LPGL@aol.com](http://www.LPGL@aol.com).

• **Team Houston for the Games, Inc.** is a nonprofit organization to educate & inform all people about gay/lesbian sports competitions & to encourage participation in the City Games and Cultural Festival. The next Gay Games will take place in Amsterdam, Aug. 1-8, 1998. More info: Team Houston, P.O. Box 66405, Houston, TX 77266-6405 or call 877-1191.

• **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** is a nonprofit organization, with chapters in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston, that promotes and stages an annual rodeo event as well as engaging in fund-raising activities throughout the year. For more information on the Houston chapter, write to P.O. Box 130585, Houston, TX 77219-0585 or call 777-1444.

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## SignOut

by Madilyn Stein

**P**ick a time to pack a new briefcase full of ideas while you live in the present. Change your color palette in your home or wardrobe. Add a high tone or hue to your bath towels. This is the perfect month to steady your workload and clean closets. Expecting perfection can lead to disappointment. If you are traveling this month, pay attention to your itinerary or you may miss your departure or arrival dates. In Chinese astrology, they call the sign of Scorpio the Plum Tree Moon. "They call the first fortnight the Descent of Hoar Frost and this corresponds to the first two weeks of Scorpio. If you were born in the second half of the sign, though, you belong to the second Chinese fortnight, Beginning of Winter."—*East West Astrology, Lori Reid*

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)** You are endowed with great feeling of youthful wonder. Show your enthusiasm and joy by sharing your dreams with supportive people. The universe will continue to toughen up your fantasies of illusions and grandeur. Waste little time in under-developed areas and life will be much more bearable.

**TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20)** Last month you felt that the "multi-personality syndrome" was your best friend. I can't say much has changed. Actually, it's a very good time to re-frame thoughts and set a new course. The last few months will help your keen intuition stay focused. New challenges will not come knocking. Let's face it—in the new decade, we're going to learn more than ever before.

**GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 21)** Water, water everywhere, and nowhere else to float. You can count on an anchor to rescue the dilemma-stricken Geminis when the Sun moves into Sagittarius, and Mars moves into Aquarius. The next three months will give Gemini the mental clarity to move into a better space.

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)** If you think you can, you can. Most Cancers are control freaks. At best, the only part of your life you can control is yes and no. You are supported by the universe, but old patterns will creep back in. Keep a top on your intuition.

**LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22)** The world calls you a pro with ego personality and exceptional drive, so what's happening to your perfect world? The best advice I can offer this month is to take many vinegar baths, drink lots of hot milk, and see a professional for guidance.

**VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22)** Thank God last month is gone. The time has come to defend yourself from those you feel are controlling your destiny. Kick ass and let the demons have a dose of their own medicine. You do have support from your family and friends. Life will become easier.

**LIBRA (SEPT. 23 - OCT. 23)** Others are saying, "I wish that our Libra friends would stop looking so hard for someone to light their fire." Does that tell you how obvious you are? A word to the wise: Things come to those who wait and play the game of "live to date"; things stand away when we seem to need a mate.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 21)** November is a great month to count your blessings while others count their money. Your mind may be a little defused by all the backward motion of your sign. Make this a month of squeaky-clean actions and don't aggravate those close to you.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 - DEC. 21)** Put high octane in your motor and move on down the highway. Later this month you should receive good news about someone you've missed in your life. Open your sight to a new light and create a way to make your work better. You're feeling freer, and that always helps others support you.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 19)** You are so grounded that others have asked if you ever have any illusions. Flip up your skirt and shout *open for business*. I want you to concentrate on what your heart really desires and let others find you. Your flying skirt will have its fill, and then you can have that heart's desire.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)** You're now ready to accept change and get down to the business of making your work and home environment more organized. This is a good time to allow new people into your life. Others will finally listen and know that you truly have something to offer.

**PISCES (FEB. 19 - MARCH 20)** These are your days, my friends. What a great time to fill your cup and let others catch the spills. Of all the signs, you must not hide or cover up that wonderful giving nature. You've endured the test of time and can now meet your maker.



## Heartbeat

RELATING WITH THE STARS

**Q** I'm a Sagittarius, and I have fallen in love with a Pisces. I can't seem to figure out why she seems to be so secretive. Can you give me a clue? I would love to help her change.

**A** Warning: Don't even think you can change anyone, much less a Pisces. People change when they're ready. If I were to give you any advice, it's that you become the secretive one.

