

OutSmart

Houston's Gay and Lesbian Magazine

APRIL 2000 • Complimentary

THE MARCH GOES ON!

2000

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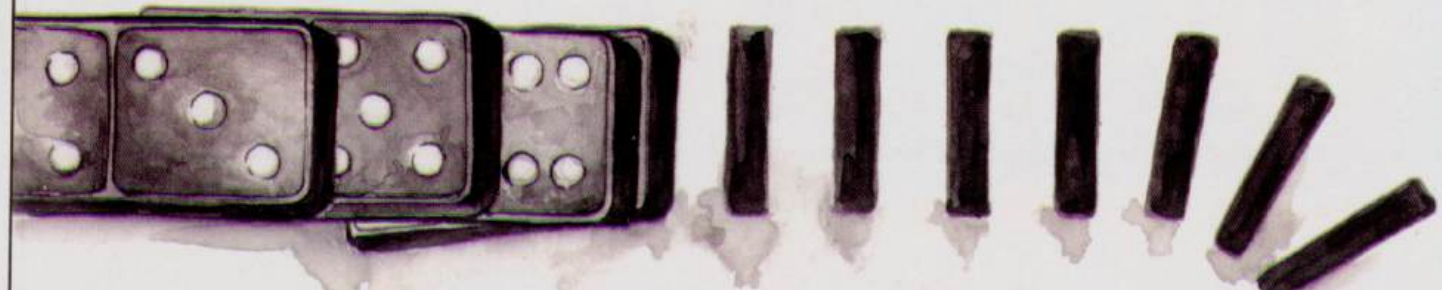
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INSIDE: PFLAG's billboards of love • The Houston International Festival does drag
ClubMed goes pink • Health&Spirit: Get down with the yoga monster

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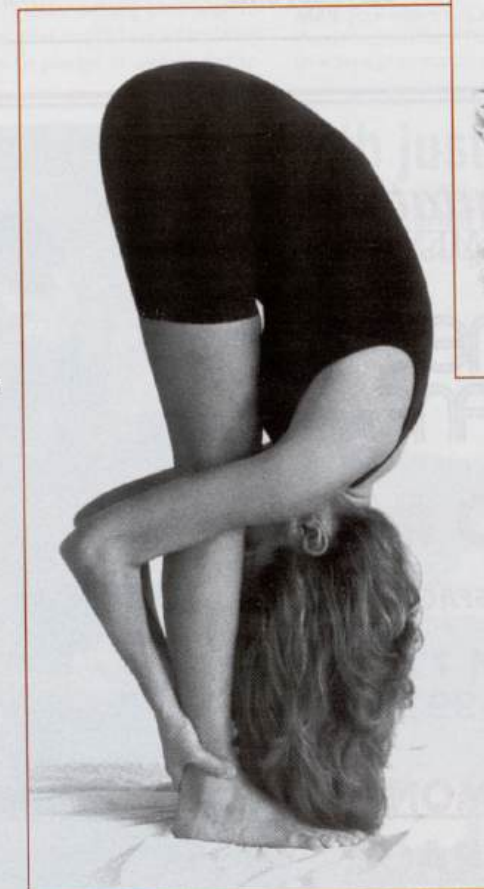
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TRIBUTES TO NELSON

Thank you for the article featuring the work of Nelson Vergel. I know Nelson personally. We met through my partner. Therefore, this might sound a little biased. However, in the short time that I've known Nelson, he has drawn extreme inspiration and respect.

One thing Nelson would never tell you is that he has a heart "the size of Texas." The wellness center he talked about in the article is up and running because of Nelson. He has picked up the tab so many times, I don't know if the center will ever be able to repay him for all that he has given unconditionally, not to mention financially.

He also has surrounded himself with people who are optimistic, hopeful, and positive about being POSITIVE. It seems to me that he has a daily mission to continuously enlighten colleagues (and friends) with the newest information he learns from his contacts, travels, and experience. Men and women, gay and straight. Infected and non-reactive. His vision is inspirational for all of us.

My lover is positive and the director of physical training for the wellness center. Nelson hired Rob [Heber] when the center first opened. And I doubt Rob would have stayed at the center and continued with his love and devotion for the center and his clients if it were not for Nelson. Through thick and thin Nelson has kept the fire burning.

Nelson has definitely made a mark in my life



and in our community. Bravo to a man who has planted a legacy and watched it grow.

—Caleb L. Barajas
via the Internet

As a member of the board of directors of the Body Positive Wellness Center, let me just say THANK YOU for the incredible article in [the March] issue on Nelson Vergel. He is such a great man, and a great visionary and support for the wellness center.

OutSmart continues to support so many local organizations. As I also serve as president of Bayou City Boys Club, as well as vice president of Halloween Magic, I salute you and your continued success. Thank you again for your help.

—J. Allen Glander
via the Internet

DOCK DR. LAURA

I am tired of hearing about Dr. Laura Schlessinger. Yes, she has a right to her views but so do we.

So let's express our views in a more practical and productive manner. We all know that for most of the parties involved, the Dr. Laura show is about two things: ratings and money. No ratings and no money, no show. It's that simple.

Here is a thought: a letter-writing campaign to all potential companies that might buy advertising time slots, asking them to pledge in writing not to

Letters to the Editor

advertise in these three time slots: one hour before the show's air time; during the show; and one hour after the show has aired.

Of course, ask the gay and gay-friendly communities to boycott the stations that air the show during those same time slots so as not to add to the ratings. But for three hours this would make a major difference on the ratings. If the ratings drop, so do the prices on the advertising slots. And even if the show continues to air, maybe it would be put on the late-night lineup instead of prime time.

Maybe there are problems with this idea, but it could be an effective plan of action if all the groups pulled together.

1. With a lack of big paying advertisers for three hours of every day the show airs, the money won't be there. 2. Paramount, as well as the stations and the shows and their sponsors before and after Dr. Laura's, will feel the impact. And in turn add to the pressure from the shows that air before and after Dr. Laura's show. 3. It would be a peaceful protest on our part that would hit the hardest where it hurts the most: ratings and money for three hours of each day the show airs.

Of course it will take a lot of fast moving and the efforts of the national and local organizations. But I feel it could be done.

—Ray Logan
via the Internet

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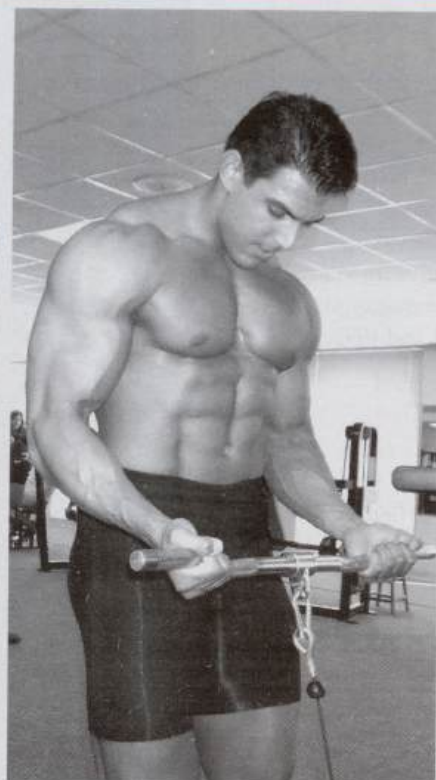
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In&Out

News IN our community & OUT in the nation

UNFLAGGING

With their ambitious billboard campaign, PFLAG keeps up their never-ending crusade to "Tell the truth in love relentlessly"

by Laura Springel

All over the city the gay community will be seen and talked about...or at least that's what PFLAG is hoping will happen with their ambitious billboard campaign, which debuted in mid-March. PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) wants all of Houston to see their three slogans: "Hate Hurts," "Unconditional Love," and "Safe Schools." PFLAG wants every gay person to know support exists, and wants everybody else to see what being a loving ally to gays looks like.

"Many people just don't know about PFLAG," PFLAG co-president Jeanne Edmonds says. "Many people feel alone in a closet of myths and misinformation."

PFLAG would like to keep the billboards up for a year—but at a pricetag of about \$100 a day each, this message of love is still in need of some fairy godmothers. One gay man sent in a \$200 check saying that he and his partner were not giving one another birthday presents, but instead were donating the money they would have spent to the PFLAG campaign. Thus far, PFLAG has only raised about \$16,000 toward the approximate \$100,000 needed.

PFLAG has done this once before, only less extensively. Their 1996 billboard campaign ran for about two months, and received an excellent response from the gay community, according to Kyle Young, who was PFLAG's media director at that time. Six billboards at multiple locations in the Houston area proclaimed, "Someone you know and love is gay." Being an election year, PFLAG made use of the media coverage of the billboards to speak out against several politicians who were campaigning

on an antigay platform. One of the billboards was vandalized during that time, which actually only led to further free publicity.

"PFLAG is an incredibly strong and well-respected organization," Young says. "It has the support of parents, families, and friends of sexual minorities. They are essentially straight people speaking out to encourage the community to embrace all human beings." PFLAG does an amazing amount for the gay community. Their mission is threefold, says Edmonds: supporting families, educating the public, and advocating for equal rights. PFLAG holds monthly meetings, offering books, magazines, videos, and a speaker's bureau to get information out to those in need.

PFLAG chose their locations carefully: I-45 North driving southbound (seen by commuters coming in from the Woodlands, plus traffic heading in from the airport); I-59 North at the Eastex Freeway (seen by those driving to both the industrialized Ship Channel area, and Kingwood and Atascocita); and finally, Richmond Avenue in the Galleria area.

I myself have personal experience with the PFLAG family, as one of the PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. youth scholarship recipients last year. At the time I applied for the scholarship, it all seemed pretty wild: I had only just begun the coming-out process when a counselor at my high school encouraged me to try for the PFLAG money. Suddenly PFLAG's "favorite aunt" types were asking me, "What has been your experience as a gay youth?" "I don't know," I felt like saying, "I've only been one (in public at least) for about 20 days!" But the \$10,000 scholarship has not only

sent me to college, but has provided me with emotional support, as the PFLAG family has let me know they're behind me. When I interviewed PFLAG's Jane Smith for this article, rather than discussing the billboards, she spent most of our time together asking about me and where I am on my "gay journey."

As I sat in the March PFLAG meeting watching the smiles and the greetings among old and new friends, I began to finally understand the spirit of PFLAG. Rev. Ken Martin, the March speaker, and a leader in the Soulforce gay religious movement, best expressed it. "Tell the truth in love relentlessly," he said. "Never forget there is no statute of limitations on hope." The PFLAG proud parents and friends are examples for the rest of the community, maybe even the world, for standing up and speaking out for those you care about. Thinking back to my conversation with Jane Smith, I remembered that she was telling me just what Rev. Martin was saying, "Never give up."

PFLAG is far from giving up on its vision. They have donated their time, energy, and funds to this campaign and now they are asking their allies, supporters, and members who believe in equality and justice for all persons to help in any way that they can.

If you'd like to make a donation, send it to PFLAG, 2700 Albany, Ste. 304, Houston, TX 77006, indicating that you'd like your money to go to the billboard campaign.

PFLAG has monthly meetings at Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Avenue; Church of the Epiphany, 9600 S. Gessner at Bissonnet; Hollyfield Conference Center, 2700 Albany; Northwood Unitarian Church in the Woodlands, 1370 N. Mill Bend Dr. 713/867-9020; and in Galveston at the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, 1405 39th St., 409/744-3200.

For information about meetings, call 713/807-7878. PFLAG also has a helpline at 713/46-PFLAG (713/467-3524), and a website, www.pflaghouston.org. And look for the PFLAG/OutSmart booth at the Houston International Festival.



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TUTTI FRUITI

The International Festival reaches out to the gay community with a Carmen Miranda theme

by Ann Walton Sieber

The Houston International Festival is making their first concerted effort to reach out to the gay community to attend this festival, which will run the weekends of April 8-9, and April 15-16. Every year the festival spotlights a different country; this year the country is Brazil, and that's what got the ball rolling with the gay outreach ... Carmen Miranda.

"From the first day I came on board, I had lots of anecdotal evidence that the gay and lesbian community was a big supporter of the festival, and we'd always looked for the right angle to bring in the gay community," said Jim Austin, who has been executive director ever since it became an international festival in 1988. "Then I was in Rio, and the Brazilian government set me up with the Carmen Miranda people—Brazilians are enamored with Carmen Miranda—and I thought, *this is a great hook for us*.... She's an icon in the gay community.... Ever since then, the ideas have been flowing like crazy about Carmen Miranda."

The I Fest folks asked Alan Davidson to be the liaison between the festival and the gay community. Alan has been good friends for years with Kathy Austin, who is director of marketing for the festival, and is Jim Austin's wife. Alan is also a regular writer for *OutSmart*, as well as being a public personality in the gay community. Alan and Kathy have been putting their heads together to do gay marketing for years. But except for Sweet Honey and the Rock in 1989, and a Shawn Colvin concert in 1998 ("that a crowd of lesbians braved the rain to come see," according to Alan), not much has been planned at the I Fest with the gay community specifically in mind.

Until the Carmen Miranda hook, that is. This year, there's going to be lots of Carmen, and no small amount of drag. The I Fest is flying in a Carmen Miranda band from Brazil (which includes two male Carmen Miranda impersonators) to perform three

times daily on the festival's "cabaret" stage (on the north side of the old library building). There'll be a Carmen Miranda museum. And there's a Carmen Miranda lookalike contest on April 1 at Rich's, coordinated by Davidson. The top three winners from the drag show will each get to perform their song on the cabaret stage, and the winner gets a trip to Rio.

We must admit, when we first heard about the whole concept, we were a tad bit skeptical: a campaign of gay outreach starting with a drag show? Isn't that, maybe, slightly stereotypical and not exactly representational of the wider gay community? But, it's a place to start, and in talking to the Austins, their intentions seem to be in the right place.

"We're the city's official celebration of the city. We're mandated to reach all of our citizens and to exclude no one," Jim Austin said. "We're serving our crowd, and the gay community is a legitimate group of citizens."

Said Kathy Austin: "The festival as an international festival is here to promote diversity and harmony between people of all kinds. Different ethnic backgrounds, different religions. This is the one time of the year when we all come together to celebrate this in Houston.... A person's a person's a person."

To balance out the "gay outreach," *OutSmart* asked the I Fest to donate a booth for PFLAG and the magazine. To their credit, the festival staff readily complied. PFLAG and a drag show: a little weird, but at least a *little* bit more of a balanced version of the gay panoply.

Is the festival worried about any possible protest or opposition to their gay outreach from the homophobic conservatives? "If we get hit by opposition, I'll be shocked and not very happy," Kathy Austin said. "It's hard for me to understand any reason why

we shouldn't be doing it. We're billed as a family event. Gays and lesbians are in families."

"We're not promoting anything," said Jim Austin, "because by ordinance we can't promote anything.... It's all going to be innocuous and fun. When I was growing up, Milton Berle was on the television dressed in a dress, and it was *fine*."

It's not like the festival hasn't seen drag before, Jim Austin tells me. In 1988, the first year it was recast as the International Festival (it had formerly been the Main Street Art Happening), the country was Australia. "The Essendon Police Women's Marching Band from Sydney, Australia, played at the mayor's ball," Austin said, "and there was not a woman among them."

The plan for marketing to the gay community is just part of the I Fest's overall schema for outreach to all the city's sub-constituencies. "We've learned the hard way," said Kathy Austin. "It was when we spotlighted the nations of west Africa in 1996. We had been publicizing the festival through the *Chronicle* and the other mainstream media. We never realized we had been omitting anybody or doing anything wrong." In the resulting turmoil concerning the festival's overlooking of the African and African-American communities of Houston, they had to turn to Bill Lawson, well-known and esteemed pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, whose daughter, Melanie

Lawson, was chair of the I Fest board. "Melanie's father helped straighten out hurt feelings and misconceptions before the festival," Kathy Austin said.

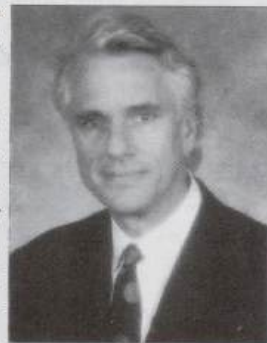
Speaking of controversy, what does the I Fest do when the political and cultural policies of their spotlighted countries are less than utopian? We were thinking about Brazil's rather horrifying record toward gay freedom, with frequent reports

about gay murders.

"When we started the festival, we asked, let's name a country that we wouldn't have any political problems with," said Jim Austin, "—and we couldn't come up with any. In



Carmen Miranda



Exec Director Jim Austin

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Westbury - 3/1 on large corner, wood floors with recent updates. Owner/agent. \$138,900



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Mexico there's Chiapas. With England, North Ireland. What are we going to do?

"The only way to do an international festival is to do a cultural festival. We're not a political statement, we're not proselytizing anything."

"In the end, more good will come from taking a positive embracing of the people themselves and their culture, than any political censorship."

OK, we're convinced. Fruithasket, anyone?

ONE OF BROUSSARD'S KILLERS IS OUT

Paul Chance Dillon, one of Paul Broussard's murderers, was released from prison on March 17, after serving only about six years of his 20-year sentence. Dillon was one of 10 teenagers from The Woodlands who drove in to Montrose the early morning hours of July 4, 1991, grabbed Paul Broussard and two friends, and beat them with nail-studded boards and rocks that they had brought with them. During the attack, Broussard was stabbed to death by one of the teenagers, Jon Christopher Buice.

Even though Dillon got the second-longest

sentence of the group, after Buice's 45 years, he was the only one eligible for the mandatory release law, which is no longer in force.

LOVE MARCHES ON

We're pleased to report that MCCR's associate pastor, the Rev. Ralph Lasher, and his partner Harry Gibson will be specially recognized as the male couple who have been together the longest (of any couple willing to come out of the closet, at least) at the mass wedding performed by the Rev. Troy Perry on April 29 at the Millennium March on Washington. By happy kismet, April 29 will also be Harry and Ralph's 45th anniversary. "I am somewhat overwhelmed at the moment," Lasher writes.

TRANSGENDER UNITY

The various groups in the transgender community are holding their seventh annual Unity Banquet and Fundraiser on April 8.

Five groups are coming together to support transgender unity. HCDA (Helping Cross-Dressers Anonymous) is a 12-step support group facilitated by a counselor for those who are having difficulty accepting themselves, or those involved with a trans-

gendered individual. The Tau-Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess (the "crossdressing sorority," the Society for the Second Self) is a support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their spouses. The GCTC (the Gulf Coast Transgender Community) is a social group made up of transsexuals, crossdressers, and transgendered individuals. TATS (the Texas Association of Transsexuals) is the largest transsexual group in country. And finally, CATS (Community Awareness for Transgender Support) is a new group that meets in Galveston.

The gala will be held at the Wetchase Hilton. Tickets, \$38, are only available by e-mail at houston_unity@hotmail.com, and must be bought in advance.

ACTIVISTS URGE COUPLES TO BE COUNTED IN CENSUS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rights advocates around the nation are urging gay and lesbian couples to make sure they're counted in the U.S. Census which arrived throughout the country in March.

But, activists said, couples shouldn't expect to find any special check-off boxes for gay and lesbian couples. Instead, the census form includes an unassuming box labeled "unmarried partners" that rights advocates say same-sex couples should check for describing their relationship.

The "unmarried partner" box first appeared in the 1990 census, but rights activists said the Census Bureau counted only 150,000 same-sex households from that enumeration. And that, they say, was a serious undercounting that they hope to at least partly correct in this year's count.

BUDWEISER'S OUR BUD

ATLANTA—The antigay Richmond, Va.-based Family Policy Network (FPN) took its call for a boycott of beer producer Anheuser-Busch to NASCAR's March 12 auto races in Atlanta where bemused spectators could see—or at least try to see—an airplane hired by FPN to tow a giant banner denouncing Anheuser-Busch for what the group says is an "endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle."

FPN has singled out Anheuser-Busch because, not only does the beer-maker advertise in several gay and lesbian publications around the country, it also donates funds to charitable gay and lesbian events, including especially the Folsom Street Fair in San Francisco, touted as the largest leather event in the world.

"Our opposition to Anheuser-Busch goes

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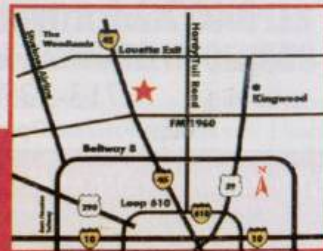
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far beyond the fact that they sponsor homosexual newspaper ads affirming homosexuality," said FPN spokesman Joe Glover. FPN said the beer-maker's sponsorship of the fair amounted to an endorsement of sadomasochism and "degrading and dangerous behavior" and that if people who drink Budweiser "knew what that company does with the profits they get from the beers they drink, they wouldn't drink their beer."

The Folsom Street Fair raised some \$215,000 in 1999 for several charities in the San Francisco Bay Area.

FLORIDA TOWN GETS GAY-MAJORITY COUNCIL

WILTON MANORS, Fla.—Voters swept John Fiore into the Wilton Manors, Fla., mayor's office making the small Fort Lauderdale suburban town of some 12,000 people the second in the nation to be governed by an openly gay majority on its five-member city council.

Fiore handily defeated Sandy Steen, a former mayor, with more than 56 percent of the popular vote. As mayor, Fiore will also have a seat on the city council along with two other openly gay council members, Gary Resnick and Craig Sherritt, who ran unopposed in the election.

"I'm glad it's over," Fiore said after learning the election results. "I'm very drained."

West Hollywood, Calif., became the U.S.'s first city with an openly gay majority council, and remained the only such city until now.

TEMPE, ARIZ., SWEEPS MAYOR TO FOURTH TERM

TEMPE, Ariz.—Neil Giuliano, the openly gay mayor of Tempe, Ariz., won a stunning 70 percent of the city's vote to win a fourth term in office. "I'm very honored by the level of support I received," Giuliano said of his electoral win. "I didn't expect that big of a victory." Tempe, a Phoenix suburb of more than 106,000 people, is the largest U.S. city with an openly gay mayor.

WHIRLPOOL EMPLOYEE GROUP

BENTON HARBOR, Mich.—The Whirlpool Corp. took two steps toward equality by adding nondiscrimination employment protections covering sexual orientation and by approving an employee group for gay and lesbian workers. The group held its first organizing meeting in February, but the company said it doesn't have any plans now to add domestic partner benefits for gay and lesbian workers. Whirlpool employs more than 60,000 people at locations around the world.

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VIRACEPT IS POWERFUL It's tough on HIV. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy. (The clinical significance of changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.) **VIRACEPT IS EASY TO LIVE WITH** Take it three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks. **VIRACEPT IS GENERALLY WELL TOLERATED** People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea of moderate or greater intensity in 20% of people in clinical trials. **VIRACEPT WORKS** It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. It is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live

WHAT YOUR **PROTEASE INHIBITOR** CAN BE:

longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common medications and some HIV related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. Ask your doctor. For more information, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit **www.agouron.com**. (Refer to the important information on the next page.)

