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Harvey Milk.*

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HARVEY

INSIDE: Texas Lesbian Conference • Sandra Bernhard • Galveston's gay mayor?
43 Brasserie • Positive/Negative photo essay • The AIDS rides saved my life

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ON THE COVER

HARVEY MILK on the Plymouth Savoy in which he and Joe Campbell moved to Texas in 1957. Plus a portrait of Harvey Milk in 1965. (Photographers unknown.) Photos courtesy Harvey Milk Archive/Scott Smith Collection at the San Francisco Public Library.
COVER DESIGN: LIZ VILVEN, VILVEN DESIGN GROUP



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TOP TO BOTTOM: DAN NICOLETTA; UNCREDITED; MARTIN VELA; TRI-STAR PICTURES

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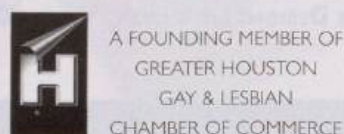
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COME CELEBRATE HARVEY'S BIRTHDAY!

CASTRO CAMERA

Harvey Milk would have turned 70 this Monday, May 22. On Harvey's birthday, OutSmart and the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center will be presenting the documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk*, followed by a panel discussion and reception/celebration. Narrated by Harvey Fierstein, the compelling film won the Oscar for best documentary in 1985. Following will be a panel discussion facilitated by Jack Valenski (host of KPFT's *Gay and Lesbian Voices*), which will include Cleve Jones (friend of Harvey Milk and founder of the AIDS quilt) and Ray Hill (who also knew Harvey Milk quite well), among others.



What: *The Times of Harvey Milk*.
When: Monday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.
Where: The Glassell School's Freed Auditorium (the glass brick building across from the Museum of Fine Arts), 5101 Montrose.
How much: Free and open to the public.

In&Out

News IN our community & OUT in the nation

HIV CLOUT

Would you like to have a voice in advocating for funding and services for people living with HIV and AIDS? The People With AIDS Coalition-Houston announces the start of **Project L.E.A.P.**, an intensive training program for HIV-positive individuals and others who want to become advocates for HIV/AIDS-related services and funding. This 100-hour, six-month program will give participants all of the knowledge necessary to serve on committees and councils that prioritize and allocate money for HIV/AIDS, such as the Ryan White Planning Council. To learn more, call project coordinator Rich Anschmidt at 713/522-5428, ext. 28.

NIGHT IN BLACK LEATHER

The Night in Black Leather (NIBL) at the Venture-N, March 24-25, raised an incredible \$15,300 for the Body Positive Wellness Center. Featuring Dr. Tony Mills, the event was produced by Don Gill Productions. "We are very happy to have exceeded our expectations to raise these funds for Body Positive," said Don Gill, organizer of the event. "In the past six years, NIBL has raised \$56,000 for six HIV nonprofit organizations. Don Gill Productions itself has raised close to \$500,000 in the past seven years for HIV and gay and lesbian causes. I feel very happy and proud that we have made a difference," added Gill. Don Gill's next project will be to raise money to build a CareGivers' Wall in a Montrose park to celebrate the lives of those who have cared for those who had died and survived HIV.

TEXAS HIGH COURT ASKED TO RECONSIDER TRANSSEXUAL CASE

AUSTIN—The Texas state Supreme Court has refused to review a state appeals court ruling that rejected the rights of the transsexual widow of a man to sue his doctors for medical negligence in his death. In October, a Texas state appeals court ruled that Christie Lee Littleton, 47, is legally male, and as such could not have legally married Jonathan Littleton and had no rights as his widow.

The appeals court based its ruling on the presumption that Christie Littleton remained a "chromosomal male" in spite of a sex-change operation and hormone therapy. Houston transgender rights activist Phyllis Frye is

Littleton's attorney. Frye is currently in the process of asking the state supreme court to reconsider its refusal; she says the court ignored reality.

"The State of Texas provided the facilities, the physicians, and some of the funding for Mrs. Littleton's surgery," says Frye, "gave her a State Identification Card saying 'female,' and the Internal Revenue Service accepted hers and her husband's annual Form 1040s as 'married filing jointly' for seven years."

Biologists for years have realized that not all females have an XX chromosome structure and not all males have XY chromosomes. Some geneticists estimated that as many as 1 in 400 people don't conform to the usual XX or XY chromosomal pattern. The best known instance was Eva Klobukowska of Poland who was eliminated from European Cup com-

petition because a chromosome test indicated her structure was XXY and she was declared to have been male. Several years later Klobukowska got her revenge when she became pregnant and had a child.

Frye wants the state's high court to reconsider its refusal to review the appeals court ruling because, among other things, Littleton was never tested to determine genetic status. The court, Frye says, just assumes she was male because she once had male sexual organs.

Complicating the case further, Texas law bars state officials—including courts—from using genetic information, so even if the court had wanted to test Littleton's chromosomes, it couldn't. In addition, Frye says, other state's courts have issued a variety of rulings concerning the legal status of married trans-

CLEVE JONES IN HOUSTON

Gay rights pioneer and founder of the AIDS memorial quilt Cleve Jones, will be in town Sunday-Monday, May 21-22, to promote his new autobiography *Stitching a Revolution: The Making of an Activist*. The book is a great read for those of us who have struggled with the movement from the beginning. But it's equally informative for those who want to learn how far we've come.

After confronting his parents with his sexual orientation, Cleve fled to San Francisco in 1972, only 17 years old. Eventually he became friends with, and political apprentice to, openly gay city supervisor Harvey Milk. Harvey's tragic assassination in 1978 and its aftermath really focused Cleve's activism.

But the defining event of Cleve's life has certainly been the AIDS epidemic. A simple idea to remember friends has turned into an international symbol of triumph over grief and love over prejudice. His own HIV diagnosis and illness has not dampened his spirit. In a phone conversation, his zest for life and commitment to the cause of global AIDS awareness was evident. He had just returned from a presentation of the quilt in South Africa, and a visit with Nelson Mandela. He wants Houstonians to know how grateful he is for their enormous dedication to his life's work. He says that, next to San Francisco, Houston was the first city to embrace the quilt.

—Craig Thistleton



JONES: KANE PRICE BOOK / HARPER SAN FRANCISCO



Cleve Jones will be signing his book and speaking Sunday, May 21, 4-6 p.m. at Crossroads Market, 1111 Westheimer, and Monday, May 22, 6:30 p.m. at Bookstop, 2922 S. Shepherd. On Monday, first come see Cleve at Bookstop, and then come see The Times of Harvey Milk, 7:30 p.m., at the Glassell School (across from the Museum of Fine Arts), where, after the film, Cleve will be part of a panel discussion talking about Harvey. There will also be a cocktail party fundraiser and reception with Cleve on Sunday evening benefitting Houston NAMES Project. (Call 281/493-4639 for more info; tickets are \$100.)

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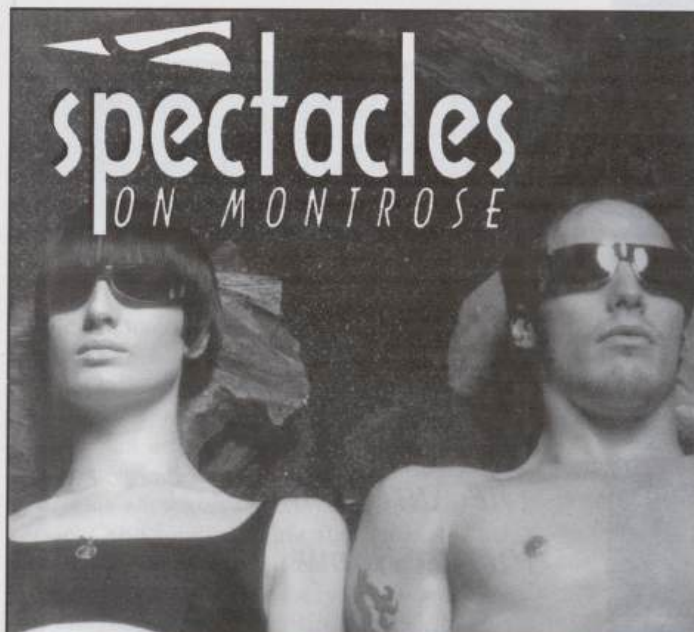
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sexuals that the appeals court did not take into account.

VERMONT SENATE OKs CIVIL UNIONS

MONTPELIER, Vt.—The Vermont state Senate approved by nearly 2-to-1 a bill recognizing civil unions for same-sex couples in the state after rejecting two other measures backed by foes of the legislation that would have amended the state constitution by defining marriage as only between a man and a woman and barring same-sex marriages.

The civil unions bill won Senate approval by a vote of 19-11, with 11 Republicans opposing it and 17 Democrats joined by two Republicans who voted in favor of the measure. Foes of the civil unions bill wanted the state's constitution amended to make sure the civil unions law isn't expanded in the future to legalizing marriages for gays and lesbians.

The civil unions measure was

almost identical to a measure already approved by the state House of Representatives earlier in March by a much closer vote of 76-69. The main difference between the Senate and House bills is simply the date the law would take effect. The Senate measure set July 1 while the House picked September 1 for the law to go into effect. But because of the fairly minor difference, the measure must now go back to the House for another vote, and that has raised some concerns that some lawmakers who had supported the bill earlier might now change their votes.

Gov. Howard Dean has supported the bill since the state Supreme Court ruling and has already said he would sign the measure when it reaches his desk.

The measure gives same-sex couples who enter into civil unions sweeping rights and responsibilities, including making medical decisions for one another,

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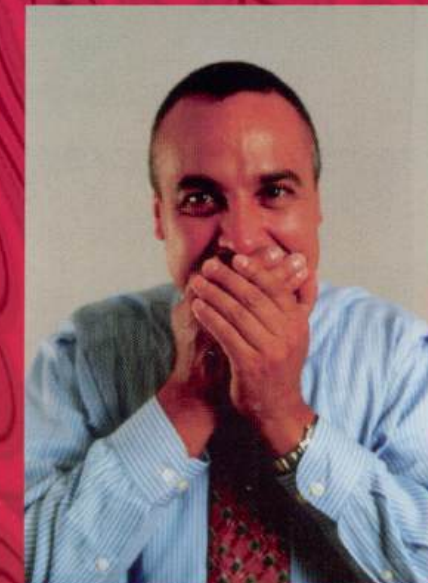
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**NOW'S ELIZABETH
TOLEDO TO LEAD NGLTF**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force has named Elizabeth Toledo to take over as its executive director beginning June 1.

Toledo served until recently as the National Organization for Women's vice president for action, a post concerned mainly with grassroots organizing for the country's leading feminist group. In a press statement, Toledo said, "NGLTF is the recognized leader in grassroots political activity in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender movement. I bring to NGLTF a commitment to grassroots training, organizing, and mobilization. One of my primary goals at NGLTF will be to strengthen GLBT infrastructure in all 50 states and on the national level."

Toledo replaces Kerry Lobel, NGLTF's outgoing director.

**GAY JOURNALIST
WINS PULITZER**

NEW YORK—Mark Schoofs, an openly gay columnist with the *Village Voice*, has won the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting. Schoofs was awarded the prize for an eight-part series, "AIDS: The Agony of Africa."

Although a number of openly gay and lesbian artists have won Pulitzers in literary and music categories, Schoofs is the first openly gay journalist to win a Pulitzer Prize as an individual in the journalism category.

**PROTESTS PLANNED AT
METHODIST CONFAB**

CLEVELAND—When the United Methodist General Conference gets under way in Cleveland May 2-12, the national church gathering will face more than 400 proposed resolutions about homosexuality.

Delegates at the conference will also be joined by some no-

table figures. On May 10, the Most Rev. George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, is slated to address the gathering—the first time the head of the Anglican Church has ever done so.

Outside the conference itself, however, will be another noted figure, protesting the Methodist and Anglican church policies restricting the role of gays and lesbians in their congregations: Arun Gandhi, grandson of Indian spiritual and civil rights leader Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi. Gandhi will be part of a protest at the United Methodist conference being organized by Souforce, the religious group that works for equality for gays and lesbians in churches. In a press statement, Dr. Mel White, co-founder of the organization, said, "We are using this civil disobedience and mass arrest to deliver a clear message to leaders of all the Christian churches. This tragic debate about God's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered children must end. The suffering has gone on far too long."

Also joining the protest will be the Rev. Dr. James Lawson, a United Methodist pastor who worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King to organize lunch counter sit-ins in the South, and the Rev. Dr. Robert Graetz, a Lutheran pastor whose home was bombed because he supported King's bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., in the 1950s.

**ROME PRIDE STIRS
CONTROVERSY**

ROME—If you think the Millennium March on Washington is embroiled in political controversy, consider the World Pride 2000 festival slated for July 1-9 in Rome, which is pitting the Roman city government against the Vatican—and has now caught up U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

The Roman Catholic Church has been strong-arming Rome officials for months in an effort to get the city to cancel permits for World Pride 2000, which is ex-

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pected to draw up to a half-million gays and lesbians from throughout Europe. Vatican officials say the event is an offense to the church which is celebrating the year 2000 as a jubilee marking the birth of Jesus Christ (even though historians generally agree Christ was probably born in the year 3 or 4 B.C.).

Now Vatican officials say organizers of the World Pride festival have received a letter from Gore, who is expected to be the Democratic nominee for president this year, saying he is "pleased to send greetings" and that Italian gay rights groups organizing the event are "building a good and just society on the bedrock principle of opportunity."

FUNDAMENTALISTS LOSING INTEREST IN HOMOSEXUALITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Fundamentalist Christians may be losing their interest in gay

rights issues and focusing more on general concerns, a recent National Associations of Evangelicals (NAE) survey suggests. A similar NAE survey in 1990 found that 75 percent of those polled said social issues like abortion and gay rights were the greatest problems facing America. Only 65 percent in the latest survey agreed. In the 1990 survey, 15 percent picked homosexuality specifically as one of the country's top three problems. In the 2000 poll, only 8 percent did.

John Green, a political scientist at the University of Akron in Ohio, who conducted the NAE survey, said evangelicals were "coming to terms with what it means to live in a diverse, pluralistic society. There is a sense that one can have one's own views about morality without needing to force them on other people." ■

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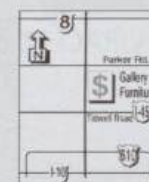
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longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common medications and some HIV related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset 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.)

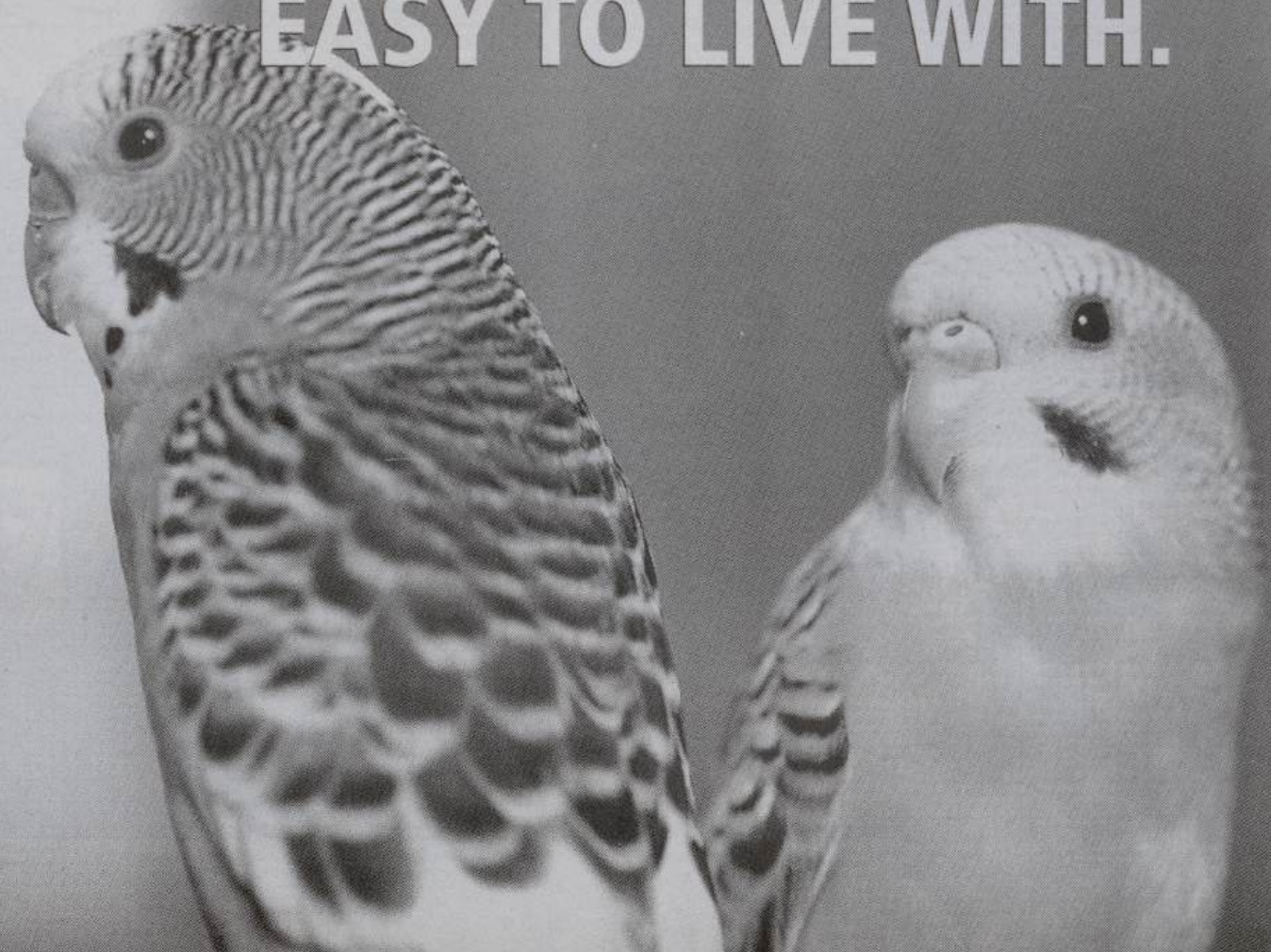
VIRACEPT
nelfinavir mesylate



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nelfinavir mesylate

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT[®] (VI-ra-cept)
Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

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 (Cafergot[®] 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)
- Videx[®] (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) 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	1 1/4
10.5	to <12	23	to <26.5	6	1 1/2
12	to <14	26.5	to <31	7	1 3/4
14	to <16	31	to <35	8	2
16	to <18	35	to <39.5	9	2 1/4
18	to <23	39.5	to <50.5	10	2 1/2
	≥23	≥50.5		15	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



Alan Morlan, an agent with Coldwell Banker Swilley Hudson recently completed training for designation as a certified Buyer's Representative. Contact him at 713/459-1705 if you would like to work with a trained professional.

Houston Buyer's Club (HBC), a vitamin and nutritional supplement discount club for people with life-threatening illnesses, received a \$5,000 grant from **Rothendtz Dizinger Foundation** underwriting a Spanish version of HBC's publication *How to Manage Side Effects*. The booklet is a clinical guide (referenced for medical staff) that teaches people living with HIV how to manage the harsh side effects associated with the disease. Houston Buyer's Club is open to the public and any purchase of their low cost vitamins and body-building nutritional supplements helps support the HBC's programs by providing nutritional products to people with HIV. For more information, call 713/520-5288.

Dr. Maria Minicucci announces the relocation of **The Center for Creativity, Knowledge and Change** from Toronto, Ontario to Houston. Dr. Minicucci, the director and founder of this organization will be offering a range of services focusing on access-

ing creativity, utilizing knowledge innovatively, and successfully creating change—personally and professionally. Dr. Minicucci has developed alternative and innovative methods through 20 years experience of working with couples, groups, and organizations in conflict. She also brings expertise to the nonprofit sector in the areas of:



Dennis Beedon (right) of RD Foundation presents a \$5,000 check to **Fred Walters, Jr. (left)** of Houston Buyers Club. The money will be used to print guides in Spanish that teach people living with HIV how to manage side effects caused by the disease or medication.

organizational reviews, board development, program development, diversity training. Her new location is 5959 W. Loop South, Suite 525, Bellaire. For more information, call 713/592-5262.

Grants up to \$500 will be awarded to Houston area women's organizations to carry out projects developed by workshop participants at the **1999 Mayor's Summit on Women—Women United: Celebrating the Past, Building the Future**. Applicants will be awarded through May 31. Reports of funded projects will be presented at the 2000 Women United conference, to be held November 5. For grant applications and further information, call 713/794-2480 or visit the website at www.womenunited.org.

Chase Bank contributes to downtown development with a 3,800 square foot mural project. Houston artist **Suzanne Sellers** is creating the mural for the 41 by 94 feet outside wall of the Houston Club building at the corner of Milam and Capital. Her work, commissioned by Chase Bank of Texas, will tell the story of Houston's growth. Visual elements, all of which will be representative of the city's architectural history and diversity, will be separated by a image of crisscrossing steel girders. The mural will loom over what is now an outdoor park-

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ing lot, but will soon be a playground for the children of Chase employees, which will be adjacent to the company's new back-up child care facility.

Karen Derr and Associates Realty presents "Contemporary Art in Victorian Settings," a spring art show and home tour in Houston's historic Heights featuring local artists **Carrie Markello, John Palmer, and Robert Derr**. Their works will be on view at Karen Derr and Associates main office located at 1034 Heights Blvd., and at two newly constructed Victorian-style homes in the area. The show and tour will take place on May 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. A portion of proceeds from art sales on this evening will go to benefit the local charity Kid-Care, Inc.

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LeftOut

by Daryl Moore

BUSH SAYS HE'S A "BETTER PERSON" AFTER MEETING WITH GAYS—BETTER THAN WHAT?

Last fall on *Meet the Press*, George W. Bush said he would probably not meet with the Log Cabin Republicans because it would create a "huge political nightmare." Or, as Dubya's daddy might have said: "Wouldn't be prudent at this juncture...." The juncture being, of course, the need to shore up the support of religious conservatives necessary to win the Republican primary.