**Q** Why do I feel so empty after sex? It's great while we're in the act. I'm a Taurus, and my lover is a Gemini.

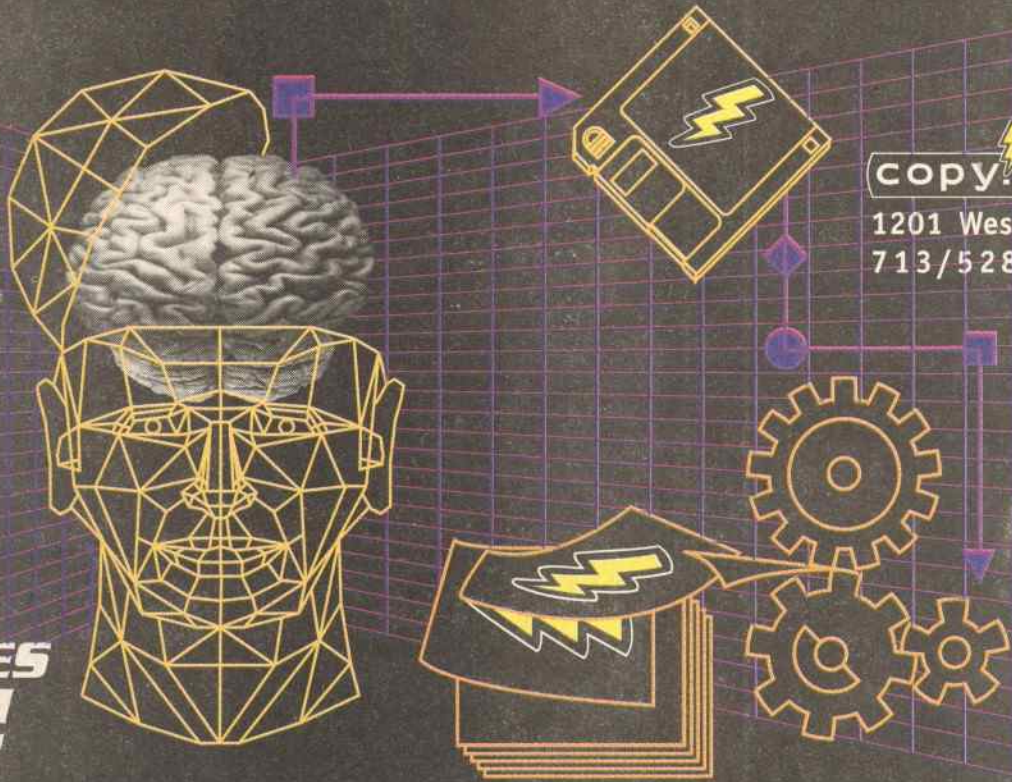
**A** This isn't about signs. Maybe you've been feeling left out, and sex isn't the answer. Now's the time to have a couples-therapy session. Taurus doesn't normally have this type of issue. Talk it over and tell your Gemini what's up.

**Q** Will I ever have a long relationship again? My lover died five years ago, and I just can't seem to make a connection. Can you help? I'm a Scorpio.

**A** If you really want a meaningful relationship, stop looking and allow someone to come to you. That means put yourself out there. Find common interests and ask to become a part of the couples world again.

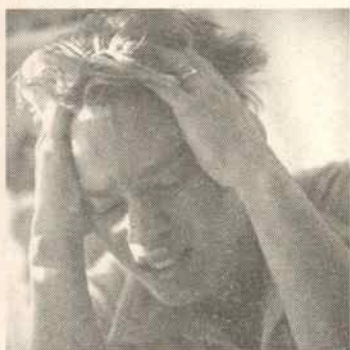


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# OUT IN HOUSTON



The AIDS Action Foundation Houston Leadership Dinner was held on Thursday, Sept. 23, 1999, at Tony's Ballroom on Post Oak Blvd. A few of the guests at the event included:

- 1 Dr. Pat McNamara (l) and Tony's Jerry Bartee
- 2 Mark Cullen (l) and Wade Knight
- 3 Mark Robertson (l) and Amanda Barhorst



Empower '99 took place at the George R. Brown Convention Center on Sunday, Oct. 10, 1999. Pictured here are only a few of the many people who participated:

- 4 (L-r) Debra Brashears, Suzanne Anderson, Peggy Testa, and Cynthia Flowers of Suzanne Anderson Properties
- 5 Al Critz (l) and Roy G. Rodriguez of the Montrose Softball League
- 6 Anita Renteria, president of Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- 7 Eli Lopez (l) and Ron Rogers of Al's Formal Wear
- 8 Trudy E. Denny of Mary Kay Cosmetics

The Fantasy Ball, which benefited many local charities, was held at the Magnolia Ball Room on Friday, Oct. 22, 1999. Just a couple of the costumed attendees included:

- 9 Jim Bartlett is in full regalia and all smiles. In the background is an unidentified goateed partier in not-so-full regalia.
- 10 Ron's blow to the forehead doesn't seem to have interfered with his having a bloody good time.