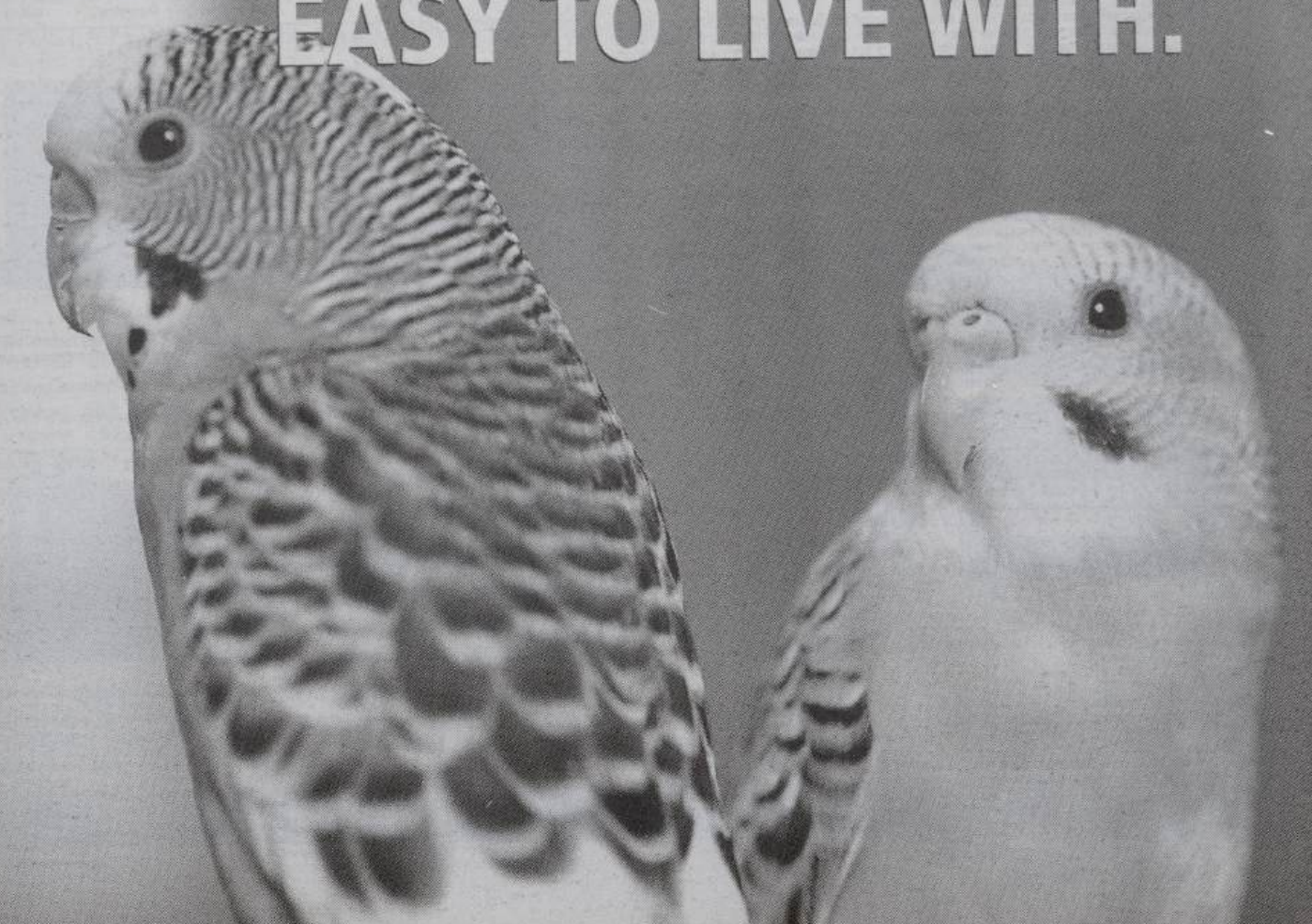
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For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir[®] (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir[®] (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit[®] (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane[®] (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal[®] (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid[®] (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone[®] (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute[®], Cardioquin[®], Quinidex[®], and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafegot[®] and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion[®] (triazolam)
- Versed[®] (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events. Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane[®], Rifadin[®], Rifater[®], or Rifamate[®]. This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin[®] (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin[®] and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol[®] and others)
- These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
- If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Didanosine (ddi)

If you are taking both Videx (ddi) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

- When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
 - Viramune[®] (nevirapine)
 - The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
 - Other NNRTIs
- VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

- When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
- Crixivan[®] (indinavir)
- The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir[™] (ritonavir)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase[®] (saquinavir)
- The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium[®] A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight			Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons*	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb				
7	to < 8.5	15.5	to < 18.5	4	1
8.5	to < 10.5	18.5	to < 23	5	1½
10.5	to < 12	23	to < 26.5	6	1½
12	to < 14	26.5	to < 31	7	1½
14	to < 16	31	to < 35	8	2
16	to < 18	35	to < 39.5	9	2½
18	to < 23	39.5	to < 50.5	10	2½
	≥ 23	≥ 50.5	15	3½	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

* 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 11/13/97

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Business News



TransformationWorks presents the panel discussion called **Women Leaping Into Possibilities (W-LIP)**. TransformationWorks provides services that assist and support women to optimize their personal and profes-

sional lives. Owner **Joyce Gayles**, Ph.D., psychologist and business success coach, will facilitate W-LIP. Other panelists include **Marilyn Ellis**, MS, MCSE, college instructor and web entrepreneur; **Babette Ackin**, real estate developer; and **Denise Patrick**, a partner with Pre-Paid Legal Services Associates and experienced entrepreneur. Sunday, April 16, 10 a.m., Women's Group at First Unitarian School. For more info call 713/667-6047.



Dr. Michael Del Sardo

Houston Leather Alliance (HLA) has created its first fundraising event, an "Easter Basket Auction," to benefit Steven's House. Businesses and individuals are encouraged to decorate and fill an Easter basket with donated wish list items the charity desires. Other donated items can also be procured as well and can be included with the basket. These may be T-shirts, jackets, jewelry, paintings, artwork, travel vouchers, etc. This year, the baskets will be auctioned off at a fundraiser at E/J's bar, 2517 Ralph St. on Easter Sunday, April 23 at 7 p.m. The money generated from the auction, along with wish list items will go directly to Steven's House. Donated gift items will go

to the highest bidder. Everyone wins! Entertainment is also slated for the event. For information contact HLA co-chairs Ken Claude and Jim Sorgini at 713/524-4759 or email: kenc@neosoft.com.

Join **Dr. Michael Del Sardo**, O.D., and the staff of **Texas State Optical Briargrove** on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for refreshments, door prize drawings, and a fashion show of eyewear frames. Frame designers will include Calvin Klein, DKNY, and Fendi. TSO Briargrove will also be offering a \$100 designer frame discount the day of the show. The store is located at 6100 Westheimer, suite

138. For more information and details call 713/785-2022.

Russell Simon of Simon & Associates and **Clyde Williams** were recently named "Best Attorneys In Houston" in the third annual Texas Triangle Round Up Awards. Simon & Associates was named the "Crowd Pleaser" and Clyde Williams, the "Grand Champion." Simon & Associates is located at 1620 Westheimer,



Russell Simon & Clyde Williams

second floor (above Utrecht Art Supply), and concentrates on representing persons in chapter 13 and chapter 7 bankruptcy, as well as personal injury law and business litigation. Clyde Williams is a board-certified criminal defense lawyer whose office is located at 1314 Texas Avenue, suite 712.

The deadline of May 1, 2000, to submit applications for **An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, Inc.** scholarships and grants draws near. The foundation awards \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding lesbian undergraduates and graduate students. Grants are awarded to

501 (c) (3) organizations and projects which address social, cultural, health, and educational needs and which promote the civil rights and well-being of all lesbians in today's society and for future generations. Grants awarded generally range in amounts from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Applications and complete instructions are available on the organization's website (www.uncommonlegacy.org). An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to

enhancing the visibility, strength, and vitality of the lesbian community.

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Community Communications Network (CCN), a new alternative phone company choice, is out to serve the lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual community of Houston. Deregulation of local telephone service enables CCN to provide telephone technology (the same as Ma Bell) with value-added options and specialized customer care. A percentage of each new or converted customer's phone plan will be donated directly to a designated organization's fundraising/activity account. For more information, call **Jan Roberts** at 281/583-3051.

Pacific American Mortgage Company has opened its first Houston branch office. The new staff includes **Milton Birdwell**, vice president, who has been in the real estate business for over 20 years. Birdwell is an active member of EPAH, the Houston Board of Realtors, a graduate of the Realtor Institute, and has served with numerous local organizations. The company also welcomes **Pattie Frazier** who spent four years in banking and 17 years in residential real estate services before entering the home mortgage arena. Senior loan officer **James L. Watson** has also joined the PAMC team. Watson is a native Houstonian and attended the University of Houston. Pacific American Mortgage is located at 2323 South Shepherd, suite 1012. For more information call 713/526-7879.



Black Tie Dinner Folks

Sam Garrido, owner of **Gary Greene Realtors-Heights**, one of the largest gay-owned and -operated real estate companies in Houston, has now become affiliated with Prudential Real Estate Services. National Prudential Real Estate has over 1,500 offices and 42,000

agents. The new company name is Prudential Gary Green Realtors- Heights Office at 713/880-1400.

Houston Black Tie Dinner announced this year's Millennium Black Tie Dinner gala will be held on November 11 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Last year, the 1999 black-tie dinner raised \$145,000, setting a record that is expected to be surpassed with this year's event. In related news, the organization elected new board members and officers. The new board consists of Amanda Barhorst, Sandy Clough, Marion E. Coleman, Ralph Grau, Chris Lewis, and Tom Mays. Janine Brunges, founding board member, and Frank Campisi will continue to consult the board as needed, alongside Jason Davis, Betsy Smith, and Gary Teixeira, respective emeritus directors. Other officers and board members include Mark Robertson, Matt Krol, Chris Cacioppo, and Parker Witt, all of whom were elected president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, respectively. Charles Armstrong will be the organization's parliamentarian. Carlos A. Reyes Jr. and Gail Swinney will co-chair the black-tie 2000 dinner event.

(L-r) Matt Krol, Carlos A. Reyes Jr., Gail Swinney, Mark Robertson, Chris Cacioppo, Charles Armstrong, and Parker Witt.

Real Estate Agent **Richard Hill**, formerly with Coldwell Banker Swilley-Hudson, has moved to **Greenwood King Properties'** new Heights office located at 1801 Heights Blvd. Richard Hill can be reached at 713/869-6142 or 713/864-0888.

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OuterNet

by Anthony Bures

PERSONAL COMPUTERS

The rules of dating have changed (thank God!)

Dating in the new millennium is producing some untraditional ways of meeting. But then there's never been anything all that traditional about the gay community (thank God). E-dating, cyber dating, or whatever this new type of meeting will be called is certainly sneaking into our lives as the stigma and computer-phobia is disappearing. It's not for losers! We know several happy and well-balanced couples who met through their PCs. Three of the many ways of meeting on the net are the online personals, live chat rooms, and even digital camera feeds.

Online Personals: The online person-als range from high-class to sleazy. Some

specialized by topic, such as HoustonM4M, CollegeFun, TravelMates. So depending on what you'd like to talk about or who you'd like to meet, choose a chat room based on your interests. A couple of busy chat room systems are America Online and www.gay.com. Gay.com chat room area is divided into "floors," and then specifically into room names. For instance, the women's floor has rooms such as "lookingforgirlfriends," "bike sanddykes," "femmes," etc. The men have four floors, each for a different region of the country; the Central Region's floor then has rooms like "Houston1," "CollegeMen," "TravelCompanions," etc.

The biggest hurdle to meeting someone is taking that first step and overcoming the fear. But be careful because people sometimes exaggerate who they are or are not always quite honest about their characteristics on the chat lines.

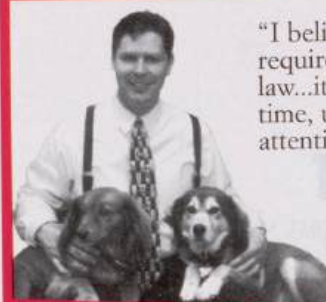
have one liners saying explicitly what a person wants. A few of the more reliable ones are at www.planetout.com, loveataol.com, and www.gaymuscle.org. Most of these go in-depth with profiles and photos. Searches can be based on location, age, hobbies, as well as those old personal ad standbys, physical and personality characteristics. As far as cost goes, they are free and supported by advertising.

REWORKING

Chat Rooms: A second way of meeting is the chat rooms: talking (typing) to people in real time. To get started, invent a snazzy name. Think in terms of a personalized license plate; although people may not be able to see you through your tinted car windows, they can get a clue about you if you have personalized plates. Logging into a room, you can get a gist of who's on the other end of the keyboard when they sport such names as TxTuff, CuteGirl26, PrepTex2000. For example, TXTornado says, "I chose my name from a song that describes me." After you choose a name, you need to pick a room, which are usually

Live video: Lastly, if you have a digital video camera (you can get a good one for as low as \$99 these days), you can see who you are chatting with in real time. The cameras are basically plug and play these days (plug them in and you can play). The faster your modem, the better the transmission will be. If you have a cable modem or DSL (digital subscriber line), the motion is quite smooth. A couple of video rooms are at www.icui.com and www.cuseeme.com. Some of the topic rooms are "couples only," "main gateway G rated," "women only," and "gay male room I."

TxTornado says, "The biggest hurdle to meeting someone is taking that first step and overcoming the fear. But be careful because people sometimes exaggerate who they are or are not always quite honest about their characteristics on the chat lines." So when making that step to actually meeting someone in real time you've come across in a chat room, bring a friend, at least let someone know where you are going, and make sure your meeting is in a well-lit public place. A few safety measures and an open mind can give you a world of new people to meet!



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CONFESSIONS OF A WAYWARD DEMOCRAT

Why "Anonymous" voted in the Republican primary

Someone voted Republican on March 7. There. He said it. He outed himself as a voter in the Republican primary. He still can't believe he actually did it.

He's a 38-year-old lawyer, who had voted in the Democratic primary every election since he turned 18. That's 10 Democratic primaries in a row. He originally planned on making it 11. But when Bill Bradley bailed out, Anonymous looked at a sample ballot and realized that there was absolutely nothing going on on the Democratic side of this election.

Of course, he didn't count the contest between Gene Kelly and Charles Gandy, who are scrambling for the opportunity to let Kay Bailey Hutchison hand the Democratic nominee his ass on her way to reelection for the U.S. Senate. Other than

that, though, it was hard to find a contested race on the Democratic side at all.

Put simply, in a year in which Democrats refused to run in an election with George W. Bush at the top of the Republican ticket, he could find no good reason to vote in the Democratic primary.

And while he couldn't think of a good reason to vote in the Democratic primary, he couldn't think of a reason *not* to vote in the Republican primary. After all, in the last three election cycles, Stephen Hotze and his religious-right followers had accounted for 35-40 percent of Republican primary voters. What a scary thought.

Someone had to do *something*. In this election, there were several contested races in the Republican primary for trial and appellate court judgeships. With no one even running on the Democratic side for those

positions, whoever got out of the Republican primary with the most votes would take the bench in January 2001.

He could not stand idly by and let Hotze-ites decide whom he would practice law before. So, he decided he would be a Republican for a day. He would vote in the Republican primary. Just this once. And vote he did.

He voted for John McCain, even though McCain had already dropped out of the race

continued on p. 24

Writing from the liberal end of the spectrum, Houston attorney Daryl Moore has a general practice and is board certified in civil appellate law. He can be reached at DarylMoore@outsmartmagazine.com.



AFTER PROPOSITION 22

We need to fight for gay marriage...and be honest about it

Since defeat is an orphan, no one will claim responsibility for our loss on Proposition 22, the antigay-marriage measure also known as the Knight Initiative, which California voters recently approved by a 23-percent margin. Whatever its parentage, the loss brings some lessons and a silver lining.

First, we should be more honest with voters. The No on Knight campaign—guided by polling in good Clintonesque fashion—tried to divert attention from the marriage issue by telling voters that passage of the initiative would mean the loss of all kinds of rights for gay couples, including domestic-partners benefits, hospital visitations, and adoptions.

None of this was true, as anti-22 organizers implicitly confessed after the loss when they proclaimed in a press release

that "Californians were voting specifically on the definition of civil marriage and not whether gays and lesbians should be afforded the same rights guaranteed to heterosexual couples." After months of telling voters that Prop 22 was not about marriage, they now say it was. Voters were never fooled.

We've been here before, haven't we? We argued that a similar statewide referendum in Hawaii was really about the integrity of the state constitution, or something like that. We were creamed. We used the same diversionary strategy in Alaska—with the same result. Now, with \$6.5 million down the drain, we tried it again and lost badly a third time.

Let it be the last time.

Second, we should save our toughest rhetoric for when it really counts. The No

on Knight campaign warned voters that the measure would lead to antigay violence, but there has been no reported rise in antigay crimes associated with the vote.

They called the measure "hateful" and "divisive," as if those words alone would numb voters' minds. But the pro-22 campaign was remarkable for its *lack* of hatred and divisiveness. Supporters of Prop 22 re-

continued on p. 24

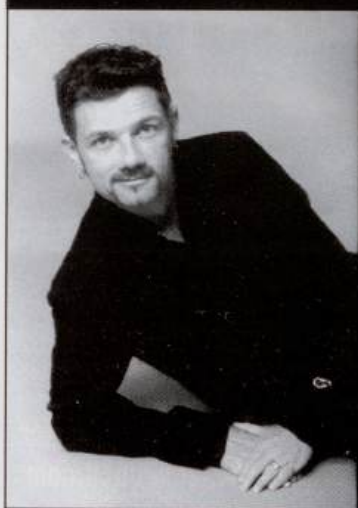
Writing from the conservative end of the spectrum, former Houston resident and attorney Dale Carpenter began his column for OutSmart in 1994 and has won three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. Now living in San Francisco, he can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.



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LeftOut

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for president. So did 10 percent of all voters in the Republican primary. At least 10 percent of Republican voters agreed with McCain that Pat Robertson is truly evil and should play no role in the making of an American president. (Lest anyone think "evil" is too strong a word, recall that Robertson said feminism drove women to "leave their husbands, kill their children, and become lesbians.")

Speaking of religion, he also voted against school prayer. What a silly proposition to put on the ballot when it's not even binding. He knew we don't need governmentally sanctioned prayer in schools. Besides, as long as students take tests, there will be prayer in schools whether the government sanctions it or not.

He voted for Valerie Davenport, who was running against Nathan Hecht for the Texas Supreme Court. Valerie had never voted in a Republican primary but ran as one with the hope that she could pull off an upset. She couldn't.

He voted for Richard Hall, who was running against Scott Brister, a Hotze pick for the First Court of Appeals. Hall

thought he could beat Brister (and Hotze). He couldn't.

And, he voted for Martha Hill Jamison. Martha was a Democrat who switched parties so Dubya would appoint her to the trial bench. He did. She ran to get elected to a full term. And now she's in a runoff.

All in all, he probably should have stayed home. He doesn't think he had much impact, since most of his picks went down in flames anyway. Still, he never considered not voting. So he voted Republican and now he feels guilty.

Some of his yellow-dog friends are appalled. One even told him if he voted in the Republican primary, it would make him a Republican.

He disagreed. That would be like saying if he went into a straight bar once, it would make him heterosexual. Bet not.

OutRight

continued from p. 23

peatedly insisted that they weren't antigay and that they even backed legal rights for gay couples. Opponents were left grousing that, as one put it, "they're killing us with kindness."

The whole campaign was unreal. One side argued it wasn't about what it was about (gay marriage) and the other argued they weren't what they are (antigay).

Third, from now on we need to articulate publicly and unashamedly the case for gay marriage. Trying to salvage something from the defeat, No on Knight organizers claimed voters were "educated" about gay relationships during the campaign. If only that were true. Although our ads liberally used the word "gay," gay couples were invisible. Instead, in an especially controversial TV spot, our side presented a heterosexual man, with his lovely wife and children in the background, reassuring everybody that most folks *oppose* gay marriage.

Here's what we could have said: We should be allowed to marry. Our relationships are capable of commitment and love, just as straight relationships are. Society has a powerful interest in encouraging citizens to settle down in stable couplings. Cutting us off from that deep responsibility and tradition is cruel. It preserves no one's marriage, but it tells a whole class of citizens to live loveless lives. It doesn't save a single

child from abuse, but deprives many of nurturing, two-parent homes. And so on.

This straightforward approach is probably a loser in the short run, since polls say most Americans oppose gay marriage.

The kind of people who run elections are the kind of people who pay slavish attention to such polls. Read the post-defeat words of San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, defending the strategy of avoiding gay marriage: "As someone who operates in the electoral world, I like to fight battles that I can win." But sometimes you have to fight battles you're destined to lose because it's the right thing to do.

Another No on Knight leader said bluntly of gay marriage: "We're not going to fight that battle." And so we didn't, did we?

Political strategists would rather win than be right. They'd rather lie than lose. But you're usually better off losing on the truth than winning on a lie because people respect you more in the long run. Besides, when it comes to marriage, we've been lying and losing.

That leads to the final lesson, and the silver lining, from this defeat: Americans are moving further and faster on gay

equality than we thought. The Prop 22 experience provides two markers of this cultural change.

The first is that antigay organizers calculated it would backfire to run an explicitly antigay campaign. California voters, more than 85 percent of whom say they know someone gay, would have been disgusted by a return to the nasty homophobia of past ballot fights. So pro-22 organizers declared (disingenuously, to be sure) their support for tolerance and equality. In order to hold their ground on marriage, the last redoubt of heterosexual privilege, they had to cede almost everything else.

The second marker of cultural change is more important. Even though they never heard a single syllable in defense of gay marriage, four of every 10 voters walked into the polling place, read a simple initiative limiting marriage to "one man and one woman," and soundly rejected it. Even a decade ago, such a result would have been unthinkable. It's another reason we should give honesty a chance: it will eventually work.

Voters seem less afraid of gay marriage than we are. Maybe we need to catch up to them.

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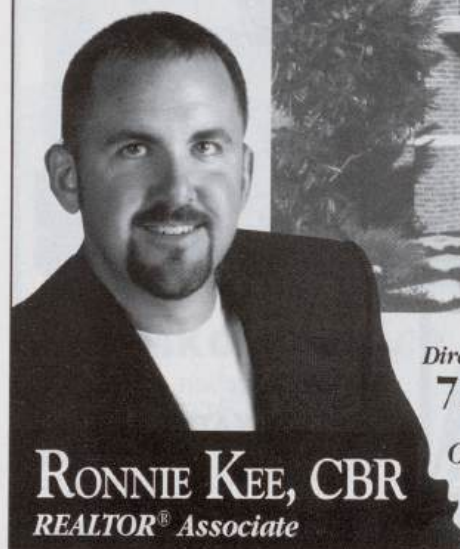
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A LOVE FOR ÉLÈVE?

As Inprint throws a festive Walt Whitman marathon readathon,
OutSmart considers the Walt your teacher may have failed to mention

To the young man, many things to
absorb, to engraft, to develop, I teach,
to help him become élève of mine.
But if blood like mine circle not in his
veins,
If he be not silently selected by lovers,
and do not silently select lovers,
Of what use is it that he seek to become
élève of mine?

—Walt Whitman
"To a Western Boy" (Calamus)

Remember your first time? Your
teacher was patient and guided
you with a sure and steady hand.
You were young and green, an élève
("student," *en français*, if you please) to the
words of Walt Whitman, perhaps smothered
by his *Leaves of Grass*. But your
teacher didn't tell you the whole story.

A late bloomer, Whitman's sexual
awakening did not come until about
middle age. His most revealing song of
himself can be found in his queer

collection *Calamus* (named for the *Calamus*
aromaticus plant, with its long, phallus-
shaped tendrils). These poems explore
Whitman's Socratic interest in his far
younger "élèves." Whether yearning for his
lost years, or for the company of potential
"students," he told his friend Horace
Traubel, "I like boys who are glad to be
boys—the men who remain boys.... Why
should any man ever give up being a boy?"

In 1882, a 27-year-old student of the
world named Oscar Wilde met Whitman
(then 61). During their meeting, Wilde
recalled that his mother, Lady Speranza
Wilde, used to read to him from *Leaves of
Grass* during his formative years. Wilde
confessed to Whitman, "I have come to you
as one with whom I have been acquainted
almost from the cradle." Whitman the
fantasy tutor? What can queers learn today
from the flood of his wise words?