Later, in the midst of an unexpected battle with John McCain for the Republican nomination, Bush was asked in a radio interview whether he would appoint an openly gay person. Bush responded, "An openly known homosexual is somebody who probably wouldn't share my philosophy." His philosophy, of course, being his opposition to repealing Texas' antigay sodomy statute, his opposition to gays or lesbians adopting children, his opposition to the Em-

ployment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), and his opposition to including sexual orientation in any hate-crimes legislation.

After catching significant flak for refusing to meet with gay Republicans, and after several displays of decidedly uncompassionate conservatism toward gays and lesbians, Bush was finally compelled to justify his refusal even to meet with gay Republicans.

In short, he explained that he had refused to meet with the Log Cabins because they had decided to support McCain in the primary. The problem with Bush's reasoning is that the Log Cabins began supporting McCain only after Bush refused to meet with them. The significance of this chronology was apparently lost on Bush.

Now, after pandering to religious conservatives to sew up the Republican nomination, Bush has some serious making up to do to gay and lesbian voters. So, even though he

said it would be a "huge political nightmare," Bush scheduled a meeting with a small group of gay men.

He finally agreed to meet with a dozen gay Republicans hand-picked by Charles Francis, a gay public-relations consultant who is the brother of James Francis Jr., the chairman of the Texas Department of Public Safety and a Bush fundraiser. After the meeting, which lasted just over an hour, Bush emerged to announce that the meeting had made him "a better person." He also said that

continued on p. 22

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.



OutRight

by Dale Carpenter

SO SHOULD GAYS TRUST BUSH? WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE...

Now that George W. Bush has met with gay Republicans, we have to ask: Just how serious is he about courting gay support? There are three barometers we can use to gauge this; each is simple, clear, and completely within Bush's control.

For politically moderate and conservative gays who have feared another choice between bad and worse presidential candidates, there is finally a sliver of hope. Not even the unseemly and petty bickering among gay Republicans over who would attend their first-ever meeting with a GOP presidential nominee could overshadow the significance of the event. There is no going back. From now on, every Republican presidential nominee will be expected to have such meetings. Bush has also set an example for other GOP candidates around the country who have

long refused even to talk to gay groups. With this necessary first step completed, Bush now has a chance to prove he actually deserves our votes.

There is one issue of threshold importance across the gay political spectrum. As gay Republicans sat talking to Governor Bush in Austin, they were unindicted criminals in the eyes of the state of Texas. The state has an antigay sodomy law. Bush said in his 1994 gubernatorial campaign that he supports that law. I suspect he said so out of perceived political expedience rather than conviction, but he has never publicly retracted the statement.

It wouldn't be politically costly for Bush to say he was wrong. Only a handful of states still have sodomy laws directed solely at gay sex. And not one of them is a state Bush will likely lose. He has an opportunity

to lead by example on this—and have it cost him nothing.

It's no answer for Bush to say that sodomy laws are a matter for individual states to decide. The states-rights dodge might have worked in South Carolina, where the Confederate flag flies free, but Texas is Bush's own state.

Even prominent conservatives like Bill Kristol have come out against these anachronistic yet stigmatizing sodomy laws. Will

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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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homosexuals "are people from our neighborhoods, people with whom all of us went to school." And, contradicting his earlier statement, he said that sexual orientation "is not a factor" when considering someone for a job.

What is conspicuously absent from Bush's comments, however, is an explanation of how the meeting made him a better person. Was the fact that Bush grew up with gays and lesbians and went to school with them an epiphany? Did he realize for the first time during that 60-minute meeting that sexual orientation should not be included on an employment application? Hardly.

Bush's meeting with 12 gay men was all about perception and nothing about substance. It was all about Bush herding his Trojan elephant back to the middle of the road before November, after taking a sharp detour to the right during the Republican primary. And, it was all about shoring up the moderates that turned out to support John McCain, but who promised to stay home if Bush got the Republican nomination.

In 49 other states, gays and lesbians might actually wonder whether Bush really

is a better man—a different kind of Republican. After all, just four years ago Bob Dole would not even accept financial contributions from Log Cabins, but returned them.

Here in Texas, though, we don't have to wonder whether Bush is a better man on gay and lesbian issues. All we have to do is ask how many openly gay and lesbian people Bush has appointed in his 5 1/2 years as Texas governor. All we have to do is remember that Bush endorsed legislation banning adoptions by gays and lesbians. All we have to do is recall that Bush killed the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act because it included the term "sexual orientation."

Maybe Bush really is a better person after a single 60-minute meeting with 12 gay men. He says he is.

I say actions speak louder than words. I say that Bush isn't any different than Dole was on our issues, Bush is just more politically expedient.

Maybe I'm wrong and those gay Republicans who are swooning over Bush are right. They can take his word for it when he promises that after meeting with them he really is a better man.

I think he's just a better politician. ■

OutRight

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Bush finally do so?

In 1998, President Clinton issued an executive order barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in federal employment. It is his only substantive favor to gay people (other than the jobs he gave to campaign contributors). A congressional effort to prevent money from being used to enforce the order was defeated with the help of some House Republicans.

Conservatives generally don't like employment antidiscrimination laws since such measures constitute state interference in private business. That's why many, including many gay conservatives, oppose the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act and similar state proposals around the country to forbid discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in private employment.

But the principle of noninterference in private employment doesn't apply to Clinton's executive order. Tax-paying citizens have a right to expect their government, at the very least, not to practice invidious discrimination in its own hiring and firing practices. The executive order is nothing more than the legal guarantee of

that justified expectation.

The next president will have the unilateral power to rescind the executive order or to keep it in place. Will Bush keep the policy?

In June, the Texas GOP will hold its biennial state convention in Houston. In 1996 and again in 1998, the state party refused to grant gay Republicans information booth space at the convention. To justify their decision, party leaders cited the state's antigay sodomy law—the same law Bush has supported—and publicly compared homosexuals to pedophiles. (Full disclosure: I was president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas in 1996, when the group initiated an ultimately unsuccessful lawsuit against the state GOP for reneging on its contract to provide a booth. In 1998, I helped organize a rally outside the convention hall to protest the decision that year.)

On both occasions, Bush was silent about his party's decision to exclude gays. He did denounce the party's "name-calling" in 1998, but he never intervened to ensure actual access to the convention itself. Now it seems Texas GOP leaders are willing to risk another embarrassing and needless public confrontation with Log Cabin by denying the group a booth again this year.

Bush has tried to avoid taking a stand on the issue by saying it's an internal matter for state party leaders, not the governor, to decide. But that's hogwash. If the Texas GOP decided to exclude African-Americans, Latinos, or women, Bush wouldn't remain mute. As the national party's presidential nominee, Bush can get just about whatever he wants at his own state party's convention. Even if he can't persuade Texas GOP leaders to change their minds, he can at least say publicly that exclusion is wrong.

If Bush is not willing to stand up to the far right over this, it's doubtful he can be trusted to stand up to them on matters of far greater significance. Will Bush support the effort of gay Republicans to have a simple information booth at the Texas state convention?

There are many other high-profile policy issues directly affecting gays this year, including federal hate crimes legislation and the military's ban on openly gay personnel. But none seems as clear-cut as the sodomy law, the executive order, and the booth. These may be small matters in the grand scheme of things, but Bush's handling of them will say a lot about the kind of president he would be. We'll be watching. ■



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In May, the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center salutes two leaders.

Urvashi Vaid

Reception hosted by the
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
Saturday, May 20

Harvey Milk

The Times of Harvey Milk screening and panel discussion. Presented with *OutSmart* at the Glassell School of Art, Monday, May 22.

Call 713/524-3818 for details and information on other May programs, including the May 6-7 Community Yard Sale.

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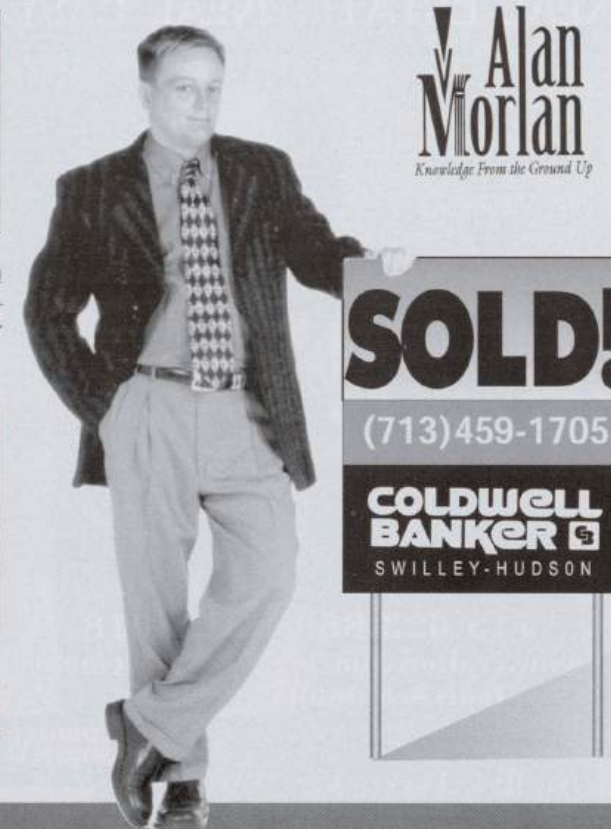


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GALVESTON'S GAY MAYOR?

As Galveston city councilman David Bowers vies for the mayor's office, his being gay just isn't a big deal

by Jeffrey Downs



In Houston, when Annise Parker was elected to city council in 1997, the first openly gay person to hold public office in Houston, the gay community exalted. It had been a long time coming, several gay people had tried to gain the council seat in the past, and Parker herself had lost in two campaigns. The local gay press used terms like "making history."

David Bowers must have been bemused. After all, he'd already been on Galveston's city council for three years, since 1994. While Bowers was never actively associated with the gay community like Parker is, he has always been open about his sexual orientation. It's just that in Galveston, it's not such a big deal.

Far from being considered a fringe candidate, Bowers has been voted "Best City Council Person" three years straight by Galveston's hometown newspaper, the *Galveston County Daily News*. He is both an attorney and realtor. He belongs to the Rotary Club, has been on the board of the Galveston Historical Society, and served as president of the Silk Stocking Historical District Association. And now he is running for mayor in Galveston's elections on May 6 against incumbent Roger Quiroga.

"We haven't done a poll," Heber Taylor, editor of the *Daily News*, told *OutSmart*, "but I'm hearing anecdotally that it's probably going to be pretty close."

"[It is important that] gays and lesbians seek political office," Bowers says, "whether they be Log Cabin Republicans or Stonewall Democrats." He urges members of our community

not to give up the right to participate in government. "Everyone should keep in mind the phrase *liberty and justice for all*, and what those words really mean."

I met the tall, dark-haired Bowers at his home—a charming shotgun cottage he shares with his partner. He welcomed me with a firm handshake and a tour of the house. From the beginning of our meeting he emphasized his continued desire for "good, clean politics." This to him, he explained, meant "exposing and removing internal corruption and special interest groups," as he calls them, who put their agenda before the public's.

This is no mere politician's rhetoric: In one of his boldest moves, Bowers publicly opposed the Moody family over working conditions for laborers in the Port of Galveston. The Moodys are one of Galveston's oldest and wealthiest families, and they wield considerable power. The atmosphere became so tense that Bowers was forced to hire armed guards to protect his home.

Born in Kansas, and reared in Vermont, Bowers moved to Galveston in 1989. He has been a "political junkie," as he puts it, all his life. In fact, eight out of the last nine generations of his family have had members who held public office.

I spoke with Bowers and his campaign manager, Fran Holmes, about many things. For the most part, Bowers' sexuality has been a non-issue within the scope of the many issues he faces as a public official and may-

oral candidate. He considers his sexuality "as private as his spirituality," and has never flaunted either.

Yet when there is an issue that affects or deals with the gay community, he is often contacted for comment by the media. When members of a right-wing religious group protested at Matthew Shepard's funeral, Bowers spoke out on the local television news as a public figure and as a gay man: "When hate puts on a religious collar, it is still hate."

Another Galveston public official, Don Mafrige, used the word "queer" on a flyer to describe Bowers' stand on a particular issue. Mafrige claimed it was not an attack on Bowers' sexual orientation. However, Mafrige's own people, when confronted directly by Bowers, admitted that it was an intentional smear tactic on Mafrige's part. The smear back-lashed. The diverse people of Galveston, according to Bowers, saw it for what it was—a desperate attack. They simply did not care about him being gay. As Bowers said, "It's just no big deal anymore." The rest of Texas could well learn a lesson from Galveston's electorate.

Another incident that brought Bowers in front of the cameras occurred in 1998 when a local Baptist minister, Ken Barber of the Grace Baptist Church of Galveston, spoke out against a gay couple who opened the Hollywood Guest House on the Seawall. Once again, Bowers was moved to speak out against the intolerance. As I watched a short documentary produced by A&M film students on the controversy over the guest house, I was impressed by Galvestonians' tolerance, and by Bowers' intelligent, well-spoken defense of the couple as businessmen—businessmen who also happened to be gay. The minister tried to portray the entire episode as a den of immoral activity, sin, etc. He even tried to include pederasty and anti-Semitism as part of his outrage. Thankfully no real trouble or violence stemmed from Barber's attack. The controversy (and the Reverend Barber) has been all but forgotten.

I find it refreshing that Bowers' openness about being gay is basically irrelevant to his public life. It certainly speaks well of the people of Galveston. Bowers is proud of the island's diversity, which he credits as strengthening its cohesiveness as a community.

Judging from the dozens and dozens of signs I saw sprouting from people's lawns supporting him for mayor, Galveston is proud of Bowers. He has found their support "exciting and gratifying." He wanted to make it very clear that his political mission is to "clean up local government that it may better serve everyone."

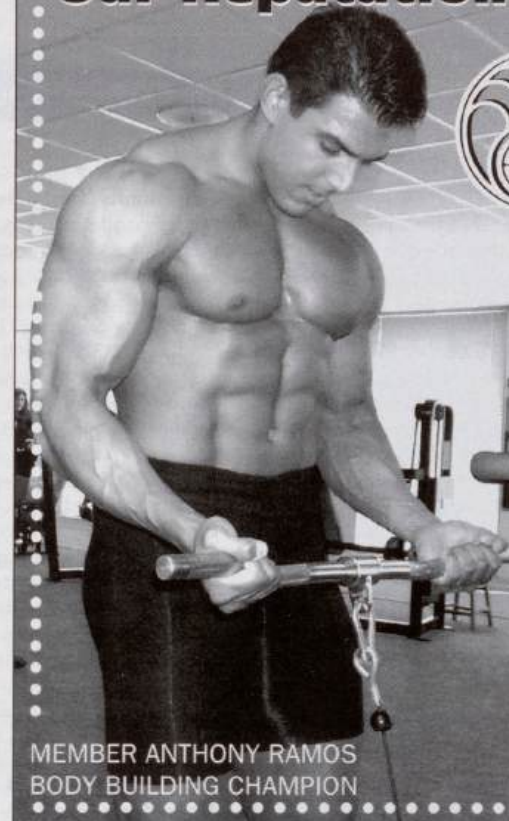
"No matter what your orientation, inner self-esteem moves you to do something, even if you're the only one in town doing it..." Luckily, Bowers is not the only one in his town who feels as he does, so we may well be seeing a gay mayor in Galveston.

Galveston's mayoral election is May 6. Information on Bowers' background and political stands may be found at www.DavidBowersForMayor.com.

Jeffrey Downs is a former resident of Galveston, who is now living and writing in Houston.

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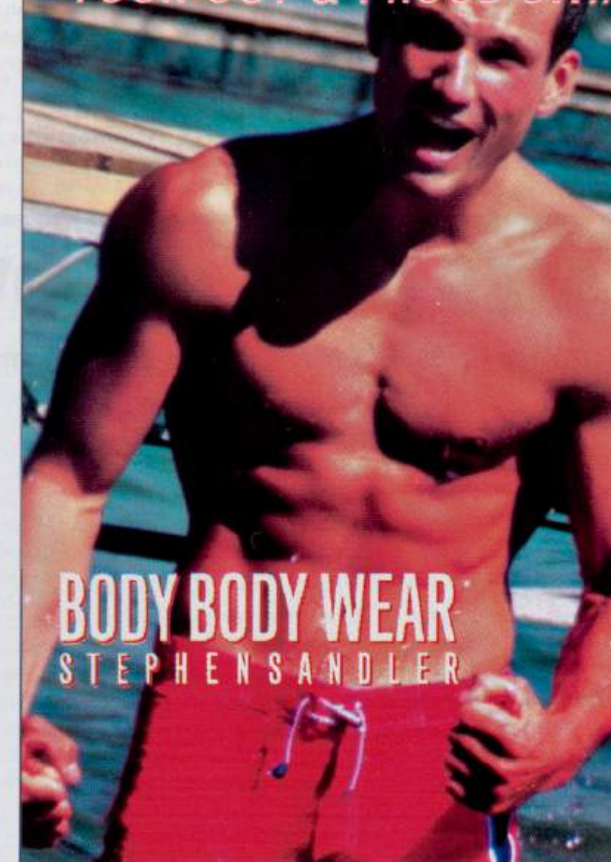
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Calendar of Events

MAY

Deadline for OutSmart's June issue is 5 p.m., Friday, May 12.

1, 8, 15, 22 (Mons.)

Fathers First is a group of men finding answers among themselves regarding relationships with their children, wives/ex-wives, and partners. Therapist Noel Gonzalez, MA, will moderate the meetings on the 8th & 22nd. Every Monday, 8-9 pm @ Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh at Missouri. Membership is \$25/year; guests are free. For more info: 281/505-1788.

2-7 (Tue.-Sun.)

Red, White & Tuna. The 25th anniversary of The Grand 1894 Opera House's season comes to a side-splitting, hilarious close with the return of *Red, White & Tuna* for its 4th run since opening their world tour at The Grand in April, 1998. This *Tuna* presents to the world those eccentric but lovable citizens of Tuna, Texas, as they celebrate the 4th of July with a Tuna High School class reunion. Tickets \$9-\$38. At Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 800/821-1894.

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (Weds.)

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.

5 (Fri.)

Sandra Bernhard. She played a lesbian on *Roseanne*, and though she doesn't want to be labeled, she's pretty willing to be out there for us. The illustrious lady graces the stage for one

evening only, 8 pm @ Aerial Theater, 520 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$36.25-\$76.25) for the cabaret show can be purchased at the theater's box office, Ticketmaster outlets, or by phone at 713/629-3700. See interview on page 39.

5-7 (Fri.-Sun.)

Unity Pride Splash 2000 kicks off on Friday with a welcome party for out-of-town visitors. On Saturday everyone rocks at the Rockin' R Ranch (8336 Bender Road); \$20 gives you access onto the grounds, which will be filled with special events, vendors, games, dancers, pools, hot bodies contests, & more. Free B.B.Q. & beer from 11-2 pm, while dancing to the sounds of DJs from around the country. This event benefits AIDS Foundation Houston & Project Caesar. Sunday features the After Beach X-plosion from 6 pm-2 am at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto. Info: www.unity-pride-splash2000.com or 713/434-0100.

6 (Sat.)

Mental Vacation is the theme of this exhibition of the art of STUTZ. Attend the champagne reception from 7-9 pm @ Scudiero's Martini Bar, 817 W. Dallas. More info: 713/522-9824.

6 (Sat.)

Lambda Center Spring Garage Sale. Donations can be left anytime at the center, and everyone is invited to stop by to find something special. Lambda garage sales are always chock-full with items that you just can't seem to do without. 9 am-3 pm @ the center, 1201 W. Clay. Info: 713/521-1243.

6 & 7 (Sat. & Sun.)

Community Yard Sale. Browse the vendor booths at the outdoor Montrose marketplace. An indoor book sale will attract bibliophiles. 8 am-5 pm both days @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. More info: 713/524-3818.

6 & 13 (Sats.)

Silhouette Me. What do Liberace, Sammy Davis Jr., Lou Rawls, Mickey Rooney, Mohammed Ali, & Golda Meir have in common? They've all been silhouetted by Cindi Rose; now you can join them! Rose has been creating silhouettes since she was a teenager and is one of only 25 silhouette artists in the world. Join her on the 6th at Paula Fridkin Designs, 2534 Amherst or on the 13th at Tanglewood Pharmacy, 5750 Woodway (both days 11 am-1 pm & 2-4 pm). Each design is \$25 and no appointment is necessary. Proceeds will benefit OrchestraX. Info: 713/227-9101.

7, 14, 21, 28 (Suns.)

New Hope. The faith-based group New Hope Christian Center now worships every Sunday. Bonita Kirk, founder of the Black Gay and Lesbian Coalition, has started this denominational group. 11 am @ Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. For more info, call the center at 713/524-3818 or Kirk at 713/801-7386.

10 (Wed.)

Free Mammograms for women over the age of 50 who have an income of less than \$15,780 per year. The goal

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, MAY 12.

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).

10 (Wed.)

Preventing Lesbian Bed-Death: Promoting Positive Sexual Relationships. Women's Network presents psychotherapist Denise O'Doherty, who talks about how to avoid a sexless relationship. She'll cover emotional factors that lead to decreased sex in lesbian relationships and how to manage different levels of sexual drive of the partners. Donation of \$3-\$5 requested, but any woman is welcome regardless of ability to pay. 7-9 pm @ Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. For more info: 713/529-0037.

12 (Fri.)

Positive/Negative Reception. For the second year, the exhibition of

photographs taken by artists living with HIV/AIDS, who participate in weekly workshops at the Museum of Fine Arts, travels to the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, where it will remain for an extended run. The center will host this public reception for the artists and teacher and Houston artist Patrick Palmer from 6-8 pm @ 803 Hawthorne. For more information, call the center at 713/524-3818.

12 & 13 (Fri. & Sat.)

Drive By Dancing was created by Leslie Scates, who was struck by the idea of live roadside dance performances three years ago while driving along some of Houston's finest grid-locked freeways. See it from 5-5:30 pm on the 12th at various locations on Allen Parkway; then on the 13th from 1-1:30 pm at the Art Car Museum (140 Heights Blvd.) and 5-5:30 pm on Allen Parkway.

12 & 13 (Fri. & Sat.)