- 11 Cheryl (l) and Michelle stand ready for the fireworks at a Power of Houston party held by Michael Plum at the Executive House.

The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center (HLGCC) Unity Party was held Friday, October 8, 1999. Some of the attendees included:

- 12 Houston City Council member Annise Parker (l) and Carl Riedl (HLGCC president)
- 13 (L-r) Jim Owen, Parker, and Dalton DeHart





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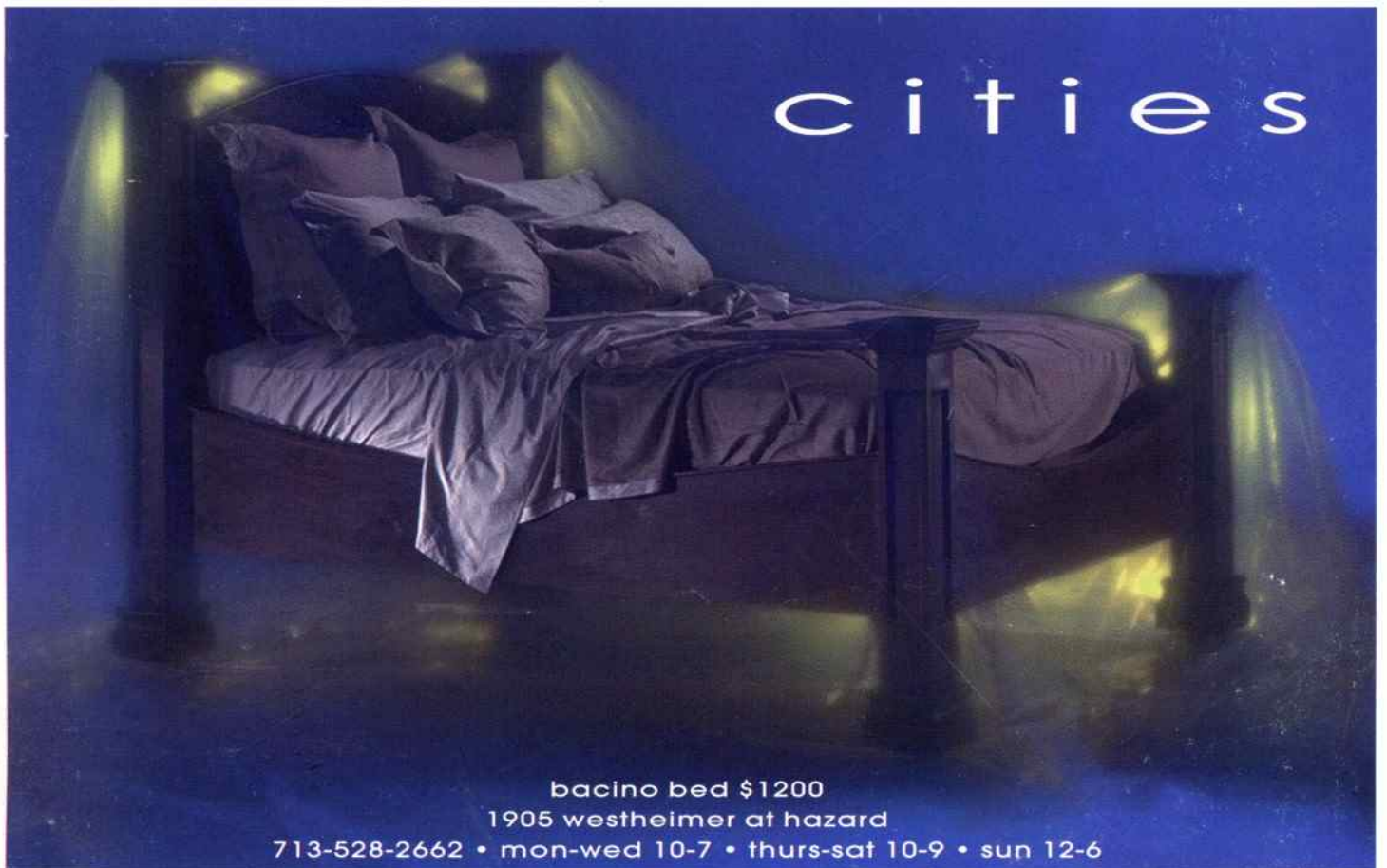
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