If you find yourself pining for a lesson in
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artists for a reading of his works.
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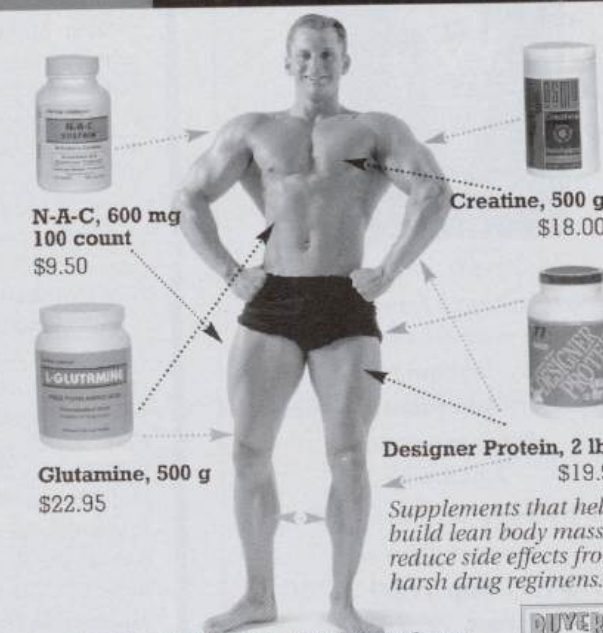
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by Chris Sill

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The message: equality

The event: Equality Rocks Concert

On Saturday, April 29, tens of thousands of people will fill Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in Washington D.C. for the landmark Equality Rocks Concert. It is a musical event like no other in that it will send a thundering message for equal rights for gay Americans through the music of top performers, gay and straight. Entertainers confirmed as of press time include: Melissa Etheridge, Garth Brooks, k.d. lang, Pet Shop Boys, George Michael, and Queen Latifah. Many more are expected to join the historic celebration in the coming weeks. Needless

to say, this event will sell out! Do not wait to purchase tickets (800-551-SEAT/www.ticketmaster.com).

The Equality Rocks Concert will not be the only party rockin' the nation's capital this weekend. Saturday evening two dances affiliated with the Millennium March will continue the celebration. First is the Premier Dyke Dance and Cabaret featuring DJ Tracy of Liquid/Miami. The dance starts at 9 p.m. at the Washington Plaza Hotel (info: 202-728-7565). Second is the Millennium Dungeon Dance held at Element. Billed as the Premier Leather, Fetish, S&M Event, it kicks off at 10 p.m. with DJ Julian Marsh (info: 202-

331-4455/www.clubdesade.com).

Also happening the same weekend (and not by coincidence) is Cherry 5, Washington D.C.'s very own circuit party. With the multitudes of queers running around D.C. this weekend, it's probably a good thing there are enough parties to hold them all. Saturday's main event is at the Old Post Office Pavilion with DJ Warren Gluck. On Sunday DJ Manny Lehman headlines the closing party at Velvet Nation (info: www.cherryfund.com).

And that's not all. Backbeat Productions and Atlas events team up to present

Shoulder, an after-hours dance early Sunday morning at Eleventh Hour with DJ Monty Q. Later Sunday evening DJ Buc spins at Heart to Heart located at Zei Club. Both parties benefit AmFar (info: 202-331-4422). Also on Sunday is Lou Piper's Exclamation Party with DJ Mark Vallese.

With so many events scheduled on this unprecedented weekend, changes are likely to occur. Keep up with the latest information through info lines and websites.



Chris Sill spins tunes at Rich's and can be reached at csill@infohwy.com.



Clockwise from top left: Melissa Etheridge, George Michael, Queen Latifah, and k.d. lang sing out for gay rights.

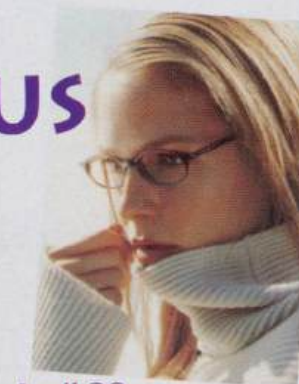
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Dr. Laura Schlessinger

(Entertainment Weekly, 3/17/2000, Lynette Rice)

Re: Paramount's TV show with Dr. Laura

A website called StopDrLaura.com has become the epicenter of an e-mail campaign against Paramount (a tactic Schlessinger referred to as "terrorism" on her March 6 radio show). "The issue for us is Paramount," says lawyer John Aravosis, one of StopDrLaura's co-founders. "She has the right to defame any minority group she chooses, but Paramount is not obligated to aid and abet in that defamation. Not everyone gets a TV show. [Ex-KKK leader] David Duke ain't getting a TV show. No one would put someone on TV who defames blacks or Jews. But on gay issues, for some reason, we always give one more chance."

Tom Cruise

(Talk, 4/2000, Chris Connelly)

Chris Connelly: You haven't hesitated to throw down the gauntlet to the tabloids....

Tom Cruise: There's a certain time when you've gotta draw the line. Look at someone like Leonardo [DiCaprio]—so talented; that guy has got talent just oozing... Brad [Pitt]... But everybody has stories to tell. It really is like being back in the classroom, and some guy doesn't like you for some reason.

This is the gay stuff you're talking about, right?
Yeah, and everything, everything....
I think your position with regard to the gay stuff was that it wasn't being called gay that was the problem, it was the idea

that your relationship with Nicole was—
Yeah; they're saying you're a liar. Everything that is so sacred, that I feel so personally and deeply... Basically, people are saying, "That's a lie, it's a sham." At a certain point I said, "Fine, go ahead and prove it. Go ahead. You've said these things about me? Now I want an apology, because my kids are going to school. Prove that we're liars."

Sally Jessy Raphaël

(A&U, 3/2000, David Finkle)

"I can tell you the public at first was tremendously interested in AIDS," Raphaël says.... "The public never felt this was a gay disease. We came to that [conclusion] because of the fact that there were enough homophobic people who would have let us know. 'Why are you doing those shows on gay diseases?' That's what the mail would have said. But the mail said, 'Anybody can get this.' Viewers were ahead of even the authorities in telling us that. We said it as well. I just knew. I mean, you don't have to be too brilliant to know that."



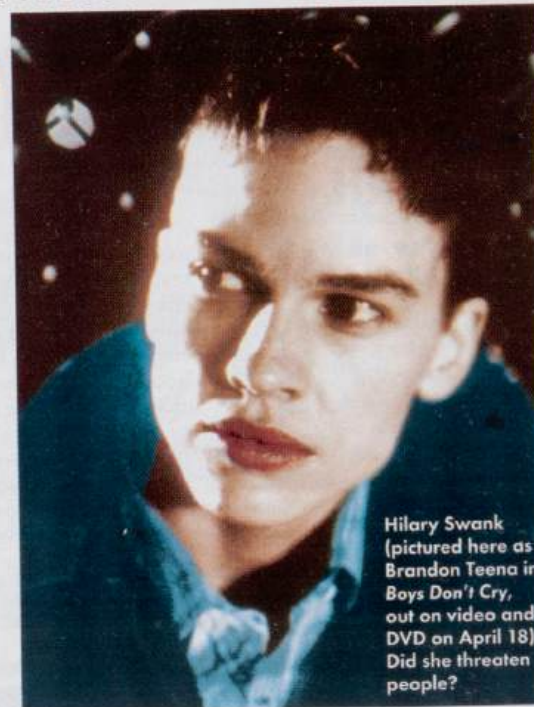
Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Hilary Swank

(Interview, 4/2000, Ingrid Sischy)

Re: Her preparation for her role in Boys Don't Cry

"I went out and passed four weeks as a boy, with my hair short, strapping my breasts, packing a sock. I mean, every single day, seeing what worked, what didn't work—when someone called me a girl, when someone called me a boy. I was so surprised at the difference in how I was treated. It was a night-and-day difference. And I could not believe how threatened people were.... If they couldn't stereotype me as a boy or a girl some people didn't want to have anything to do with me. I experienced that firsthand."



Hilary Swank (pictured here as Brandon Teena in Boys Don't Cry, out on video and DVD on April 18): Did she threaten people?

Chloë Sevigny

(The Advocate, 3/28/2000, Michael Giltz)

Re: Lana, the character portrayed by Sevigny in Boys Don't Cry—"Her love for [Brandon Teena] was so strong. It was unconditional, once she got over her denial. I think it was the first time she was in love, and it didn't matter to her whether he was a boy or a girl."

Re: Her lesbian fans' reactions to the butch lesbian character she portrayed in last month's HBO's If These Walls Could Talk 2—"Oh, God, I try to play a butch. I'm so scared they're all going to turn on me and hate me for a bad representation." [If you saw the film, you know she has nothing to worry about.]

Chloë Sevigny (seen here in HBO's If These Walls Could Talk 2): Did she worry about her lesbian fans' reactions?

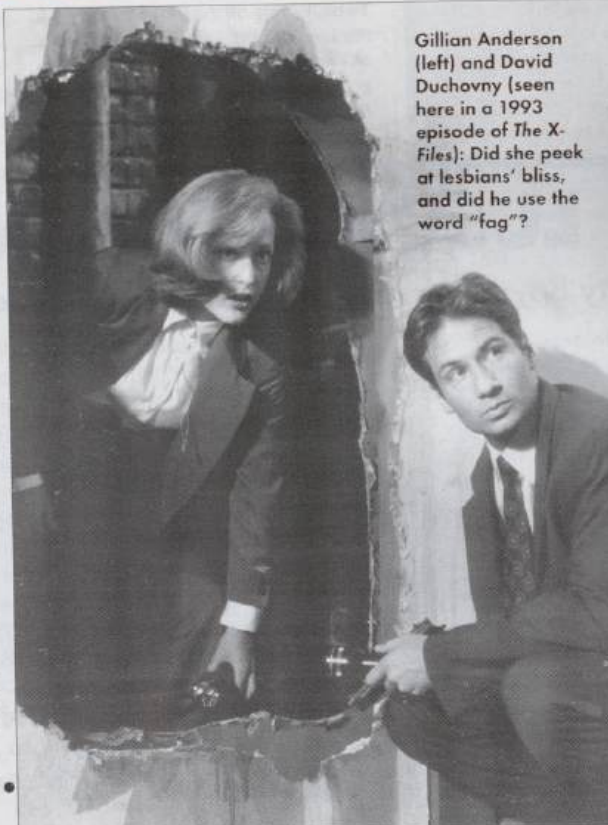


Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny

(Curve, 4/2000, Laurie K. Schenden)

In recounting her first meeting with Anne [Heche] and Ellen [DeGeneres] at the Lilith Fair in Pasadena two years ago, [Gillian Anderson] recalled them as "two fabulously sexy, fabulously entwined women bumping and grinding along with us to the Indigo Girls. They were so open and so in love and so free, shame-free, carefree—that needless to say, I was distracted from what was going on onstage, and I kept peeking over at their bliss and thinking, 'Ah, isn't that nice.'"

Anderson's live-and-let-live attitude is exemplified in her comments about Anne and Ellen's love for each other: "I don't think I have ever met two people in my life who are more in love than they are. And why are we afraid of that, honestly? Why can't we accept that love is love and we should get it any way we can?"



Gillian Anderson (left) and David Duchovny (seen here in a 1993 episode of The X-Files): Did she peek at lesbians' bliss, and did he use the word "fag"?

(Movieline, 4/2000, Lawrence Grobel)

Lawrence Grobel: You got into trouble with the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) when you used the words "fag" and "sissy." Did you have to apologize for being insensitive?

David Duchovny: [Laughs] Nah, they called and said, "Oh David, you're smarter than that." I said, "Look, I used faggot not as a homosexual term but as feeling emasculated. I understand what you guys are doing and it's great. People should be tolerant. Gay bashing is abhorrent. But I feel good about the English language and I like having the word faggot at my disposal, because it's a powerful word with a lot of associations. I won't have anybody take my words away from me."

Does it bother you having to be politically correct with language?

Obviously people's feelings are going to get hurt when you use certain words, but you can't outlaw words. They're really the history of our culture. They tell you what's going on. When you make words politically incorrect you're taking all the poetry out of the language. I'm pro anybody living their lives the way they want to live it, sexually and otherwise; and I'm anti any kind of language repression.

Calendar of Events

APRIL

5, 12, 19, 26 (Wed.)

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

6 (Thurs.)

Girls With Guitars are Kelly Wallin & Ferryn Martin, a local duo who is increasingly establishing a more national presence. *Taylor Guitars* (California) writes of the two, "This singer-songwriter acoustic duo from Houston has a knack for lush, spirited vocals that resemble the Indigo Girls in the way their distinctive timbres harmonize. And it's not only the union of their voices, but the graceful way their vocals ride their guitar rhythms, that make their music so inviting." This promises to be a special evening showcasing not only the GWG's music & energetic chemistry with their audience, but also a taste of something new as the GWG's introduce their special guests, Small Potatoes, to Houston audiences. Jacquie Manning & Rich Prezioso regularly spellbind audiences from coast-to-coast with skillful instrumentation, tight harmonies, great songs, & an electric repertoire. Tickets \$8. Help pack the house at this smoke-free dinner show at 8:30 pm @ McGonigal's Mucky Duck, 2425 Norfolk, 713/528-5999.

6 (Thurs.)

What Lesbians Do. Community advocate Maria Minicucci & Deborah Bell will moderate the second in a series of

monthly workshops dealing with lesbian sexuality & controversial issues in the lesbian community. This workshop, "The Vagina Monologues," will deal with the female anatomy, enhancing sexual arousal & responsiveness, and safer sex issues for women. Is it hot in here, or is it just us? Workshops are open to all adult lesbian & bisexual-identified women, singles as well as couples. A capacity crowd of more than 50 women attended the first workshop in March. 7-9 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713/524-3818.

7 (Fri.)

American Cowboy. Director Kyle

Henry, a Rice & UT graduate, will introduce his 1997 film *American Cowboy* during two screenings. This 52-minute film is a personal portrait of Gene Mikulenko, a gay professional rodeo cowboy. As Mikulenko recovers from a broken leg, his three-month journey to the 1996 International Gay Rodeo Association finals parallels personal & professional challenges. 7:30 & 8:45 p.m. @ the Museum of Fine Arts, Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet. Tickets are

\$5 (MFA members, seniors, & students with I.D. \$4). More info: 713/639-7531, **7 & 8, 14 & 15** (Fri. & Sat.)

Madison, as I imagine it. In a triumphant return to Houston, the John Jasperse Company brings a new evening-length dance about the strange beauty of irregularity, imperfection, spaciousness, & possibility. Created in a largely abstract field defined by images, motion, sound, light, & architecture, *Madison* examines the problems faced in relating to the world, the awkwardness of communication, & the use of the imagination to find moments of lightness within circumstances that might seem bleak at first glance. 8 pm @ Diverse-

Works, 1117 East Freeway (off N. Main at Naylor). Tickets \$15 (\$10 students, \$8 members). 24-hr. reservations: 713/335-3445.

7-9 (Fri.-Sun.)

Historic Heights Home & Garden Tour. Kicking off this year's tour will be the annual Candlelight Tour and Dinner on Friday. From 6-8 pm guests can enjoy a self-guided preview of the six homes. Then round out the evening with dinner, dancing, & a silent auction downtown in

INFO NEEDED FOR YOUR EVENT LISTING: a few lines of info about your event; date/time; cost; location/address; organization name; AND two phone numbers—one for OutSmart to reach you for questions and one for OutSmart readers to get more info on your event. **Mail info to:** OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston 77006. **Fax info to:** 713/522-3275. **E-mail info to:** letters@outsmartmagazine.com. **NO LISTINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—FRIDAY, APRIL 14.**

the Great Hall of what was originally the First National Bank Building (now the Franklin Lofts Building) located at 210 Main Street. Six expressive homes in one of Houston's hottest residential & historic areas will be on display during the tour on Saturday & Sunday. The tour offers examples of diverse architectural styles ranging from Queen Anne & Craftsman Bungalows to an Italian Revival home. The homes, representing the exciting restoration & new construction efforts taking place within this turn-of-the-previous-century community, will be open each day from noon-6 pm. Metro trolleys will be available to carry those on the tour from house to house. Tickets: Harold's in the Heights (350 W. 19th), Yale Street Gift and Grill (2100 Yale), and Buchanan's Native Plants (11th St. at Oxford). Tickets can be purchased at each of the homes on the days of tour. Advance tickets: \$13 for all homes; day-of-tour tickets: \$15. Single home tickets: \$4. Ticket prices include Metro trolley transportation. Info: 713/861-4002, ext. 3, or www.houstonheights.org.



Madison, as I imagine it—see Apr. 7 & 8, 14 & 15

MARIA ANGLIERA DE BOU

LUST IN THE JUNGLE

Bayou City Boys Club presents the 8th annual Easter weekend dance

Foundation, Montrose Clinic/Next Step Program, The Montrose Counseling Center, Steven's House, and WAM Foundation. "We are very excited to expand the scope of our fundraising efforts," said Dan McFarland, co-chair of the spring-time party. "We are including new HIV/AIDS organizations that we have not benefited before in our eight years doing Jungle Lust." • Leading this year's frenzy is DJ Joe Gauthreaux of New Orleans' OZ. His incredible mix of music continually keeps the Bourbon Street crowds dancing till dawn, and he plans to do the same for BCBC and its supporters. • BCBC

is a nonprofit organization. Its mission statement is to raise money for Houston-area HIV/AIDS service providers, research, and education. Since its inception eight years ago, BCBC events have contributed more than \$500,000 to various organizations in the Gulf Coast region. • "The expenses of this wildly fun dance event are completely underwritten by supporters of BCBC," said Allen Glander, BCBC president. "There is no paid staff or overhead."

We are a completely volunteer organization. That allows us to give away all of the proceeds from the ticket sales." • "This party is so much fun to produce," added Matt Krol, co-chair, "and the fact that we can still have a good time while participating in a worthy cause is the heart and soul of what BCBC does." • Tickets available at Lobo Bookstore and Basic Brothers.

JUNGLE LUST VIII

Where: The Polo Club, 8552 Memorial Dr.
When: Sat., April 22 • 9 p.m.
Cost: \$25-\$45
Info: www.bayoucityboysclub.org

8 (Sat.)

Da Camera Goes to the Zoo! Da Camera of Houston continues its free family series at the Houston Zoo with a concert by the Anderson String Quartet. Named for legendary singer Marian Anderson, the Anderson String Quartet is an acclaimed ensemble of young black musicians who have performed at the Library of Congress, New York's Alice Tully Hall, and for Da Camera of Los Angeles. An hour prior to the concert, Da Camera sponsors a "musical instrument petting zoo," where children have the opportunity to see, touch, & play instruments featured in that day's performance. The concert is free with paid admission to the Houston Zoological Gardens (\$2.50 adults, \$2 seniors, & 50¢ children 3-12; children 2 and under free). 1-2 pm musical instrument petting zoo, 2 pm concert @ George R. Brown Education Center at the Houston Zoological Gardens, Hermann Park, 1513 N. MacGregor Dr. Info: Da Camera Music Center 713/524-5050 or George R. Brown Education Center 713/284-8300.

8 & 9, 15 & 16

(Sat. & Sun.)

The Houston International Festival spotlights Brazil. Seven entertainment zones—African, American, Kids, International, Latin, Texas, "Zona Brazil"—highlight 1,500 regional, national, & international performers. There's *Chase Road to Rio*, which features the sights & sounds of Rio



Anne Perry—see Apr. 13

de Janeiro and the Carmen Miranda Cabaret; *Habitat Brazil*, which explores the beauty of the world's largest tropical country; *International Markets*, which include an outdoor art gallery & shopping experience offering eight markets featuring works from 600 artists from all over the world; *International Food*, which brings together flavors from around the world; and much more. It all takes place in 20 downtown Houston blocks, including city parks, plazas, & streets. More info: 713/654-8808 or visit www.hif.org.

10 (Mon.)

Luis Miguel is one of the most established Latin performers on the scene today. He has sold over 35 million albums worldwide and has been awarded four Grammy Awards, the first when he was only 15 years old. He has released more than 15 albums since debuting in 1982 at the age of 12. Miguel has sold out five consecutive dates at Radio City Music Hall and was the first Latin artist to sell out Madison Square Garden. Now he is coming to Houston's Compaq Center for an evening of old favorites and new. Tickets (\$45-\$100); Ticketmaster outlets (Kroger, Fiesta, & Foley's) or charge by phone at 713/629-3700.

12 (Wed.)

Write On, Women. All women writers at every level are invited to participate in the organizational meeting for the Women's Writing Group, a new collective of "women committed to support, encourage, & cajole each other in our creative process," according to Maria Minicucci, who is leading the effort to form the group. 7 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713/524-3818 or drmeam@cs.com. FYI: The writing group, *Montrose Writers Project*, which is open to poets, fiction writers, dramatists, & nonfiction writers, both published & not yet published, men & women, now meets at the center every Saturday, 3-4:30 pm.

12 (Wed.)

Free Mammograms for women over the age of 50 who have an income of less than \$15,780 per year. The goal of this program is to help women get necessary screening for early detection of breast cancer. Women can call 713/522-3976 to schedule an appointment. Mammography is provided by M.D. Anderson LifeCheq Cancer Prevention Program at Planned Parenthood, 3601 Fannin (between Holman & Alabama).

13 (Thurs.)

Anne Perry. Eat with the author at lunchtime, or have her sign your book that evening. The luncheon takes place at 11:30 am @ The Briar Club (Timmons at Westheimer). Tickets are \$22, available only at Murder by the Book, and only until April 11. The

event includes complimentary valet parking; luncheon (with cash bar); talk and Q&A from Anne Perry; book signing (Perry's latest books will be on sale at the event). The store book signing takes place at 6 pm at Murder by the Book, 2342 Bissonnet; it's free and open to the public. More info: 713/524-8597.

13 (Thurs.)

Celebrate National Volunteer Week. Lend your mind & spirit to the cause. Check out this monthly volunteer meeting and learn ways you can serve your community and meet other interesting people. 7 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Second monthly meeting at noon on Sat., April 15. Info: 713/524-3818. FYI: *National Volunteer Week* is

April 9-15. The Points of Light Foundation sponsors *National Volunteer Week*. To read more, visit pointsoflight.org/programs/program_nvintro.html.

14 (Fri.)

Beethoven. Da Camera continues its exploration of Beethoven and the concept of *Time* with a concert of two of the composer's late string quartets, featuring the renowned Juilliard String Quartet. 8 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 500 Texas. Tickets (\$22-\$33) are available by contacting the Da Camera Music



Smokin' Hair Day—see Apr. 14



Lana Turner (right) and Juanita Moore (holding child) have daughter problems: Moore's daughter (left) wants to pass for white; Turner's daughter wants mom.

THE STRIFE OF LIFE

Film depicts tale of discrimination

In this 1959 film, Lana Turner stars as a single mother who puts her acting career ahead of her daughter (Sandra Dee).

Their black maid (Juanita Moore) is devoted to her own daughter (Susan Kohner), but that relationship is jeopardized when the girl discovers she can "pass for white." (In one of his first roles, Troy Donahue plays Kohner's prejudiced boyfriend.) A complicated romantic situation eventually leads the actress to realize how little she knows her child. • One of German expatri-

ate Douglas Sirk's finest films, *Imitation of Life* was Universal Pictures' highest-grossing movie until Steven Spielberg's *Jaws*

IMITATION OF LIFE

Where: Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet

When: Fri./Sat., April 21/22 • 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5; members/seniors/students \$4

Info: 713/639-7531 or www.mfah.org

(1975). Dr. Sandra Frieden, who has taught film classes at UofH for 18 years, introduces Saturday's screening & discusses important elements of the film. General admission is \$5; museum members, seniors (55+), & students with ID \$4.

Center, 1427 Branard, 713/524-5050 or online at www.culturefinder.com. Tickets for students/seniors are half price with ID.

14 (Fri.)

Smokin' Hair Day. The local trio Smokin' Hair Day will rock the house (well, the back deck) at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center's big benefit bash of the season. At the same time, the *Houston Press* will hold one of its Romance Events, where those looking for love can submit free ads for the newspaper personals section. \$10 ticket includes food & drink. 6-9 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

14 & 15 (Fri. & Sat.)

Relay for Life. Walkers & runners will go around the clock in the battle against cancer during the American Cancer

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Society's 24-hour Relay for Life. Teams & individuals participate by soliciting a flat donation prior to the event and can win prizes for their efforts. Teams of 10-15 participants set up campsites, enjoy live music, games, contests, & great food while cheering on their teammates. A special lap will be held for cancer survivors. A luminary ceremony takes place honoring cancer survivors and remembering those who lost the fight against cancer. The event will be held at Rice University West Stadium Lot. Other dates/sites include Mar. 24-25: Humble/Kingwood (Humble Arena); and Mar. 31-Apr. 1: Pasadena/SE Harris (San Jacinto College); Conroe (Montgomery College); and Katy (Katy VFW Park). More info: 713/266-2877.