OrchestraX. Houston's 2nd-largest professional orchestra & opera presenter, presents *Pure American*, an American Country Celebration in which they will perform music celebrating American culture. 7 pm @ the Houston Polo Grounds, 8552 Memorial. Tickets for the cabaret-style seating are \$25 (students \$10). Info: OrchestraX at 713/225-6729 or www.orchestrax.org.

12-14, 19-21 (Fri.-Sun.)

The Texas Crawfish Festival is a fun family atmosphere with live entertainment on four stages, carnival, arts & craft vendors, a variety of authentic food vendors, and pounds upon pounds of crawfish. \$5 admission (children under 12 free). 6 pm-midnight on Fri.; noon-midnight on Sat.; noon-6 pm on Sun. @ Preservation Park Old Town Spring. More info: 1-800-OLD-TOWN.

14 (Sun.) & 27 (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.

19 (Fri.)

The Homeless Pet Placement League (HPPL) hosts its annual fundraiser this evening. This year's theme—Y2K-9-LIVES CELEBRATION—is in honor of the thousands of stray & abandoned animals that have found loving homes through HPPL and the continued commitment of HHPL to end pet overpopulation in the new millennium. Evening

includes silent & live auctions, music, food, & door prizes. Advanced tickets (\$25) can be purchased at any HPPL mobile adoption or by calling 713/862-7387. Tickets are \$30 at the door. Attire is dressy casual. 7-11 pm @ Houston City Club in the Greenway Plaza area. Info: 713/862-7387 or www.HPPL.org.

20 (Sat.)

Urvashi Vaid Reception. The Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will host this afternoon reception for the renowned activist, author, and director of the NGLTF Policy Institute. Mark your calendars for this one—she is not to be missed. If we're really lucky, her spouse, comic Kate Clinton, will appear by her side. Open to the public at no charge. 2 pm @ Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

20 & 21 (Sat. & Sun.)

Girls With Guitars. The acoustic duo will be strumming their guitars on Saturday (9-7 pm) @ The Vintage Bar, 4356 Westheimer at Mid Lane (713/355-3093); tickets \$3 at the door. Then on Sunday, they're strumming again, this time in an "in-the-round" format, trading songs with Ken Gaines & Wayne Wilkerson, from 6-9 pm @ Open Circle Coffeehouse, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 1504 Wirt Rd.; tickets \$10 at the door. See also: Planning Ahead.

20 & 21 (Sat. & Sun.)

Fine Arts Home Show. Exhibiting a gallery of fine arts including furniture, paintings, pottery, stained glass, tile & stone art, sculptures, metal art, and more. Noon-6 pm @ the Heights Fire Station Community Center, 12th & Yale in the Heights.

22 (Mon.)

Got Milk? Yep, and free of charge! To commemorate the 70th birthday of the great Harvey Milk, OutSmart and the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center will cosponsor a screening of the 1984 Academy Award-winning documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk*. For those of you who want even more Milk, join in the panel discussion after the film; Jack Valinski, activist and host of KPFT's "Lesbian and Gay Voices," will moderate. Panelists include Cleve Jones and Ray Hill. The event is open to the public at no charge. 7 pm @ Freed Auditorium in the Glassell School of Art of the Museum of Fine Arts, 5101 Montrose. For more info: 713/520-7237 (OutSmart) or 713/524-3818 (the center). See *Harvey Milk* feature on page 52.

22, 24, 29, 31 (Mons. & Weds.)

Queers Quitin'. The American Cancer Society is offering FreshStart, its monthly smoking-cessation class, for anyone wanting to quit smoking. FreshStart consists of four one-hour classes held during a two-week period. Sessions range from 12-15 persons and are led



Debra Messing, Joan Collins, and Megan Mullaley

GRACE GETS DYNASTY DIVA

Joan Collins, the woman who could have easily penned *Valley of the Dolls*, gets all dolled up for a *Will & Grace* episode. Though we haven't viewed the episode, word is that she is in serious competition with Grace, the character played by Debra Messing. If you miss not getting your *Dynasty* fix, maybe Collins will give you some relief in this fun episode of *Will & Grace* to air Tuesday, May 9, at 8 p.m. on NBC. • If you still need more Collins, see her as Pearl Slaghoople (Wilma's mother) in the new *Flintstones* movie, *Viva Rock Vegas*, AND in *Love Letters* with Stacy Keach at Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, May 18-21; charge tickets by calling Ticketmaster at 713/629-3700.

by a trained ex-smoker or health professional. Participants must pre-register with a \$20 deposit, which is refunded after completion of all four classes. 6-7 p.m. @ 6301 Richmond. To register or for more info: 713/266-2877.

23 (Tue.)

Menopause: 2000. Learn how natural therapies can help you in menopause, how salivary hormone testing works, and the differences in hormone preparations. Cost: \$40 (\$35 if prepaid by May 15). 5:30-9 pm @ Spectrum Cen-

ter, 4100 Westheimer at Mid Lane, suite 235, 713/840-8957. RSVP: Linda at 713/660-6620.

24 (Wed.)

HBO's If These Walls Could Talk 2 is presented by Women's Network. For those who missed it or want to watch it again, these are powerful vignettes of lesbian experiences. Donation of \$3-\$5 requested, but any woman is welcome regardless of ability to pay. 7-9 pm @ Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

DEAN JAMES GETS HIS OWN

Houstonian Dean James is "out" with his own murder mystery

Dark, steamy secrets lying under the façade of a tranquil Mississippi town emerge to the surface in Dean James' engaging new mystery novel, *Cruel as the Grave*. Openly gay James, senior manager of Houston's nationally known mystery specialty bookstore Murder by the Book, combines his Southern heritage and passion for mystery writing in

his first novel-length fiction, debuting this month with a book signing and discussion on May 31. • James' interest in suspense novels and stories began early in his childhood in Mississippi, where he read Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys and wrote his first novel when he was 12. Since then he's moved to Texas, and has been part-time manager of Murder by the Book since 1984, and full-time manager since 1996. He has also co-authored and co-edited several books on women mystery writers, as well as published various short stories, one of which, "The Village Vampire and Oboe of Death," was nominated for the Agatha Award for Best Short Story in 1998. •

James' novel debut, *Cruel as the Grave*, which includes a minor character who is gay, combines murder, suspense, family secrets, and rich Southern culture in one hauntingly gripping mix. "It is a witty and solid debut that will leave mystery readers clamoring for more," says fellow murder mystery writer Earlene Fowler, author of *Seven Sisters*. —Maria K. McKeethan



James, Dean

BOOKSIGNING/DISCUSSION

Who: Dean James, author
Where: Murder by the Book, 2342 Bissonnet
When: Wed., May 31 • 6 p.m.
Cost: Free
Info: 713/524-8597

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26 & 27 (Fri. & Sat.)

Monthly Fabric Sale is presented by the NAMES Project Houston from 1-5 pm @ 4617 Montrose, ste. C-140. For more info: 713/526-2637.

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

26-June 4 (Fri.-Fri.)

4th Annual Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. See pullout section in the center of this issue of *OutSmart* magazine for a complete schedule of films, descriptions, photos, dates, & times. See a slew of gay films @ Angelika Film Center, Aurora Picture Show, DiverseWorks, Landmark Theatres, Museum of Fine Arts, & Rice University Media Center. Info: www.hglff.org.

PLANNING AHEAD

June

1 (Thu.)

Girls With Guitars. The acoustic duo strum guitars from 6-9 pm @ Hickory Hollow, 101 Heights Blvd.

23 (Fri.)

The Brandon Teena Story. Susan Muska and Gréta Ólafsdóttir produced and directed this important film, the nonfiction version of *Boys Don't Cry* (for which Hilary Swank received a Best Actress Oscar last month). A panel discussion will follow the screening, 7:30 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. More info: 713/524-3818.

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. Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, through June 3 @ 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.

◆ **Art.** Winner of the 1998 Tony Award for Best Play and London's Olivier & London Evening Standard awards for Best Comedy, *Art* goes on display in Houston. This comedy centers on three men whose friend-

ship is thrown into turmoil over, of all things, a painting. The play's debate about a piece of modern art turns into an exploration of the nature of friendship, male friendship in particular. The premise of this debate is brought on by Serge, the art lover, who purchases a canvas that is, for practical purposes, completely white. His longtime friend, Marc, is infuriated by what he sees as the stupidity of such a move. His anger causes him to question the entire basis of their friendship. Yvan, their mutual friend, tries to mediate, but finds himself caught in the crossfire. May 30-June 4 @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Charge by phone at 713/629-3700.

◆ **Douglas Mitchell Play Festival.** Mitchell, who was named Stages' playwright-in-residence in October, began writing plays in 1990. He has been on the Rice University faculty as a linguist for 20 years. Now, at age 69, his work is being recognized. Stages is producing six Equity productions over three consecutive weekends. The first weekend was in April, but week two (May 4-6) presents *Any Old Passion* and *Loss of Interest*; and week three (May 11-13) presents *How to Sacrifice a Child* and *Shatter the Golden Vessel*. Tickets are \$12 each. All plays are @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/52-STAGE.

◆ **Fat Men in Skirts.** by Nicky Silver, leaves nothing sacred. Starting with a plane crash on a desert island, and moving to the home of a Hollywood director, everything from incest & cannibalism is in the mix. This brilliantly crafted, savage comedy explores the many facets of insanity and delves into the relationship between love & harm. Tickets are \$15. Performances are Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, with a Sunday matinee May 21 at 3 pm, and a "pay what you want" show May 22 at 8 pm. Through May 27 @ Ashland St. Theatre Co., 2610 Ashland, 713/426-3019.

◆ **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. Through 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. Through 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, 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). Through May 13 @ Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd. More info: 713/682-3525.

◆ **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, thrills, & sing-along-able songs to keep you laughing & humming long after the evening's

THE CAR GUYS (& 2 WOMEN)



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There's this thing about older American cars," explains Joe Wilson, president of Houston's Classic Chassis Car Club. "You either look at it and just see a huge hunk of steel. Or you see this incredibly well-crafted machine that'll never exist again."

If you'd like to see some of these huge hunks of steel up close, the Chassis guys are

throwing a mini-show on **Sunday, May 7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.** in a parking lot at Stanford and Pacific Street (graciously



"Flora Fleetwood" is a '63 Cadillac Fleetwood 60 Special.

loaned to them by Dennis Entler at the 611).

One of four chapters in Texas, the gay antique car club has been meeting for 11 years, and is for anyone interested in antique or classic cars, in models, or in "automobilia" (such as car ads and other peripherals). "You don't have to own a car," says Wilson. "So many people have told me they don't want to join till they buy a car, and I say it's better to join first, and let us help you get your car."

Members range from impoverished ("like me,"

Wilson says) to quite wealthy. They are mostly men, but there is one lesbian couple, and even a straight guy. Members help each other out with repairs, and have a great time in the meantime. The summer will be filled with pool parties. They just finished a wild-flower tour to the antique car museum in Round Top, and a junkyard crawl (literally)

through the weeds of a huge 40-acre lot south of town filled with decaying cars from the '50s and '60s.

"Within the gay community we're like a sub sub group. A lot of people look at us as though we're oddballs," says Wilson. "You got your hands greasy, ooo." But we love it."

The car club is recruiting new members to join in the fun. They meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Blue Agave, 1340 West Gray. Even if you don't want to join, this is a good time for some envious gawking, as members often show off their cars in the parking lot. For more info, call 713/797-8615.

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♦ **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. Tickets are \$26-\$37. Through May 7 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/52-STAGE.

♦ **A New Brain.** the return to the stage of Falsettos composer/lyricist William Finn, traces the life of composer Gordon Schwinn, who, after experiencing a seizure, learns he has a rare condition which causes fluid to build up on his brain. A potentially dangerous operation is needed, and there is a chance that Gordon could die. Loosely biographical (Finn suffered a brain seizure and was hospitalized in 1992, shortly after the successful opening of Falsettos on Broadway), Gordon is haunted by all the songs he may never write if he doesn't survive. So he writes them...from his hospital bed, from his wheelchair, from the depths of an MRI. In fact, much of A New Brain takes place in the mind of the "dying" Schwinn, and three of the musical numbers actually occur while he's in a coma! In the end, bolstered by the support of his mother, his boyfriend Roger, & many other good friends, Gordon finds the courage to confront his mortality, and ultimately survives the operation to experience a joyous rebirth. 8 pm (Sundays at 7), May 12-June 3 @ The Little Room Downstairs Theater, 2326 Bissonnet (between Greenbriar & Kirby), 713/523-0791. Previews (\$10) are May 12 & 13. Opening night is May 15. Performances continue thru June 3, Fridays & Saturdays (\$20) and Sundays & Mondays (\$15).

♦ **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. Through May 6 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$32-\$49) are available at the Alley box office or by calling 713/228-8421.

♦ **This Is Our Youth** by Kenneth Lonergan is a play about Gen Y kids (19-year-old potheads) disguised as a play about Gen X kids (it's set in 1982) and labeled with a stern, paternalistic title, presumably to draw in the older adults who still must be counted on to finance these efforts. Something for everybody, yes? Yes! 8 pm, Fridays & Saturdays, through May 13 @ Atomic Cafe, 1320 Nance (downtown, off I-10 eastbound, McKee St. exit). Tickets \$12. Reservations: 713/222-ATOM. Directions: 713/228-8294.

♦ **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. Through May 28 @ Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo. Tickets (\$20-\$22) available by calling the box office at 713/868-7516.

THEATER

Young People

♦ **Mad Hatter's Arts Camp.** Though this doesn't take place till June, you'll need to plan ahead for this fun-filled month of imagination & creativity. InterActive Theater Company's *Mad Hatter's Arts Camp* offers two sessions of two weeks: Mon.-Fri., June 5-16; or Mon.-Fri., June 19-30 (both 9 am-2 pm). During each session, instructors provide four classes specially designed for children, each focusing on a different discipline of art: dance, drama, art, & percussion. The cost of each session is \$275. Classes held @ Lambert Hall Performing Arts Center, 1703 Heights Blvd. at W. 17th St. For more info, call 713/862-7112.

♦ **The Princess and The Pea.** Based on Hans Christian Anderson's well-known fairy tale, this play tells the story of a feisty princess who is lured from her home by Gustav the Troll and must undergo a series of tests to prove she is a "real" princess. Through June 3 @ 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.

♦ **The Waiting Room** by Richard Kamler is a work of interactive installation art that recreates the experience of a death row visiting room. May 31-June 30 @ the Art League of Houston, 1953 Montrose, 713/523-9530.

CALENDAR DEADLINE for June issue:
5 p.m., Friday, May 12

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GrooveOut

by Chris Sill

British trip-hop/electronica duo Olive resurface on American shores with their second full-length CD, *Trickle*. It's been three long years since the group stormed into tastier U.S. clubs and up the charts with their now classic single "You're Not Alone." What should have been the group's crossover radio hit ended up lost in the shuffle due to poor promotion at their former label home RCA. The same label is currently set to release Kristine W's much-anticipated second CD. One hopes the forces at work at RCA have learned from past mistakes. But the future looks much brighter for Olive. They now call Maverick Records home thanks to the savvy ears of label founders Madonna and Guy Oseary. The co-partners



Extra Virgin (their first full-length CD) left off. It's a collection of moody trip-hop flavored tracks created by Tim Kellest and brought to life by the breathy vocal stylings of Ruth-Ann. The pair co-wrote most of the CD's 12 songs, proving once again their songwriting depth and their ability to inject the often lifeless layers of electronic beats with human emotion. The emotional

IN MY CD PLAYER

Trickle—Olive (Maverick)
Go Deeper Vol. 2—Julius Papp
(Maxi/Razor&Tie)
Another Late Night—DJ Dan (Moonshine)

TRICKLE (GETS) DOWN

decided to add the duo to the label roster after hearing material they submitted for *The Next Best Thing* soundtrack.

Except for the absence of band member Robin Taylor-Firth, *Trickle* continues where

climate is often one of heartache and conflict. Such is the case with the melancholic irony of "Smile," one of the CD's brightest but saddest moments. And on "Trust You," Ruth-Anne's restrained pleas are hauntingly accompanied by Kellett's screeching trumpet and eerie keyboard stabs.

Trickle's first single will be the CD's only cover song, "I'm Not In Love." The classic 10CC song has been remade with speedy drum and bass beats and will premiere in nightclubs this month with a host of remixes.

"Trickle" defined means to come or go slowly. In Olive's case, *Trickle* means a CD with lasting power, one that goes

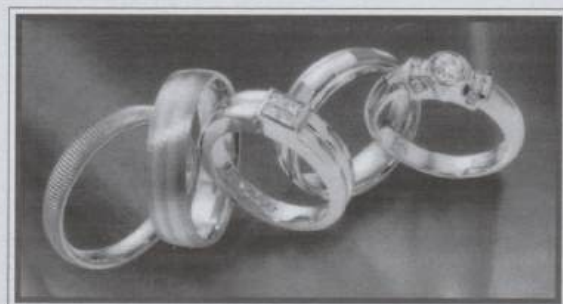
nowhere but in your CD player...for a very long time.

Trickle hits stores May 30.

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



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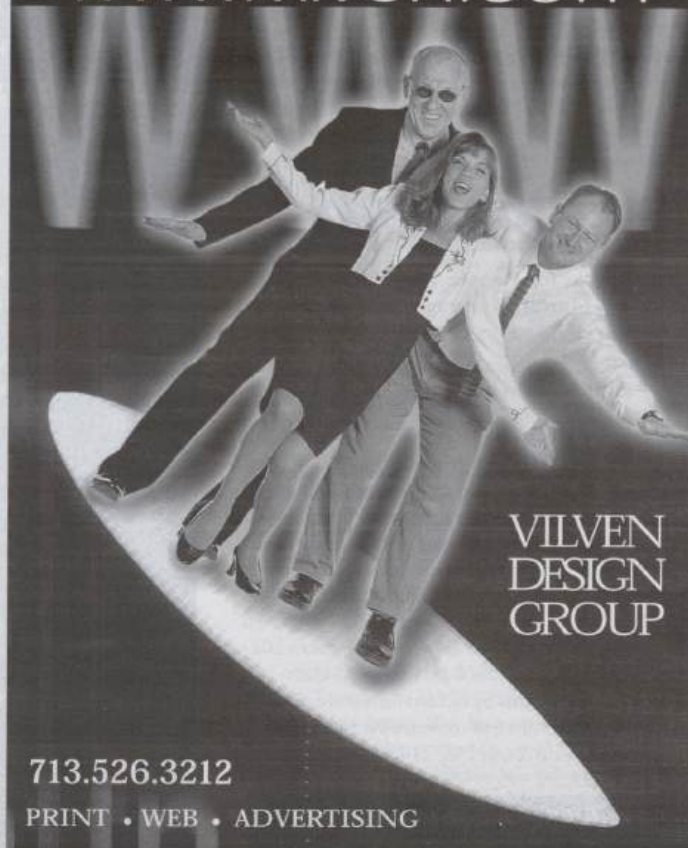
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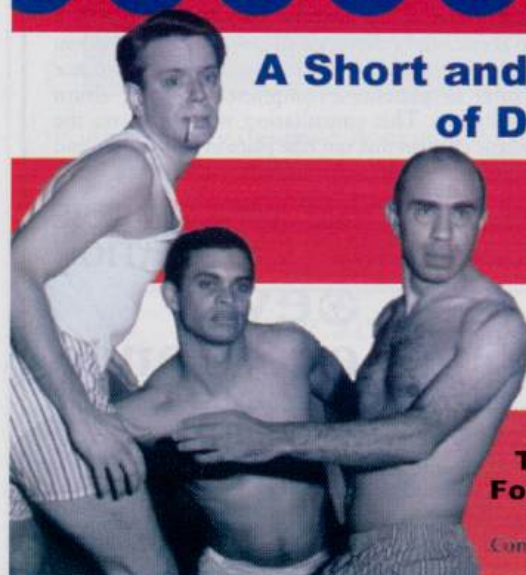
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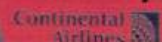
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FOR MATURE AUDIENCES

This provocative series from BBC TV follows the lives of three gay men living it large in Manchester's gay village.

Aurora Picture Show

**School's Out: Gay &
Lesbian Teen Portraits**

Tues., May 30, 8 p.m. (75 min.)

A program of short films looking at teenagers coming to terms with their sexuality. Features include *Boy Next Door*; *Family*; *I Know Who I Am...Do You?*; and *Shari Shapiro's Slumber Party*.

DiverseWorks

The Wrong Body

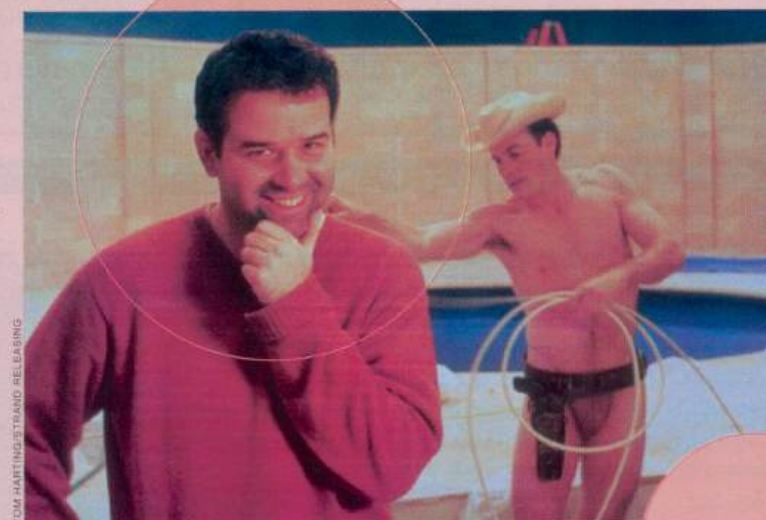
Wed., May 31, 7 p.m. (105 min.)

An intelligent and often humorous account of a young person's struggle of being a man in a woman's body. Followed by a discussion led by Rice gender studies professor Lynne Huffer.

Forbidden Love in the Twilight World of the Third Sex

Fri., June 2, 8 p.m. (98 min.)

