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Gay and Lesbian Magazine

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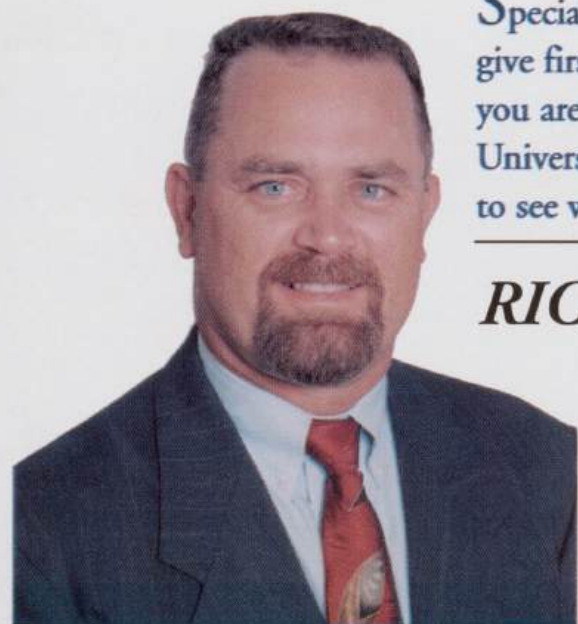
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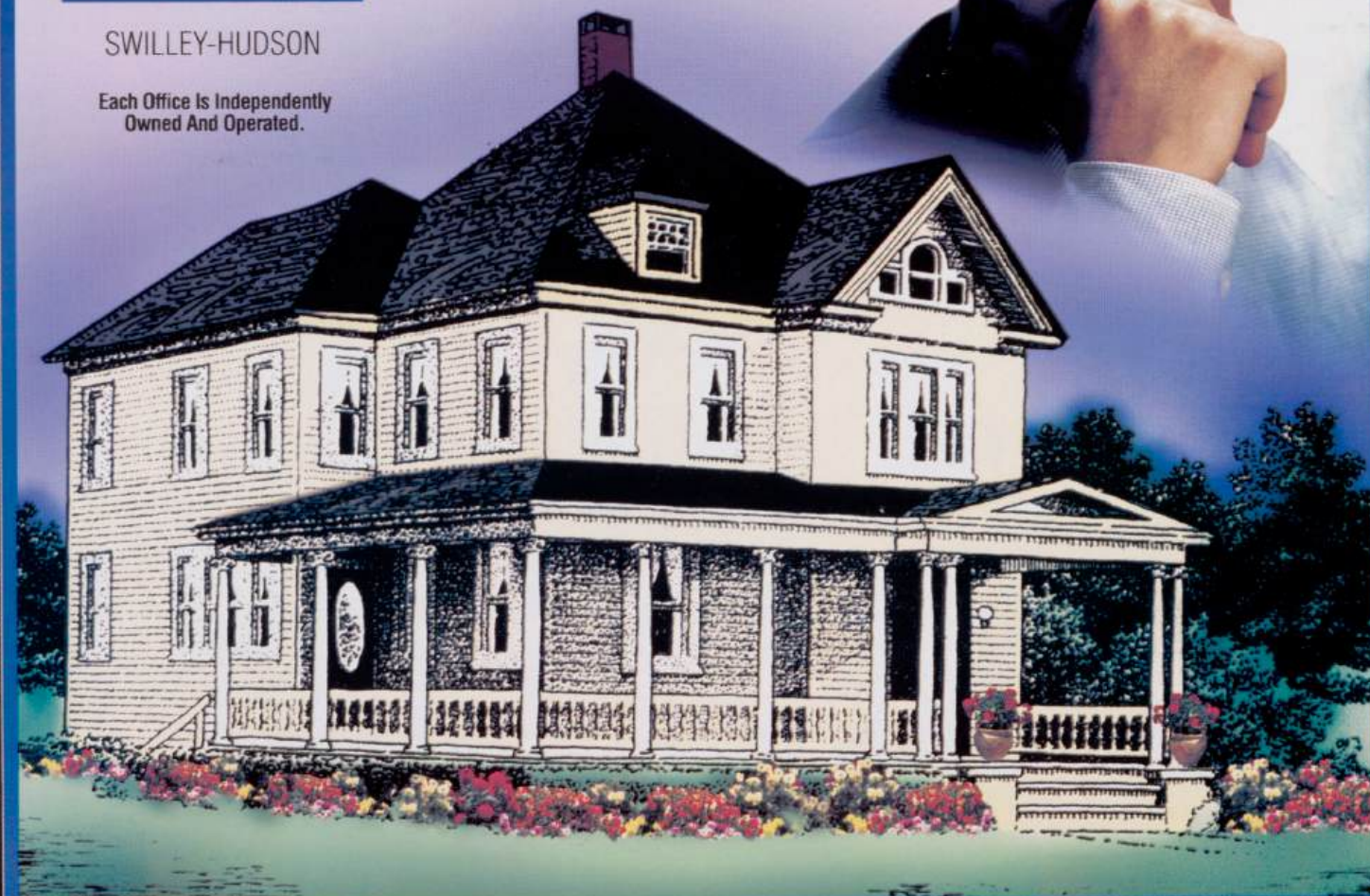
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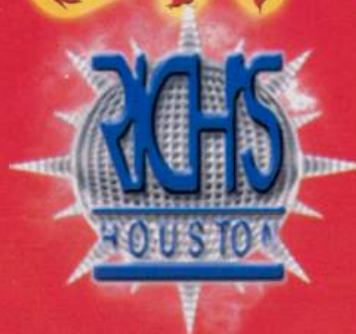
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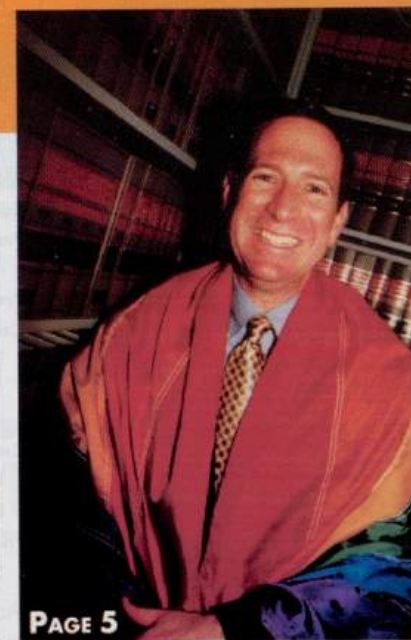
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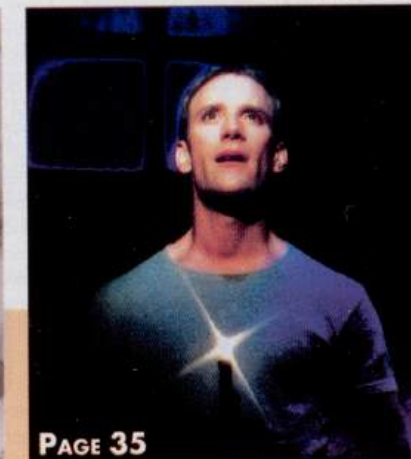
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COVER PHOTO: THERESA DiMENNO
DESIGN: BLASE DiStefano