14 & 15 (Fri. & Sat.)

The Texas Tap Ensemble presents its spring concert, "Life Is Like a Train. The concert will showcase the dancing, singing, & acting talents of the ensemble, which is made up of Houston-area children from the ages of 8-18. Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 2 & 8 pm @ Heinen Theatre (corner of Austin & Holman) on the Houston Community College campus. Info: 713/686-9184.

15 (Sat.)

Celebrate Earth Day at Houston Arboretum & Nature Center. Activities include: • Arboretum "Home Tour": explore the arboretum to learn where urban creatures set up housekeeping; • Puppet Shows: "Walking Lightly on the Earth"—find out what you can do to take care of our planet; • Earth-Friendly Games: amphibians in peril, wormtastic!; • Worm Compost Starter Kits: take home a mini-compost kit while supplies last; recycle your kitchen waste into terrific plant food!; • Composting Demonstrations: find out how easy it is to be good to the earth and feed your flowers; • Native Plant Sale: ask experts your native plant questions as you pick up native plants to enhance your personal habitat; • and much more! 10 am-4 pm @ Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Dr., 713/681-8433.

18 (Tue.)

Home Buying 2000. At this free Home Buyer's Seminar valued at \$125, prospective home buyers can learn the steps involved in the home-buying process, pre-qualify for loans, etc. All attendees receive a free credit report. 6:30 pm @ American Title Company, 2323 South Shepherd, #850. Seating is limited; must register by calling 713/523-9009, ext. 119.

21 & 22 (Fri. & Sat.)

Imitation of Life. In this 1959 film, Lana Turner stars as a single mother who puts her acting career ahead of her daughter (Sandra Dee). Their black maid (Juanita Moore) is devoted to her own daughter (Susan Kohner), but that relationship is jeopardized when the girl discovers she can "pass for white." A complicated romantic situation eventually leads the actress to realize how little she knows her child. One of German expatriate Douglas Sirk's finest films, *Imitation of Life* was Universal Pictures' highest-grossing movie until Steven Spielberg's *Jaws* (1975). 7:30 pm @ the Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet (use Main St. entrance). Dr. Sandra Frieden, who has taught film classes at UofH for 18 years, introduces Saturday's screening & discusses important elements of the film. General admission is \$5; museum members, seniors (55+), & students with ID \$4. Info line: 713/639-7531; website: www.mfah.org.

22 (Sat.)

Hammers and Bows, a classical chamber music group with pianist Rodney Waters and string players of the Houston Symphony, will perform a concert to benefit the AIDS Benevolence Fund of the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection and AIDS Foundation Houston. Their first concert in September

was a huge success, and this one promises to rival that one. Performers—Sophia Silivos & Andy Kaufman, violin; Rita Porfiris & Joan DerHovsepan, viola; and Kevin Dvorak & Christopher French, cello—offer Debussy's *Violin Sonata*, Hindemith's *Viola Sonata Op. 11 No. 4*, and Korngold's rarely heard *String Sextet*. Admission is by voluntary donation. 8 pm @ First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore. Info: Vickie Gibbs at MCCR, 713/861-9149, or Rodney Waters at 713/461-7280.

23 (Sun.)

Bunnies on the Bayou. From the simple beginnings of a last-minute Easter party at an apartment complex with 40 guests, Bunnies has grown into a nationally recognized event with thousands of guests. In the past three years, over \$100,000 has been given to local gay-related charities. Dan Meador returns as DJ. Recommended donation is \$20. 2-7 pm, Wortham Plaza, 600 Texas Ave. More info: www.bunnies.org.

25 (Tue.)

Millennium Marcher Reception honors the local heroes preparing to head to D.C. for the Equality March. Ensure your place in history. The assembled marchers will pose for a group snapshot that will be donated to the Gulf Coast Museum and Archive for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered History. 6-8 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

28-30 (Fri.-Sun.)

Lawndale Art Center's 5th Annual 20th Century Modern Market is the only antiques show of its kind in the Southwest, exclusively featuring design of the 20th century. This year's market features a dozen specialist dealers from around the country, offering a variety of media including furniture, glass, ceramics, metalwork, textiles, objets d'art, & fashion. Friday, 6-9 pm; benefit preview party & sale; Saturday, 10 am-5 pm; Sunday, 11 am-4 pm. Tickets: preview party \$25 (guarantees admission throughout the weekend); \$5 general admission. Lawndale Art Center, 4912 Main Street, 713/528-5858. On Tuesday, April 25 at 7 pm, Lawndale sponsors a free lecture in conjunction with the market: "Modern Houston" slide lecture by Stephen Fox, architectural historian & fellow of the Anchorage Foundation.

**RAY HILL
RETURNS**

With both shows!

Ray Hill reprises *Ray Hill & the Sex Police* and *Ray Hill and Love*, both performances benefiting the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. If you missed either show, now's your chance to correct your error in judgment. *Sex Police* plays Saturday, April 22, and *Love* plays Saturday, April 29, both at 7:30 p.m. @ Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818. Tickets are only \$15, whether reserved in advance or at the door.



OUT&ABOUT: Calendar

29 (Sat.)

Orchestra X. Houston's 2nd-largest professional orchestra & opera presenter, continues its Chamber Series with a free percussion concert. 2 pm @ Diverse Works, 1117 East Freeway (I-10 at N. Main). Info: Orchestra X at 713/225-6729 or www.orchestrax.org.

29 (Sat.)

Galveston Beach Clean-up. This is the 2nd year that the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) will help in cleaning up the East Beach area. 8:30 am-noon, then lay out on the beach. For details: 713/KAMP-OUT.

29 (Sat.)

Millennium Medical Marijuana March 2000 (in Washington, D.C.). Noon: rally at Lafayette Park; 3 pm: MMMM 2000 march (patients & activists); 4-8 pm: Medical Rights Rally and Concert at Henry Bacon Ball Field (speakers & entertainment TBA). Info: 310/453-2700 or www.santamonica215.com.

29 & 30 (Sat. & Sun.)

The Equality Rocks Concert and the Millennium March on Washington. Join Garth Brooks, Melissa Etheridge, Ellen DeGeneres, Anne Heche, Kristen Johnston, Nathan Lane, kd lang, and the Pet Shop Boys on Saturday at the Equality Rocks concert for the new century celebrating equal rights for all @ Robert F. Kennedy Stadium, Washington, D.C. For tickets, call 800/551-SEAT; tickets also available at all Ticketmaster locations or online at www.ticketmaster.com. Also, visit www.melissaetheridge.com for more info. Then on Sunday, join the same celebrities with thousands of LGBT people, our friends, & our families for the Millennium March on Washington at The National Mall, Washington, D.C.

For more info, visit the Millennium March on Washington's website at www.planetout.com.

29 & 30 (Sat. & Sun.)

Educational Film Selections From A/V Geeks. "Have 7500 educational films. Will travel." Skip Elsheimer of Raleigh, North Carolina's AV/Geeks comes to Houston with two programs from his amassed collection of education films. Skip spent most of the '90s collecting film from school & government auctions. Known as the A/V Geek, he now hosts monthly screenings of education films & filmstrips that all share a common theme, like safety or personal hygiene. Saturday at 7 & 9 pm, Sunday at 3 pm @ Aurora Picture Show, 800 Aurora Street. Suggested donation \$5 or pay what you can. More info: 713/868-2101 or www.aurorapictureshow.org. Read about A/V Geeks in "A/Ventures into Geekdom" at http://triangle.citysearch.com/E/F/RDUNC/0000/13/44/.

**PLANNING
AHEAD**

May

3 (Wed.)

A Little Day Music. Da Camera of Houston's free lunchtime performance series, "A Little Day Music," continues with a performance by the Fischer Duo. Da Camera encourages concert-goers to bring & enjoy their lunches while listening to the music. Noon in the Grand Foyer of the Wortham Theater Center, Texas at Smith. Info: 713/524-7601, ext. 15.

4 (Thu.)

Hot Pink Ribbons 2000. The Pink Ribbons Project, Dancers in Motion Against Breast Cancer presents its 2nd benefit *Rosa Caliente* (Hot Pink Ribbons 2000) featuring The Art Guys, Bang Group, Mark Dendy, Hope Stone Dance, Houston Ballet, Jackie Smith & Divinity, Sandra Organ Dance Company, Suchu Dance, and Texas Tap Ensemble. Tickets (\$50) include a post-performance champagne and dessert reception. Tickets/info: 713/526-1907, ext. 2.

5 (Fri.)

The Musical World of Thomas Mann. In its season finale, Da Camera of Houston presents the conclusion of its exploration of Beethoven and the Concept of Time. The program features readings from Mann's *Dr. Faustus*, *The Magic Mountain*, and other works & songs by Schubert, Brahms, Wolf, Mahler, Pfitzner, & Wagner. Tickets (\$22-\$33) are available by contacting the Da Camera Music Center, 1427 Branard, at 713/524-5050 or online at www.culturefinder.com. Students/seniors half price with valid ID.

6 & 7 (Sat. & Sun.)

Community Yard Sale. Start planning now to browse the vendor booths

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Spring Fling

On Friday, April 14, cheat the tax-day blues with your friends at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. From 6 to 9 p.m., groove to the pop sounds of Smokin' Hair Day. Chill out with a cool drink. Looking for love as well as a refund? Write a free personal ad for the *Houston Press*. All this for a \$10 charitable donation.

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at the outdoor Montrose marketplace. Or reserve a booth to sell your wares. An indoor book sale will attract bibliophiles. 8 am-5 pm both days @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Info/booth rates: 713/524-3818.

6, 7, 13, 14 (Sats. & Suns.)
Calling All Queens and Fairies! Have you ever wished you could escape back in time 500 years to a 15th-century village for a few weeks? The Texas Renaissance Festival will be holding auditions for its 26th annual living history event at the festival grounds in Plantersville, Texas. The festival is looking for street characters, jugglers, female pirates, peasant farmers, barbarians, rakes, fops, fools, fairies, and ladies in waiting, among other period characters. Special emphasis will be given to applicants with Spanish-speaking abilities to fill the Spanish court, including the role of the Spanish Queen Catherine of Aragon. Auditions are by appointment only by calling Jeff Baldwin at 800/458-3435 to set up a time. For a free audition brochure or more info: www.texrenfest.com and click on jobs@trf.

14 & 27 (Sun. & Sat.)
Rainbow Deep Sea Fishing. With the Federal Red Snapper ban lifted on April 21, the Rainbow Fishing Club has scheduled five 12-hour trips on the 85-foot New Buccaneer, which takes 100 people and is the largest & finest party boat in Galveston. Reservation deposits are \$20, with the total cost \$65. Non-fishers pay only \$30, and kids 12 & under \$40. The boat supplies all fishing equipment & bait, has a grill & cook and a large sundeck. No license is needed. To reserve a spot/to get a club newsletter: 713/523-6381. Non-club members welcome. June trips take place on Saturday & Sunday, June 24 & 25.

26-29 (Fri.-Sun.)
The 2000 AALA Roundup is a Los Angeles AA conference with Al Anon participation organized by lesbian & gay members of both fellowships. Participants will enjoy a four-day celebration of dignity, unity, & recovery. The annual event features marathon meetings, workshops on specific aspects of recovery & spirituality, speaker meetings, dances, an AA banquet & show, and an Al Anon brunch & show. The 2000 convention, held over the U.S.-observed Memorial Day weekend, offers participants not only a unique experience in 12-step program recovery but also convenient access to the most popular tourist attractions in L.A. The cost (at the door) is \$40. (A discount is available for advance registration: if postmarked by May 1, 2000, the cost is \$30.) No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Interested participants may obtain registration info by writing to AALA Roundup, 8424A Santa Monica Blvd., #824, Los Angeles, CA 90069; by call-

ing 213/896-1490; or by visiting www.aa-la.org.

26-June 4 (Fri.-Fri.)
4th Annual Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. At press time, films had not been confirmed, but see our May issue for a pullout with a complete schedule of films, descriptions, photos, dates, & times. Plan now to keep that week open to see a slew of gay films @ Angelika Film Center, Aurora Picture Show, DiverseWorks, Landmark Theatres, Museum of Fine Arts, & Rice University Media Center.

PERFORMING ARTS

◆ **Agnes of God.** Mystery surrounds a young nun, Sister Agnes. How did she come to have a baby in a cloistered convent and how did that baby come to be murdered? A court-appointed psychiatrist, a protective Mother Superior, & Sister Agnes are forced to reexamine the meaning of faith & the commitment of love before the mystery is solved. 8 pm, April 28-June 2 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets \$10 (seniors/students \$8). Info/reservations: 713/726-1219.

◆ **Ain't Misbehavin'** is the bright, sassy "Fats" Waller musical revue. Along with Louis Armstrong, Waller was one of the first authentic black superstars. Recreating the atmosphere of a sultry, smoky, 1930s Harlem nightclub, this play fills the air with great music. The wailing, stompin' five-piece band and the three females & two males singin' & dancin' bring to life Waller's famous songs. The Great Caruso Dinner Theater, 10001 Westheimer near Gessner. Dinner & show: \$29.95 (Wed., Thurs., & Sun.); \$34.95 (Fri. & Sat.). For reservations: 713/780-4900.

◆ **As Bees in Honey Drown** is the critically acclaimed off-Broadway hit by Douglas Carter Beane, the author of *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar* and founder of New York's Drama Dept., a breeding ground for some of New York's hottest talents (including Nicky Silver, author of *The Food Chain*). This hilarious story of a young novelist seduced by an offer at instant fame from the producer/socialite Alexa Vere de Vere parodies the contemporary media and the hype that very often highlights style over substance. April 28-May 28 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets to preview performances are \$23; tickets to performances on or after May 3 are \$37-\$42. Tickets are available at the Alley box office or by calling 713/228-8421.

◆ **The Hothouse.** From the pen of one of the century's major playwrights, Harold Pinter's 2nd full-length play was withheld by him for more than 20 years, only to garner rave reviews in its

recent productions. The play is set in an unnamed government institution peopled by typically bizarre, sinister, & fascinating characters. "How lucky we are to have this new/old play before us at last!" (New Yorker) April 7, 8, 14-16 @ University of Houston School of Theatre (take the Cullen exit off I-45; go south on Cullen to entrance #16; free parking in lot 16B). Tickets are \$11 (students \$5) and are available by calling 713/743-2929.

◆ **Houston Grand Opera** mounts its historic 25th world premiere with eminent American composer Carlisle Floyd's *Cold Sassy Tree*. Renowned Australian film director Bruce Beresford, who created memorable slices of American life in *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Tender Mercies*, will bring to life rural Georgia's *Cold Sassy Tree*. Two weeks after his wife dies, opinionated town leader Rucker Lattimore marries a beautiful young "Yankee," Love Simpson, setting off a storm of controversy. The story is told through the eyes of his 14-year-old grandson. April 14-May 6. • Houston Grand Opera will finish its season with its first-ever production of Verdi's earliest masterwork *Nabucco*. Taken from the biblical text of Nebuchadnezzar, it follows the Babylonian king as he storms Jerusalem and takes the Hebrews captive. April 29-May 14. • Both @ Wortham Center's Brown Theater, Texas at Smith. Tickets (\$22-\$182) are available by calling 713/227-ARTS, at the Wortham Ticket Center in the lobby of the center, or online at www.houstongrandopera.org.

◆ **If the Good Lord's Willing and the Creek Don't Rise** is a warm comedy that explores family relationships. \$9 (\$8 students/seniors; matinees all seats \$7). April 14-May 13 @ Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd. More info: 713/682-3525.

◆ **The Importance of Being Earnest.** This masterpiece by Oscar Wilde may be the most famous of all comedies. In the playwright's own words, "The first act is ingenious, the second beautiful, and the third abominably clever." 8 pm, through April 8 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets \$10 (seniors/students \$8). For more info/reservations: 713/726-1219.

◆ **Killer Karaoke or Twenty Hundred and One: A Space Oddity.** Enter the glittering & cutthroat arena of the professional karaoke singer in Mystery Cafe Houston's world premiere show! Someone is stalking the contestants of the Gulf Coast Regional Semi-Final Three Steps Before National Silver Microphone Karaoke Competition, and it's up to you to find out who. Even if you feel that there is enough pain & suffering in the world without karaoke, *Killer Karaoke* provides enough fun,

OUT&ABOUT: Calendar

thrills, & sing-along-able songs to keep you laughing & humming long after the evening's over! Every Friday & Saturday night, 7:30 pm (8 pm curtain) @ Prima Pasta & Seafood, 2710 Richmond ('tween Kirby & Buffalo Spdwy). Tickets are \$38.95 and include salad, choice of entree, dessert, coffee, tea, milk, gratuity for dinner service & tax, plus the show. Tickets: 713/944-CLUE (2583).

◆ **The Memory of Water.** This irreverent new comedy brings together three sisters for their mother's funeral. They believe they share a common past: a seaside childhood of disputed bicycles, injured cats, Mum's cocktail dresses & perfumed advice. But where does reality end and family myth begin? Why has war broken out in their mother's bedroom, and why is Vi, so recently deceased, still with us? This bittersweet comedy about memory & loss is funny, poignant, & acutely observed. April 12-May 7 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/52-STAGE.

◆ **The Play About the Baby.** In an extraordinary coup, the Alley Theatre is producing the U.S. premiere of a major new work by America's preeminent playwright Edward Albee. *The Play* is terrifying, funny, & enigmatic, and it's Albee's first since his 1994 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Three Tall Women*. Part puzzle, part vaudeville, *The Play* will be directed by the playwright and will feature Tony Award-winner Marian Seldes (now in off-Broadway's *The Torch Bearers*) and Tony nominee Earle Hyman (off-Broadway's *Driving Miss Daisy*) in a new production. April 7-May 6 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets to preview performances are \$19-\$35; tickets to performances on or after April 12 are \$32-\$49. Tickets are available at the Alley box office or by calling 713/228-8421.

◆ **Spike Heels.** Pygmalion goes awry in this contemporary comedy of manners which explores sexual harassment, misplaced amour, & the possibility of a four-sided love triangle. The combatants are a sexy, volatile young woman and three Boston Back Bay types—a writer, a lawyer, & a fiancée in sensible shoes. The ending is happy and laughter abounds. Tickets \$14 (\$10 students/seniors). Through April 22 @ Actors Theatre of Houston, 2506 South Blvd. More info: 713/529-6606.

◆ **Spirit North.** In an exploration of the complex issue of race loyalty, a lawyer defends a young man accused of murder. The lawyer's conscience is challenged when his wife expresses outrage at her husband for playing the "race card" in defending a "thug." Tickets \$14-\$19. Through April 30 @ The Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main Street. Info/reservations: 713/520-0055.

◆ **Things You Shouldn't Say Past Midnight: A Comedy in Three**

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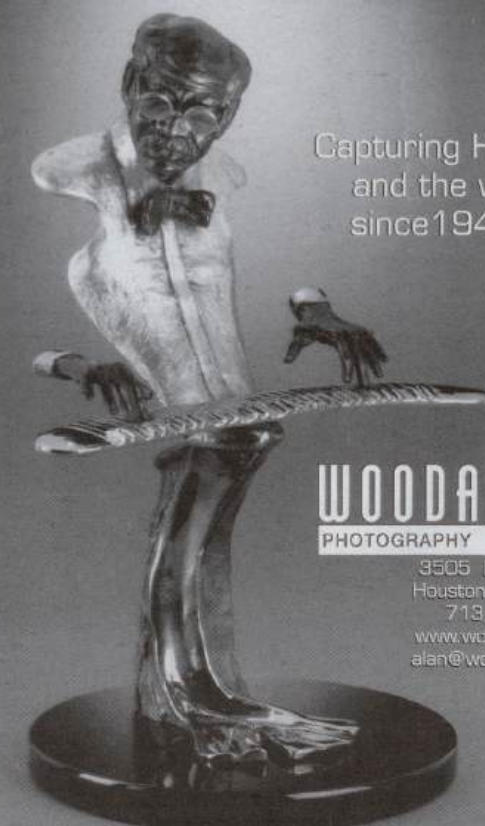
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Beds is a bedroom comedy that consists of the antics, quarrels, & questions of three pairs of lovers. The dialogue is rapid-fire and the laughs naughty & nonstop. 8 pm, Friday & Saturday, April 7 & 8 @ Ashland St. Theatre Co., 2610 Ashland, 713/426-3019. Tickets \$15.

♦ **Triptych.** Cary & Bernard are breaking up. Cary decides to see how the other half lives and stretches his heterosexual legs with Rosemary, a woman he meets at a publishing lecture. Meanwhile, gym brat Bernard falls hard for Dennis, who whisks him off to the suburbs to become his "wife" (think June Cleaver played by Joan Crawford with a martini cart). Transvestism, bisexuality, runaway mothers, erotic strangulation, & the art of repotting house plants are just a few of the specimens under inspection in this hilarious & thought-provoking comedy. Tickets \$12-\$15. Through April 8 (Fridays, Saturdays, & Mondays at 8 pm) @ The Little Room Downstairs Theater, 2326 Bissonnet (between Greenbriar & Kirby), 713/523-0791.

♦ **Zombies from the Beyond (a Musical).** A camp musical of life in the '50s when Cold War hysteria & the space race were the top subjects of concern & talk. At the fictional Milwaukee Space Center in 1955 life is jeopardized when a flying saucer lands, piloted by Zombina, a buxom alien bent on procuring he-specimens to repopulate her planet. Can the stalwart men of Milwaukee survive brainwashing by a musical menace from another world who gives new meaning to "stratospheric" soprano? Taking its cue from pulp movies popular at the time, it brings the 1950s nostalgically & hilariously to life with a tuneful, toe-tapping score. April 12-May 28 @ Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo. Tickets (\$20-\$22) available by calling the box office at 713/868-7516.

THEATER Young People

♦ **The Firebird: A Russian Fairy Tale.** The magical firebird lends his magic to a young squire whose adventures include a mysterious river, life-sized lobsters, a powerful white horse, & a beautiful princess. The rich Russian culture will be reflected in the authentic costumes, music, & dance. Through April 22 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at the box office or by calling 713/52-STAGE. All seats are reserved.

♦ **Winnie the Pooh.** Join the fun with Pooh's forest friends Eeyore, Kanga & Roo, Rabbit, Owl, and his very dear (even if he is human) friend Christopher Robin. Through April 8 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Saturdays at 11 am & 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$5. Reservations strongly recommended. For info/reservations: 713/726-1219.

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

♦ **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.

♦ **Clubs of Bamako** is an exhibition of 16 black & white photographs of the nightclub scene in Bamako, Mali, in the 1960s & '70s, by Malian photographer Malick Sidibé. The photos will be shown with 11 life-size sculptures. The late '50s & early '60s marked the end of colonial rule for much of Africa. With this new freedom came a reexamination of the basis for national & cultural identities that were hybrids of African & Western influences. Sidibé's photographs capture the vibrancy of this transitional moment. Through April 16 @ Rice University Art Gallery (campus entrance 1 at the intersection of Main St. & Sunset Blvd., turn left at end of entrance road, and proceed straight ahead to visitor parking). More info: 713/348-6069.

♦ **Kim Coffman.** Houston's social photographer, will be exhibiting his Favorite Roll of 1999, a series of photos that capture life, one frame at a time. After more than a decade of documenting Houston society at charity balls, galas, & restaurant openings as a part-time endeavor, Coffman put away his mortgage banking badge for his camera—full-time. Coffman's photos have captured the comings & goings, antics & shenanigans of Houston's most fashionable & powerful residents, and have appeared in *Houston Lifestyle*, *Inside Houston*, *My Table*, *Town & Country*, and *Polo* magazines, as well as *The Houston Chronicle*. Through May 30 @ Rojas Gallery, 610 W. Alabama (at Audubon Place). Proceeds from the exhibit will benefit the Houston Food Bank and H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals). More info: 713/334-1786.