Examines some of the many faces of discrimination that are rampant within the larger society and within the homosexual community. Features *Shame No More*; *Which Is Scary*; *Fruit Machine*; and *A*



▲ Beefcake

▼ Bedrooms and Hallways



Upper photo: We've got a pretty good idea why Thom Fitzgerald (l) is smiling—it probably has something to do with the guy who's about to lasso him. That guy—actor Josh Peace—plays Neil O'Hara in the Fitzgerald-directed *Beefcake*, the film that opens Houston's 4th annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. The film is scheduled to play May 26-June 2 at Landmark's Greenway Theatre. Lower photo: Also part of the festival is *Bedrooms and Hallways*, starring Tom Hollander (l) and Julie Graham; not pictured is Hugo Weaving, who wowed us in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. *Bedrooms and Hallways* is directed by Rose Troche (inset) of *Go Fish* fame and is scheduled for June 2 and June 4 showings at the Rice Media Center.

Love Story, which is a documentary based on the story of Aimee & Jaguar (two lesbians in Nazi Germany, one a Jew, the other a Nazi).

Eating in Bed Is Good

Fri., June 2, 10 p.m. (87 min.)

FOR MATURE AUDIENCES

Exploring love, lust, Lisa, and the inner you, this selection of video shorts focuses on lesbians. Featured shorts include: *B D Women*; *Lisa, Lisa*; *I'm Starving*; *Bed*; *Below the Belt*; *Sex Fish*; *Women in Black*.

**Landmark's
Greenway Theatre**

Beefcake

Fri., May 26-June 2, times tba

FOR MATURE AUDIENCES

Behind the gleaming, well-oiled muscles and fitness advice of the 1950s physique magazines was a secret world of swinging cats, daring hopheads, reckless love affairs, and repressed sensuality. This is the funny and provocative true tale of the rise and fall of physique photographer Bob Mizer. *Beefcake* is directed by Thom Fitzgerald, who gave us the beautiful *The Hanging Garden*, his debut feature. As themselves: Joe D'Allesandro, Jack LaLanne, Russ Warner, Dave Martin, Jim Lassiter, Joe Lietai, and Valentine Hooven. Be warned (or be advised): nudity.

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Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Women of Vision

Sat. & Mon., May 27 & 29, 3 p.m. (80 min.)

This documentary explores a rich but under-represented component of American art and politics. Each half-hour segment is composed of six portraits of diverse women exploring ideas within feminist media. *Special appearance by director Alexandra Juhasz on May 27.*

Those Who Love Me Can Take the Train

Sat.-Mon., May 27-29, 5 p.m. (122 min.) (subtitled)

A vibrant, emotionally charged peek into the lives of a group of friends and lovers who bicker and romance their way to the funeral of an old friend.

Cheryl Dunye Short Films

Sat., May 27, 7:30 p.m. (65 min.)

Filmmaker Cheryl Dunye presents the following selection of her short films: *Janine*; *She Don't Fade*; *An Untitled Portrait*; *The Potluck* and *the Passion*; and *Greetings From Africa*.

The Watermelon Woman

Sat., May 27, 9 p.m. (90 min.)

Cheryl Dunye's debut feature follows Cheryl, played by herself, as she struggles to make a

video documentary about a beautiful 1930s film actress popularly known as "the watermelon woman." A cult classic.

Chocolate Babies

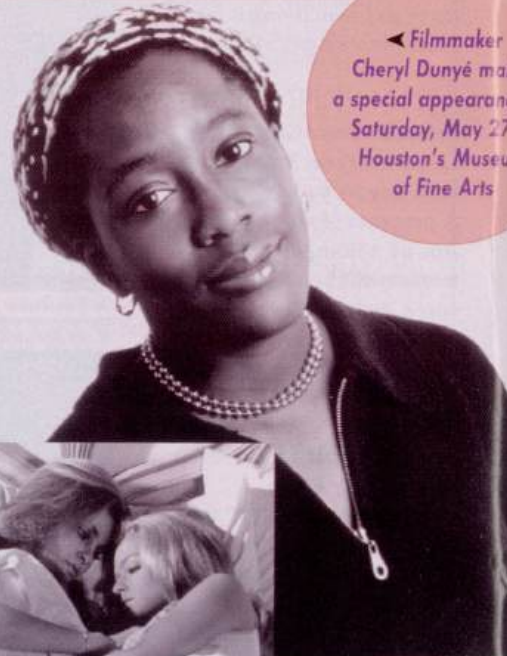
Sun. & Mon., May 28 & 29, 7:30 p.m. (83 min.)

An underground band of HIV-positive queer urban activists of color stage political actions against New York politicians who are suspected of maintaining secret lists of HIV-posi-



▲ The First Day of the Beginning of the End of the World

◀ Jenni Stark, the director of *The First Day...*, will attend the screening at Rice Media Center.



◀ Filmmaker Cheryl Dunye makes a special appearance on Saturday, May 27 at Houston's Museum of Fine Arts



◀ Raquel Welch (l) and Farrah Fawcett in *Myra Breckinridge*.

tive individuals. A roller-coaster ride with engaging characters and outrageous performances. *Preceding are two short films, A Kiss in the Snow* (22 min.) and *Your Kiss* (4 min.).



◀ A Thousand Miles
▼ A Kiss in the Snow



◀ Catherine Deneuve (l) and John Stephen Hill in *The Hunger*.

► Ruth Ellis with a friend and inset in *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100*.

Rice University Media Center

Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100

Thurs., June 1, 6 p.m. (60 min.)

Inspiring documentary about Ruth Ellis, the oldest known "out" lesbian. Winner of the audience award for best documentary at both the San Francisco and Los Angeles gay and lesbian film festivals.

◀ A Thousand Miles
▼ A Kiss in the Snow



Outtakes

Thurs., June 1, 7:30 p.m. (72 min.)

A charming romantic comedy about the growing attraction between a lesbian "Casanova" director and her "straight" assistant director.

The Hunger

Thurs., June 1, 9:30 p.m. (98 min.)

This vampire classic with delightfully heavy lesbian undertones stars Catherine Deneuve as an ageless undead who sets her fangs on the sensuous Susan Sarandon!

Rice & Potatoes (58 min.)

Fri., June 2, 6 p.m.

Warmhearted documentary about Asian men and the Caucasians who love them.

Bedrooms and Hallways (96 min.)

Fri., June 2, 7:30 p.m. and Sun., June 4, 9 p.m.

Director Rose Troche (*Go Fish*) returns with this triumphantly comic British romp celebrating the vices and virtues of gay dating. Stars Kevin McKidd (*Trainspotting*) and Hugo Weaving (*Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*).

Gendernauts (86 min.)

Fri., June 2, 9:30 p.m.

Controversial German director Monica Truett's

Friday, May 26 • Saturday, May 27 • Sunday, May 28 • Monday, May 29 • Tuesday, May 30 • Wednesday, May 31 • Thursday, June 1 • Friday, June 2 • Saturday, June 3 • Sunday, June 4

Beefcake
Landmark's
Greenway Theatre
(call theater for showtimes)

Technicolor 2000
The Opening Party
for Houston's Film Festival.
Join celebrity hosts
Cheryl Dunye (director
of *Watermelon Woman*),
Lauren Anderson and
Dominic Walsh (stars of
Houston Ballet's *Cleopatra*),
and **Roseann Rogers**
(Channel 2's "Buzz Lady")
6-8 p.m.

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave.
\$15 for ticket to the party,
purchased at the door

Women of Vision
Museum of Fine Arts, 3 p.m.

**Those Who Love Me
Can Take the Train**
Museum of Fine Arts, 5 p.m.

Cheryl Dunye Short Films
Museum of Fine Arts, 7:30 p.m.

The Watermelon Woman
Museum of Fine Arts, 9 p.m.

**Those Who Love Me
Can Take the Train**
Museum of Fine Arts
5 p.m.

Chocolate Babies
Museum of Fine Arts
7:30 p.m.

Women of Vision
Museum of Fine Arts
3 p.m.

**Those Who Love Me
Can Take the Train**
Museum of Fine Arts
5 p.m.

Chocolate Babies
Museum of Fine Arts
7:30 p.m.

**School's Out: Gay &
Lesbian Teen Portraits**
Aurora Picture Show
8 p.m.

OutSmart Website
www.outsmartmagazine.com

The Wrong Body
DiverseWorks
7 p.m.

**Houston
Gay & Lesbian
Film Festival Website**
www.hglff.org

**Living With Pride:
Ruth Ellis @ 100**
Rice Media Center
6 p.m.

Outtakes
Rice Media Center
7:30 p.m.

The Hunger
Rice Media Center
9:30 p.m.

All dates
and times are
subject to change, so
please call venue
to confirm.

**Queer as Folk and
Queer as Folk 2**
Angelika Film Center
(call theater for showtimes)

Rice & Potatoes
Rice Media Center, 6 p.m.

Bedrooms and Hallways
Rice Media Center, 7:30 p.m.

**Forbidden Love in the
Twilight World of 3rd Sex**
DiverseWorks, 8 p.m.

Gendernauts
Rice Media Center, 9:30 p.m.

Eating in Bed Is Good
DiverseWorks, 10 p.m.

Gay Youth Symposium
Rice Media Center
3:30 p.m.

The Man Who Drove Mandela
Rice Media Center
5:30 p.m.

Lola and Billy the Kid
Rice Media Center
7:30 p.m.

Sitcom
Rice Media Center
9:30 p.m.

Myra Breckinridge
Rice Media Center
11:30 p.m.

Short Film Showcase
Rice Media Center
4 p.m.

**The Night Larry Kramer
Kissed Me**
Rice Media Center
7 p.m.

Bedrooms and Hallways
Rice Media Center
9 p.m.

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festival

**Angelika
Film Center**

Tickets: \$6.75 (\$4.50
discount shows, seniors,
and children)
Location: 510 Texas Ave.
Info: 713/225-5232

Aurora Picture Show

Tickets: \$5
Location: 800 Aurora St.
(between N. Main &
Cornell in the Heights)
Info: 713/868-2101 or www.aurorapictureshow.org

DiverseWorks

Tickets: \$6 (\$5 members)
Location: 1117 East Frwy
(off N. Main at Naylor)
Info: For reservations 24
hours in advance for any
screening, 713/335-3445

**Landmark's
Greenway Theatre**

Tickets: \$6.75 (\$4.75 for
discount shows, seniors,
and children)
Location: 5 Greenway Plaza
Info: 713/626-0402

Museum of Fine Arts

Tickets: \$5 (\$4 for
museum members,
seniors, students)
Location: 1001 Bissonnet
(enter thru Main St. doors)
Info: 713/639-7515

Rice Media Center

Tickets: \$5 (\$4 students, seniors,
and SWAMP members)
Location: Rice campus at entrance
#8 (University Blvd. @ Stockton)
Info: 713/348-4853 or
www.ruf.rice.edu/~cinema

OutSmartGuideTo HoustonGay&LesbianFilmFestival4

Sexy sexual explorer Annie Sprinkle stars in *Gendernauts*, a portrait of female-to-male transsexuals. It's one of a truly wide variety of films to be screened at Rice Media Center, like Myra Breckinridge.



Queer as Folk blew English TV drama off the straight and narrow; just to be sure it remained that way, Stuart, Vince, and Nathan came back in *Queer as Folk 2*. Now Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 4's got 'em. The numerous gay episodes will play at Angelika Film Center throughout the week from June 2-8. At press time, all episodes were also scheduled to play in succession on Sunday, June 4.



GENDERNAUTS: SPECTRA; QUEER AS FOLK: LONDON'S CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION

(*Seduction: The Cruel Woman*) fascinating and sensitive portrait of female-to-male transsexuals living out what the film refers to as "gender elimination phenomena." Features Texas Tomboy and Annie Sprinkle.

Gay Youth Symposium

Sat., June 3, 3:30 p.m. (Free Admission)

This symposium underwritten by PFLAG will include a special screening of the documentary *Surviving Friendly Fire*, an account of the controversial play *Friendly Fire*, in which 10 homeless gay and lesbian teens performed each other's life stories.

The Man Who Drove With Mandela

Sat., June 3, 5:30 p.m. (82 min.)

Greta Schiller's (*Paris Was a Woman*) moving account of Cecil Williams, a gay British-born theater director in South Africa who played an instrumental role in the anti-apartheid movement.

Lola and Billy the Kid (Lola und Bilidikid)

Sat., June 3, 7:30 p.m. (94 min.) (German and Turkish with English subtitles)

The controversial German film about the complex relationship between three Turkish immigrant brothers torn apart by a dark secret.

Sitcom

Sat., June 3, 9:30 p.m. (85 min.) (French with English subtitles)

Enfant terrible François Ozon (*Summer Dress*) returns with this

Buñuelian tale of a French bourgeois family and the lab rat that seduces them into living out their most repressed desires.

Myra Breckinridge

Sat., June 3, 11:30 p.m. (94 min.)

Based on Gore Vidal's trashy novel, this even trashier interpretation features an all-star cast that includes Raquel Welch, Farrah Fawcett, Tom Selleck, John Huston, Rex Reed, and Mae West. *Preceding are the short films Heart On by Heyd Fontenot and Tumbleweed Town by Samara Halperin.*

Rice Media Center Short Film Showcase

Sun., June 4, 4 p.m. (2 hrs. 27 min.)

Program includes: *The Trey Billings Show* directed by David Briggs; *Battle for the Tiara* directed by Charley Lang; *A Thousand Miles* directed by Sharon Ferranti; *The Olive Tree* directed by George Camarda; *The First Day of the Beginning of the End of the World* directed by Jenni Stark. *Directors Sharon Ferranti and Jenni Stark will be in attendance.*

The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me

Sun., June 4, 7 p.m. (90 min.)

Performer David Drake's hugely popular one-man stage play is brought to the screen by director Tim Kirkman (*Dear Jesse*).

OutSmart's Gay & Lesbian Film Festival Guide Sponsored By

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Abrasive? Brash? Hilarious? No! No! No! • Well, maybe in her one-woman show. But in our phone interview, the diva was...well...utterly charming. I would probably not be going out on a limb by saying she was even introspective and spiritual. • Sandra Bernhard travels to Houston's Aerial Theatre on Friday, May 5, with her one-woman off-Broadway hit, *I'm Still Here...Damn It!*, the critically acclaimed show that ended its five-month run in 1998. Bernhard soon became a mom, and then did the show again, this time on Broadway. The show, which is ever-evolving and changing, has become a nationwide tour being performed to sold-out audiences. (To read more of this interview with the fascinating Sandra Bernhard, go to www.outsmartmagazine.com.) • I began our interview by asking Bernhard about her 21-month-old baby girl.

Sandra the Serious?!

**An interview
with the
fabulous
Sandra Bernhard**

by Blase DiStefano



OutSmart: How is Cicely?

Sandra Bernhard: She's great.

I read that her Hebrew name is Rachel.

Do you go by Cicely or Rachel?

I go by Cicely, but you know I'm very involved with my Kabbala and my studies. So when you're doing a connection spiritually, we use Rachel. Yeah, it's a spiritual name.

Do you get to take her with you on your tour?

Yes, she comes everywhere with me.

Does she look anything like David Crosby?

No, no. We went in a different direction.

[Laughter] On a somewhat related subject, do you think gays and lesbians should be able to legally marry?

I think they should have all the benefits that come from marriage, the protection that you get from that kind of credibility. Spiritually, I don't know how I feel about it.... I'm not a marriage person, so for me it's just seems sort of silly, but I think absolutely there should be equivalent protection for everyone.

We've been having a discussion here in the office about labels. On the one hand I see not wanting to be labeled as a gay person or a lesbian or whatever, but then on the other hand, I see kids and quite a number of adults whose lives would be so less sad and restricted if they saw people who didn't feel the need to hide what they are. How do you feel about the necessity for labels in that sense?

I feel there's a necessity for imagination and a necessity for being really comfortable in your own skin, and I don't think that comes from labeling. I think that comes from somebody who is a complete free spirit, and I think you get the inspiration from that, not from

somebody coming in and saying I'M GAY; I think that continues the limitation. I am a very eclectic kind of person. I just really get turned on by interesting people. I don't gravitate toward some sexual preference. I gravitate toward people who are really rocking and cutting edge and cool.... It would be almost heartbreaking to just be hanging out with somebody because they are gay. 'Cause not everybody is so interesting who is gay.

My next question didn't come to mind because of what you just said, but what's your take on the "gays in the military" issue?

I don't think there should be any secrets about it. I think someone should be able to come and go as they please, whatever walk of life they choose. And I think that whole "don't ask don't tell" thing is f---ing ridiculous. I mean it should be abolished and people should just be allowed to be who they are. If they encounter prejudice, they're going to encounter the same prejudice there as they do in the outside world, but at least they are going to be able to say f--- you. I just think the whole thing is archaic.

Same with adoption. People say gays shouldn't be able to adopt partly because the child is going to grow up having to put up with everybody saying "your mommy's a queer" or worse.

By the same token they can have straight parents who are geeks and morons and be tortured for the geeky, moronic parents they have. I mean, that's a crap shoot. Every soul chooses their parents whether they're natural or adopted—those are the people you are supposed to be with. It's part of our spiritual growth in this world. This life.

So what do you think of Jerry Lewis [and his negative comments about female comics]?

Oh, you know, Jerry is such a character. I mean I look at Jerry like my dad who's from that generation of men who don't understand women, who are afraid of women, who just didn't grow up thinking that women were supposed to be smart or funny. I worship Jerry; he's a pain in the ass, but Jerry Lewis is brilliant, so I never get bent out of shape about Jerry.

Are there people that you do get bent out of shape about?

Yeah, sure there are. I think Dr. Laura is a stupid ass.

[Laughter] OK, now for a stupid question: If you were stranded on a desert island, and you could only have one movie with you, what would it be?

The Godfather. I mean it's kind of a toss-up between *I* and *II*. I guess I would have to say I would have to have both.

That was a quick reply. OK, so you're still stranded on that desert island and you can only have one person with you, not a friend, or lover, or family member, who would it be?

Pamela Anderson Lee.

May I ask you why?

If it has to be somebody I don't know, it might as well be somebody fun. ■

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Deep Inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

Emma Feels Witty Single mum and two-time Oscar winner Emma Thompson has signed on to star in an HBO original movie based on lesbian playwright Margaret Edson's Pulitzer prize-winning work *Wit*. The play takes place during the final weeks of spinster professor Vivian Bearing's life as she struggles with late-stage ovarian cancer. We hear her reflections on work, chemo, body-image issues, and mortality, as she comes to realize that stoicism ain't all it's cracked up to be. Actresses Kathleen Chalfant and perpetual gay booster Judith Light both won kudos from critics when they shaved their heads to portray Bearing off-Broadway. Perhaps the role will mean a second Emmy for Thompson, who picked one up for guest starring on *Ellen*.



Emma Thompson

winded Academy Award acceptance speech, and now he's thinking about making the Miramax film his next feature. If Almodóvar signs off on the script, the film may shoot as early as this summer, when Alfred Molina,

who will play Rivera, is on hiatus from the CBS sitcom *Ladies Man*.

Rubin Bets on Driving Mr.

Albert Gay producer Scott Rudin, who counts such high profile flicks as

Wonder Boys and *South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut* among his credits, has made another unconventional move. In a pre-emptive bid, the Hollywood heavy-hitter has purchased the big-screen rights to the upcoming non-fiction book *Driving Mr. Albert* by Mike Paterniti. *Albert* tells the tale of Dr. Thomas Harvey, the 84-year-old physician who performed an autopsy on the body of Albert Einstein back in 1955, then kept the genius' brain for more than 40 years in a Tupperware container filled with formaldehyde. The book is a true-life account of the relationship between the author and Dr. Harvey, who spent 10 days on a cross-country road trip to show the brain to Einstein's daughter. Rudin read the book in manuscript, fell in love with the story overnight, and made Paterniti an offer he couldn't refuse. No word yet on who will play Einstein's brain in the pic, but the book will hit shelves in July.

When Barbara Walters interviews Romeo San Vicente, he'll fess up to being gay. Barbara (or you) can reach Romeo in care of this publication or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com.

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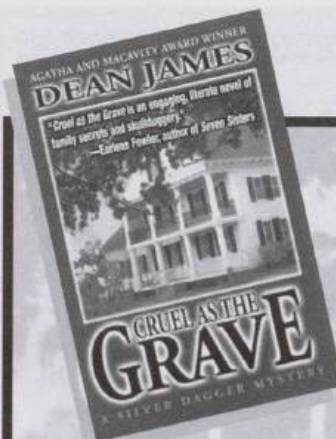
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Nathan Lane has a funny way of wording things. What he meant to say was, "If you buy this autographed photo of me, the photo will spend the rest of its life with you." Whatever. Put it on your nightstand next to your bed, or, better yet, above your bed. Or simply display it in a room where not only your bed partner(s) can enjoy it.



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Mark-Paul Gosselaar

(*Entertainment Weekly*, 4/7/2000, Dan Snierson)

Dan Snierson: There have been many false reports of your death. How many different ways have you died, and which did you enjoy the most?

Mark-Paul Gosselaar: I died on the same day as Kurt Cobain. That was pretty cool. I think it was from a drug overdose. I heard rumors that it was actually on MTV. I died in a car accident; I also died in a motorcycle accident.... And rumors that I'm gay—those are kind of cool.



Mark-Paul Gosselaar
(seen here in D.C.): Is he AC/DC?

Judy Garland

(*The Advocate*, 4/11/2000, William J. Mann)

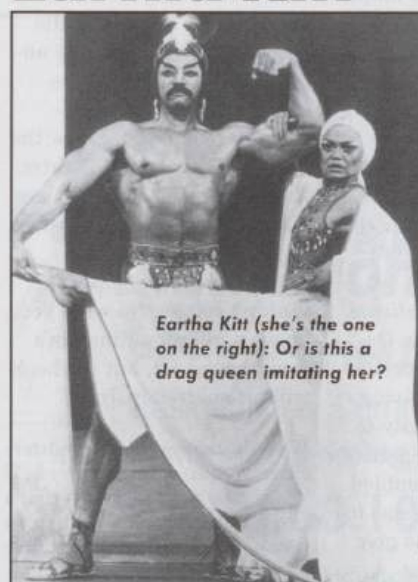
About Get Happy: *The Life of Judy Garland* by Gerald Clarke. Clarke tells a straightforward story: Judy's affairs with women—her MGM publicist, Betty Asher, among them—are chronicled as matter-of-factly as those with men, and the homosexuality of several of her husbands—particularly Vicente Minnelli—is presented as part of the intergral fabric of her story.