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In&Out

News IN our community & OUT in the nation

WE'RE LEGAL!

The appalling Texas Penal Code 21.06 (commonly known as the homosexual conduct or "sodomy" law) has finally been struck down, as most have already heard.

"Gay and lesbian people are no longer considered criminals under the Texas Penal Code," proclaimed Mitchell Katine, a local member of the counsel. "Today is a day for celebration!"

The law was challenged by John Geddes Lawrence and Tyrone Garner, who had been arrested in September 1998 when the police discovered the couple having sex in their apartment. The police were called to the scene by a roommate who had called in a false report of an armed robber on the premises.

"There is absolutely no legitimate government interest in policing the bedrooms of adults simply because those adults are of the same sex," said Suzanne Goldberg, a lawyer with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc.

Although Texas had had a sodomy law dating back to 1859 banning certain sex acts between all people, it was Governor Dolph Brisco, in 1973, who signed a new law into effect that banned these acts only between members of the same sex. Although 12 states still have sodomy laws on the books that apply to gay and straight people alike, only Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas had laws which only apply to same-sex couples.

The defense argued that the Texas law was unconstitutional in four different ways: by violating both the Texas and the U.S. Constitution's provisions for equal protection and the right to privacy. The 14th Court of Appeals only found it necessary to strike down the law on one of these objections—that it violates the Texas Constitution's provision for equal protec-



Mitchell Katine holding up the edition of *Texas Lawyer* announcing that the 21.06 Homosexual Conduct Statute has been found unconstitutional. "Gay and lesbian people are no longer considered criminals under the Texas Penal Code," he proclaimed on June 8. "Today is a day for celebration!"

tion. (Which leaves three legs to stand on, even if this first is not upheld.)