♦ **Cycles of the Sun.** In the blink of an eye, visitors can be worlds away, immersed in ancient cultures, as the Museum of Natural Science presents *Cycles of the Sun: Festivals of Northern Mexico* by award-winning photographer George O. Jackson Jr. These 50 photographs provide valuable insight into the Mexican people's relationship with nature, showing their creative abilities through festival art. Through Aug. 13 @ Houston Museum of Natural Science (in the Albert & Ethel Herzstein Gallery of Special Exhibitions on the Second Floor), One Hermann Circle Dr. For more info: 713/639-4629 or www.hmns.org.

♦ **Energy Dreams.** Lark Kaskie's artwork is described as warm and sensual, exuding love. An artist, teacher, author, & speaker, Kaskie has studied in Texas, Holland, Greece, California, New York, and this past summer in Tuscany, Italy. She creates her art in multimedia: oil, ink, acrylic, gouache, pastel, & clay. The continuing theme throughout the works is one of flow, warmth, & movement, at times provoking, exciting, & always with a dreamlike energy! April 4-May 10 @ Mo Mong Restaurant, 1201 Westheimer, 713/524-5664. A reception for Kaskie's artwork will be held at Mo Mong on April 4 from 7-9:30 pm.

♦ **Expressions of Frustrated Wishes.** Tricia Sweeney's series of photographs deals with sensuality

of family relationships, psychological frustrations, & domestic violence. The photographs are hung in series & grids to suggest psychological narratives and to enhance the contrast between stillness & implied motion. *Sweeney is an Out Smart staff layout artist and photographer.* Through April 15 @ Lawndale Art Center, 4912 Main St., 713/528-5858.

♦ **H2O.** Marsha Harris' recent works in watermedia show how much water plays a role in our lives. This show is concurrent with *Watermedia 2000*. Through May 6 @ Archway Gallery, 2013 W. Gray in the River Oaks Shopping Center. More info: 713/522-2409.

♦ **Inhale.** a special two-week site-specific installation by Kate Petley, incorporates the use of large latex weather balloons inflated to a diameter of approximately six feet. Suspended throughout the room, these skin-like spheres invite touch & discovery as visitors move among them. The body is evoked as a container of air & experience. Issues of fragility & its influence on the human condition surface as the balloons gently move in proximity to the viewer. Visually dramatic, *Inhale* will initially overtake the gallery, changing as the balloons randomly & slowly deflate. April 29-May 13 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/223-8346. Opening reception is 6-8 pm on Friday, April 28.

♦ **Irving Penn, A Career in Photography** presents works from every stage of Penn's 50-year career, from his trendsetting fashion photography for *Vogue* magazine & his well-known work as a celebrity portraitist to travel photography & still lifes. Personal projects also highlight the exhibition, including a series of nudes made in 1949-1950 and an extensive series of ethnographic studies from such places as Peru, New Guinea, & Morocco. Through June 4 @ the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300.

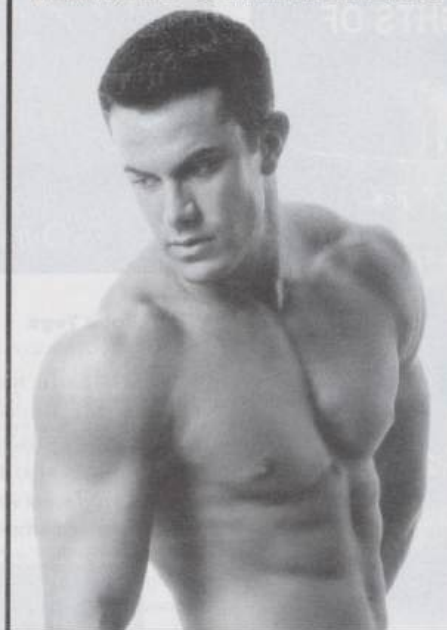
♦ **One Thing Leads to Another.** Similar to his East Texas dwelling in the middle of nowhere, Charles Stagg's installation provides a spiritual & surreal environment constructed from materials that surround his secluded home. This unique installation consists of materials such as trees & cement to create towering swirls & curls that climb to varying heights. April 7-May 13 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/223-8346. Opening reception: 5:30-7:30 pm, Friday, April 8.

♦ **Richie Vegas: A Psycho Memoir** is a selection of drawings from Austin artist Richard Alexander's copious series that explores the psychological intricacies of schizophrenia. This exhibit will continue through three separate rotations of the artist's distinctive works in hopes of making available as many images as possible from the narrative collection that Alexander hopes one day to publish in book form. Through April 15 @ Lawndale Art Center's new Micro Gallery, 4912 Main Street, 713/528-5858.

♦ **Dick Wray.** Art League Houston announced Wray as Texas Artist of the Year 2000 and will honor him in April. Wray's work reflects his ongoing observations & interpretations of media & society; he mixes painting with technologically based media and continues to create complex imagery which dominates the aesthetic & theoretical basis of his vision. There's an exhibition opening with a reception for him on Friday, April 7, 6-8 pm. Following is a dinner-dance gala which will be held at Vine Street Studios in downtown Houston. Tickets are \$75 and are available by calling Art League Houston at 713/523-9530. The exhibition will remain on view through April 29.

CALENDAR DEADLINE for May issue:
5 p.m., Friday, April 14

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A Taste
of HoustonTapas-style reviews
OutSmart Restaurant Guide

NEW! Baba Yaga

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

A Montrose institution. Sometimes we're tempted to eat here every day, it's so homey and healthy. We especially love Tuesday pasta night (\$9.95 for the pasta du jour and a glass of wine), their "Old Smokey" noshing platter of salmon with accompaniments, their in-house sesame dressing, Sunday brunch, and almost any of their specials. If you're feeling outdoorsy, you have the choice of their open patio under the trees, the covered patio, or the porch facing their secret garden. \$

Barnaby's Café

604 Fairview
713/522-0106
1701 S. Shepherd
713/520-5131

Downhome and healthy, what a combination. Our favorites are their meatloaf (and those garlic mashed potatoes!), their burgers (the big, cooked-to-order kind), hickory-smoked "pink" chicken, and spinach and cheese lasagna. Except for the burger, all of these are big enough to split. And they serve up the biggest glass of wine in Houston. The original location is near and dear to our heart, although you have to like funky, intimate, cluttered atmosphere. If you like a sleeker aura, maybe you'd prefer the new River Oaks location. \$

Cheesecake Factory

5015 Westheimer (in the Galleria)
713/840-0600

Get over the two-hour wait. With portions this big, you'll need the time to wander the Galleria and work up an appetite. The spiral-bound menu boasts 22 pages of eclectic eats, but you may as well stop at the appetizers and save the rest for another trip. Make an entire meal out of the avocado eggrolls, brie and avocado melt, corn cakes, or Thai lettuce wraps, and top it off with their signature White Chocolate Raspberry Truffle cheesecake. Then head to the nearest heart center. \$\$

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 restau-

rant 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. \$

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. \$\$

NEW! Kam's

4500 Montrose Blvd.
713/529-5057

Located right at the juncture of where Montrose turns into the museum district, we like to go to Kam's when we're in the mood for upscale Chinese food in an elegant, quiet, yet unpretentious, atmosphere. The white tablecloths, genial waiters, and view of Montrose out of Kam's storefront windows are all oddly soothing. Although some complain that Kam's cuisine is rather Americanized, we are longtime fans of their sesame chicken, Singapore vermicelli, wrinkly sautéed green beans, and crispy hot and sour whole fish (although it's been known to seem slightly less than fresh). \$\$

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 available 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. \$\$

NEW! Last Concert Cafe

1403 Nance St.
713/226-8563

Dishing up classic Tex-Mex in the warehouse district since 1952, the Last Concert is the original "insiders" joint. Oftentimes you have to knock on their red curtained door for entry, and in Larry McMurrey's

Moaning at MoMong
With delight, that is. This chic Montrose
hideaway is an uptown Vietnamese dream.

It's easy to miss Mo Mong. Squeezed into a narrow shopping strip behind Montrose's Hollywood Video, the locale—even with its Westheimer address— isn't exactly conspicuous. Once you spot it, though, it'll embed itself forever in your

an almost cozy, whimsical ambiance. A small, intimate bar dominates the downstairs entry, and dining requires a steep trek to the second-level dining room. Naked windows allow great washes of sunbeams to light the room; you may as well be reading poetry in some New York SoHo loft.

This airy East-meets-West-Coast quality leaves no questions why Mo Mong has become the

realm of creative fusion cooking. What's more, the prices are ridiculously low for lunch (filet mignon for \$7.25) and quite reasonable for dinner.

That you'll find classic Pad Thai, vermicelli, and spring rolls is a given. This is, after all, a Vietnamese restaurant. But that's where the similarity stops. Beyond that it's "Vietnamese style" *nha trang* oysters, delectable lightly fried spheres that are simply perfect eaten alone, although the lemon dipping sauce makes a nice, albeit



The succulent red pepper shrimp will live on in your dreams.

long-term memory. And that's *before* you sample the food.

Yes, I admit it, I'm a pushover for olive green anything, so Mo Mong's façade off the large parking lot (once I finally spotted it) gave it instant credibility. I just assume that any place cool enough to paint their building olive green had to be at least as creative with its cuisine. And it is.

Mo Mong means "to dream" in Vietnamese, which is most apropos for this urbane hideaway, which has been serving since 1997. Owner Toan Hoang dreamed of opening Mo Mong since 1975, when he and his family moved here from Vietnam. Toan's son Viet plays double duty as manager and designer and, true to its name, has created a dream-like décor. This long, narrow space was once the back storage and dressing area for the Tower Theater, and Viet has clearly preserved its theatrical feel. The dramatic space has high, exposed ceilings and concrete floors that oddly produce



Once the backspace of the dearly departed Tower Theater, Mo Mong's urban cubbyhole is both cozy and sleek.

Montrose crowd's urban hangout. But that's not what draws its consistent following. It's the Wednesday night \$1.75 martinis and thoroughly extraordinary Vietnamese fare. Extraordinary because it extends itself beyond the typical boundaries of Vietnamese restaurants into the

heated, contrast...not that anyone took the time for a quick dunk. At \$5.75 per tapas-sized plate, order two and call it a meal. Or sample another wasabi-titled appetizer, this one with the green heat streaked across mounds of crab cakes. Yes, crab cakes, Dixie food at its traditional best, in a Vietnamese



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setting—and the crab actually outweighs and out-flavors the cake-like breading. The sheer tenacity of preparing a perfectly meaty crab cake without even an accidental shell warrants some reverence...if not envy.

Mo Mong dishes up authentic Vietnamese *banh uot* (\$6.25), shrimp and portobello mushrooms wrapped in steamed rice paper. What differentiates these from classic Chinese potstickers is the Vietnamese-style steam bath rather than the traditional Chinese method of sautéing. This treatment, I'm sorry to say, however true to Vietnamese form, makes for a rather insipid appetizer despite the promising ingredi-

Like a proper Vietnamese restaurant, Mo Mong has its share of noodles. There are monk noodles, *mo mong* noodles, Singapore noodles, *da nang* noodles—oops, there I go again. Rest assured, the translations don't help in this case since the descriptions sound like mutant siblings. Rely instead on the knowledge of your waiter. Ours recommended the *dah nang*, al dente rice noodles studded with sautéed beef, shrimp, and vegetables (\$7.95), all simmered in a smooth brown broth of hoisin, oyster sauce, mushrooms, sugar, and a touch of cornstarch (which, we later learned, is the secret ingredient in one of their truly signature dishes). While

Banh xeo is a tasty little Vietnamese crepe intended for fajita-style wrapping in lettuce, with cilantro, mint, and fresh sprouts. Resist the temptation to employ a utensil and indulge your inner child in this finger-style mess.

ents. But not to worry. A notch up on the menu is *banh xeo*. What, you ask, is *banh xeo*? Tsk...some of us need to catch up on our Vietnamese. *Banh xeo* is a tasty little Vietnamese crepe—which looks suspiciously like an omelet—brimming with chicken, shrimp, and mushrooms, intended for Vietnamese fajita-style wrapping in lettuce, with cilantro, mint, and fresh sprouts.

A warning to the Vietnamese food-uninitiated: Do not try to eat this with a fork. Yes, the lettuce makes for a poor tortilla. I know tortillas, and You, Lettuce, are no tortilla. Nonetheless, resist the temptation to employ a utensil and indulge your inner child in this finger-style mess. The myriad tastes complement each other like real cream does coffee. And it tastes even better when eaten with your hands.

you can find similar combinations in other like establishments, I found myself repeatedly digging back into the heaping mound despite the creeping feeling of fullness and the beckoning plates of as-yet unsampled food.

If you're an asparagus lover, you will fall willingly in love with *phu quoc* (\$6.50), a union of asparagus and medallions of chicken breast coated with a ginger, sugar, and soy glaze. Had the chicken not been succulent, had the asparagus not been cooked to its deep green yet firm state, that glaze alone would have had a brainwashing effect. My growing appreciation for this little gem of a restaurant already had a life of its own, and even three-day-old fish (which there wasn't) wouldn't have deterred my con-

continued on p. 45

A Taste of Houston

Tapas-style reviews

Terms of Endearment, Aurora (the Shirley MacLaine character) takes a date here for a late-night flirtation. (Although a rat is mentioned nibbling a tortilla in the corner of the patio in the book, I think Larry was exaggerating for effect.) Dive aficionados will appreciate the funky atmosphere with red leatherette booths. The food's good hearty fare. We're especially fans of the potato-with-green-chili soup. \$

El Meson

2425 University (Rice Village)
713/522-9306

Somewhere between Pappasitos and a Florida Cuban dive, this Rice Village Cuban-Mexican is the darling of Medical Center diners. Regulars insist on the black bean soup, chunky guacamole (some say the best in the Southwest) and potent margaritas, and its low-key atmosphere make it a comfortable haven for families. \$

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 ambiance—everything's plastic except the food. \$

Paulie's

1834 Westheimer
713/807-7271

Step into a little bit of nouveau Continental Italian and plan on settling in until someone kicks you out. After you indulge in fresh panini sandwiches-stuffed with everything from pork tenderloin, to grilled tuna with wasabi mayo, to mozzarella, roasted tomato, and avocado—you'll want to linger over a steaming cappuccino, nibble on something flaky from their in-store bakery, and hang out until dinner time to sample the equally appealing entrees.

Riva's

1117 Missouri St. (Montrose)
713-529-3450

The brothers Silboey bring you Italian cuisine so unusually well seasoned you'll notice the pasta as well as the sauce. The simple dinner salad is alive with fresh vegetables and a tangy vinaigrette and a pleasant forecast of things to come. These men know herbs, and their fish dishes will make seafood converts out of diehard carnivores. And pastry chef Pierre kneads up some tasty little numbers. \$\$

River Café

3615 Montrose
713/529-0088

Intimate weekend hangout with great patio dining. You'll spot every car down Montrose. Broad menu serving nouveau American dishes. Accessible and friendly. If you're not hungry, try the bar. \$\$

Sabroso Grill

5510 Morningside (@ Times Blvd.)
713/942-9900

Price-wise it falls between Cabo and Churrascos, but in taste scores equal to both. The absolute best cilantro dressing in town, and you can order it on everything from the giant salads to the overstuffed tortas and tacos. Considering it's one of the few places you can walk in without a reservation or wait, this South American winner is clearly one of Rice Village's (and Houston's) best-kept secrets. \$\$

Sonoma

1415 California St.
713/522-7066

You've never seen a renovated convalescent home bursting with this much fun and flavor. Wildly eclectic menu features steak pasta, Ossa Bucca, and crispy crab cakes (heavy crab with minimal cake). Very reasonable, and a great party atmosphere.

La Strada

322 Westheimer (@ Taff)
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 available 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. \$\$

Urbana

3407 Montrose (@ Hawthorne)
713/521-1086

Stark minimalist decor, and a classy menu that offers everything Texan and beyond, with barbecue-grilled shrimp, Comal-seared tuna, richly marinated steaks, light pastas, ingenious salads, and interesting deviations on popular '90s sides like mashed potatoes and portobello mushrooms. \$\$

Vincent's

2701 W. Dallas
713/528-4313

Rotisserie me a chicken, baby. Next door to its brother restaurant, Nino's, Vincent's gets you great Italian/American food and wine so reasonable you'll want to shout (and you'll have to if you want to be heard). Cozier in decor than Nino's, and the green beans are like Café Chino Italian style. \$\$

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

\$	\$15 and below (inexpensive)
\$\$	\$16 to \$30 (moderate)
\$\$\$	\$31 to \$50 (expensive)
\$\$\$\$	\$51 or more (very expensive)

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—OutSmart, Houston Press

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Best Salad 1998—Houston Press

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Hottest Place to Host a Party

—Inside Houston

5. We have a reputation that extends
beyond Houston.

Mobil Travel Guide Award 1999

6. We are celebrating our 14th year
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Zagat's Survey of Houston

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No, Joe Ramos is not Aldo's little brother.

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continued from p. 42

viction. But this is moot, since Mo Mong's house specialty, the *mama khang* fish (\$12.95) is as fresh as any sushi-quality fish around. It's a simple red snapper fillet, lightly battered and skillet fried to retain its tenderness, topped with an equally simple mixture of tomatoes, peppers, and basil. Surrounded by restaurants known for topping their seafood with interesting shellfish and fruit salsas, this blatant lack of embellishment served to draw out each respective flavor—although this simple pleasure did come with a high price tag.

Up to this point, I could have safely said that Mo Mong is a place you should consider frequenting on a regular basis—you won't break the proverbial bank nor tire of its interesting gustatory creations. Up to this point, however, I had not sampled the red pepper shrimp. The name didn't intrigue me, but our waiter insisted that if we wanted a seafood dish, we couldn't go wrong with the red pepper shrimp. This is an understatement. There is no going wrong with these shrimp, these darling, perfectly poised crustaceans resting peacefully amid curls of green and white onion and slivers of garlic. With complete nonchalance, I ate one. Then I did a double take. The really obvious kind that only character actors can get away with, and only in the theater. Now brace yourself, for I can honestly claim these to be the best fried shrimp I have ever tasted. The scoop on these tasty creatures is the "batter," a mix of cornstarch and flour, that produces a translucent coating when lightly wok-fried. I wouldn't have thought this could have made such a marked difference from other shrimp preparations, but it does, enough to make this the victim of many future food obsessions.

This idol worship wasn't coming from just me. My benevolent editor—who had five minutes earlier suggested that my use of the "moan factor" in four consecutive food reviews may be getting stale—was audibly moaning. Had I not been making my own yummy noises, I would have gloated. And, in fact, after introducing everyone you know and like to the creative Vietnamese fusion that is Mo Mong, you'll probably find it hard to conceal your own smugness. It's not every day you stumble upon a dream as tasty as Mo Mong.

Mo Mong, 1201 Westheimer #b, 713/524-5664. Hours are Fri. & Sat., 11 a.m.-midnight; Mon., 11-10; Tue.-Thu., 11-11. Wednesday martini night is 5-11 p.m.

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TravelOut

by Allan MacKinnon

CLUB MED GOES PINK

Hanging upside down in fuchsia tights 40 feet above the ground.

These guys are really determined!" I thought as I watched a group of gay men climb a ladder high above a circus safety net. The strange thing was that I was one of the men and wondering what on earth I was doing there. The Club Med at Playa Blanca south of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, runs a circus school for guests and we were learning to swing on a trapeze as part of our Club RSVP gay vacation experience. Every guest at the resort was "family," and we were fulfilling that childhood fantasy of running away to join the circus. However, it was a very big step from the dress-up in costume circus acts I'd staged on my backyard swing as a little gay boy in grade school.

"Give a bunch of queens an opportunity to wear tights and you can get anyone up there!" snapped my partner, Steve. He wasn't having any part of this. At least he was nearby to ship the pieces home and sprinkle the ashes. The prospect of letting go of terra firma was scary,

sexy, and thrilling all at the same time (sort of like my first same-sex experience, hmmm).

Circus is only one possibility at Club Med. Playa Blanca offers a wide array of possible activities. Sunning by the pool was at the top of the list for many and we did participate. However, I like to be physically active too and so I scaled the rock-climbing wall and took Steve horseback riding for his first time. He admitted to being petrified when we went up or down hill. He lurched sideways and nearly panicked when we trotted, but he managed to stay jelly side up and dismount with a big smile.

The Club Med has an excellent gym facility that is quite a few notches above those that travelers find at good hotels in most major cities. All of the equipment is new. There are daily aerobic and water aerobic classes, water polo, and volleyball games. There are tennis courts and sea kayaks available too. Of course sunning was a major pastime either around the huge pool, on the white sand beach, or in

the clothing-optional solarium. The sun dance was a noontime tradition each day at the edge of the pool where men and women joined in to dance to choreography directed by one of the enthusiastic club organizers.

The food at Club Med is excellent and almost overabundant. The Club Meds are French owned and managed, hence food and wine are important. Good Mexican wines and beer flow freely at lunch and dinner. Food is served buffet style, beautifully prepared and presented. As evidence I offer you about 10 pounds of newly acquired body fat. Sure it was possible to eat light and healthy, but I was on vacation, dear. I love fresh bread and it was there in all shapes and sizes at every meal. Baguettes came plain or whole wheat, onion, garlic, or herbed. Mornings featured fresh croissants, some with chocolate, and even chocolate and banana. Lunch and dinners there were sauté stations where more food was being prepared as we wandered in

search of the exotic and delectable. I love fresh fish and it was a regular feature. There was salmon, snapper, calamari, and more. I loved the Mexican ceviche, raw fish in lime juice with onion and tomato. Memorable too was the Mahi Mahi with mustard sauce.

We'd had some hesitation about joining the Club RSVP trip prior to signing up. Our fear was that the group would be made up of party circuit and gym rat types with attitude. Not so. Our fellow vacationers came in all ages, shapes, and sizes. Dining at large tables of-

fered great opportunities to meet and talk with others. As gay folk, our stories and our experiences are often unique to the rest of the world. I think there is a book inside every one of us and I like having those pages opened for me. We enjoy talking to people to hear their coming-out stories,

about their relationships, and tales of how they met. I'm always amazed at how many of us were formerly in heterosexual marriages. It

fascinates me to meet and talk with gay parents about their decision to have children, how they went about it, and how fulfilling it is for them. Frequently we found ourselves listening to and sharing those stories over lunch or dinner.

We also found ourselves talking to a number of interested Club Med staff about what it is to be a gay person. I like those opportunities to

group. Never did we sense anything but acceptance in any of them. They were interested in us and they also laughed with us at the jokes we make about ourselves. I felt they enjoyed the group's enthusiasm and eager participation in the club activities immensely.

Yes, there were some problems. We were the first group to arrive for the new season and it seems the club had not completed all of a major room-renovation project. Our room was fine, but we heard some horror stories from others. Still the RSVP Travel experience and the time Steve and I

shared with those other gay men and women was beyond compare. The price that included airfare, ground transfers, lodging, all meals, and most recreation facilities was good value. We'll definitely do another RSVP trip; maybe Club Med at Cancun next year?

Both RSVP and Atlantis events offer the Club Med style of "all-inclusive" vacation for lesbians and gays. Prices starting as low as \$799 per person double. Some upcoming events are Club Atlantis Manzanillo, Mexico, May 6-13, and the Club RSVP Cancun trip, Nov. 4-11. Their websites are www.atlantisevents.com and www.rsvp.net.



I Took a Flying Leap...and found myself in the lap of luxury at the gay Club Med.

inform people who genuinely want to know. I'm sure they have a better understanding and acceptance of all gay people as a result of the RSVP

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OS

THE MARCH GOES ON

RAY HILL

There's a lot of misinformation of what marches are for and why you do marches.

The master of all this is, of course, Gandhi. You don't do marches for *them*, you do marches for *us*. The only thing that impresses the government is voter turnout and what the polls say. Marches tend to piss people off, especially those who

are caught in traffic. But the effect on the troops that go there, there's just nothing like it.... When it works, it's just activist candy.