Vincente Minnelli

(*Entertainment Weekly*, 4/2000, George Hodgman)

About Get Happy: *The Life of Judy Garland* by Gerald Clarke. By far the most interesting section of the book covers her courtship and marriage to director Vincente Minnelli, the man who gave her what she considered the best moments of her screen career. We learn that Minnelli, who had come to MGM from Broadway, had been involved in what most observers considered a homosexual relationship during his days on the East Coast. In California, before meeting Garland, he had been thought of as a gay man, an impression based on his artistic flair, the testimonies of a few actors who claimed to have shared his bed, and his use of heavy makeup. (Clarke reports that at MGM the director wore more makeup than most of the starlets.)

Eartha Kitt



Eartha Kitt (she's the one on the right): Or is this a drag queen imitating her?

(*Out*, 3/2000, Brantley Bardin)

Brantley Bardin: What do you think of the drag queens who do you?

Eartha Kitt: I love it, I love it, I love it! When I got into trouble with the government, it was the transvestites and the gay world who kept my name alive because they were imitating me all the time. And there is nothing in the world more flattering than being flattered by imitation.

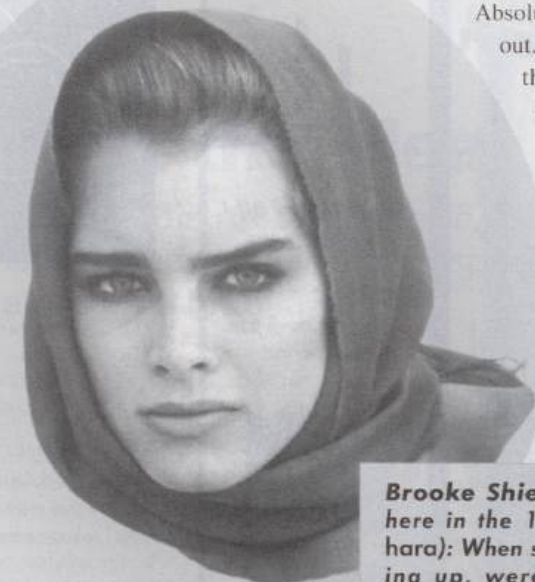
Brooke Shields

(*The Advocate*, 4/25/2000, Guinevere Turner)

Guinevere Turner: You mentioned two gay men whom you called your godmothers. What kind of family unit did you grow up in, and how do you feel about alternative families?

Brooke Shields: I've seen values upheld in alternative families that put conventional families to shame. The basis should be love.... When I say I was raised by my godmothers, it was my mom, my godmother, and a couple, Hank and Richard. In all the pictures, one of them is holding me. I grew up not understanding the barriers....

So you grew up in a family that included gay men?



Brooke Shields (pictured here in the 1983 film *Sahara*): When she was growing up, were two of her godmothers male?

were n't drawn that way. You had to be a good person and pick up the

kitty litter and write thank-you notes and all that. But she had so little judgment about other people.

It sounds like a lot of her friends were gay men.

Yeah, the majority of them.... She was just loved by the gay community—because she was larger than life, incredibly beautiful, and had a mouth on her. And had the wit and sense of humor and creativity that's much more often found and nurtured in the gay community....



Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Quentin Crisp

(*Out*, 3/2000, Steven Druksman)

I myself [Steven Druksman] had two encounters with Crisp. The first was in a New York theater lobby following an off-off-Broadway play.... After a cordial introduction, Crisp insisted that I was *not* homosexual, given my attire, my bearing, my company, and—well, I don't know what.... Years later I saw him again in the West Village, on a miserably cold night. He looked frail, clutching his overcoat, his windblown hair its usual lavender menace. We were alone on a dark stretch of street. I worried that he would think I was one of the bashers who had "inconvenienced" him for decades. To ease my own mind as much as his, I asked, "How are you?"

"Frozen," he replied. Then, as a well-timed afterthought: "Frozen fruit."



Quentin Crisp (pictured here in 1993's *Orlando*): Is that a frozen smile?

Pierce died one year ago this month (May 31, '99).

Harvey Fierstein on Charles Pierce

(*TV Guide*, 1/1/2000)

Charles Pierce "was the last of the real comedian female impersonators. He was like Jack Benny in a dress—he could do all kinds of really fast jokes, like, 'I saw Shelley Winters shopping for stretch jewelry.' He was such a darling—about as sweet as they come."



Charles Pierce (seen here in the 1977 Joan Rivers-directed *Rabbit Test*): Was he Jack Benny in a dress?

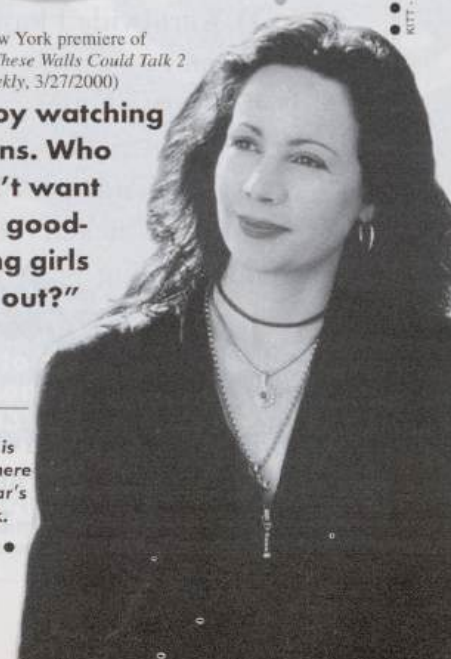
Janeane Garofalo



(At the New York premiere of HBO's *If These Walls Could Talk 2* via *US Weekly*, 3/27/2000)

"I enjoy watching lesbians. Who doesn't want to see good-looking girls make out?"

Janeane Garofalo is pictured here in last year's *Dog Park*.



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

Colina's Italian Cafe

3835 Richmond Ave. (@ Wesleyan)
713/621-8844
2400 Times Blvd. (Rice Village)
713/365-9497
12311 Kingside

With its reliable Italian food, unpretentious feel, and BYO wine option (with no corking fee), Houston yuppies flock to these neighborhood locations. And as long as you don't expect haute cuisine, you'll be perfectly content. Order the pizza Marguerite and one of the antipasto salads and you may even border on exhilaration. \$

Dessert Gallery

3200 Kirby Drive (behind Café Express)
713/522-9999

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

Hobbit Cafe

2243 Richmond (@ Portsmouth)
713/526-5460

It's open again and we're happy: because this locale actually provides parking. Enter Houston's beloved Tolkien sanctuary and revel in its prolific menu, featuring Fatty Lumpkin and Bilbo the Magnificent (they're sandwiches, but unlike any you've ever experienced). While it tends to cater to vegetarian tastes, even the Birkenstock-deprived will appreciate the sprawling deck and heaping servings. And contrary to its herbivorous reputation, it offers meat beyond the token veggie burgers—such as real bacon cheeseburgers, tuna salad and jerk chicken. Both the "classic" and regular sandwiches are huge, so you may as well have them doggy bag half

before they serve it. The owner actually waits tables, so you know your voice counts. \$

Jalapenos

2702 Kirby Dr. (@ Westheimer)
713/524-1668

This River Oaks standby boasts spinach enchiladas so undeniably delicious that all others pale in comparison. They're an orchestration of taste and texture, with spinach just the right consistency—not grainy, mushy or stringy, but fusing with the cheese and cream sauce to create a texture all its own. Their ultimate secret, however, lies in the iced tea. It's always perfect, which tells you how much thought they put into things that others often find trivial. You'll always find a table, and their type-A waiters guarantee speedy, attentive service. \$

Lai Lai Dumpling House

9262 Bellaire Blvd.
713/271-0080

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Lobo Bookshop & Café

3939 Montrose
713/522-5156

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Mosquito Café

628 Fourteenth Street, Galveston
409/763-1010

This trendy, sleek little cafe offers a welcome break from the typical Galveston fried seafood scene. Gay owned and operated, the Mosquito offers fresh gourmet salads, sandwiches, and pasta, and has a beautiful patio dining area with oh-so-Southern iron furniture and umbrellas. *continued on page 48*

DineOut
by Shelley Barnes

Asleep at the Meal

In her move from Bistrot to Brasserie, Monica Pope has created a dreamy atmosphere, but the food is a bit of a yawner

I have a theory about Monica Pope's new café, 43 Brasserie. It's such an intimate, cozy respite from the rest of Houston that the food is deliberately mediocre to prevent people from dawdling indefinitely on the sprawling, sun-drenched decks. Seriously, I think I'm on to something here.

I was so prepared to love 43 Brasserie that the fact that I don't comes as a bit of a shock. Boulevard Bistrot, its older next-door sister, is so dead-on with its eclectic selections (albeit scant portions) that I'd expected that same attention to detail in the menu of this Café Express-goes-French knockoff. It isn't. (Or at least not consistently). But what's lacking in food is compensated by mood.

Its name derived from its 4315 Montrose location, 43 Brasserie is intended as a relaxing, scaled-down complement to its more sophisticated sister. Those who remember the former structure will be surprised at how nicely it cleaned up. Pope and partner Andrea Lazar did an impeccable job restoring the old house, installing wide expanses of windows on both levels. There's so much natural light it almost doesn't matter if you can't find an outside table; the lightly wooded interior catches enough sunlight to create the feel of an enclosed patio.

In this uptown cafeteria concept, diners place and pick up their orders at the sleek counter. The only design gaffes lie in the perilous staircase—so narrow it's almost impossible to balance a tray of food while negotiating two-way traffic—and the upstairs door leading out to the patio. Clearly, no one thought about the trouble of balancing a heavy tray while trying to open a heavy door to get outside. A door that opens toward the patio would have required a simple nudge from one's derriere. Instead, the act of balancing the aforementioned tray while trying to open the door toward you takes either infinite balance or a hand from a kind and thoughtful fellow diner. This does not, however, detract from the restaurant's undeniable charm.

When my friend and I entered for an early brunch one Friday morning, the place was almost vacant. Within five minutes, we

found ourselves having to queue up behind a 10-person line that had formed while we'd been engrossed in the overhead menu. Given that this is a "brasserie," I'd expected to find mostly nosh-like French items. And while 43's bill of fare is no doubt heavily French inspired, there are plenty of non-French pastas, personal-pan pizzas, and hearty sandwiches to fill a starving weightlifter, including a few immigrants like a Mexican Caldo y Albondigas soup and Matzo Brai, a Jewish variation of migas. Roughly a quarter of the entire menu is dedicated to drinks, everything from chai latte, fresh juices, and tonics to hot infused herb drinks, Vietnamese coffee, and cappuccino, with your choice of regular, almond, or soy milks (in chocolate and vanilla, no less).

The varied menu offers several items that practically beg to be ordered, one of which is the restaurant's namesake 43 Salad. For a mere \$6.50 you get the proverbial kitchen sink: leaves of fresh romaine, mesclun, and butter lettuces sprinkled with chickpeas, beets, celery root, green beans, cucumbers, mushrooms, slices of hard-boiled egg, and red onion. For an additional dollar or two you can top it off with shrimp, ham, four cheeses, chicken, roast beef, or chunks of Roquefort. I chose the chicken, strips of tender white breast steamed in ginger and doused in a

snappy ginger-soy dressing that justified its "house specialty" status. Even the beets, their deep burgundy juices bleeding onto the paling



We're happy to overlook the only-okay food for the chance to overlook Montrose from 43's shady balcony.

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celery root, added an offbeat, almost sweet taste and texture. Who would have thought beets and ginger to be such compatible bedfellows?

One dish I actually hadn't thought to order—the grilled chicken fettuccine in mascarpone walnut cream sauce—came highly recommended by our cashier. Although 43 Brasserie still has freshman status, this standout dish has already made tenure. The cream-drenched pasta turned out to be translucent and wonderfully chewy, with chunks of white chicken sneaking into every forkful. My friend and I slurped happily, convinced we had stumbled upon a little bit of heaven. A high-noon sun was graciously filtered by the giant live-oak tree hovering over the upper deck, and tables were occupied by every conceivable cou-

pling—students, coworkers, couples both gay and straight, Montrose, Medical Center, and River Oaks all joined for an afternoon of Parisian bliss. Lunching with my closest friend, who had come in from Longview for a quick visit, sipping my chai latte and having scored two-for-two with the house salad and chicken fettuccine, I felt _____ (content beyond words, so feel free to insert your favorite Texas metaphor). That's how dreamy the day was feeling, with the added excitement of being able to write about yet another Houston culinary show stopper.

Boulevard Bistrot is so dead-on with its eclectic selections that I'd expected that same attention to detail in the menu of this Café Express-goes-French knockoff. It isn't.

Then I sampled the Rustic pate. Now, as we all know by now, every restaurant needs a few moan-eliciting dishes to warrant moan status, the highest of all restaurant rankings. The pate, sadly and despite the high hopes of my friend the pate-lover, is not one of them. Not that it's bad...it's just nothing as special

as I'd come to expect from the purveyor of Boulevard Bistrot. Now I know rustic pate is not supposed to be smooth, but this was just dull crumbled pork sporting a fleck of onion here and there, assisted by slices of French bread, olives, mustard, and cornichons. OK, I conceded, this one was a bit of a snoozer. But two out of three is a respectable record, so my friend and I plunged into the smoky black bean soup (\$3.50) with expectations still high. Our reactions were decidedly mixed. My companion immediately brushed it off as a soupy version of a Mexican restaurant side dish. I actually gave it more credit. Maybe because I like soupy Mexican restaurant black beans, or maybe because of the lure of real cream, I tasted several spoonfuls before declaring that I would consider

ordering it again. But only if they were out of the 43 Salad and chicken fettuccine.

The warm onion and Roquefort quiche was...well, quiche, that even for a modest \$5 was too laden with onion and not enough cheese. To be fair, it had the appropriate texture and flakiness, and although I'm a proponent of onions of all kinds, these were too overpowering for my tastes. Not so the Croque Montrose, a traditional French sandwich topped with chicken and a non-traditional portobello mushroom and smothered in a béchamel sauce. A pricey \$8.75, which I'm guessing covered the cost of the mushroom, this Croque was not overpowering in the least, but rather mundane. After two bites each of the chicken and portobello, there was nothing left but béchamel-soaked bread, hardly appealing after that 43 Salad and chicken fettuccine.

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Still, I was certain we had subconsciously saved the best for last, for we had yet to taste a fresh focaccia sandwich of asparagus, prosciutto, and herbed goat cheese. Poised atop its plate, rows of bright green asparagus tips had been compulsively aligned under thinly sliced prosciutto by someone who clearly thought this to be a work of art waiting to be consumed. My friend beat me to it, sampling her half while I rescued a last lone sliver of portobello drowning in béchamel. Already having propelled this sandwich to pedestal status after those last few underachievers, I looked up at Cindy in anticipation of hearing a low-grade moan.

"Bland" was all I got, after she had barely swallowed her first bite, and "too dry." This was not encouraging. Still, I held out hope. My friend may be getting back at me for not joining in her black bean soup bashing, I suspected, and for not cutting the Croque Montrose and crumbly pate any slack. I ventured my first bite, intent on proving her wrong. Sure enough, every simple ingredient tasted exactly as you'd expect, fresh, slightly salty and crunchy, with a nice goat cheese accent. Straightforward and, admittedly, too much like you'd expect. Even with its promising ingredients, it was completely lacking any synergy and in desperate need of an imaginative condiment, or at least a tangy vinaigrette, to elevate it to classic Pope status.

By now we both were justifiably wary of the finale, a chocolate hazelnut tartine (\$3.75), touted as an "over-the-top melted

chocolate sandwich...gone nuts!" I don't know about your average diner, but for me this description sets up just a wee bit of expectation. And again, for me and my above-average dining companion, two grilled pieces of French bread slathered with something akin to the same chocolate Nutella that resides in most flagship supermarkets doesn't deliver on that expectation...even if it is topped by crushed hazelnuts.

Being the democrat that I am, I admit that these little edible gaffes may be a result of 43 Brasserie's rookie status, even if it is the brainchild of one of Houston's most reliable chefs. And, like the chicken fettuccine in marscapone walnut cream, had our knowing cashier guided every choice, I may have gone eight for eight without a single miss. But honestly, how often do you succumb to a waiter's recommendation when an asparagus, prosciutto, and herbed goat cheese focaccia sandwich is calling your name?

That being said, there's a sequel to my initial 43 Brasserie theory. On the next cool pre-summer afternoon, plant yourself on 43 Brasserie's upper deck in the shade of that glorious oak tree, order the 43 Salad or that decadent chicken fettuccine with marscapone walnut cream, linger over an iced cappuccino—and the menu's shortfalls will seem charmingly French.

43 Brasserie, 4315 Montrose Blvd., 713/874-0043. Open daily, 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

A Taste of Houston

Tapas-style reviews

continued from page 44

las and lots of tropical island flowers. Located within walking distance of the Strand. \$

Pot Pie Pizzeria

1525 Westheimer (@ Mandell)
713/528-4350

Who needs eggs when you can eat their baked potato pizza for breakfast, lunch and dinner? This gay-owned and operated neighborhood joint will feed you till you bust. Even better, the nightly all-you-can-eat spaghetti and outdoor patio makes your gorge-fest cheap and picturesque. Perfectly boring normal folks are welcomed with open arms despite its student and bohemian clientele.

Urbana

3407 Montrose (@ Hawthorne)
713/521-1086

Stark minimalist decor, and a classy menu that offers everything Texan and beyond, with barbecue-grilled shrimp, Cornal-seared tuna, richly marinated steaks, light pastas, ingenious salads, and interesting deviations on

popular '90s sides like mashed potatoes and portobello mushrooms. \$\$

Van Loc

3010 Milam (@ Elgin)
713/528-6441

Down-to-earth Vietnamese food (with down-to-earth decor to match) draws natives, families, and downtown yuppies alike. The extensive menu offers fresh, reasonably priced traditional dishes such as vermicelli and bun, and you can even roll your own spring rolls (but unless you've honed that skill, let them do it for you). Their classically strong Vietnamese coffee will put hair on your chest. \$

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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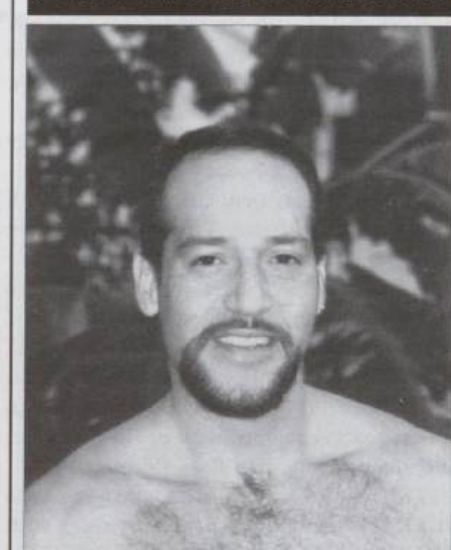
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Texas Lesbian Conference

The Texas Lesbian Conference is going to be exciting this year, with a truly remarkable lineup of speakers. "It's empowering just being in a room with that many women," says Christy Burchette, who is co-chair, along with Madelyn McNeil. "Not only are we the only lesbian conference in the United States, but it's our 16th year."

Although the conference is supposed to rotate between Houston, Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio, this year Austin was not able to pull together the volunteer core needed to put on the event, so it returned to Houston.

Workshops will be given in topics such as spirituality, massage, relationships, finances, humor, health, pets, sexuality, and more. We hear the Saturday evening party is definitely worthwhile, "especially for single women." Throughout the conference, vendors will be selling

their wares; many of these only travel to women's festivals. TLC is continuing their controversial policy of only admitting women.

The Texas Lesbian Conference runs Friday–Sunday, May 19–21, at the Renaissance Houston Hotel in Greenway Plaza. Friday evening is keynote speaker Urvashi Vaid (also a LiB meeting). Saturday will have morning and afternoon workshops; lunch with Alison Bechdel; and a dance in the evening. Sunday morning starts with spiritual services and workshops then brunch with Ntozake Shange.

TLC has extended earlybird registration of \$65 through May 10 for *OutSmart* readers; this includes Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch. One-day passes available for Saturday \$40 (\$55 after May 10); Saturday night only \$15 (\$20); and Sunday \$25 (\$35). Call 713/863-1452 for a registration form, or register at www.2meg.com/tlc2000.

Urvashi Vaid

Monday morning arrived and I was facing the usual beginning-of-the-week ritual—scheduling errands, work deadlines, social engagements, an overwhelming amount of laundry. I also had a 9 a.m. interview scheduled with Urvashi Vaid. I'd spent the better part of my weekend preparing to come across as casual, yet confident, witty, yet worldly, knowledgeable, and interested.

As former director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (and currently directing their Policy Institute), Urvashi is both a public and political figure—particularly since *Time* magazine recently listed her among the nation's most promising leaders under the age of 40. She authored *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation* which won the American Library Association's 1996 Book Award. She also writes a regular column in *The Advocate*. And she is lovers with Kate Clinton.

I asked Urvashi how she found her way to NGLTF. UV. Laughing, she says working with NGLTF is akin to "a life sentence." While working as an attorney in Washington with the ACLU, she started volunteering for the task force. Founded in 1973, the NGLTF is one of the earliest gay and lesbian organizations for social change, and they've gained considerable foundation and credibility. Urvashi's initiative and fierce dedication to gay and lesbian issues were soon noticed, and she was invited to run for NGLTF's board of



UNPHOTOGRAPHED

directors, then was hired on as media director, and soon thereafter, named executive director in 1989, which she continued through 1992. While executive director, she also solidified for herself why NGLTF was so important—to gays and lesbians, yes, but also to mainstream society as well. The organization is committed to building a movement—a grassroots movement which is flexible, inclusive and where progressive politics are the number one priority in each state.

by Maria E. Minicucci

Urvashi radiates a never-ending passion for the lives of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered persons. Her desire, hopefulness, and spiritedness certainly reenergized my activist self.

OutSmart: What inspired *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation*?