"The simple fact is, the same behavior is criminal for some but not for others, based solely on the sex of the individuals who engage in the behavior," Justice John S. Anderson wrote.

Sodomy laws have been struck down in Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana, and Montana based on privacy issues, while they were repealed in Kentucky and Maryland on arguments of equal protection.

Opponents have come up with all sorts of convoluted arguments about why the Texas law doesn't violate the equal protection mandate of the Texas Equal Rights Amendment. They say that women are not excluded under the law, so it's okay. Or that if heterosexuals have sex with someone of their same gender, they will also be prosecuted, so the law doesn't favor heterosexuals. These are so absurd, we won't waste the space to point out their ridiculous logic.

However, the final day of celebration has not yet arrived, because this decision only

applies to the jurisdiction of the 14th Court of Appeals. Harris County D.A. Johnny Holmes has said he'll appeal the decision to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Luckily, two of the most conservative members of that court are retiring before the case will come before them. So not only is there a possibility that the state-side court could decide to uphold the sodomy law, the GLBT community in the rest of Texas is still under the cloud of criminality.

But coming to the higher court with the staunch opinion of the lower court on our side, there is a very good chance that we will win what should have been the case all along—that simply by being ourselves, we are not thereby judged as violating our country's laws.

As the courageous defendant John Geddes Lawrence said in an interview with the *Houston Chronicle*: "At least this nightmare brought some benefit for all of us in Texas. I am thankful and relieved that this horrible experience may finally be over." —Ann Walton Sieber

CORRECTION

I am writing in reference to "The Power of Positive Art" [in] your May 2000 issue. I am a student in the art class taught by Patrick Palmer and two of the photographs which appeared in your article were taken by me. The picture labeled "opposite top" and attributed to David Webb should actually be labeled David Salazar. The picture labeled "this page top" and attributed to anonymous should also be labeled David Salazar. I spoke to Patrick Palmer about the labeling and he said...that it was his mistake and not yours. —David Salazar

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In&Out

Report: Brazilian Catholic bishop says condoms should be OK

RIO DE JANEIRO—The *Boston Globe* reports that at least one Roman Catholic bishop in Brazil has said some people should be allowed to use condoms. The paper reported that Eugenio Rixen, the bishop of Goias, said that some groups at high-risk of HIV infection—such as homosexuals and prostitutes—should be allowed to use condoms with the church's approval. Bishop Rixen also serves with the Brazilian Catholic Health Pastoral, which focuses on health-related issues confronting the church. Brazil is the largest Roman Catholic nation in the world, but it also has officially recorded more than 200,000 HIV infections to date.

In other news from Brazil, the *New York Times* reports that the Brazilian government has given de facto legal recognition to gay and lesbian relationships in pension inheritance and social security benefits. The new government regulations, the paper reports, were the result of a recent court ruling in the country. Under the new rules, same-sex couples who can demonstrate they have a "stable union" will be treated the same as a legally married couple by the National Social Security Institute.

THE MARCH GOES ON

OutSmart remembers
moments of inspiration
from the Millennium
March on Washington

Be the change you want to see
in the world. — Mahatma
Gandhi

"If you dream of a world in which you can put your partner's picture on your desk, then put his picture on your desk and you will live in such a world. And if you dream of a world in which you can walk down the street holding your partner's hand, then hold her hand and you will live in such a world. If you dream of a world in which there are more openly gay elected officials, then run for office and you will live in such a world. And if you dream of a world in which you can take your partner to the office party, even if your office is the U.S. House of Representatives, then take her to the party. I do, and now I live in such a world. Remember, there are two things that keep us oppressed: them and



Tammy Baldwin (2nd from right)

us. We are half of the equation. There will not be a magic day when we wake up and it's now OK to express ourselves publicly. We must make that day ourselves, by speaking out publicly—first in small numbers, then in greater numbers, until it's simply the way things are and no one thinks twice. Never doubt that we will create this world, because, my friends, we are fortunate to live in a democracy, and in a democracy, we decide what's possible."