Harvey's clarion call was not Organize, Organize, Organize. It was *Come out, Come out, Come out*. So on the 10th anniversary of Stonewall, he called for the march, and I don't care what Robin Tyler says. That was early June of 1978.

Harvey wanted the march. "Do you have any idea how expensive that is?" we asked him. Harvey said the important thing is for people to come out and see one another and feel reinforced enough that they will take their coming out in Washington back to their homes and their work and their schools. That question, "What did you do this weekend?" all of a sudden they can't wait to tell you, whereas always before they had to keep quiet.

After Harvey was assassinated in November of '78, the march fell apart.... We had a conference in Minneapolis... and another in Philadelphia at Independence Hall. [There was heated debate and discussion, and various leaders opposed the idea, saying,] "I don't think the time is right, maybe look for 1989. We're too young as a movement." When the committee voted, the march passed by over 60, out of 120 present, with at least 30 abstaining.

...I was the sole member of the committee of when to have it. My birthday is October 13, Columbus Day weekend, so.... [The 1979 march was held October 14. Later marches have been held in the spring, because Ray's birthday is just too cold in Washington.]

At the march: Houston had a band and L.A.—they were the only two—and they marched up on the demonstration grounds and played "If My Friends Could See Me Now." Phyllis' flag became a standard. When you get to the parade, how to find your friends? You invite Phyllis Frye and she runs up a Texas flag about the size of the Exxon building.

The first march was phenomenal in terms of what marches are supposed to do. From the perspective of the march participants—which is what the march is for—there's magic in marches.... You leave town broke, but you don't care.

And it does result in a greater investment in the community because you have people coming back as workers. The folks from

Oklahoma became activists after the march. People came from Lincoln, Nebraska, places that were really, really repressed.... Every kind of people. There were yachts sailing on the Potomac to meet the march. The lesbians with motorhomes that had to be accommodated.... New York got there on the bus, and you know they had 200-plus buses. They'd left before 6 a.m. to get there. The committee members sold bus tickets on street corners and in front of bars, with money changers strapped around their waists. You learned about organization things that you never knew you'd need. There was a train that started in L.A., went up to San Francisco,

through Salt Lake City, Phoenix, added eight cars at Chicago.

...What's causing the moisture in the corner of my eye is all these people are dead. I got to work with these people when they were young and vital and relevant. The most important work to be done. We were embarking a movement.

When I got on stage...immediately in front of you are wheelchairs and people with crutches, and their faces...well, you don't need lights. →

RAY HILL

"You don't do marches for *them*, you do marches for *us*."

THE MARCH GOES ON

Then behind them are legions of people getting more than they expected. The thing with marches is you give them more than they expect.

I introduced Allen Ginsberg and Peter Orlovsky. It was the first time they had appeared as a couple. I was in Texas Ruby drag—Texas Ruby was a famous female singer, the Selena of corpbone—a Texas hat and patent leather boots. (I do have some queer flair.) I take that off and put on trustee drag—I'd got out in 1975—because there were lots of people who couldn't be there. Allen Ginsberg later wrote a poem called "Those Who Couldn't Come."

If we had not done what we did in '79, what would we have done about AIDS? '79 was the building element that allowed us to deal with AIDS. '93 was a celebration of how responsible we'd been with AIDS.

The marches, whether you want them to or not, become creatures of their individual times. Not just in our self-worth psyches, but in our collective psyches. I have no qualms telling people. I don't care how many marches you've been to or not been to, go to the march. I don't care about the politics behind the scene.

What Harvey Milk convinced me, the march is about coming out. Self-actualization happens in the company of such a massive gathering of gay people that guilt is frightened away.

PHYLLIS FRYE

"We all circled that bus, and lay hands on it. And the bus started."

In 1979, we were poor as church mice. I wanted to go to Washington and I couldn't afford it...so I came up with a bus trip. It was principally out of the church [MCC], but anyone could come.

We left on a Friday afternoon, drove all night and the next day. There was a restaurant outside D.C. where I'd set up beforehand that we could stop, get cleaned up, and have breakfast. Well, when we came back out of the restaurant, the bus wouldn't start. I told the deacons, you need to lead us...so we

all circled that bus, and lay hands on it. And the bus started. [Laughs heartily.] So we were driving

in frantically, getting in at 12:30, and the march had started at noon. It was perfectly timed—the Lord answers prayers, she really does—we got up to the Texas section just exactly as they were stepping off to march—we didn't wait more than 10 seconds.

The march was for gay rights. I tried to make it for transgender rights and got thoroughly trashed.

The Texas delegation was 12 across and eight rows deep of Texas flags, and I was in front with the U.S. flag. I had no idea they were going to stick me in front. The Montrose Marching Band was first. Clint Montcrief—cute as a button and sexy as hell—was the drum major. So

there was the band, then me with the U.S. flag, then the UH gay students, then all the rows of Texas flags.

It was very exciting. I had my U.S. flag in one hand and my Bible in another. Every time we went by the religious protesters, I just glared at them and waved my Bible...I was so sick of the queer-haters wrapping themselves up in the flag—I'm a veteran—wrapping themselves up in the flag and thinking God was just for them.

When we were so rushed getting off the bus, half of us did not hear where it was going to pick us up and word somehow did not get passed along. It was cold, really cold, and then the bus didn't come. We were holed up in this public restroom where it was warmer, about 50 degrees, and had sentries posted outside to look for the bus. It finally pulled up about midnight, and we headed back to Texas.

I could tell a change in a lot of people who had gone who weren't active before. The marches themselves don't accomplish a lot in terms of changing votes of U.S. representatives. But it

does change people and it emboldens them. They're all full of excitement and energy that they have to do something with: start self-help organizations, or political or whatever. We saw a

huge huge burst. It really helps the people who go. But me, I was already extremely active.

PHYLLIS FRYE

"I had my U.S. flag in one hand and my Bible in another."

Interviews

conducted and compiled by Ann Walton Sieber and Blase DiStefano
Photographs from the collections of Deborah Bell, Tom Fricke, Phyllis Frye, Greg Jeu, Blase DiStefano

cover story design: vilven design group

TOM FRICKE

(owner of The Lovett Inn)

"It was like us being who we were."

When I heard about the march, I thought, what the hell. I was living in New Jersey at the time, and I didn't go to any gay bars. I had some friends, but I wasn't in a community. I had gone to the one gay bar in College Station. The march was like fag city—it was the first real experience I had where I was in a community, and it was eyeopening. It was such a moving experience, it was like us being who we were.

The park police say that there are 10,000 people here when there's more like a million people. What are they, blind?—there's 10,000 people on this block.

OutSmart:
What was seeing the quilt like?

I've always been a keeping-my-emotions-to-myself type person, making jokes instead of letting people see how I felt. So I was saying a little sarcastically, "Oh noo, we're going to have to get the Kleenex out now." But as we walked down, I never dreamed that I'd feel the way I did. It's almost like some sort of miracle. And that in our community—where we can't do a f—ing thing—that we'd pull that off. It's definitely divine intervention. When you go down there, you feel a spiritual presence.

After we got back, we came to Houston to visit. I realized that I was just treading water there in New Jersey—this isn't really what we want to be doing. So I started looking for a place where we could be out and have community—not be like in New Jersey where we had some gay friends, but that was it.

PHYLLIS FRYE

On the way to the march, when I went down into the Metro tunnel, the crowd was 100-percent queer. I unfurled my Texas flag and the crowd went nuts! They went crazy. It just energized them, and I don't think that any of them were even Texans.

Brian Keever and I led the Texas section with a young man who had AIDS, with a friend pushing his wheelchair.

We did a civil disobedience at the Supreme Court on Monday following the march.... It was the centennial of the Statue of Liberty. I remember how bitter I was. Bowers vs. Hardwick [the case upholding the sodomy laws in Georgia] was decided on June 30.

A few days later, the nation celebrated the centennial of the

Statue of Liberty. Then, a few days later Baker vs. Wade [the Texas sodomy case] was decided against the queer community, on July 7.

It was obvious that America's freedom was not for the queer community.

Brian Keever organized the civil disobedience. We wanted to make sure nobody was left in jail, that everyone was only charged with a minor misdemeanor. So everybody had to sign up and be trained....

There was a big crowd. The capital police were in riot gear with rubber gloves. Time after time, as orchestrated, a wave of people would walk up on the Supreme Court steps, circle hands, be arrested, and led off. Everyone was released within the day.

The civil disobedience was covered on the networks. It energized the people who did it. ACT-UP may have formed shortly after that march. There

was a lot more civil disobedience after that march.

Lots of people were encouraged to stay after and lobby members of Congress. So Tuesday we went to the Texas delegation [in Congress]. Let them know that we were queer and we were here.

TOM FRICKE

"The march caused me to focus on that I was gay and I wanted to be with gay people."

OutSmart remembers the past!

JACK VALINSKI

(executive director of the Pride Committee, and executive producer of Lesbian and Gay Voices. 18 years with the Pride Committee or Gay Pride Week in some capacity)

"Phyllis opened up the flag, and people started screaming." I travelled with Phyllis Frye, and she took the Texas flag with her.

They'd opened up the Metro early just for the march. We changed at Metro Central, all those concrete walls, and the only people in the subway were for the march.

Phyllis opened up the flag, and people started screaming—you know how people in Texas just go wild—and it was echoing off those walls. It was wild.

The women did the majority of the behind-the-scenes technical work because they had the know-how from running women's festivals.

Just stepping out is a political act. I tell people, you know, there's somebody around the corner who may be looking out who's not brave enough yet to join.

...Pacifica [radio] covered it live in '87 and '93. Pacifica screwed up, and didn't get their live line. So they'd bike it by messenger over to the NPR [National Public Radio] uplink and have a two-hour delay. I helped with part

of the coverage in '93. The anchors were Larry Bentsky and Kate Clinton—I was pretty intimidated.

'87 was such an eyeopener—the fact that we were able to reach people from practically everywhere in the country.

In '93, L.A. was supposed to be the last to start off—and they just decided they didn't want to wait, and picked a different route.

DEBORAH BELL

"We've got AIDS and something must be done."

The march in '87 was "we've got AIDS and something must be done." When you're under the most oppression is when you're the most free to be revolutionary, because what do you have to lose?

It is one of the most incredible things I ever did, going to the march. I had been to other marches that NOW had done—in 1978 for the extension of the Equal Rights Amendment, for example—and some pro-choice marches.... The '87 march was inspirational, it made me feel it was real important to be involved if there was another march. (I didn't even know the '79 march had happened because I wasn't out yet, and

because there was so little publicity.)

I marched with the NOW contingent, nine of us staying

in one apartment. There were all of these intertwined relationships, exes of exes.

There was this gathering of the tribe, of the queer nation. We walked from my friend's apartment. We got on the bus, and there were other people going to the march. Then when we got on Metro, here was this whole car full of queers. And then when you got off the train, and it was just, **"My people!" ...There was just thousands and thousands of queers.**

A lot of us decided we should have a march on Austin after that. It happened two years later, in '89, and it was the biggest of the marches on Austin.

"We're here, we're queer, you have to deal with us, we're not going away."

That was the march

where the quilt got unfolded. It was early morning where there was fog, and an unfolding ceremony like a dance.

There was total silence, the names were being read. And they had to get a lot of people to read the names because there were so many.

RAY HILL

"At the Fairy Camp at the Rainbow Gathering, we sat around and said we need to do another march."

'87 was the year of all the barebreasted women. We weren't expecting tits, but we had tits with stickers on them. Serious tits. ["I don't like the word 'tits' and here I am having to write it 23 times," complained Ann, who was taking the notes of Ray's interview.] Breasts [Ray modified himself]. Breasts with a message. We were all there doing mammary checks. In terms of consciousness-raising, shock value still works.

At the Fairy Camp at the Rainbow Gathering on July 4, 1985 (at a camp that was significant for being the furthest from a paved road in the U.S.), we sat around and said we need to do another march. Men and women, the time is right. Steve Ault and myself coming out of the anti-war movement, we had the only experience in organizing.

1987 March on Washington for Lesbians and Gays

"We've got AIDS and something must be done!"

I WAS A LESBIAN BEFORE I EVER HAD SEX



THE MARCH GOES ON

REV. CAROLYN MOBLEY

(associate pastor at MCCR)

"For me, it was a deepening of my commitment to the Metropolitan Community Church."

The early '90s was a time when we were seeing a lot of AIDS deaths, a lot of AIDS quilts, losing friends to AIDS. When I went to the '93 March, we took several AIDS patients, including one man, Tom Wright, who had to be taken to the emergency room; John Early took him. We were just getting ready to step off the curb into the throng when we saw him go down, so he didn't get to march. He passed away a year after the march.

We flew—it was the first time to be on a plane with so many gay people. We took over the plane. If there were any straight people, well, they blended into the crowd.

The quilt was a big, big part of that march. I saw people wheeling through there in wheelchairs. Tom was very weepy—it was hard for him to be there. The first time I saw the quilt was in '87. In '93, it was so much bigger. Breathing-taking, it was hard to believe...It really brought AIDS home to me—to see the quilt, to see how pervasive it was. It wasn't just in the South, or in the East, or in the cities. It was everywhere.

The Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus performed, which was moving for me, because I had sung with them when I lived in Atlanta.

By '93 I was on staff at MCC, and I got to visit MCC in Washington; it was a new facility in a primarily black neighborhood. Worshipping

there was really spectacular.

Troy Perry did a special service in the morning in front of the Lincoln Memorial. A huge crowd attended. I led one of the opening hymns, I think maybe "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine." We had communion, and closed with "Amazing Grace."

MCC had one of the largest contingents in that march. We were from all over the country. For me, it was a deepening of my commitment to the Metropolitan Community Church. For a long time after being forced out of the Baptists in '81, I had attended and worked with MCC, but had refused to become involved as clergy. But in '92, after 10 years as an intentional lay person, I officially became clergy and embraced the fellowship...that whatever contribution I was going to make to this world, I was going to make it through MCC.

That's what the march in '93 sealed for me—it was that service, and seeing all our people from everywhere

all gathered together. The whole contingency must have been, I don't know 600?, 800? We had the UMCC big banner, and then all the little banners of MCCs from all over.

ELLEN DEGENERES

(from an interview in *The Advocate*)

"That was a powerful thing to watch the march, and to not be able to be there."

I remember crying, wishing I could be a part of the march on Washington in 1993. I thought, *This is a huge group of people that I belong to. And I can't do that because I'm not out?* That was a powerful thing to watch the march, and to not be able to be there—it impacted me and just tortured me more. I wanted to be able to be out. My friends were out! And I kept justifying why I couldn't—because music is different from television. If you sell six million albums, you're a huge star. If you have

six million viewers on television, you're canceled.

RAY HILL

"More queers than anybody had ever seen in one place at one time."

In '93, there was a group of men chanting, "What do we want?! Husbands! When do we want them? Now!"

In 1979, I'd estimate there were about 70,000 people. Certainly more queers than anybody had ever seen in one place at one time. In '87, it was about

half a million. In 1993, it was close to a million. We virtually occupied the last four blocks of the mall.

PHYLLIS FRYE

"We should have lain down in front of the march.... That was one of the biggest political mistakes I made in my life."

1993 was another good march, but again we [transgenders] were not included. Because we'd raised so much hell about being included, they'd made arrangements for us to have a caucus area. Our caucus got a lot of interviews from other queer media throughout the U.S.

We talked about having a lay-down demonstration in front of the march to protest transgenders being omitted. ("Transgenders are second-class citizens in the gay community," says Phyllis' spouse, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of employment discrimination.) Well, I talked them out of laying down in

front of the marchers. That was one of the biggest political mistakes I made in my life.

We should have lain

down in front of the march. If we'd been laying down, we'd have been two to three years ahead. On ENDA, I still wish that we'd have done it.... We should have laid down and blocked the march. And I just kick myself so many times for changing their minds. So I came home with a sweet and sour taste.... In the '94 march in New York for the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, we formed a strategy to do civil disobedience by laying down, and they would form a circle and march around us.... We saw things change after that... I think I made the right decision that time.

GREG JEU

(publisher of *OutSmart*)

"The march on Washington gave me the energy to refocus my losses into something positive."

A year before the 1993 march on Washington, my partner of 10 years died. Because we were ignorant of the legal documents that committed gay couples should have written for protection, and because gay relationships are not protected, his parents were able to take our home and many of our possessions. It was a

devastating experience to lose my partner and then my home we had shared together. For the first time since his death, the march on Washington gave me the energy to refocus my losses into something

positive, and to use my experience to help teach others.

At the time of the '93 march, I was publisher of *Uptown Health and Spirit*. I was "out" about my sexual orientation, but had never been active as a public figure in the gay community. But after returning to Houston, inspired by the march and honored to be a gay "centerfold model" for

Newsweek, I

decided I wanted to make a difference in our community. Nine months after the march, a few friends and I gave birth to *OutSmart*.

DEBORAH BELL

(National Organizer of the 1993 March)

"Why are we doing this?"

But the Holocaust Museum was why we're doing this—because this has happened before and it could happen again if we don't do this." At the '91 Creating Change conference, a group was talking about another march, asking people *Do you want to do it?*, and people said yes. They made a commitment that they would retain the process used in the last march.... Are we

going to commit to organizing this to happen?

The steering committee met January of '92 in L.A., and this is where the name of the march got decided. The name that ended up

OutSmart remembers the past!

1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation

Maturing and Coming of Age

"Our freedom was not won a century ago, it is not won today, but some small part of it is in our hands, and we are marching no longer by ones and twos but in legions of thousands, convinced now it cannot be denied by human force."



1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation



was not the name that most people wanted. We discussed it and discussed it. Miriam Ben-Shalom said, "Why don't we just call it The March That Dare Not Speak Its Name?" Another person suggested Dyke Sluts From Hell and Fags Can Come Too. I felt the world was not ready for the word "transgender" to be included. For those who hadn't had the privilege of knowing Phyllis Frye, they didn't understand, while that's not the same thing as sexual orientation, they are allied with us. The official name was the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation.

As the national organizer, I was in D.C. from July of '92 to May of '93. I was the only paid person.

I facilitated the discussion on the platform. There was a point when the whole discussion should have ended and I was exhausted and couldn't facilitate any more. There were the people who want Faith and Family, and those who say, *We're here and we're queer*, and we're not necessarily faith and family. The executive committee and the co-chairs were from Queer Nation and ACT-UP with a strict activist background. There were other people who were Log Cabin types, before there was a Log Cabin, saying *What's pro-choice got to do with gay rights?* But all those issues touch us. If we're not for everybody, what

are we doing? There were strong members of the transgender community who still felt we should add the word "transgender." There were threats to lay down in front of the march. Why don't y'all organize something and then there can be some education? Then there can be some positive influence. I had a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence in my face on that one.

I'm very proud of the work I did on the march, because I used a model that's used in NOW (National Organization for Women) to structure the executive committee. We worked very directly with the D.C. host committee. That was the core. They knew Washington, had the resources, and involved their organizations in it.

In March I got requests from organizations that wanted to march. NAMBLA applied. I wrote them an official letter, saying: You can march on our platform, but not as NAMBLA, because what that is is contrary to our platform, because what we are about is sex between consenting adults and what you do is child abuse.

The Animal Lovers' League—and we're not talking about PETA, I'm talking about having sex with animals. They had a collie on the letterhead and a little Pan creature. I basically sent them the same letter, only saying that we're about sex between consenting human adults, and what you do is animal abuse.

The Holocaust Museum opened that week just by coincidence. We worked to make sure that homosexuals were included. They had a special ceremony at the Holocaust Museum opening for gays and lesbians. We were getting so criticized for everything—the last three weeks before the march was like a Three Stooges movie and I was all three Stooges—and you start to wonder, *Why are we doing this?* But the Holocaust Museum was why we're doing this—because this has

happened before and it could happen again if we don't do this.

There was a dyke march on Saturday night—a lot of women went topless for that—but I didn't get to go. I couldn't do everything. There was a black-tie dinner that night I attended. I also missed the Texas Two-Step that I'd helped to organize. There were 180 related events within the week.

I think '93 paved the way for this year. I'm a little bit jealous of them. They've got Ellen DeGeneres. I think a lot of that was possible because of '93. I'm disappointed about the process of this march [the Millennium March], but I think for some people it'll be a life-changing experience.

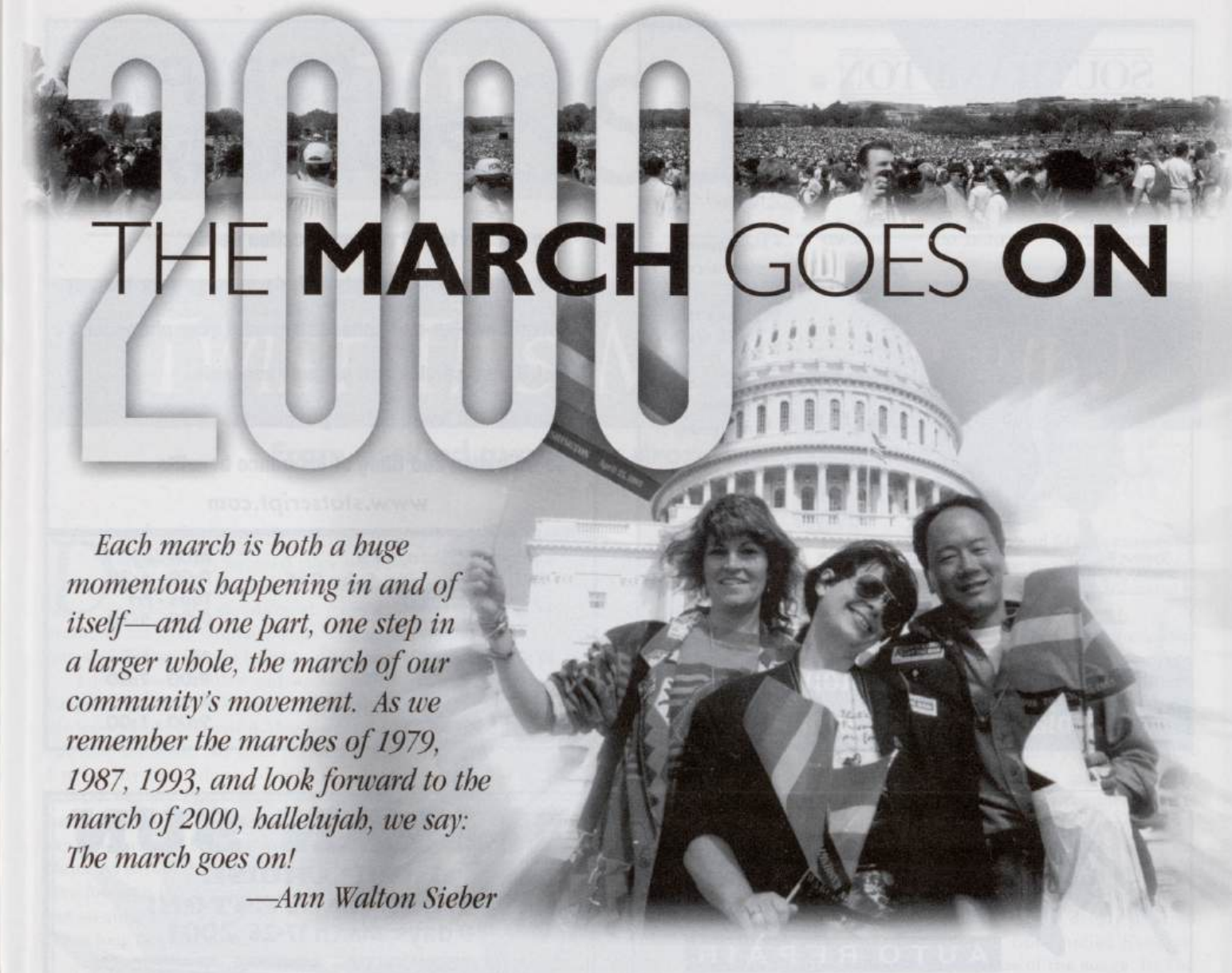
The day of the march in some ways was total hell for me. I had no chair, no walkie talkie, had to walk all the way to the stage, and I have a disability.