Urvashi Vaid: I became much more reflective of the work I had done up to 1992 and also had a desire for a personal life, so I made a decision to write full time. I had a need to write a book about the transformation of the gay and lesbian movement during the previous decades—where it began, how it evolved, what it accomplished. This book is strictly an opinionated assessment of this movement. I view the priorities of this movement to be equality in the most fundamental of ways—all persons' possessing civil rights is critical. I believe that this is also a liberation movement for fundamental freedom, economic justice, social justice...

Everything you are saying about the gay and lesbian movement, what it stands for, and what it is working relentlessly toward emanates directly from feminist theory—wouldn't you agree?

Oh, yes. I have been and am a feminist. And, I am heartened that more and more younger women and men are affiliating with a feminist perspective. I have been to gatherings

around the country and people are very troubled by the force of fundamentalist groups like the Promise Keepers. And, what is happening in Afghanistan where women are stripped of their personhood—people, not only gays and lesbians, are very troubled by this. Feminism is very much one of the values of the Task Force.

So many groups, with the same good intentions, set out to launch an organization for this or that cause, only to have conflict and differences fracture relationships and sabotage the very work they set out to do. How has NGLTF transcended that dynamic?

Yes, we have not had that happen in our organization. Some of the reasons are that we value local and state leadership in whichever part of the country we are in. Respect is the constant bottom line—no matter where someone is coming from, they are regarded with the utmost respect. We are not a single-issue group. We have a core of values and we are upfront about those values: We are feminist, anti-racist, are determined to end homophobia, and end economic and social injustice.

...We uphold a spectrum of values and continually build coalition. We also accept that we all want the same thing but we all do not agree on how to get there. So, we are prepared for and do work with people who disagree—but always with respect.

You have agreed to speak at the Texas Lesbian Conference. What role do you see lesbians having in this movement?

Oh, my! Lesbians have had an integral role over the decades and our presence is constantly increasing especially in the political arena. On the more grassroots level, I see much more mixed leadership rather than gay men dominating every group, meeting, etc.

Without letting the cat out of the bag entirely, can you give us some idea of what message you hope to convey to Houston lesbians at the conference?

Oh, I am so excited about being invited to attend that conference. Do you realize that this conference is the only lesbian gathering right now throughout the country? I really commend the women who put this together for making sure this happens every year. It is so important to have a place to meet, share ideas, and of course, have fun. My address will be about lesbian leadership—lesbian vision, and what lesbian feminists bring to our movement.

Urvashi Vaid will be speaking at the TLC on Friday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. (Registration available at the door.) She'll also be at a "meet and greet" gathering at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, Saturday, May 20, 2–4 p.m., as well as at a Saturday evening cocktail party reception for her hosted by Ken Bohan and Dean O'Kelley in Avalon Place, which is a fundraiser for NGLTF, co-chaired by Clarence Bagby, Mike Bodin, and Annise Parker (for info, call Clarence at 713/861-8238).

Maria E. Minicucci is president of the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center and director of the Center for Creativity, Knowledge and Change.

Alison Bechdel

A few things gay men have always wanted to know about lesbians *

*but were too afraid of being called sexist clods to ask...



Renowned author of *Dykes to Watch Out For*, Alison Bechdel will be showing a slide show of her work with commentary, beginning from her earliest efforts (when she only drew men!) to her present accomplishments. Saturday, May 20, 12:30–1:45 p.m.



Ntozake Shange

Playwright Ntozake Shange has been writing about women and women's relationships to each other since she burst on the scene in 1974, at age 27, with her play for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf, which played on Broadway to "somewhat stunned audiences" as the *New Yorker* said at the time. Since then, colored girls has become part of the stock of much-produced African-American classics. Shange has lived in Houston on and off through the years, teaching at the University of Houston, acting as playwright in residence at the Ensemble Theater.

What Shange writes about are: "The problems and mysteries that in some way or another have to do with all different kinds of rites of passage for women," as she told me in an interview when she directed *colored girls* in 1994 at the Ensemble, "the first betrayal by a friend, the first betrayal by a female friend, your first make-believe friend, the disappearance of your make-believe friend, your invisible pal. All these things that are rites of passage—your first love affair, the very first true depression. All of these things are things all women go through—they may be right-to-lifers, but they still got their period. So at a certain point it obfuscates certain political differences that we as women may have, which we're entitled to have, but that doesn't take away from the integrity of our female experience." —Ann Walton Sieber

Ntozake Shange will be giving a dramatic reading from one of her works at the Sunday brunch, May 21, 10:45–11:30 a.m.

CELEBRATE HARVEY MILK

BY ANN WALTON SIEBER

Harvey Milk was killed 22 years ago, in 1978, at the age of 48. Yet his role in the gay rights movement was so pivotal that we can't forget him. Like Martin Luther King Jr., like Cesar Chavez, even like Joe Hill, Harvey Milk has the impact and vision to represent a movement. He lived in the era of Anita Bryant, when middle America was becoming aware of gay issues for perhaps the first time. As the first prominent openly gay elected official, Harvey became the outrageous, outraged, articulate voice of the gay movement.

Yet many people don't know who Harvey Milk was. It's not too late to remedy that, and that is, in part what this 70th birthday issue is all about.

I've known about Harvey Milk for a long time. As a 22-year-old, I saw the Alley Theatre's 1985 production of Emily Mann's *Execution of Justice*, a courtroom drama about the trial of Dan White, the man who murdered Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, and how the trial slipped out of the hands of the prosecuting attorney. White was able to convince the jury that he was mentally unstable due to eating junk food, the infamous "Twinkie Defense," and was only convicted of voluntary manslaughter (what people get for, say, recklessly hitting someone with your car). I remember later in 1985 driving my dad's old '65 Chevy pickup through the small town of Hockley with my best friend Kevin, who was gay, when we heard over the radio that Dan White had committed suicide. The chill, the weird feeling. He was the enemy, there was some satisfaction that, in the end, he really didn't get away with it...but we didn't want him dead.

So I knew and had thought about Harvey Milk—he'd become part of my own emotional autobiography. But I guess he still had the status of a story, of news headlines, of an outrage, a cerebral angry feeling. But Harvey Milk really came home to me for the first time last fall. That's when I saw the documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk*. Seeing Harvey was different from just knowing the skeleton of his story.

1970s San Francisco, Castro Street, the ground zero of the first-being-born gay liberation movement in America, perhaps anywhere. And Harvey Milk was the mayor of Castro Street. Not really the mayor, since Castro Street isn't a town. But Harvey decided to devote every waking hour to organizing the gays in San Francisco into a viable political entity, to create out of the boiling emotions of the period a gay rights movement.

Once elected to be a city supervisor (like a city councilman), Milk made the most of this position of prominence, advocating for his humanist brand of populist politics, showing through his coalition building with labor and the racial minorities that he was anything but a one-issue candidate. It was Harvey who first rallied for a national gay march, and was engaged in making it happen when he was

assassinated in 1978, just 11 months into his term of office, by another city supervisor, Dan White.

Here was a man riding the tip of the frothy cresting wave of his times. He was unspeakably happy to be where he was. And he knew that the price was more likely than not early death, assassination. Living fully in the present, he was a man at the pinnacle of his own self-realization. And because of that, he opened the road up for so many others. In Zen it is said, "When you wake up, the whole world wakes up." If one person is realized, it seems, it can spread like bloody wildfire.



Seeing all this in his voice, his exultant face the night of his election, his spirit that just radiated how absolutely delighted he was to be who he was, where he was, I decided there and then that Harvey Milk was one of my heroes. He's my hero of how one can dare to do way more than is humanly conceivable, and what an infectious liberating job that is. My hero about finding one's path, and dancing down it. When I took the job as editor of *OutSmart*, I put a photo of Harvey's unblinking visage, chin on fist, on the wall right opposite my desk. "Oh yes, Harvey," I think, when putting out this bantam-weight good-hearted magazine just seems too damn much. "Oh yes Harvey, I know. It is too much. And that's utterly irrelevant. Here we go."

Part of what made Harvey Milk seem so especially jubilant about his prominent role in gay liberation was that he'd spent most of his life in a fairly repressed, traditional life. Harvey Milk was born May 22, 1930, to a Jewish family on Long Island, New York. Popular, funny, and extroverted, Harvey knew he was gay from early on—and was even briefly arrested at age 17 for his presence in the isolated section of Central Park known for homosexual cruising—but he kept his sexuality a secret at school, home, and certainly in the Navy.

Harvey worked on Wall Street in New York in his 20s and 30s, and had a few long-term relationships in which he played the role of the stable businessman supporting his younger lovers' and friends' artistic and political activities. Interestingly, his first longtime lover, Joe Campbell, with whom Harvey lived for seven years, became part of the Andy Warhol crowd. The fey Campbell was known as the Sugar Plum Fairy. That was him in Lou Reed's *Walk on the Wild Side*. "Sugar Plum Fairy came to hit the streets, looking for soul food and a place to eat. Went to the Apollo, should have seen him go, go, go...." Another close friend was Tom O'Horgan, who directed *Hair*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Lenny*. Harvey was transferred to Dallas in 1967, but

after a year he resigned his job and moved back to NYC, where he and many of his friends immersed themselves in the production of *Hair*.

All the flower children and counterculture started rubbing off on Harvey around the time of the Stonewall uprising in 1969 and his 40th birthday in 1970. In 1972, he and his lover, Scott Smith, spent a year driving out to California, living off their unemployment checks, camping out under the redwoods in sleeping bags.

Once in San Francisco, Scott and Harvey rented a place on Castro Street, a blue-collar neighborhood where an increasing number of gay hippies were moving because of its funky affordability. It took them a little while to figure out what they felt like doing, but they eventually settled on the idea of opening a camera shop.

"Harvey spent most of his life looking for a stage," O'Horgan commented years later. "On Castro Street, he finally found it."

Harvey's entry into politics started more as a lark, a counterculture nose-thumbing at the mainstream developers and business types who were changing San Francisco from a city of ethnic neighborhoods into a shiny urban center. Harvey also ran up against the gay establishment, which had been quietly building power through behind-the-scenes politicking in liberal circles, without ever getting too outrageous—such as the "outrageousness" of actually backing an openly gay candidate. Harvey first ran for city supervisor in 1973, only spending \$4,500 on his entire campaign. He knew how to attract press, and he started building his band of devoted volunteers. He got labor on his side after he helped a truck-drivers' union protest of Coors by engineering a boycott in all the gay bars. Harvey ran and lost twice for the city supervisor's seat, and once for state Assembly. Each time he built followers and recognition.

Meanwhile, Harvey was becoming the spokesman for the massive gay community in San Francisco. He started the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club, the Castro Street Fair, and the Castro Village Association, an alliance of neighborhood business owners. When a riot threatened to break out over a gay murder in 1977, it was Harvey who was able to keep the demonstration from turning violent.

Harvey also successfully campaigned to change the structure of San Francisco's city campaign, so that supervisors weren't all elected from a general citywide election (which tended to elect the most wide-appeal, white, Middle America candidates) to district elections, where each neighborhood in the city got to choose their supervisor. In the 1978 elections, under the new system, Harvey won by a two-to-one margin, and he exuberantly, triumphantly began his term as city supervisor.

In his time in City Hall, Milk built a strong alliance with liberal San Francisco Mayor George Moscone. On the other side of the

political spectrum was Dan White. A former policeman and fireman, White came from a blue-collar traditionalist district. Midway through his first year as a supervisor, White unexpectedly quit, saying he couldn't support his family on the meager supervisor's salary. What happened next is largely speculative, but many believe that the real estate bigwigs visited White and told him that they needed his pro-development vote back on the board of supervisors. White asked to be reappointed. However, once White had resigned, it was up to Moscone to appoint whoever he wished to

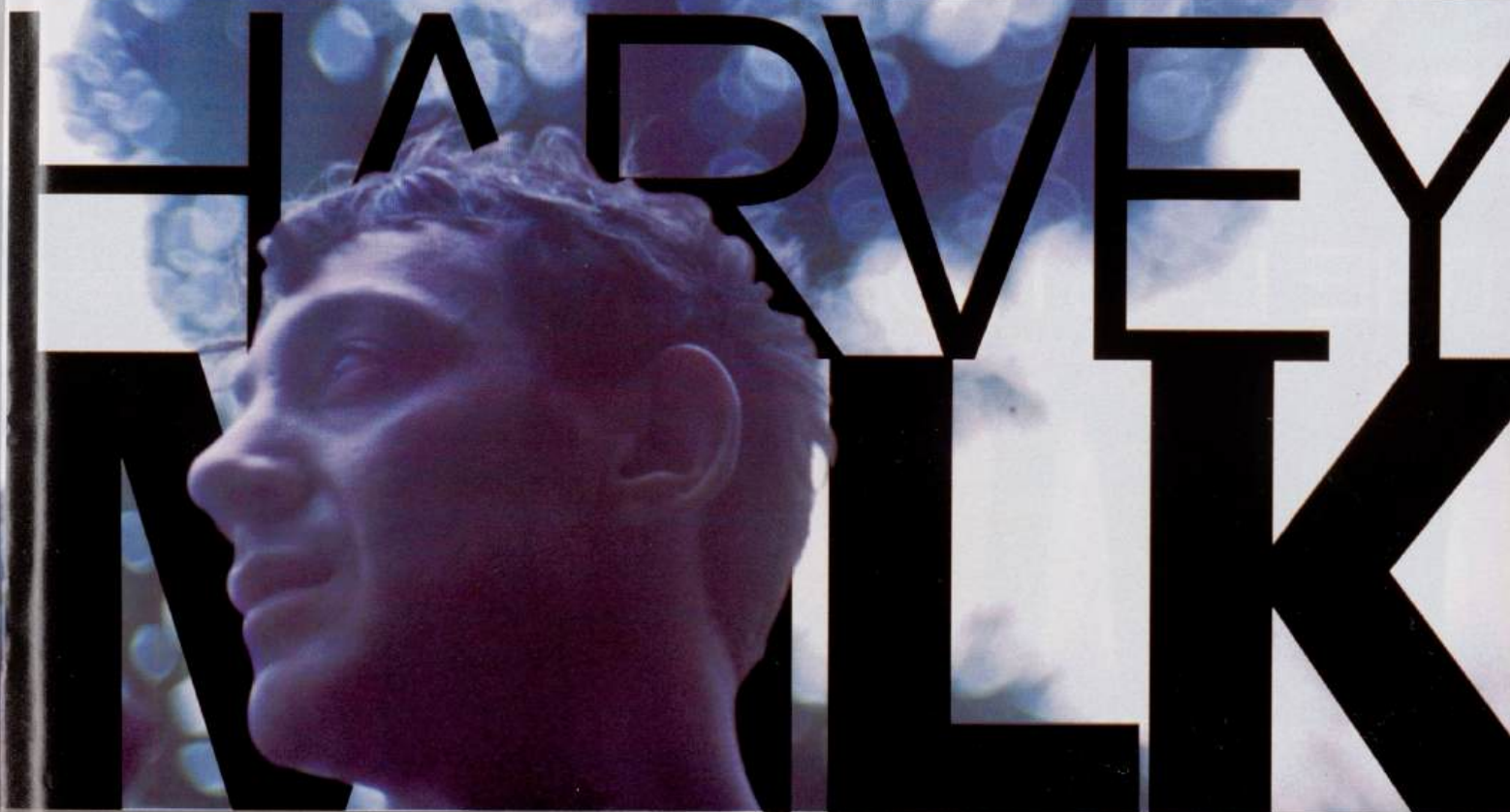
the open position. Moscone initially agreed to reappoint White, but later reneged, largely at the urging of Milk, who advised the mayor to capitalize on the opportunity to get a liberal majority in the council.

The morning that Moscone was to announce his decision, White brought the gun he had carried as a policeman to City Hall. To avoid the metal detectors at the front entrance, White crawled in through an open window in the basement. He met with Moscone, and loud voices were heard coming from the office. As White confessed later that day, he

then fired two shots at Moscone from across the room, then came close and fired two shots into his head. Moscone's secretary thought she heard a car backfiring.

White then reloaded his gun with special hollow-headed dum-dum bullets that explode on impact. As he rushed out into the hall, fellow City Supervisor (now California Senator) Dianne Feinstein called out to Dan that she wanted to talk to him. "I have something to do first," White said as he dashed by.

White went to Harvey's office and asked him if they could talk in White's former office. When



On Gay Freedom Day, June 25, 1978, in San Francisco, Harvey Milk gave his famous speech: "Gay brothers and sisters...You must come out!"

Harvey walked in, White blocked the way and fired a shot into Milk's arm. Another went into Milk's chest. The final two went into Harvey's skull.

White left the building without being stopped. He called his wife and then turned himself in at the police station where he used to work.

Meanwhile, a shaken and pale Dianne Feinstein told a group of reporters, "As president of the board of supervisors, it is my duty to inform you that both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed." That night there was a huge, silent candlelight march from the Castro neighborhood to City Hall.

Dan White was put on trial the following spring. What happened next, I don't understand.

For some reason, the prosecuting attorney let the defense fill the jury with white conservative Catholics, half of them from White's district. White's attorney portrayed his client as a lone white knight battling a "city deteriorating as a place for average and decent people to live...." The jury felt such sympathy for White that they

bought the argument that he had been driven temporarily insane from the stress, and from eating too much sugar and junk food the previous night. Dan White was only convicted with two counts of voluntary manslaughter.

That's when the riot came. "The reaction will be swift and it will be tonight," said Cleve Jones, who then led the raging crowd down Market Street chanting "Avenge Harvey Milk." Despite efforts to stop them, the crowd battered through the heavy glass doors of City Hall and broke every window on the first floor. A line of police cars stretching for a block was torched, their exploding gas tanks adding to the chaos. That was May 21, one day before what would have been Harvey's birthday.

A huge celebration had been planned for May 22 for the birthday. After the previous night, the police were afraid of another riot. But the Castro Street community had voiced their outrage, and now they were ready to celebrate their leader nonviolently. Again the crowd was led by Cleve Jones, who told them: "Last night the lesbians and gay men of San Francisco showed the rest of

Gay Freedom Day





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

the city and the rest of the world that gay people are angry and on the move. And tonight we are here to show the world what we are creating out of that anger and that movement. A strong community of women and men working together to change our world.

"It seems highly appropriate to celebrate Harvey's birthday in this manner, a party on the street he loved... We have come here from all the old hometowns of America to **reclaim our past and secure our future** and replace lives of loneliness and despair with a place of **joy and dignity and love.**"

Harvey Milk was a man who only came into the brightness of his own purpose later in life. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." Once Harvey took up the broader concern of the surging gay movement, he realized that his life was probably going to be short, and yet he exalted in every bit of it, abandoning himself into the heaven of his moment. We can all do the same. Harvey Milk lives in the inspiration he gave and keeps giving to all of us.

Happy birthday, Harvey! ■

THE LAST OF THE Store-Front Politicians

by Frank M. Robinson

one of
the last
of the
poor
to win
public
office

The night he was shot, 50,000 people marched in candlelit silence from the Castro to City Hall.

When Harvey Milk let his hair grow long and headed West, renting an apartment on Castro Street and opening a camera shop below, within a short time, he became the street's unofficial "mayor." With its battered dentist's chair and collapsing red velvet couch, the camera shop was a meeting place for friends and neighbors as well as the disenchanted and the disaffected.

To friends who dropped by, Harvey confided he was going to run for supervisor. It would, he said, be a "hoot." But the only one who believed an openly gay man could be elected, even in San Francisco, was Harvey himself. He was an unlikely candidate. Tall and lanky, with a ponytail and mustache, he looked far too much the hippie in a city that had had enough of hippies.

His biggest handicap was that he was dirt poor. If money is the mother's milk of politics, then Harvey ran on bread and water. His suits came from the local thrift shop, his car was leased. His only luxury was the beans

he ground for coffee. He loved opera but went only when somebody gave him a ticket.

But he also had assets. A populist, he was a pragmatist with ideals. Verbally, he was fast on his feet. Like Tip O'Neill, he realized that all politics is local. Politics is also theater and Harvey was very, very good at theater. Far from least, he had a talent for the media, always ready with a sound bite for the six o'clock news.

He was one of the last of a dying breed, the quintessential storefront politician—poor, hard-working, dedicated, and honest. He was gay but the voters loved him because in so many other ways he was one of them. For Harvey, a funny thing had happened on his way to the forum. He discovered he really cared about the little old ladies and the hippies and the Asian Americans and the gays.

The ponytail disappeared and later the mustache. He won endorsements from the Teamsters, Electrical Workers, Fire Fighters,

and construction unions. But one of his biggest victories was the afternoon he convinced a little old lady, a born and bred Republican, to vote for him. That was one. Only 60,000 more to go.

His headquarters—the back room of the camera shop—soon filled with an eclectic mix of volunteers ranging from little girls to grandmothers, from socialites to gay men churning out posters on a homemade silk screen. His campaign chest consisted of contributions from the volunteers who worked for him. He urged everybody to register and vote—everybody should have a stake in government.

He insisted that gays "come out," preaching acceptance would come only when straight Americans realized how many of their friends and relatives were gay.

The grass roots never grew so green, and in 1977, the city's first district elections, Harvey won a seat as supervisor from

District 5, whose heart was the Castro. He was the first openly gay man to be elected to a major public office in the country.

Harvey's fight in the campaign against Proposition 6, which would have banned homosexual teachers, was exhausting. He debated Prop 6 deep in enemy territory and received hundreds of anonymous letters and dozens of phone calls describing in graphic detail what should be done to a gay politician. He was convinced that some assassin's bullet would end his life and even dictated a political last will and testament.

The night he was shot, 50,000 people marched in candlelit silence from the Castro to City

Hall. Harvey's memorial service was held in the San Francisco Opera House and every seat was filled. Harvey would have loved it.

Harvey Milk was the last of the storefront politicians, one of the last of the poor to win public office. When Dan White received a minimal sentence, gays in San Francisco rioted. The riots that had started at the Stonewall Inn so many years before had now come full circle. Harvey's murder had been the coda to the first stage of gay liberation.

It's not unusual for a gay man or woman to win election to public office these days. Gay men and women already serve in Congress and in various state houses. Harvey had

been the first. He was far from the last. But Harvey's greatest contribution had little to do with politics. His real message dealt with pride and shame and a sense of self.