—U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., speaking from the stage of the Millennium March on Washington, April 30, 2000

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SUMMER BREEZE

OutSmart talks to k.d. lang about the nature of being gay, blue skies and hurricanes, and the calm in the eye of the storm

At a local radio station a live audience eagerly anticipated the arrival of Grammy-winning diva k.d. lang, who was here to help Houston promote our Pride Parade, as well as promote her new very positive CD *Invincible Summer* (see also GrooveOut, page 43). Men and (mostly) women whispered to one another, our eyes moving from one to another and back to the door of the conference room. A couple of young women sat beaming. "Look at my hands," one of them said. "I'm sweating!"

And then it happened, k.d. lang bounded in looking like sunshine, all smiles, to the center of the cheering room. She wore a loose-fitting, sky-blue tunic with a hood, a pair of mustard-yellow jeans, and flip-flops. Within minutes, she had kicked off her shoes and perched herself on a counter. Casually tossing her dark brown hair out of her eyes as she spoke, you had the impression that this was a star with nothing to prove. This was a person who was sincerely happy. She told stories: the famous-among-lang-fans photo shoot with Cindy Crawford, the interview with Barbara Walters, the nude scene in her movie *Salmonberries*. She told us she loves swimming, playing with her dog, riding her motorcycle, napping in the sun. She owned us.

After meeting with the audience of "lucky listeners" at KRBE, k.d. met with the "members of the press," *OutSmart* and one other venue. She appeared at once ordinary, beautiful, luminous, and peaceful, reporting that after years on the road, she took time off and "had a life," which allowed her to fall in love with music, again. The title for her CD came from a quote by Albert Camus: "In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer." Answering our questions patiently, she seemed more yogi than superstar. I asked, where did she feel she was headed? She answered that to her it was about a natural evolution, "not intellectually making a path, but going with my gut." While at one time she had believed that music was her life, now she had an understanding that life was art. She made *Invincible Summer* for the listeners. "After 37 years," she said softly, "I finally got...that music is a beautiful way to communicate with people." And so the rest of the interview went—Sandy Stutz.

OutSmart: I've noticed that you have a real comfort level onstage—you just seem so casual and comfortable. Is there something that you do before you go onstage or has it always been natural for you?

K.d. lang: I was watching this program on hurricanes last night. And they were explaining that there's this wall that's a column shape, right? And when it passes, you pass through this wall, and when you're in the middle of the hurricane, you can look straight up and it's blue skies. It's kind of like being on the road. When you're onstage it's blue skies all the way, and the rest is completely crazy. When you get onstage it's the gravity, it's the center, it's the vortex of my life! [She leans forward emphatically.] It's what *everything's* about, even making records. It's about getting on that stage. To me that's quintessential.

[When asked about getting the city pumped up on the Pride Parade, k.d. spoke about being proud of who you are whoever you are. She called for tolerance and compassion toward people outside our community and their lifestyles.]

There's this whole issue of choice or not a choice [about being gay]... It can look like we're reacting to the far right.

Yeah, I think it's important to answer all the questions, because I think that gay culture is so diverse. There are some people that make the choice. I [also] think it is genetic. I think...it is reactionary. I think it is transitional. I think it's everything. I think that's what we have to expose! It's a living, breathing, evolving culture that isn't represented by one group of people or one or two mindsets. There are Christian gay people. There are atheists. There are rabbis. There are Buddhists. There's everything within the gay culture. I think it's a matter of everyone communicating and discussing it and not being defensive and not feeling it's a losing battle.... **I want to get back to the 15 years on the road.... Are we talking about literally without a stop, without contact with anyone that wasn't in show business?**

Well...[she pauses] Pretty much. You know...I put eight records out in 15 years and each record takes about two years, so it was pretty hard going. [Leaning back, she takes a deep breath.] And...I think that I wanted to establish myself as an artist. When you're not relying on a trend, you know, it's pretty much about work...

Is it hard on your relationship with your family?

No, not my family. My family's very supportive, but I never had a *real* substantial relationship in 15 years. [Smiles] Had lots of girlfriends, but...



k.d. lang

US AUTOMAKERS OK PARTNER BENEFITS

DETROIT—In what is the largest single addition of benefits for same-sex couples, Detroit's Big Three automakers have agreed to extend medical, dental and prescription drug coverage for the domestic partners of its registered employees. The agreement by General Motors, Ford and Daimler-Chrysler covers more than 466,000 workers.