I was talking to Meg Christian, Holly Near, Chris Williamson, and Margie Adams—the goddesses of women's music. I do have one of Holly Near's hairs. I plucked it from in front of her shirt.

Ru Paul was there. His mother died that day. He said how meaningful it was to him to be there, because his mother had always supported him, and that had enabled him to be there that day.

I don't know how the lineup happened, it just happened.... A lot of it happened in spite of us instead of because of us. But I did do the weather that day: It was the most perfect day of weather that's ever been.

Having my name announced from the stage, and looking out and seeing that sea of people and knowing that I had been integral to making it happen—that meant a lot to me. But afterward, we *crawled* back to our hotels.



Each march is both a huge momentous happening in and of itself—and one part, one step in a larger whole, the march of our community's movement. As we remember the marches of 1979, 1987, 1993, and look forward to the march of 2000, hallelujah, we say: The march goes on!

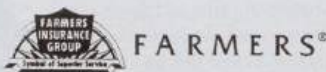
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Twist This Mess Around

From sissified gym class dropout to yoga monster

by Alan Davidson

Downward Facing Dog," calls out Kay Wescott, my beloved yoga teacher. Like a dog doing its lazy wake-up stretch, she stands on all fours and stretches her front out long, her body a sinus upside-down V (see below).

I do my best to follow suit, spreading my fingers wide and pressing my butt into the air (now you be respectful, this is an ancient spiritual tradition). My spine is elongated and I press my heels down toward the floor to stretch out my hamstrings. I am breathing harder now and the sweat begins to drip from my face and pool between my hands. Breathe, I think. As part of my mind calms with the meditative focus on the exertions of my body, another, not-so-quiet voice at the back of my mind whines "How long can this go on?"

"Crescent Moon," calls Kay. My mind is momentarily relieved to let go of that Down Dog pose. I bring my right foot between my hands into a "runner's lunge," relax my left leg to the floor, pressing my hips forward, then calmly bring my hands to my heart in prayer position and breathe. All composed and perfect? As I'm ready, I clasp my hands together and reach them toward the ceiling, pressing my chest forward to gently arch my back into the beautiful curve of a crescent moon. I notice in the mirror that my beautiful moon is tilting just a little. "Okay yoga-monsters, back into Down Dog," cheers Kay. And so it goes through the hour: stretching, pressing, breathing, thrusting, holding, focusing. Calm mind. Whining mind. Vain mind. Humble mind.

We've seen yoga. Sun Salutations on *Good Morning America* and *Rosie O'Donnell*. According to the statistics, as many as 12 million

Americans do yoga. Forty per cent of health and fitness centers offer hatha yoga. A recent search on Amazon.com pulls up more than 1,350 yoga book titles. And now Madonna. America is abuzz about yoga.

Celebrity interest in yoga has definitely fueled the media hype. During the '70s Jeff Bridges, Ruth Buzzi, and Tom Smothers posed for Bikram Choudhury's yoga text. In the '80s Sting and David Duchovny became devotees and Ali MacGraw released her own yoga video. During the '90s Julia Roberts said to *In Style* magazine about her yoga regime, "I don't want it to change my life. Just my butt."

And, of course, in the '90s the one-time material girl herself, Madonna, got serious about her daily yoga practice. Her last recording, *Ray of Light*, was deeply inspired by yoga teachings. She studied Sanskrit and chanting for one of the songs. In *The Next Best Thing*, co-starring openly gay dreamboat Rupert Everett, Madonna plays an ashtanga yoga teacher (ashtanga is an advanced style of yoga requiring more strength and endurance than the better known hatha yoga). A chance to get paired with Rupert—lord gracious, that's more than enough spiritual inspiration to take up a serious yoga practice.

But aside from the hype and the heavy breathing, Westerners find yoga one of the most accessible and profound of the Eastern disciplines. Yoga translated from the Sanskrit means "union" or to "yoke" together, yoga's goal being to "yoke" together the body and the mind; the more spiritual, esoteric, forms of yoga emphasize clearing the mind, calming the spirit, and enhancing the body-mind connection. In India, there are various limbs of the path that attract different personalities and spiritual temperaments. These are controlling the intellect (raja), mastering the body (hatha), spiritual action (kriya), selfless action (karma), heartfelt devotion (bhakti), knowledge or wisdom (jnana), sexual



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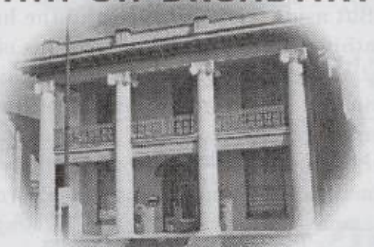
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ritual (tantra), sacred sounds (mantra), and subtle energy or chakra (kundalini). Each limb, or school, has centuries of sacred texts and teachers to draw from. One's relationship to one's mind and one's body becomes a spiritual path.

The turning point in my relationship to my body was 1994. The previous year had been a doozy. I watched as my friend Michael Mosley's body and life were ravaged with the last stages of AIDS. The Enchanted Garden, a business I co-owned, closed leaving me substantially in debt and physically and emotionally exhausted. Being one of those sissified and brainy kids in school, I had hated gym class. In 35 years I had rarely exercised my body. 1993 saw my muscles weaken, my breath shorten, and my weight mushroom to 316 pounds. I decided that drastic measures were needed.

I enrolled at The Lomi School in northern California. As a massage therapist, for years I had heard of Lomi Work, a synthesis of rolling, gestalt psychotherapy, polarity energy work, meditation, aikido, and yoga. Ann Lasater, one of my massage mentors, is a Lomi associate. Her work and life demonstrated the profound effects Lomi could have when applied with constant focus and attention. When she told me that Robert Hall, one of the school's founders, was an openly gay man, I knew I wanted this work. I know of so few gay men who have committed their lives to spiritual transformation. To attend, I traveled to San Francisco one weekend a month for 11 months, plus went to a five-day residential retreat over the summer.

The first day of class began what would be our daily training routine. One hour of sitting meditation followed by an hour of yoga.

As the 24 students were led through a series of yoga postures that first morning, I was the only one in the room who couldn't do the poses. I knew I wasn't in Kansas anymore, or in Texas for that matter. Robert Hall, just turned 60 years old, was radiant and amazingly flexible. I knew he had something I desperately needed. That sissy-fied kid from grade school decided to stick it out. Thus began my fascination with a 5,000-year-old discipline.

Flash forward, back to Kay's yoga class. Kay is leading us in The Crow, an advanced pose that challenges even her. Me, I groan audibly in frustration. I just can't seem to get it. The idea is to crouch forward, balancing your knees on your arms, and holding up your whole body with your hands. Yes, I agree, it does not sound possible, but I'm trying, shifting my weight forward and teetering

Yoga has become part of my three-part exercise program: aerobic, strength, and flexibility. I walk, bike, and climb steps for aerobics; I weight-train for strength; and practice yoga for strength and flexibility.

precariously on my hands and big toes. In the perfect world I'd lift my feet into the air and balance gracefully, gazing serenely into the mirrors ahead. In reality I'm huffing and puffing and my face is contorted with struggling. Kay encourages me to be patient and to respect the gifts and limits of my body this morning. She also reminds me that I'm a big crow. I relax my frustration and vow that this year I will master The Crow. The Chinese say it's the year of the Dragon. I say it's the year

of the Crow!

It's the year 2000. My weight is down 35 pounds. Yoga has become part of my three-part exercise program: aerobic, strength, and flexibility. I walk, bike, and climb steps for aerobics; I weight-train for strength; and practice yoga for strength and flexibility. In these six years, I have seen how yoga complements the body work I give to clients and that I receive myself. The effects on the muscles and connective tissues are dramatic. I know my own posture is improved and I feel more graceful as I move through space. Thanks to the yoga *asanas*, or poses, I know I'm more flexible.

Flexibility sounds relatively superficial—"Eh, so I can't touch my toes, what does it really matter?" But it really reaches much deeper than that. The recent *Yoga Journal* said about flexibility:

"Even if you're active, your body will de-



hydrate and stiffen with age. By the time you become an adult, your tissues have lost about 15 percent of their moisture content, becoming less supple and more prone to injury. This normal aging of tissue is distressingly similar to the process that turns animal hides into leather. Unless we stretch, we dry up and tan."

Our bodies are a living matrix of tissue, which connect bones, muscles, tendons. Yoga helps keep these connective tissues

supple and vital. And since we know the mind and the body are basically intertwined—remember the "yoke"?—this yogic flexibility in our deep-down tissues plays out in our monkey minds. Robert Hall, my Lomi hero, teaches that the microscopic level of connective tissue is where our thoughts and our physical bodies come together. If thought patterns are fearful and contracting, the connective tissues will contract, which distorts the carriage of the skeleton. If the thought patterns are open and expansive, the connective tissue is fluid and flexible. The body remains balanced and poised. Caroline Myss puts it this way, "Your biography becomes your biology."

Are you ready for that Corpse Pose?" Kay teases. "Lie down on your back and do some long body stretches." I roll my head from side to side a few times to allow it to find its natural resting place. I let my feet splay out. I consciously scan and relax my body. This is the reward after an intense hour of breathing and stretching. As my body cools I'm aware of the peace I feel. My mind is, finally, focused and calm. My emotions are crisply on the surface of my awareness. My spirit is grateful and soaring. Sure, I'm aware of other tightnesses in my body. And yet I am pleased

with the progress I've made. Of who I am in this brief moment of relaxation. Satisfied is the feeling that floats across the still surface of my mind. And this is the real reason I continue to practice yoga.

Alan Davidson is a registered massage therapist and director of Essential Touch Therapies in Houston. He teaches classes in massage, meditation, aromatherapy, and yoga. He has practiced touch and energy medicine since 1988.

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The Heart of Yoga

Houston's offerings
to the yogic tradition

by Maria K. McKeehan



A place for yoga can be found in everyone's heart. The tradition of yoga, which is over 5,000 years of age, is still evolving and flourishing in our world today. Its charm has been extended past the ancient caves of the Himalayas to take hold in our Western society and to settle in our everyday lives. Yoga is now a gift that is available to all. To treat yourself to the gift of yoga is to open your heart, to bring health and vitality to your entire being, and to be able to deal with life's complications with tranquility of mind, wholeness of body, and expansiveness of soul.

In Houston we are blessed with a wide range of yoga possibilities. We have institutions that offer rich resources for the serious student of yoga, classes offering an intense workout for the fitness enthusiast, and everything in between. To find out where it all started, we must travel back to 1948 when a young woman named Billie Gollnick was given a gift.

The gift was a book, a book on yoga, called *Forever Young, Forever Healthy*, given to her by a friend at the Brown Bookstore. The book planted the seed of yoga into her life. As her interest in yoga philosophy grew, it eventually brought her to India. "What kept me with it, as I am not a very disciplined person, was the breathing, and the expansiveness and freedom of the whole thing," says Billie.

As she returned to Houston she began giving talks in churches and schools around the city. Soon more and more

people began urging her to teach yoga. At first she thought it was "too far out" to be teaching, but eventually the concept became a reality. Houston's first yoga class commenced with Billie and five others in the dining room of her Memorial home in 1966. Many people began to come, as many as 50 per week, so in 1968 she opened Houston's first "School of Yoga" in a house in the Montrose. The school flourished. Hundreds of students came to learn yoga, courses were developed, teachers were trained, and yoga made its home in the heart of Houston.

Eventually others came to plow a path for yoga, such as Lex Gillan and Robert Boustany, who both opened yoga studios in the early 1970s. In the '80s and '90s, many other gifted teachers founded studios and started classes for an ever-growing crowd of student yogis.

And Billie Gollnick? She's still doing backbends and standing on her head at 72 years of age! You can find her at the Jung Center and Healthspan still bringing the gift of yoga to other people's lives. Houston is a place for yoga, with a rich history and an open-hearted spirit. Give the gift to yourself, continue the tradition, and find a place for yoga in your life.

Choosing a class: You may be seeking a physical workout; or a method of relieving stress and tension; a more healthy body and lifestyle; a remedy for a physical ailment; a complement to another sport; a means of meditation; or a more spiritual life. Different yoga classes speak to this variety of needs, temperaments, and abilities. However,

pick a class that is conveniently scheduled and easy to get to. When choosing a yoga class, remember to consider:

- **Instructor:** Class ambiance varies significantly by instructor. Different teachers vary by style, personality, qualifications, and his or her relationship and history with yoga. If one class doesn't work out for you, try another instructor. There are substantial differences from teacher to teacher.
- **The class size:** This is important. You'll want to choose a class that is small enough for the teacher to provide individual attention in adjusting postures for your own body. You don't want to get injured, frustrated, or bored.

The following is a list of yoga resources available to the aspiring Houstonian yogi. Our listing here is not intended to be exhaustive, since yoga classes are always starting up or changing. We've concentrated on classes inside the Loop; if you are looking for other area classes, we recommend calling the Yoga Association of Houston at 713/668-2292.

The Yoga Institute and Bookshop
Rae Lynn Rath, director
2150 Portsmouth (Shepherd Plaza), 713/526-6674. Four different levels of instruction. Introductory lectures are held Thursdays at 6 p.m. Level 1A (beginner's) schedule: Mon., 7-8:20 p.m.; Wed., 10:30-11:50 a.m.; 5:30-6:50 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m.; \$87 for six-week session, unlimited attendance.

The Yoga Institute and Bookshop is The Place to discover yoga in Houston. Houston's long-reigning yoga establishment, opened in 1969 by Lex Gillan, has sponsored many famous yogic faces such as Ram Dass and John Friend. Offering not only instruction in classical hatha yoga, the institute also offers meditation workshops, a fine selection of books for the spiritual seeker, yoga videos, music, mats, and other yoga accessories. Classes vary by teacher, time, and level. Style is Anusara Yoga, which is flowing with grace and following your heart. Very peaceful, meditative, and loving atmosphere. Classes are taught in a structured grade level format with new asanas incorporated each week, so learning is progressive. Class size 10 to 30.

Hatha Yoga Studios
Robert Boustany, director
1728 Bolsover (just north of Rice), 713/523-8932. Classes offered daily, as many as five per day on weekdays. Check out <http://www.byoga.com>

for complete schedule. \$10-\$12 per class.

Offers a wide range of yoga resources for all kinds of students. Classes vary significantly in size, level, and atmosphere according to teacher. Robert Boustany, yoga practitioner since 1966, and director of the studio, has trained with many yogis and swamis in many different styles of yoga. He teaches classes for the beginning as well as the advanced student. Other yoga teachers are Erica Schreiber, Misha Laird, Linda Gilbert, Ann Hyde, Laura Camp, and Dr. Julie Byrd, many of whom offer private instruction. The studio offers beginner, intermediate, advanced, to the very advanced, classes for persons with injuries, restorative yoga, and yoga for expectant mothers. Morning classes are small (3-5 people), while evening and afternoon classes can go up to 20.

Houston Iyengar Yoga Studio
Constance Braden, director
3701 West Alabama, Suite 245, 713/850-8812. Daily classes, call for schedule.

Beginning, intermediate, advanced levels, plus pranayama (breath work) and gentle yoga classes. 12-week session: \$132 (1 class/wk); \$240 (2/wk); \$324 (3/wk).

The focus in these classes is precision and alignment. Iyengar hatha yoga classes strictly adhere to the style of yoga outlined in B.K.S. Iyengar's *Light on Yoga*. Yoga props—bolsters, blankets, blocks, and straps—are used to allow the body to get into a posture the "correct" way. Classes are rather physically demanding. Small classroom; class size 10 to 15.

Devanand Yoga Center

3115 W. Loop South, Suite 21 (in the back, ground floor), 713/965-9642.

These classes emphasize the meditative and traditional aspects of yoga. The classes are great for training the mind to be still and the body to make slow, deliberate movements, coordinated with deep breathing. Very relaxing, intimate, and peaceful atmosphere. The Devanand Yoga Center is a non-profit organization offering free yoga classes to all, after you pay the one-time fee of \$44.99 for books and a T-shirt. Schedule: Mon., Wed. 6:30 p.m.; Sat. 9:30 a.m.; Tue. 6:30 p.m. is strictly meditation. Classes include chanting, meditation, breathing, and traditional hatha yoga postures. Class size: 15 to 25.

3HO Yoga Foundation

1123 Jackson Blvd., 713/526-2614; 713/528-7345. Established in 1969, the 3HO Yoga Foundation offers Kundalini yoga and meditation. Also offers specialty classes on healing and vegetarian cooking. Mon.-Thu., 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Sat., 8-

continued on page 64

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WorkOut

by John-Aaron

EASY ENERGY

How to boost your energy levels

Energy is used to fuel every activity of your body, whether you're exercising, working, or just simply maintaining the basic life functions like breathing and circulating blood. Energy to power your body is derived by Adenosine Triphosphate, or ATP. Food energy is captured in chemical form in ATP. Through metabolism, you convert this stored energy to use as your own. How your body uses energy is influenced by your body type and size, age, health, physical activity, climate, nutrition, and the activity of your adrenal, thyroid, and pituitary glands.

Energy conversion isn't a simple process. However, there are some simple steps you can take to boost your daily energy levels.

The following tips are just a few of the ways you can keep your energy levels stable throughout the day.

Tip #1: Sleep.

Even getting one or two hours less sleep than you really need can affect your energy and concentration for the worse.

Despite what most recent fad diets suggest about omitting carbohydrates from your diet, you should remember that carbohydrates are the most powerful nutrient for affecting your energy levels.

Tip #2: Drink More Water.

Being even two cups low on fluids can affect your mental performance. Consider drinking one-half to one cup of water for every hour you're awake.

Tip #3: Eat Appropriately.

Malnutrition is a precursor to disease. Shortages of appropriate vitamins and minerals can weaken your energy and immune system. Also, diets that are too restrictive can leave you fatigued and depressed, not to mention cranky.

Tip #4: Carb Up.

Despite what most recent fad diets suggest about omitting carbohydrates from your diet, you should remember that carbohydrates are the most powerful nutrient for affecting your energy

levels. Eat fruits, vegetables, whole-grain breads, rice, cereals, potatoes, yams, pasta, and beans at a moderate rate (around 60 to 70 percent of your total daily caloric intake), and you

should have no problem keeping your energy up and your weight down.

Tip #5: Eat Some Fat.

Note: The operative word here is "some." Although I'm not endorsing a free-for-all license to stake out the Cheesecake Factory, a moderate amount of fat (less than 30 percent of your daily caloric intake) is necessary to a high-energy diet. Nuts, seeds, peanut butter, fish, poultry, and dairy products can be good sources of dietary fat.

Tip #6: Get All Your Vitamins and Minerals.

In addition to a good balanced diet, consider a multivitamin supplement. In particular, make sure you're getting enough vitamin C (which helps you absorb calcium and oxygen-carrying iron), as well as calcium, magnesium, and potassium, which all help to boost energy levels.

Tip #7: Watch Your Iron.

Iron deficiency is widespread and could be the leading cause of fatigue among women. Lean red meat, tofu, and kidney beans are several good iron sources. Consider an iron supplement if it's not already included in your diet, and a multivitamin and mineral supplement.

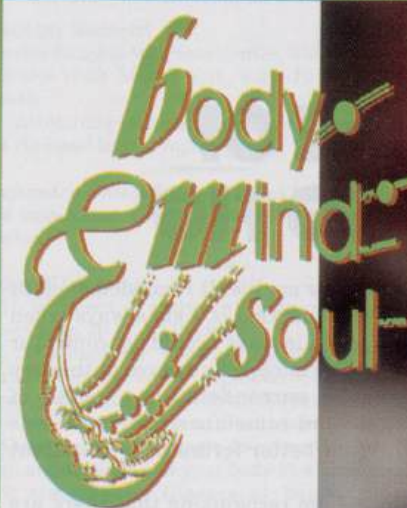
Tip #8: Eat Your Breakfast.

Breakfast helps you maintain a steady blood sugar and energy level. Include some protein and carbohydrates in your morning meal (and lunch, too) and try to eat small meals and snacks throughout the day to maintain steady energy. And, don't overeat at night or snack excessively after dinner.

Finally, limit your caffeine, simple sugar, and alcohol intake. Try limiting your sugar to 10 percent of your daily caloric intake, your caffeine to three servings per day, and alcohol to fewer than five drinks a week. Be sure to add some physical activity to your daily routine, too.

Exercise has been proven to boost energy and mood levels, and research has shown that you can exercise before or after you eat. So, whichever is comfortable and convenient for you is all you have to decide on. Besides, after practicing these tips, you'll have all the energy you need to have a perfect workout!

John-Aaron is a nationally certified personal trainer, member of the International Association of Fitness Professionals, and owner of Houston's Muscle Mechanics, a personal fitness training and nutritional guidance facility. He can be reached at Musclemech@aol.com.



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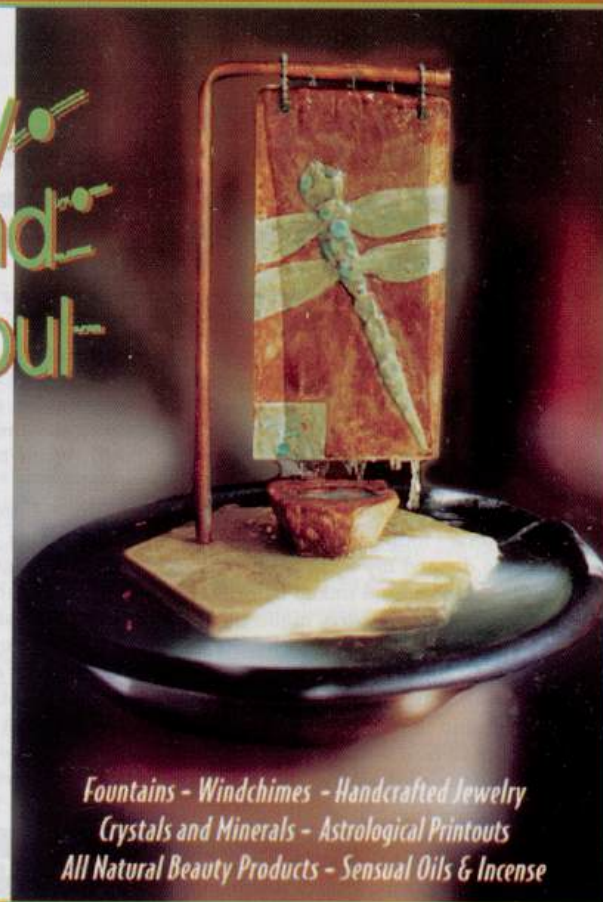
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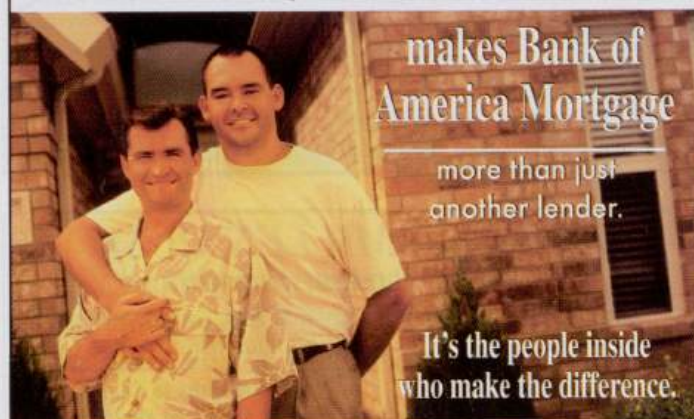
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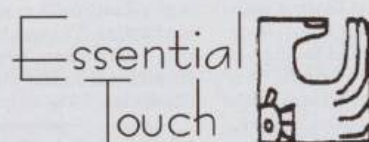
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From the Heart

by Alan Cohen

THE MIRACLE OF THE FLOATING FIG

I arrived at Harbin Hot Springs at two o'clock in the morning, tired and hungry. Quickly I found my way to the locker room, peeled off my clothes, and immersed myself in the soothing body-temperature mineral waters. Ahhhhhhhhh... Instantly I could feel my tired muscles, stiff and aching after a long day's travel, unwinding and absorbing the warmth of the healing waters. I found a seat on the underwater ledge, leaned my head back against the rim of the pool, and naked before God, gazed into the endless starry night. Silently I uttered a prayer of thanks for finding my way to this healing sanctuary.