What Harvey taught the rest of us is that it's far better to live your life center stage than to die hiding in the wings. ■

Frank M. Robinson was a campaign worker, friend, and a speechwriter for Harvey Milk. Robinson is a longtime thriller and science fiction writer; his last novel was Waiting, and his recent Science Fiction of the 20th Century was just nominated for a Hugo. Books made into films include The Power and The Glass Inferno (film: The Towering Inferno).

Come celebrate Harvey's birthday!

Harvey Milk would have turned 70 this Monday, May 22. On Harvey's birthday, *OutSmart* and the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center will be presenting the documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk*, followed by a panel discussion and reception/celebration.

Narrated by Harvey Fierstein, the compelling film won the Oscar for best documentary in 1985. Following will be a panel discussion facilitated by Jack Valenski (host of KPFT's Gay and Lesbian Voices), which will include Cleve Jones (friend of Harvey Milk and founder of the AIDS quilt) and Ray Hill (who also knew Harvey Milk quite well), among others.

WHAT: The Times of Harvey Milk. **WHEN:** Mon., May 22, 7:30 p.m. **WHERE:** The Glassell School's Freed Auditorium (the glass brick building across from the Museum of Fine Arts), 5101 Montrose. **HOW MUCH:** Free and open to the public.



Photo by: Dan Nicoletta

Happy Birthday, Harvey, at Least We Love You by Cleve Jones

The founder of the Names Project and the AIDS quilt, Cleve Jones wrote this for Harvey Milk's birthday party in 1983, but it is still true today.

The pie, heavily laden with whipped cream, sailed gracefully thorough the air and landed in the middle of Harvey's face, splattering nearby walls and bystanders. The cream on Harvey's face split into a grin, and the room exploded with laughter and choruses of "Happy Birthday!"

It was May 22, 1978, and the newly elected San Francisco supervisor was celebrating his 48th birthday in the Pride Foundation-operated Gay Community Center at 220 Grove Street.

Harvey has been gone five years now, but the celebration of Harvey Milk's birthday

has become a tradition in the neighborhood Harvey called home for the last years of his life.

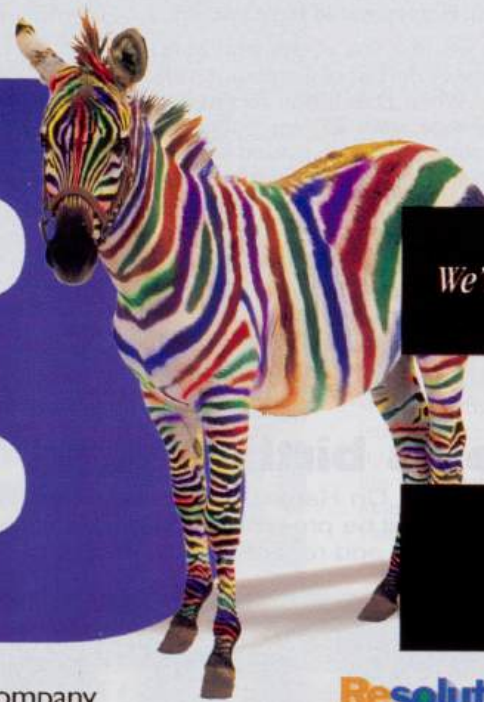
On Harvey's birthday one year later, 20,000 people jammed Castro Street for a jubilant and powerful manifestation of unity and pride. Harvey had been killed in November by Dan White, and the verdict had been announced the previous day, igniting a violent outpouring of protest. San Francisco's Civic Center still smoldered, littered with debris from the previous night's riot. Hundreds of police tactical squad units circled the Castro district in anticipation of continued violence.

But the night proceeded without incident. Holly Near and Meg Christian sang, and community leaders and friends of Harvey spoke of the fighting the night before. The

Elephant Walk, a popular bar at the corner of 18th Street and Castro, was boarded up; "Due to police riot" announced a hand-lettered notice on the shattered door. Other testimonials included spray-painted graffiti on every available surface. WHO KILLED HARVEY MILK? shouted the pavement at the 18th Street intersection. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HARVEY, AT LEAST WE LOVE YOU proclaimed a wall of the Bank of America.

The Harvey Milk Birthday Party ... is an opportunity for San Franciscans to reaffirm their belief in the principles for which Harvey fought. On May 22nd, we remember Harvey; not as a politician or a gay leader, but as one of our neighbors who worked hard to make a difference in our lives. Those of us who knew Harvey, and those of us whose lives are touched by his dreams, will always be grateful. ■

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Marti



Jan



John

Nine years ago, after the death of a dear friend, Patrick Palmer planted the seed that has since grown into the Positive Art Workshop. Looking to overcome feelings of helplessness after his loss, Patrick, an easygoing, good-natured man, turned to the two things he did best: teaching and painting. Palmer approached the Art League of Houston about giving a 10-week art course to men and women who were HIV-positive. The Art League said yes, and Palmer's HIV art class started in January 1991.

After the 10 weeks were over, Patrick was amazed to find himself with 17 students who didn't want to stop. What to do next? "As long as there is interest," he thought, "we'll just keep on going." Patrick kept the classes running by doing three big fundraisers each year.

After six years of teaching the HIV art classes at the Art League, Patrick started teaching full time at the Museum of Fine Arts' Glassell School of Art, the art school in the glass block building across from the MFA. His life was taking off and he had to inform the Art League that he would no longer be able to raise funds for the classes. Interestingly, word got back to the Museum of Fine Arts. They proposed that Patrick teach similar classes at the Glassell and the MFA would handle the funding. The original HIV Art Course is still being taught at the Art League on Thursdays under the instruction of Kermit Eisenhut. Fridays, the Positive Art Workshop is offered by Patrick at the Glassell.

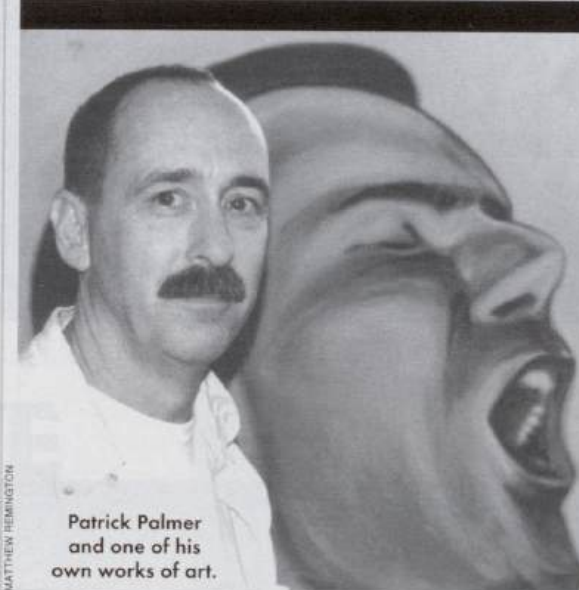
When I met with Patrick, it was clear that this is a man who truly loves his work. Relaxed in neat khakis and a striped cotton shirt, he spoke with enthusiasm about his students, who range from teens to age 60. "The class is mostly men," he says, "of every race and from all walks of life." Patrick's face is expressive and his eyes shine as he goes on about the diversity of the class. One student drives a Rolls Royce to class while others walk or take the Metro. One of the reasons this class is beneficial is because there is no tension here and no politics. With many levels of artistic ability, it's not about performance. Some of the guys have been in Patrick's class four or five years; a feeling of family pervades.

The class starts by eating lunch together, and then they discuss the goals

THE POWER OF POSITIVE ART

Celebrating ten years of making art, the students of Patrick Palmer's HIV art classes mount a photography exhibit

by Sandy Stutz



Patrick Palmer and one of his own works of art.

of the day. They set out their supplies and Patrick does a demonstration before they get to work. One upcoming project is to create an animal that reflects the soul of its creator—sort of a totem that can be any color or scale, limited only by the imagination of the student. Probably, Patrick says, these works will be displayed in the office of Dr. Joseph Gathe, known worldwide for his lectures on HIV/AIDS.

The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center will be displaying a collection of the students' black and white photographs, called "Positive/Negative 2000: The Positive Art Workshop Exhibition." With works ranging from poignant to peaceful, the show was curated by the photogra-

One of the reasons this class is beneficial is because there is no tension here and no politics. With many levels of artistic ability, it's not about performance.

pher Will Michels, and originally displayed in February upstairs at the Glassell School.

The MFA is not the only guardian angel for Patrick's class. The National Council of Jewish Women has adopted the Positive Art Workshop. They provide hot lunches every other week, alternating with Patrick who brings sandwiches. Every year they give the students a Christmas party and are involved in other ways as well. Patrick describes these women as being "very giving" and as "aunts," adding to the feeling that this class is an extended family for HIV-positive people.

Patrick likes to tell a story about one of the first times the ladies were with the class: "They were all in their pretty dresses, and Chi Chi [a large man who has no boundaries where apparel was concerned] was in this halter-top thing. It was a little bit tense, because they didn't feel comfortable and the women didn't know what to expect. Chi Chi went up to one of the women and said, 'Myrna, where'd you get those shoes?' She looked at his feet which were huge and she said, 'Steinmart...and they have your size!' They went on and on! From then on it seemed like both groups just clicked."

It is worth noting that some of these students did not own cameras. Were it not for the support of the MFA, they may not have been able to participate in the "Positive/Negative" exhibit and other projects. The class covers a multiplicity of artforms, including photography, ceramics, painting, and linoleum, and costs approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year. Individuals can help with funding by contacting Tim Brookover of the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center at 713/524-3818. In the past, the private sector has donated art supplies as well.

If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling in the Positive Art Workshop, there is no need to call or make reservations. The class is open to all HIV-positive people and meets from 1-4 p.m. every Friday at 2101 Montrose, room 202, year round, except for three weeks in August when Patrick takes his (well-deserved) vacation.

"Positive/Negative 2000: The Positive Art Workshop Exhibition" will open at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818 on Friday, May 12, 6-8 p.m. The center is open for drop-in visits Mon.-Fri., 6-9 p.m.; Sat., noon-4 p.m. →



POSITIVE NEGATIVE

Instructor Patrick Palmer asked each of his students to interpret the theme "positive/negative" in his or her own way.

Opposite top:
by David Webb

Opposite bottom:
by Javier

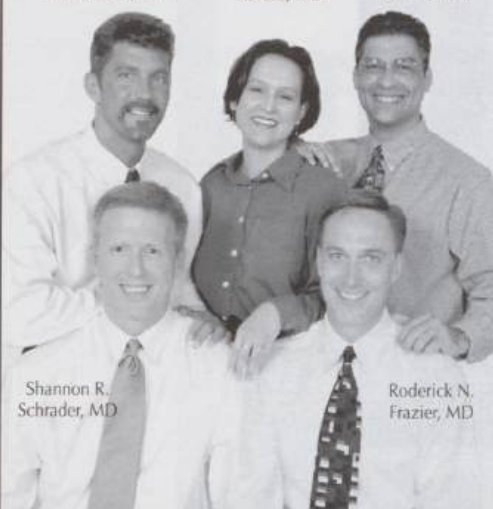
This page, top:
by Anonymous

This page, bottom:
by Clay Allison



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Saturday
9:00 - 1:00

Richard J. Wiederholt 1942-2000

Richard J. Wiederholt, of Houston, Texas, passed away April 28, 2000, at the age of 57 after a long struggle with HIV/AIDS ... but also after experiencing an incredible life. He enjoyed life on his own terms; however, it was one with a purpose, mission, and an inspiration for others. Dad, grandpa, spouse, partner, brother, friend, leader, educator, activist—no one word can describe him as he has enriched the lives of so many in so many different ways. Richard founded Basic Brothers, a premier clothier in Montrose for the past 19 years. Just this year, he was honored as a community leader by being elected the male grand marshal for the Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade 2000. He was a founding board member of the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and served on its board since 1996. Richard was vice president of the chamber, the same position he held in 1998. In 1996, he received the chamber's "President Award" for vision and leadership. In 1999, he served on the EMPOWER 99 Committee and was the co-chair of EMPOWER 2000. Richard was recently elected to the board of the Museum District Business Alliance; he'd been a board member of the MDBA's predecessor, the Neartown Business Association, from 1990-1992. He has been a member of the Shell Community Partners Advisory Board since 1998, and was currently a member of Houston PFLAG. Richard was an HIV/AIDS activist, and a member of the advisory board of the Body Positive Wellness Center. In prior years, he was president of PoWeR (Program for Wellness Restoration), a Body Positive board member and vice president for fundraising. In 1998,

Richard received the Special Recognition award from Body Positive. He was a 1994 charter member of the HIV/AIDS Resource Group in Houston and has been on the board of directors since that time; he was also a charter member of the Houston HIV Forum. Richard was a national sponsor of the Mr. Gay All-American Contest, working with the contest since sponsoring the first Mr. Gay All-American in 1984. From 1987-1992, he was chairman of the board of the Garden Party, which donated more than \$40,000 to Houston AIDS support organizations. Before owning Basic Brothers, Richard spent 25 years in education. He was chair of the Educational Leadership Department at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, an elementary curriculum coordinator in the Alvin School District, and a junior high and high school principal in Missouri and Iowa before moving to Texas in 1978. Richard received his B.S. degree from Northwest Missouri University; a M.Ed. from the University of Missouri; and Ed.S. and Ed.D. degrees from Drake University, in Des Moines. He is survived by his life partner, Ian Leffler, his daughter, Karie Kelly, and her husband, Tom, and a grandson, Sean, of Carrollton, Texas. Other survivors include one brother, Larry (of Missouri), and five sisters, Patricia O'Connor (of Texas), Amelia Hardesty, Viola Luke, Marcella Hancy (all of Missouri), and Lucille Hunt (of Iowa). He will be remembered for his many kindnesses at a memorial service and life celebration at The Brownstone Restaurant, 2736 Virginia, 4-7 p.m., Saturday, May 20, 2000. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Memorial Fund of the HIV Resource Group, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 100, Houston 77006.



Richard wanted everyone to know that HIV is not the end of your life. As he said, "You need to have meaning to your life and you need to be productive. It is work to stay alive, and you have to work at it," something that he did each and every day.

"The lights along Westheimer will shine a little dimmer with Richard's passing. But there are so many projects and people he touched that Richard Wiederholt will never be forgotten ... nor should he be."

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May 2000

Pedaling for my Life

by Roy Green

Photographs
by Martin Vela

How I
traded in a
death sentence for a
bike trip
across the
wilderness
of Alaska



There is something mentally liberating about riding a bicycle long distances on long, lonely roads which brings an inner spiritual contentment. The gentle purr of the chain on the chain ring is sweet music to the cyclist's ears. Perhaps, in my case, I feel a little smug thinking that each stroke of the pedals signifies my determination to not let HIV defeat me...

In August 1990, just after my 33rd birthday, I was diagnosed HIV-positive. It was my reasonable expectation that I might possibly not see my 40th birthday in 1997. I very realistically thought I would not live to see the new millennium. Even if I did manage to stay alive, I expected the quality of my life to be low. After all, I knew the usual drill: Take AZT for a while, go on disability after a few years, then eventually get sick and die. This is the scenario that I had seen unfold for many of my friends and peers at that time. After a couple weeks of deep introspection, I decided that this outcome was simply not acceptable for me. I realized that I must be tenacious and stubbornly determined in my plan to stay alive and healthy.

I began taking AZT, spending hundreds of dollars per month out of my own pocket for this medication. I was not a drug-user, nor was I much of a drinker, and I ate fairly sensibly. In spite of this, the AZT therapy was not easy on my body, so I finally discontinued it in 1993. In 1997, after four years of not be-

ing on any medication, I began a simple regimen of antiviral drugs, which have greatly improved my immune system with virtually no side effects. In July, I celebrated seven years without getting sick and my 40th birthday with a huge party of nearly 300 well-wishers at Pacific Street. (Many of you reading this were there!)

Then, in November of 1997, something happened which led to a huge change in my life—physically, yes—but much more so spiritually. One day, while scanning a local news-

I knew the usual drill: Take AZT for a while, go on disability after a few years, then eventually get sick and die.

paper, I saw an advertisement for the inaugural Texas AIDS Ride. This event, to be held in October of 1998, was a seven-day, 500-plus-mile bicycle ride from Austin through Houston and on to Dallas to raise money for AIDS service organizations across Texas. The thoughts swirled through my head as I grasped the thought. "Hey! I like to ride a bike! Across the Great State? For AIDS charities? I must do this! I can do this! (Can't I?)"

An event like this was tailor-made for me. Although the requirements seemed way above my self-perceived abilities, the goals and deadlines were all clearly laid out—all I had to do was to calculate and execute the

necessary steps. In other words, I could not be fettered by my own self-doubt. This was perfect for my analytical, goal-driven, deadline-motivated personality. In April of 1998, I bought a bike. I began my bicycle training regimen at a modest 10 or 20 miles per week. I rode more and more and before I knew it, I was riding over 200 miles per week!

When the day of the ride came, it was both a huge adventure and pretty overwhelming. It was the most ambitious undertaking I had ever attempted—I was nervous and anxious and excited. I chased away any thoughts of failure, finding comfort in a famous quote from William Shedd: "A ship in the harbour is safe, but that is not what ships are built for."

The ride was incredible. I rode every mile without injury, illness, mechanical problem, or even one flat tire. But in a much bigger sense, I realized that this wasn't just about riding a bicycle. I realized that it was about goal setting, determination, and accomplishment. Inexplicably magical, the ride is about random, abundant acts of kindness among hundreds—even thousands—of strangers. The ride gives hope to HIV-positive participants and supporters and fosters a relentless spirit of teamwork.

After that day, I was hooked. I participated in the MS-150 and numerous lengthy single-day rides. I eagerly participated in Texas AIDS Ride 2, held last October. In all of

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those months, I have ridden between Houston and Austin several times, Houston and Dallas twice, and have ridden literally thousands of miles through places like Fayetteville, Fulshear, Magnolia, Plantersville, and Round Top. I will again ride across Texas in Texas AIDS Ride 3 this October.

Meanwhile, back in early September of 1999, I was browsing AIDS-related topics on the Internet and I found an interesting website. A call was being issued for 2,000 people to enroll for a bike ride from Fairbanks to Anchorage, a fundraiser for AIDS research. 510 miles in six days. Mountains and unpredictable weather. As I clicked and read, the gears started turning in my head. "Alaska?... Always wanted to go, but I never made the opportunity. Alaska on my bicycle? Sounds difficult, but—oh, yeah—that's why I would do it! Alaska on my bicycle to help fight in the long battle against AIDS? Alaska!" I then saw the date—August 2000—and I realized it would be the 10th anniversary of the disclosure of my HIV-positive serostatus. A tear rolled down my cheek. Back on that gloomy day in 1990, the year 2000 was so impossibly distant into the future. As I stared at the computer screen, I realized I was probably supposed to be sick—or even dead—by 2000. Now, the tears were flowing and my whole body trembled with excitement.

So, in an act of blatant contempt against HIV, I am diving into this wonderful project. Accompanied by 1,500 cycling companions from around the world, I will ride my bicycle across 510 miles of vast, rugged Alaska wilderness. I will spend chilly Alaska nights sleeping in a tent, amongst moose and bears. My trusty two-wheeled, tubular steel companion and I will be as one as we forge across Alaska—snow, wind, rain, or shine.

For this privilege, I must raise a minimum of \$3,900 in donations (none will go toward my expenses, as one generous team member has already donated an airline ticket) to provide much-needed "seed funding" for a team of the world's most highly respected research scientists: Dr. David Ho,

director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York City; Dr. Irvin S. Y. Chen of UCLA's AIDS Institute; and Dr. Rafi Ahmed, director of the Emory University Vaccine Center in Atlanta. Dr. Ho was *Time's* "Man of the Year" in 1996 for his research efforts in AIDS therapies. Ho, Chen, and Ahmed are working to develop a vaccine to eradicate the virus which causes AIDS.

I may be a little crazy to take on this project—perhaps—but I am very determined. I want to remind the world that AIDS isn't over. Globally, over 30 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. Only two million of these, about 6.5 percent, have access to protease inhibitors. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 9 million adults and 2.7 million children have died of AIDS. Back in 1990, I assumed I would be one of these statistics. Quite simply, I am very happy to be alive and so strong.



I have set a goal to ride my bicycle 5,000 miles in the year 2000 to prove that HIV won't stop me from living.

open communication with my wonderful doctor. I swallow fistfuls of herbals and vitamins with my few medicines. I am almost a total vegetarian. Fried foods are forbidden. Most certainly, no tobacco or recreational drugs.

As a result, I have not spent even a single night in a hospital. I may be middle-aged, but I am still "lean and mean" with less than 10 percent body fat and the ability to leg-press nearly 800 pounds. As part of my training, I have set a goal to ride my bicycle 5,000 miles in the year 2000 to prove that HIV won't stop me from living. *POZ* magazine recently interviewed me for an article to run in the May issue about people living with—and thriving, in spite of—HIV. Again and again, I spit in the face of the monster living inside my body and I keep getting away with it.

I want to demonstrate that being diagnosed HIV-positive is not an automatic death sentence. I would like to be an example of how being focused on some healthy passion in

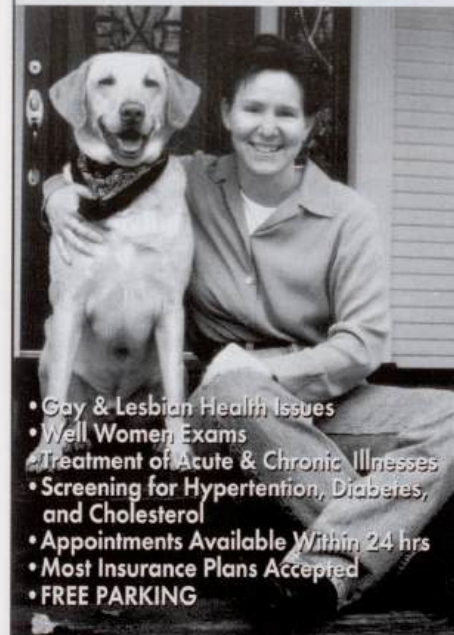
your life—in my case, the AIDS bicycle rides—can yield the rewards of emotional and spiritual wellness. I want everyone to know: "I'm Roy Green from Houston, Texas. When I was diagnosed HIV-positive in August of 1990, I expected I would become ill and probably die. Instead, I am fighting to eradicate AIDS and commemorating a decade of living with HIV by riding my bicycle across Alaska!"

Good health and good spirits to you all!

Please feel free to contact me by phone at 713/807-1615, visiting my home page at www.rider254.homepage.com and sending e-mail to rider254@hotmail.com. Many people have helped as members of my "team." If you can support me in either the Alaska AIDS Vaccine Ride or Texas AIDS Ride 3, please contact me soon. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

For information about the Alaska AIDS Vaccine Ride, call 888/553-4567 or visit www.alaskaride.org. (They are no longer accepting registrations for the 2000 ride, but they are still looking for donations, volunteers, and crewpeople.) For information about signing up for the October 12-15 Tanqueray Texas AIDS Ride, call 1-888/780-RIDE (7433) or visit www.aidsride.org.

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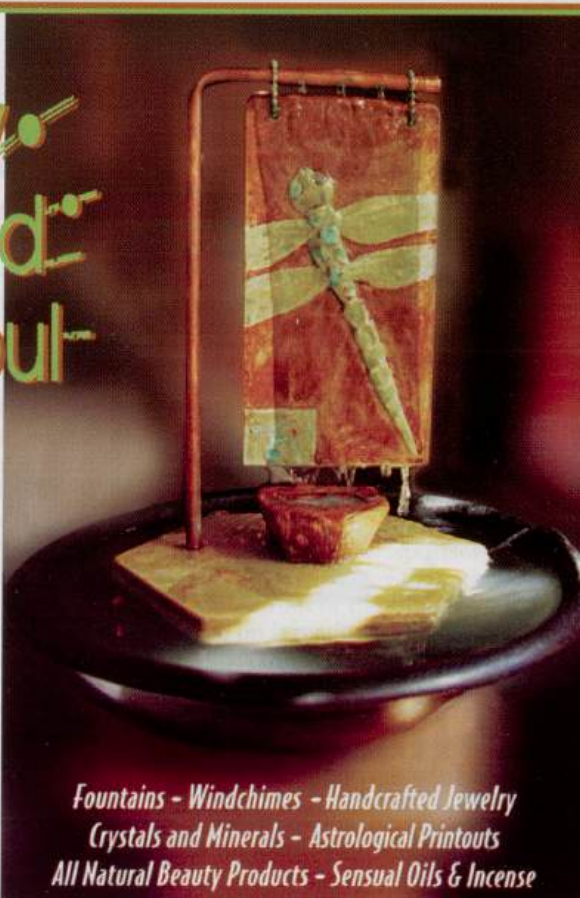


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From the Heart

by Alan Cohen

WHY YOU MIGHT WANT TO FORGET YOUR PAST

Last summer I set out with a group of friends on a sailboat excursion to camp on the mystical island of Molokai. En route we met a tropical storm during which we treaded water for an hour amidst imposing swells. Quite a few of our retinue made pilgrimages to the rail, and by the time the squall abated and we reached shore, numerous would-be sailors had waxed green-faced and swore to take a plane next time.

Fortunately, the weather improved and we went on to enjoy a magnificent sojourn on the exotic isle. As we prepared to leave the next day, several people were anxious about the prospect of hitting bad weather again. Someone suggested we gather for a group prayer for easy passage, and I spoke a strong affirmation that peace was indeed with us. Together we visualized a smooth, easy, and delightful trip, and we came into the vibration of positive expectation until the anxiety had lifted.

As soon as we opened our eyes, a young man in our midst, new to the spiritual path, blurted out, "Yeah, and let's hope we don't hit any more storms!" His statement crashed awkwardly against the vision we had just co-created. Afterward I took the fellow aside and explained to him an important principle:

Once we have prayed for something, we must step fully into the new vibration and not go backward into thoughts, words, or actions that affirm the condition we were praying to heal. We are always affirming what we want or what we don't want, and everything we think, say, or do is directing our energy in one direction or another.

When I was studying with master healer Hilda Charlton, during a class we prayed for a woman named Loni who was seeking to be healed of a particular disease. After the prayer session a man approached Loni and suggested she try a certain herbal treatment. At the following week's class Hilda passionately admonished the fellow and the group: "How dare you undo the healing work we did! We spent a long time and a lot of energy bringing this woman into the consciousness of wholeness, and you speak to her as if she needs help! Don't you ever do this again!"

Hilda was not against medicine, and she was extremely compassionate with people who were suffering. That night Hilda was using the incident to underscore an important point, one which has stayed with me and helped me immensely over many years: To be an effective healer, speak to the place in your client that is whole, and treat each person as if they are already who they would like to be. As Dale Carnegie advised, "Give them a reputation to live up to."

In the famous biblical story, God advised Lot and his family to leave Sodom because the city was about to be destroyed; God told

the family to leave quickly and not look back. On their road to freedom, Lot's wife turned to see what was happening back there, and she turned into a pillar of salt. Certainly this did not

happen physically—the story is a metaphor, a grand piece of advice for all times: Don't get involved with what you are leaving behind. Your past may be loaded with pain, suffering, and difficulty, but you are trying to build a new life. Leave the past where it was, and turn your attention fully toward where you are going. Jesus advised simply, "Turn the other cheek."

We have paid far too much attention to scenes of slavery and crucifixion; we have played them out time and again. Now it is time for us to focus on what happens next. The more we delve into how we got where we are, the more we stay where we were. And the more we consider how we would like it to be, the more things become as we would have them. The choice is ours.

Real spirituality is beyond hope. Hope means there is a chance things may turn out as we wish, and if we are lucky we may get what we want. Inner knowing, on the other hand, proceeds from the awareness that love is present now, well-being is our natural state, and all is really well.

Yes, we may have hit a storm on the way over, but that does not mean we have to hit one on the way back. Our history is not our destiny, and our destiny begins now.

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.

We have paid far too much attention to scenes of slavery and crucifixion; we have played them out time and again.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 55

HARVEY MILK, Man of the Street Fair

BY DAN NICOLETTA

Dan Nicoletta was a key part of Harvey Milk's circle of politicking and support, and is still a freelance photographer in San Francisco continuing his documentation of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender journey in San Francisco.

In 1975, only 19 years old, Dan wrote the following letter home:

Dear Mom, Dad, John, and Lorrain—Last week was the second annual Castro Street, and Castro Street just below where I live was blocked off to traffic. There was an incredible block party reminiscent of the ones we used to have in the projects but about 20 times bigger...

"It was also my first day of work at the camera store, if you want to call it work. The store was hopping with activity because Harvey and Scott, the two guys who run it, were two of the main organizers of the fair. Outside the store we had a photo booth where you could have a Polaroid photo taken of your face on Marilyn Monroe's body, and we also had a table where you could register to vote.... Next day the newspapers estimated about 15,000 people were there...only in San Francisco!"

That Castro Street Fair was the beginning of a long friendship with Harvey Milk and Scott Smith, and a long romance with San Francisco. In another letter to my family I wrote: "This neighborhood is called Eureka Valley, and the work eureka means 'I found it.'"

One of the best things about those early street fairs was the sense of collective mutual joy in having found it. Into the '70s, people arrived in San Francisco from all over the world with hopes of creating a life characterized by the consciousness attributed to the '60s: communal, holistic, nonviolent, mystical, theatrical, avant-garde. A facet of this idealism for myself and many others was that we were people who were gay, searching for a place to be open and honest about this part of our lives—a place without fear of the hatred and bigotry.

The Castro was a unique area of blossoming social, political, economic, and artistic activity. The Castro Street Fair was the annual celebration of this, and everyone came out into the streets to see, and share, and revel in it. Even though the street fair is primarily a party in nature, it is also a political event by its very existence. Harvey and Scott used to refer to it as "a small, intimate gathering for 20,000 of our closest friends." By organizing a large-scale voter registration drive out of their store, and at events like the fair, those 20,000 friends became a constituency which has continued to grow in strength citywide.

In a campaign brochure for the 1978 election, Harvey talked about the Street Fair and politics: "...Every neighborhood should have a street fair, and everyone should have a chance to work with her/his neighbors to make one happen close to

home. The spirit of street fairs is what San Francisco is all about...and the spirit of cooperation that neighbors bring to putting on a street fair soon becomes directed to solving chronic neighborhood problems. It never fails! That's the spirit I would like to bring to the city's problems, and the most imaginative plans for reaching future goals come when talented and energetic people are given the opportunity to work together...."

In 1977, Anita Bryant tried her own mix of politics and show business, but she was no match for Harvey and his style. At that year's street fair, the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club sponsored a dunking tank to raise money to defeat her. The tank was in front of the camera store with a big sign on it reading: "Dunk a fellow for freedom." The target and trigger of the dunking mechanism featured the Newsweek cover of Bryant. When Harvey took the dunking seat, his taunts drew more bull's eyes and the crowd was hysterical with laughter....

Harvey believed in the streets and helped cultivate a wonderful tradition which, as he hoped it would, has inspired neighborhoods throughout San Francisco.

Harvey Milk can no longer attend the street fair, but his spirit lives on. ■

This reminiscence was first published in the Harvey Milk Archives Newsletter.

Thanks go to many people for putting together this Harvey Milk birthday celebration issue and film:

Tim Brookover and Maria Minicucci (Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center); Dan Nicoletta; Rupert Jenkins (San Francisco Arts Commission); Elaine Carol (in Canada); the Glassell School of Art; Jack Valinski, Ray Hill; Karen Stout (UH Graduate School of Social Work). Special thanks to Elva Smith for materials from the Harvey Milk/Scott Smith Collection at the Hornel Studies Center at the San Francisco Public Library

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Answers

"KATE"

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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Across

- 1 Group that George Michael sang with
- 5 Smooched, with "out"
- 9 One-time lover of Marlene
- 14 Hearty partner
- 15 "___ Rhythm"
- 16 Some used cars
- 17 Swell buns here
- 18 *Doctor Zhivago* heroine
- 19 Head of costume designing
- 20 Book by Kate
- 23 Borscht veggie
- 24 Gay composer Rorem
- 25 The way you know they're family
- 29 Bottom of a boat
- 31 "___ About You"
- 34 Mohr's ___: *Outing and Other Controversies*
- 35 Charlotte Bronte's Jane
- 36 Lacking lube
- 37 Kate, of the title
- 39 Gloria, who defended Kate's coming out at a press conference
- 41 Have the blahs
- 42 "___ Mistake" (Men at Work song)
- 44 Dustin's *Midnight Cowboy* character
- 45 Valuable Scrabble tile
- 46 Jess Draper's "One ___ More"
- 47 Try to seduce, with "to"
- 48 Oolong, e.g.
- 49 "My stars!"
- 51 Rita Mae's group, which encouraged Kate to come out
- 58 *The Cat in the Hat* author
- 59 "Zip-" follower
- 60 Where bottoms say tops lay
- 61 Four twosomes or two foursomes
- 62 Patricia of *Hud*
- 63 Charles in *The Thin Man*
- 64 Robert Mapplethorpe work
- 65 Martial ___ (Gay Games V event)
- 66 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"

Down

- 1 "___ been sleeping in my bed?"
- 2 *She's Gotta ___ It*
- 3 Comfort of *The Joy of Sex*
- 4 List of oral pleasures
- 5 *Patience and Sarah* author Isabel
- 6 Open-mouthed
- 7 Friend of ___
- 8 List shortener
- 9 An old witch tried to eat her
- 10 Attempted multiple orgasms, with "it"
- 11 Larger-than-life
- 12 Results of alternative insemination
- 13 Butt that's no longer hot
- 21 Humiliate
- 22 Small opening on a beach
- 25 The Spencer Davis Group's "___ Some Lovin'"
- 26 Baja bye-bye
- 27 Shriill cries
- 28 Hill's partner
- 30 Bear up there
- 31 Three-card ___
- 32 Response to a denial
- 33 One hell of a character
- 35 Female "tail"
- 36 King's land in a Broadway musical
- 38 Atlas or Cronus
- 40 Eat away at
- 43 One who comes too quickly
- 46 Takes care of
- 47 Humped four-footers
- 48 Where to see "Will & Grace"
- 50 Alexander's title, with "the"
- 51 Name for a big Pole
- 52 Beginning of eroticism
- 53 "The X-Files" agent Scully
- 54 Homosexuality to Jesse Helms
- 55 One of the As in AA
- 56 Object of AIDS research
- 57 Morales of "La Bamba"
- 58 Apply bread to gravy

SignOut

by Lilly Roddy

Gosh, this is going to be an interesting beginning of the month. Most all of the planets are going to be in the sign of Taurus and the rest are going to be in Aquarius. I have not seen this kind of lineup of the planets since 1973. The first thing that comes to my memory about that period was the gasoline crisis. The people who will be the most impacted by this are those who have their Sun and/or other planets in Taurus, Scorpio, Leo, and Aquarius. There will be a couple of days that will have a lot of stress associated with this planetary lineup. But in reality, you should have been feeling the building intensity since the last two weeks in April. The most intense days will be the May 3-4 and May 8-10. Try to keep an even keel. The Sun begins its journey in Taurus and walks into Gemini on the 20th. Mercury, Venus and Mars also start the month in Taurus but enter Gemini on the 14th, 25th and the 3rd respectively. The rest of the planets remain in the same sign where they have been since the beginning of the year.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) This is your birthday month and it is going to be a heck of a one. This is a major, extreme, fanatical time of reevaluation in your life. Where are you going? Are you happy with this direction? If not, look for some significant changes in areas of career, relationships, friends, and family. Your tolerance and patience will be a thing of the past, especially in the beginning two weeks of May. You may want to put some distance between you and any problems that you have. This will certainly help decisions about your future but won't change how you feel about your current situation.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) There is a bubbling cauldron inside of you. You are looking for a way to release this buildup of energy. I suggest a spiritual retreat or a getaway from your routines. Paris or London would fill the bill nicely. If not there, then Galveston will work. By the end of the month you are feeling like your old self, full of spice and vinegar. This is a great month to take risks and stand up for yourself. Exercise and diet programs will work nicely as well. Just don't expect to do the same old things you've always done.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) This is a very testing time with your friends and group associations. Some will become painfully obvious that they have outlived their usefulness in your life. Others will have to be reevaluated and reoriented into your life in a different way. One way that this will be evident is that friendships will have to be more balanced. If you feel that you are carrying the ball in the maintenance of the relationship, it will have to be more balanced or come to an end. At the

end of the month you will need some time for retreat and rest.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) May is about your career and who is in charge. Anyone who tries to push their weight around with you will be tangling with the Lion that your sign represents. Watch out for conflicts between the amount of time that you spend with your lovers and time you spend at work. Your lovers could seem very emotionally distant this month. If you feel properly ignored, you will want to wait until the end of the month before you go out on a hunting mission. Otherwise, you will attract the same type of people that you have at home.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This is a great month for you to look at doing different things in your career and exploring your more creative side. You are feeling very restless at work. If you don't act on this feeling, you will be engaging in more conflictual experiences with the people that you work with and deal with as customers. Also, if you would like to get away from your precious routine, it would be really good for you. Otherwise you will be more picky and critical than usual. And you don't want to overdo your better qualities.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Time to remove that nice mask you wear around your lover and your close friends and let them see the real you. The obsessive controlling part of you that wants everyone to be nice, polite, and gracious. And you get to be the self-centered, narcissistic one, as opposed to the partners that you attract. This is real balance. The thing you always seek. Put your elbows on the table. Chew with your mouth open. Leave the bed unmade in the morning. Wear bright colors instead of trying to blend in. And enjoy the shocked looks on those closest to you. Next month, you can go back to your normal perfect self.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) The big lineup of the planets this month puts all of them in the relationship house of your sign. You will have the fortune to expose any uncertainty about your commitment. And for you to challenge your partner with any uncertainty that you feel from them. It sounds like a time to clear the air with your life partner. And avoid going home to visit the family and taking your partner with you during the first two weeks of May. If you are looking for a catalyst, with all the planets in Taurus, you will find one there.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Feeling really pushed at work? Getting the notion that everyone expects you to carry the whole load? Well, you are correct. And you are ready for a break but you just can't get away to enjoy one. You have over-committed yourself once again. When will you learn

that there are 27 hours in a 24-hour day and not 30 like you want to believe. Watch out for your health. If you get signals that your health is deteriorating, blame others and take the rest of the day off. Next month: the challenge of relationships and how you can get along without them.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Everyone around you is feeling stressed, bent out of shape, and pushed to their limits. And since this is how you feel most of the time, all is right with the world. Your creative energies are flowing. Take this month off for play, trips, and self-indulgence (you may have to look that one up in the dictionary). Spend time with people who are interested in having fun. You are not really into the normal work mode. This is a great time to market yourself or ideas; since you won't be so caught up in the outcome, you will get more than you expect. Relax...by the end of the month, you will be back to your old self.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Basically this month, you are rebuilding your home, family, and foundation to fit you, finally. You have struggled with feeling different and out of place your whole life. Now you have the control that you have always wanted. Clean out those psychological closets where your mother hides and those dusty attics where your dad hangs out. You have more control over your choices in your life. This may be why this seems so confusing; up till now, you have only dreamed of this kind of power. Your throne awaits you.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) You always seem so calm while people are running around you with their heads and hearts in their hands. You are in a great place to give people sage advice at this time. You see the bigger picture and know how to get the results they need. Just be careful and don't do it for them even if you want to. Save that energy for the last part of the month when your family issues bubble to the surface and you have to take that unexpected trip back home.

Aries (March 21-April 19) This month, you are looking for money and self-worth. Self-worth problems can show up with friends who continually take advantage of you and your good nature. Others will have to make more of an effort if they want to be in your life. Otherwise, you will be out on an adventure looking for new people to put in those friendship spots. At the end of the month, your sense of humor returns and you won't take life so seriously.



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

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SceneOut

OUT IN HOUSTON



1 Jaime Angeles (r), first-place winner in the International Festival's Carmen Miranda contest, and Carlos Chanel, runner-up.

Cafe Beignet hosted a media review taste test on April 12.

2 (L-r) Co-owner of Cafe Beignet **Tikka Goldberg** and food critics for the *Houston Voice* **Tracye Diskin** and **Kay Lee**.

3 Senior editor of *My Table* **Micki McClelland** (l), and **Tim Brookover** of *My Table* and Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

Houston International Festival donated a booth to PFLAG and OutSmart magazine in their effort to reach out to the gay community.

4 Don (l) and **Susan Upchurch** of PFLAG

5 Sue Null and **Steve** of PFLAG



6 Ron Helaire (l) presents **Mary Rogers** with a Mary Statuette at the Oscars Party of Montrose on March 26 at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Rogers won the award for being the best-dressed guest at the Academy Awards viewing party.

Landmark River Oaks Theatre was aglow March 26 for the 2nd annual "Academy Awards Party." The event was a fundraiser for the Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (which runs May 26-June 4, 2000).

7 (L) **Valarie Brickhorse-Herrera**, **Stuart Buchanan**, and **Sarah Gish**

8 **Nancy Ford** (l) and **Annis Parker**

9 **Randall Jobe** from JR's

10 **Amber Grant**



11 (L-r) **Jack Sanspree**, **Bruce Boston** (chief cook), and **Jerry Barak** at EJ's on April 5.

The Progressive Dinner Party on March 25 benefiting AssistHers and An Uncommon Legacy Foundation hosted by Janine Brunjes, Wayne Gresham, Rick Lockwood, Roderick Frazier, Chuck Wood, and Frank Staggs.

12 **Chuck Wood** and **Roderick Frazier**

13 **Wayne F. Gresham** and **Rick Lockwood**



April 15, Pennzoil Art Car Weekend concluded with the annual Art Car Ball blowout presented by the Orange Show foundation. The art car ball is a spectacular car show and party that takes place on the rooftop of Allen Center parking garage.

14 (L-r) **Swati Modi**, **Corbin Young** and **Shannon Jacobs**

15 **Susana Holte**, **Johnny Hooks**, and **Alex**

16 (L-r) **Troy Trevino**, **Jym**

Schmidt, and **René Serenil**. Jym

Schmidt's Alice in Wonderland took first

prize in the Fashion Parade.

17 Belly dancers dance to music

played by DJ Sean Carnahan

18 **DJ Sean Carnahan**



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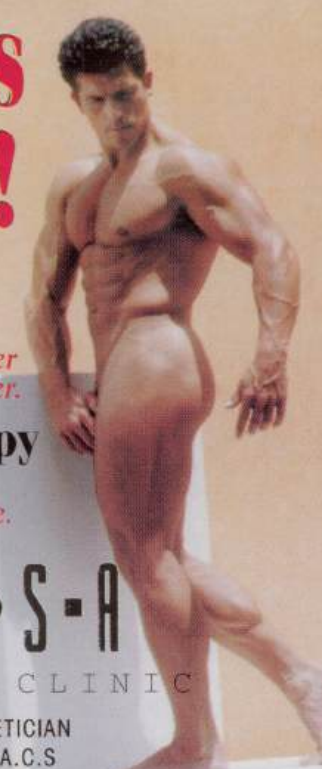
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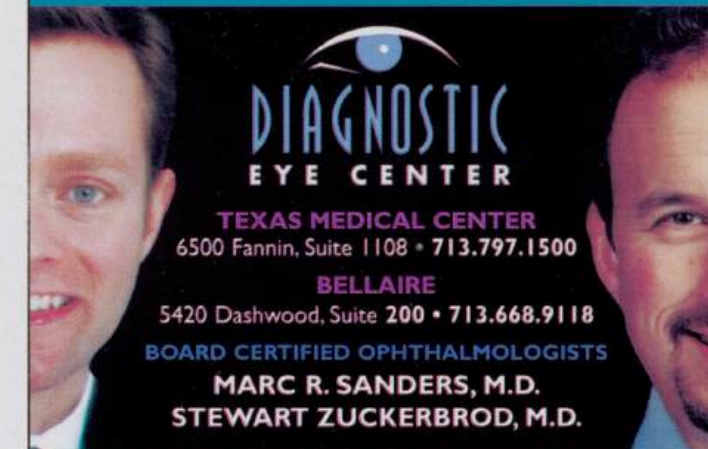
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