But there was still a problem: I was famished. I had not eaten for many hours and, unable to find a store or restaurant during my late-night drive through the rural mountain region, I arrived without any provisions. The onsite restaurant would not be open until the morning, and I began to feel anxious about not being able to get anything to eat until the next day.

Then I looked around me and realized I was in a place of great beauty and well-being. An all-night candle issued its mellow glow just above my head, while a mountain stream chanted a playful lullaby just a few yards from the pool. Surely God was in this place. Though I was alone, I was not alone spiritually. Somehow, I reasoned, I would be taken care of; even if I had to go without food for a while, my heart was full.

Just then my reveries were interrupted by something touching my lip—an object had floated toward me and bumped into my mouth. I reached to remove it and discovered it was a fresh fig! Can you imagine my surprise and delight to find a sweet delicacy finding me in the middle of a hungry night? In rhythm with the grace of the moment I opened my mouth and received communion from providence—the tastiest fig I have ever enjoyed.

Then I looked up to find that I was sitting beneath a huge fig tree that spread its leafy limbs out over my entire section of the pool! Below the tree were many figs, freshly fallen, floating on the surface of the pool. I made a short round and collected a handful. Then I went on to enjoy a most treasured midnight snack.

This experience has become a key

metaphor for my life. It reminded me that wherever I am, God is. I am always taken care of, often in ways I could not control or plan on. The miracle fig arrived at the very moment I surrendered my sense of struggle and remembered that all was well. What better formula for abundant living?

Now I am recognizing that there are always figs (metaphorically speaking) wherever I go. A *Course in Miracles* asks us to remember, "I am content to be wherever He wishes, knowing He goes there with me." Perhaps Albert Einstein said it best: "There are only two ways to live your life: As if nothing is a miracle, or as if everything is a miracle."

My sense of awe is expanding daily; I am recapturing the wonder of childhood, which faded from my life when I was told

that if I wanted something good to happen, I had to manipulate to get it. Now I know that something good is always happening, and all I have to do is discover it.

Recently I was waiting in the checkout line at the local health food store. In front of me was a little boy, perhaps a year old, sitting in the seat of his mother's shopping basket. I caught the child's eyes, and he burst into a huge smile. Then he began to giggle and wave his hands in ecstasy. This child was living in pure bliss. At that moment it occurred to me that his joy was not dependent on anything that was happening around him. Waves of delight were just rolling up from inside of him. He was thrilled to just be alive and feel the presence of life in him, through him, as him.

Jewish theologian Abraham Heschel wrote a wonderful book called *God in Search of Man*. We do not have to search for God; we just need to show up right where we are, and God will find us. My fig miracle was not an exception to the laws of life; it was the fulfillment of them. There are an infinite number of figs to be enjoyed, and an infinite number of ways they can reach us. "Wherever I am, God is, and all is well."

Alan Cohen lives in Maui, Hawaii, and is the author of 14 popular inspirational books including the award-winning *A Deep Breath of Life*. Visit Alan's website at www.alancohen.com, or call 800/568-3079.

The Heart of Yoga continued from page 61

9 a.m.; Sun., 8:30-9:30 a.m. First class free, \$10/class; \$32/4 classes; \$75 monthly unlimited.

Kundalini yoga varies from hatha yoga quite a bit, but it is still yoga. Classes concentrate on the subtle energy centers in the body, or chakras, and aim to activate these centers using mantras (a saying that is repeated in a chant), mudras ("locks" of the hands and body), physical postures, and breathing and meditation techniques. Emphasis is on spiritual development, coupled with stability and vitality. Intimate atmosphere. Class size: 5 to 15.

One of the teachers here also teaches Kundalini yoga in the Heights at 731 E. 27th St., 713/861-4810. Mon. & Thu., 10-11, 11:30-12:30, 3-4, 4:15-5:30. \$10/class.

Bikram's Yoga College of India

Mike Winter, director

2438-A South Blvd., 713/664-5333. Mon.-Fri., 7:50 & 9:30 a.m.; Mon.-Thu., 6:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 9:30 a.m. \$15/class, package deals available, monthly unlimited \$180.

Scientifically designed to address all body systems using a set sequence of 26 yoga postures and breathing in a 90-minute class. Developed by Bikram Choudhury, "yogi to the stars." Thermostat is set high, to encourage you to work up a purifying sweat; classes are rather physically demanding. Class size: 10 to 25.

Yoga Center of Houston

John Coon, director

3701 W. Alabama, Suite 230 @ Bryan J. Peters & Associates, 713/524-4572, <http://www.yoga-center.com>. Multilevel instruction, plus also offers classes on yoga therapeutics and ayurveda.

Classes are conducted at Bryan J. Peter's & Associates, under the direction of John Coon, who has trained extensively throughout the United States and India. Style of yoga is called Vinyasakrama, which is a step-by-step method of teaching asana, incorporating the postures in a flow series called *vinyasa*, while coordinating breath and movement. Classes are physically demanding. Schedule: Mon.-Thu., 6-7:30 p.m.; Sat., 8:45-10:15 a.m. \$85 monthly unlimited; drop in \$15; other packages available. Class size: 30.

Kay Westcott

Multiple locations, 713/729-8285. Prices vary, but are in the low range of yoga classes.

One of the few yoga teachers in town teaching fulltime, Kay offers classes at a variety of locations around town. Kay's yoga classes are for the fitness buff, if there is such a thing. A more athletic, challenging yoga, with emphasis on stretching the physical body, although Kay always gives options for a variety of abilities. Relaxed atmosphere with requests taken from the students for poses, but at relatively fast pace and physically demanding.

- YWCA (Waugh @ Memorial) Mon. & Wed., 5 & 6 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.
- YMCA Downtown, 1600 Louisiana, Tue. & Thu., 5:30 p.m.
- Bryan Peters & Associates, Tue. & Thu., 8:30 a.m.
- Fitness Exchange, 4040 Milam, Mon., 7:30 p.m.
- Downtown Fitness Center, 806 Main, Tue. & Fri., 12:45 p.m.
- Bally Total Fitness (West U), 2500 Dunston, Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 11:45 a.m.
- Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood, Thu., 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 2 p.m.

Billie Gollnick and Dolores Clark

Jung Center, 5200 Montrose Blvd., 713/524-8253. 12-week session \$150 members/\$180 non-

members; \$215/\$260 for Billie's intermediate class. Register through the Jung Center; next 12-week session begins April 10.

Billie Gollnick

She now holds her hatha yoga classes in the peaceful ambience of the Jung Center. Emphasis is on breathing and freedom in a playful, intimate, yet meditative atmosphere. Students are encouraged to move at their own pace to increase strength, flexibility, balance, and energy. Register early; the classes fill up quickly. Beginner: Wed., 5:45-7:15 p.m.; Intermediate: Mon. & Thu., 5:45-7:15 p.m. Class size: 25.

Dolores Clark

"Finding Peace in Quiet Movement"

Incorporating breath and movement in traditional hatha yoga postures. Visualization, symbolism, and "active imagination" encouraged. Emphasis is on grounding and inner and outer awareness. Dolores has a calming teaching style and a gentle routine that is excellent for seniors or those who want a mild and welcoming introduction to yoga. Mon., noon-1:30 p.m. Class size 8-18.

Billie Gollnick & Erik Hardenbol

Healthspan, 1111 West Loop S., 713/961-7774 or 713/622-6135. Sat., 9:30 a.m.; Tue., 7:15 p.m.; and Wed., 7 p.m. (taught by Erik Hardenbol). \$15/class (1st class free), \$65 monthly unlimited.

Billie also teaches at Healthspan, a small exercise center in a Tarzan-like jungle setting off W. Loop and Post Oak Blvd. Similar to Billie's classes at the Jung Center but in a larger, fitness-oriented setting.

Maria Theresia and Roberto Mazzarella

Yoga for Every Body

Classes are made up of a set 37-posture sequence. Emphasis is on "listening to your body," while developing strength, flexibility, and balance. If you are just looking to relax and stretch at an affordable price, this is for you. \$5/class.

- Metropolitan Racquet Club, 713/652-0700, Allen Center Parking Garage, 6th Floor; Tue. & Thu., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Baylor Medical College-Raisor Hall, Wed., 6:15-7:15 p.m.
- St. Luke's Methodist Church, Room 263, Thu., 6-7 p.m.

Other classes available outside the loop, call 713/781-4621 for complete schedule. Class size: 15 to 40.

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Juanita Howard

Eureka Heights Wellness Center, 826 W. 32nd St., 713/869-1540. Mon. & Wed., 9:30-10:30 a.m. \$40/month.

Stretching, strengthening, and breathing in the classical hatha yoga style.

Alejandro Chaoul offers classes in Tibetan yoga and meditation. Call 713/621-7430 for more information.

Jane Wiley Keep

1110 Winburn in midtown Houston, across the street from HCC, 713/528-6971.

"The Yoga Bar" is Jane's vision for a new-age lounge. She holds her yoga classes here Mon., Wed., Fri., at noon, as well as at Planned Parenthood on Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.; Tue., noon. Traditional hatha yoga with emphasis on relaxation, meditation, and tuning in to your body in a noncompetitive atmosphere. Classes at her studio are slow-paced, beginner's classes catered to older people or those new to yoga. At Planned Parenthood, they are more challenging. \$5/class.

Nancy Sorenson

Naturally Yoga

St. Luke's Methodist Church (Westheimer @ Edloe), 281/345-1650. Tue., 6-7 p.m.; Sat., 9:30-10:30 a.m. \$5/class.

Nancy offers a good workout for all of the body systems in each class. Emphasis is on breathing, flexibility, relaxation, and health in a set sequence of yoga postures, at an affordable price. Class size: 15-25.

Mercedes Moore

Clubhouse of Allen House Apartments (off of W. Dallas and Dunlavy) 713/200-1199. Tue. & Thu., 7 p.m. \$5/class.

Beginning Bikram-style yoga classes. Well-rounded, with emphasis on breath, strength, and flexibility. Class size: 4-12.

Dolly Harvey

Heights Blvd. (call for exact location) 713/861-2204. Tue. & Thu., 7:15-8:30 p.m. \$10/class.

Beginning Iyengar classes held in a small beautiful setting in the Heights. Emphasis on alignment, extension, and precision. Class size limited.

Susan Govedare

Montrose area (call for location and schedule), 713/524-9012.

A student of John Coon's, Susan uses a traditional approach, synchronizing breath and movement. While classic postures and sequences build strength and flexibility, a meditative focus is maintained.

Fitness Clubs

Many health clubs include yoga at no charge, or a minimal charge to their members.

YMCA Downtown, 1600 Louisiana 713/659-8501. Mon., 6:40 p.m. (Nancy); Tue. & Thu., 11 a.m. (Gudrun); Tue. & Thu., 5:30 p.m. (Kay); Sat., 8:30 a.m. (Andrew)

Ernest & Co., 4006 Bellaire Blvd., 713/661-4020. Annette Raj, Sat., 11:30 a.m.

Fitness Exchange, 4040 Milam, 713/524-9932 Mon., 7:30 p.m. (Kay Westcott), Tue. & Thu., 8-9:30 a.m. (Liz Belile).

If you don't think you are ready just yet to jump into a yoga class, I encourage you to pick up a few books or yoga videos to practice with in your own home. Here are some suggestions:

- *The Sivananda Companion to Yoga* by Lucy Lidell
- *Yoga Journal's Yoga Basics: The Essential Beginner's Guide to Yoga for a Lifetime of Health and Fitness* by Mara Carrico
- *Living Yoga: A Comprehensive Guide to Daily Life*. Edited by Georg Feuerstein and Stephen Bodian
- *Yoga: The Spirit and Practice of Moving into Stillness* by Erich Schiffman
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Answers

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ACROSS

1 Cross-dressing
5 Have sex with
9 Genet biographer Edmund
14 ___ Mae of *Rubyfruit Jungle*
15 Exploiter
16 Subject of a house inspection test
17 Ejaculate
18 Sneaker or loafer
19 Clubs for Couples
20 Boyzone singer
23 Nevertheless, poetically
24 Mil. officers
25 Baby butches, e.g.
29 Gay.com or PlanetOut
31 ___-fi (Samuel Delaney's field)
34 An ___ Husband (movie of 41-Down)
35 He formed the group Bluesology in 1966
37 Demeanor
38 Puts on a little KY
39 Abba not in the music biz
40 Former lead singer of Culture Club
42 Poker tactic
43 FICA funds it
44 Big shots
45 Name or pleasure
46 Miriam ___-Shalom (lesbian who sued the military)
47 A 1950s military lesbian
48 Former singer for Wham!
55 *Corydon* author Gide
56 Dorothy of Kansas
57 Go down
59 Pass out
60 Subject of autoerotic fantasy?
61 A, as in Edison
62 Sing like the birdies sing
63 What we eat
64 Come together

1 Rap's Dr. ___
2 Puts the tongue between the cheeks
3 Keep ___ (persist)
4 Scandal suffix
5 Nose-tickling tufts
6 White as a sheet
7 Light gas
8 Olympic medalist Louganis
9 Winterson's ___ on *the Body*
10 Long-eared leapers
11 Worshipped one
12 Curtis who did 1-Across in *Some Like It Hot*
13 A pair for Charbonneau
21 Take off your clothes
22 Low-voiced ladies
25 Stocking stuffers
26 "Ciao!" in Chihuahua
27 "Ta-ta!"
28 Performed like k.d. lang
29 Slimy ones
30 "Let ___ Me"
31 Edna Ferber work about an erection?
32 Woo hopelessly
33 Boyd's *Gay Priest: an ___ Journey*
35 He shot off at O.K. Corral
36 Tennis champ Billie ___ King
38 Having sex, with "it"
41 Rupert of *My Best Friend's Wedding*
42 *Of Woman Born* author Adrienne
45 Come out of the closet, for example
46 Endured
47 *Salome* playwright
48 Eat, beaver-style
49 Singer Gorme
50 "Yikes!"
51 One of the Hawaiian Islands
52 ___ and Steve (possible Eden pair)
53 Perry and Della's creator
54 "The ___ that dares not speak its name"
55 Toward the rear, to sailors
58 Robertson who accused lesbians of witchcraft

SignOut

by Lilly Roddy

This is rather a quiet month. We probably need the break from all the activity since the new year. Only a couple of days to watch out for: April 14 & 15 (but then, you didn't need an astrologer to tell you to watch out for April 15, did you?), April 18 & 19, and April 26. The rest of the month is fairly nice and evenly paced.

And just in case you wondered how the date for Easter is chosen: Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring (with spring officially commencing on March 21, which is the first day of Aries). This year, the full moon in March occurred on the day before the Sun moved into Aries. So Easter doesn't occur until after the Sun enters the sign of Taurus. I like this time of celebration because all different kinds of religious belief systems can join together in this time of rebirth. Of course, I don't expect the Wiccans to be seen walking hand in hand with the Christians, just yet.

The sun begins the month in Aries, the Ram or Ewe (gender appropriate for your pleasure), and enters the sign of Taurus, the Cow or Bull on the 19th. Mercury finally moves out of Pisces, sign of the Fish, a naturally dual sign, and into Aries on the 12th. Venus starts the month in Pisces but quickly moves into Aries on the 6th. Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn are trodding through Taurus. Uranus and Neptune are continuing their visit to Aquarius, sign of the Water Bearer (no gender references, since we can all carry water). And Pluto remains in Sagittarius, the Archer, until 2008.

Aries (March 21–April 19) As this is your birthday month, April always represents a time of reviewing last year's goals and establishing new beginnings for this year. This year has you really focused on your financial affairs. You will want to throw caution to the wind and buy buy buy. But, don't don't don't. You will feel the pinch after the 15th. Relationships take the spotlight in the later half of the month with the full moon in Libra. This is a good time to renew your vows or a time to look for someone to make some vows with. The question for the end of the month is, What is your worth to your friends, lovers, and partners?

Taurus (April 20–May 20) April represents the beginning of a two-month period in which you will invite competition on all fronts and rears. Probably you will feel the greatest impact in your career sector, with you wanting to be in charge. You will not hold back on how you feel about things at work or your opinion of your boss. You will

experience "Deja moo" this month. That means you have heard this BS before. Watch that you don't force a confrontation and find yourself career challenged.

Gemini (May 21–June 21) Work is finally getting back into order, and that queasy feeling of chaos is lifting. Group activity is very important this month and may get you some notoriety. If you are not in a community group or business association, this is a great time to join one. You are more social than you have been lately, and the company would do you good. Look for some rest and retreat by the end of the month. You will have earned it.

Cancer (June 22–July 22) There will be lots of focus this month on your career and public life. You will want to be noticed and you will be. At work, you will take on a leadership role. Just be careful that in trying to lead the parade, you don't come into conflict with your boss. This is also a good month to be socially active. Like the Geminis, you will do well in group-related activities. All this socializing might also help increase your business contacts and opportunities.

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22) Try to spend the first half of this month relaxing. Take a trip. Go to a bed and breakfast. If you have a lover, take them with you. Look at some picture from a foreign port. Discuss philosophy. Because by mid-month, your career is going to have your attention. This can be a crucial time where you will want and demand more from your career. Conflicts here can and will arise. Try to remember that you cannot be challenged if you don't accept the challenge. And if you accept the challenge, take the large weapons.

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) This month you're feeling that your relationship needs to go a lot deeper. You are wanting to know and to share more intimate mysteries with your partner. This would be a great month for a getaway with that special person. Trying to keep secrets hidden will force them to the surface—and they will come out at the most inappropriate times. Be sure and enjoy the ease and flow of this month, because next month is very busy.

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) This month you will need partnership connections even more than usual for you. If you are in a relationship and your partner is not very much fun, you will want to dump her/him and go find someone who is. You are very adventuresome this month and you are more willing to take risks than usual. But do remember, if you play with matches, you usually start a fire.

Scorpio (Oct. 24–Nov. 21) Take care of those problems at work this month. You are tired of those piles around your desk. Work problems will create a greater stress if you don't address them as soon as possible. As we approach the end of the month, relationships will take the spotlight. And if there are issues there, the glare from the spotlight will let you and everyone else see them. Start talking now with your partner.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21) Your desire to have fun and be creative is what you are interested in this month. Don't plan anything too complicated or time consuming. Your propagating energies are very strong this month. Try to have something new to direct your attention to. At the end of the month, it is time to get your work station cleaned up. Then you will be ready to focus your attention once more.

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19) Fun at home with Dick and Jane, the Dysfunctional Family. Time to take a trip back home to visit the place where all of your unconscious motivations come from. So if you feel out of control, unable to get control your emotions, and your temper is raw: Welcome home! At the end of the month, you are ready for fun and play. Go to the theater, the beach, or indulge yourself in hedonistic pleasures. Or do all three. Keep your life schedule light.

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18) Lots of different projects and activities are up for you this month. You will be converging on the more mundane aspects of your life. They will not seem mundane to you because you will have to be paying a lot of attention to them. So, all the parts of your life that you take for granted, you will learn to appreciate them once again. The end of the month has you really focused on your home and family life. You will have a choice to either take charge or shut up.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20) Usually, you are not so concerned about money in your life. You are customarily more concerned about the quality and the meaning of life. But not so this month. And yes, this is the month you have to pay attention because your Uncle Sam is wanting his money on his day, April 15. By the end of the month, you are more ready for your normal life to return.



Your day-to-day interests reestablish themselves and all is right with the world.

Lilly Roddy is a Houston-based astrologer. She can be reached at phil@cybersim.com or www.cybersim.com/hermes.

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OUT IN HOUSTON

March 12, AIDS Walk Houston in partnership with Chase Bank ...

- 1 Rick Schroeder (l) and Marion Coleman
- 2 Steven Smith (l) and Rob Schmerler
- 3 David Romero gave free massages at the Muscle Mechanics booth.
- 4 44 Shell volunteers assembled in front of the AIDS Quilt.
- 5 (L-r) Rob Schmerler, Terry Haman, Jim Lindsey, Chris Cefalu, an unidentified walker, Rudy Elizondo, and Alex Stutler.
- 6 Houston Pride Band performs in front of the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Chase Bankers seen out:

- 7 Michelle Gregory (l) and Jeff Wallace of Chase Bank help Montrose Counseling Center "Bring in the Green" on March 17.
- 8 Chase Bankers (l-r) Elizabeth Goza, Steven Gillmore and Richard Bielec "Dining Out for Life" at Treebeards on March 16.

Saturday, March 18, Houston Human Rights Campaign Gala at the Westin Galleria Hotel...

- 9 Comic Georgia Ragsdale (r) and her mother.
- 10 David Muck (l) and Janine Brunges
- 11 Daryl Moore (l) and Rev. Helen Havens of St. Stephen's.
- 12 Peggy Stalter (l) and Maria Minicucci, president of Houston Gay and Lesbian Community Center.
- 13 (L-r) Mark Johnson, Mary Beth Reuter, and Shana Ross

- 14 Tammy Langley (center) won the cash from Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center 2000 Raffle. She poses with HLGCC treasurer Patrick McKee (l) and volunteer coordinator Eva Luchak.

- 15 Owners of Club Rainbow Lynn Allen (l) and Alexis Wasicuddin.

- 16 Paradise's favorite bartender Chris is cheek to cheek with loyal patron Colin on Thursday, March 9.

Correction: In the March 2000 issue, pictures 11 and 12 are from the AREA After Party at Tonic on Jan. 29, not OrchestraX Cosi Fan Tutte.



1: GREG JEU; 2-3: JOHN AARON; 4: UNCREDITED; 5: JOHN AARON; 6: GREG JEU; 7-8: UNCREDITED; 9-11: GREG JEU; 12: UNCREDITED; 13-16: JOHN AARON

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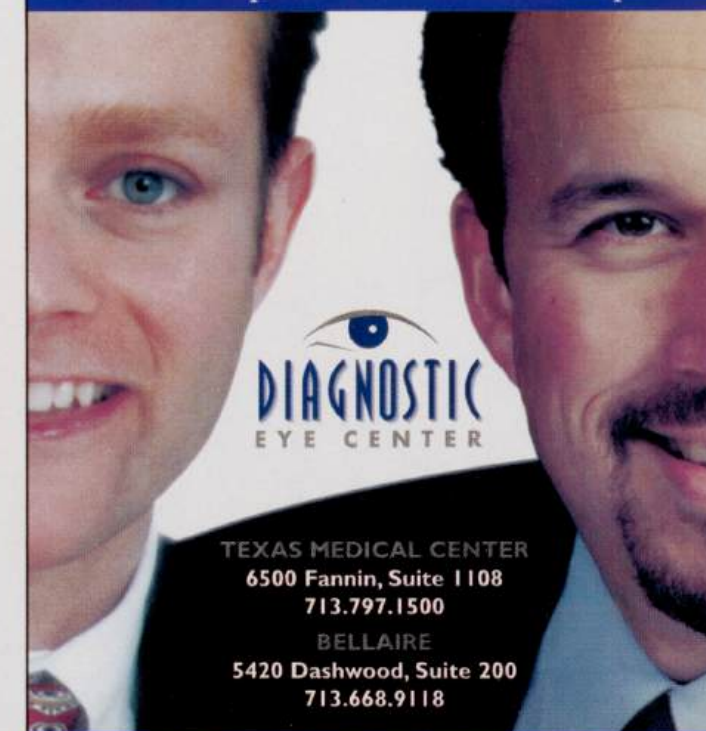
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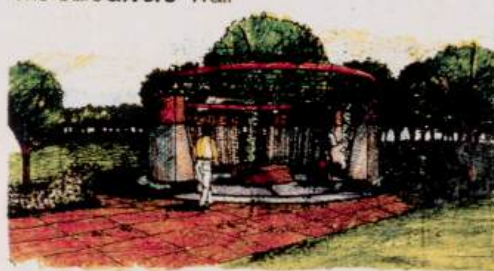
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