The new benefits package is slated to become available August 1 and will require that workers meet eligibility requirements. The new package does not include domestic partners of opposite-sex couples.

Jeffrey Montgomery, head of the Michigan-based Triangle Foundation, said, "It is particularly significant that all three companies, along with the UAW have made this great commitment. We're proud that the industry most closely identified with Detroit and Michigan has taken such an important and empowering step forward."

"By taking this step together, the Big Three have bolstered the traditional American value of equal pay for equal work, regardless of sexual orientation," says Kim I. Mills, HRC's education director who oversees WorkNet, the organization's workplace project. "Domestic partner benefits are one of the strongest signals a company can give to demonstrate that it values its lesbian and gay employees."

More than 3,400 private and public employers provide these benefits to their employees, according to the HRC; since the beginning of this year, an average of nine employers have announced these benefits each week.

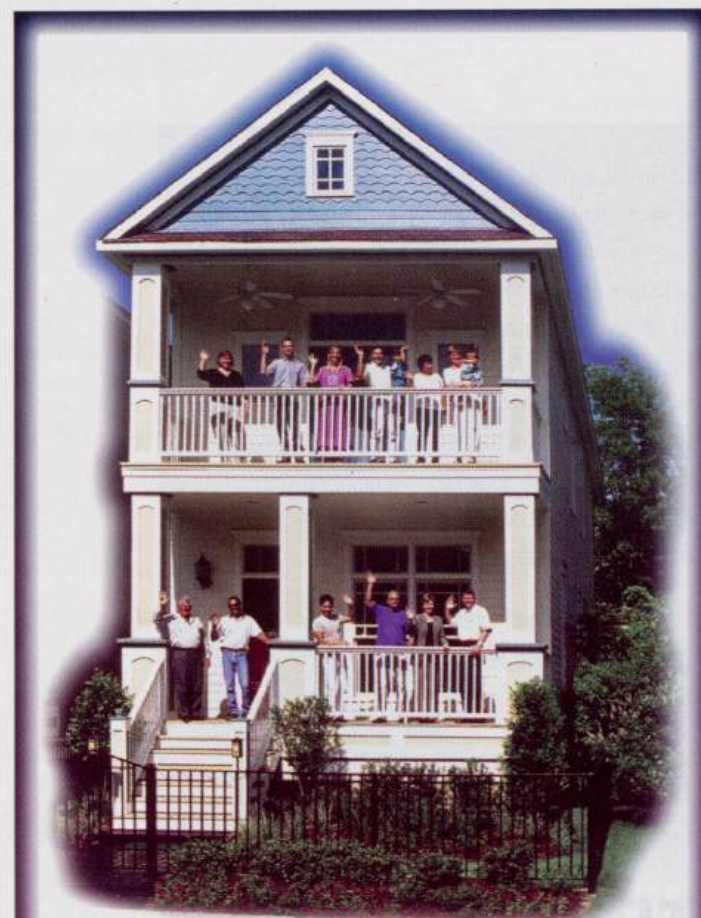
JESSE JACKSON TELLS MAYORS TO GET TESTED

SEATTLE—Speaking at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Seattle, the Rev. Jesse Jackson called on the nation's mayors to publicly take HIV tests in an effort to encourage more people to also get tested. Jackson told the mayors that taking the tests themselves publicly "will attract media attention and public education" to encourage people in their own cities and towns to also get tested.

Some of the mayors gave Jackson's proposal a cool reception, but others, such as Roosevelt Dorn, the mayor of Inglewood, Calif., said he was "excited" by Jackson's call to help fight the epidemic more actively.

The previous week, Jackson had led 50 black ministers in Chicago in getting an HIV test, to help overcome "a certain taboo and even a certain shame [around] AIDS."

In conjunction with the highly publicized tests of the ministers, Balm in Gilead, a national group to involve black churches in fighting AIDS, will also begin airing television spots in the Chicago area about involving churches in the battle against the epidemic.



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Things you should know about VIRACEPT VIRACEPT is generally well tolerated. People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea. Diarrhea of moderate or severe intensity occurred in about one out of five people in clinical trials.

Some common medications and some HIV-related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. Protease inhibitors, including VIRACEPT, may interact with cholesterol-lowering drugs. Talk to your doctor about any prescription or non-prescription drugs you are taking. For some people, protease

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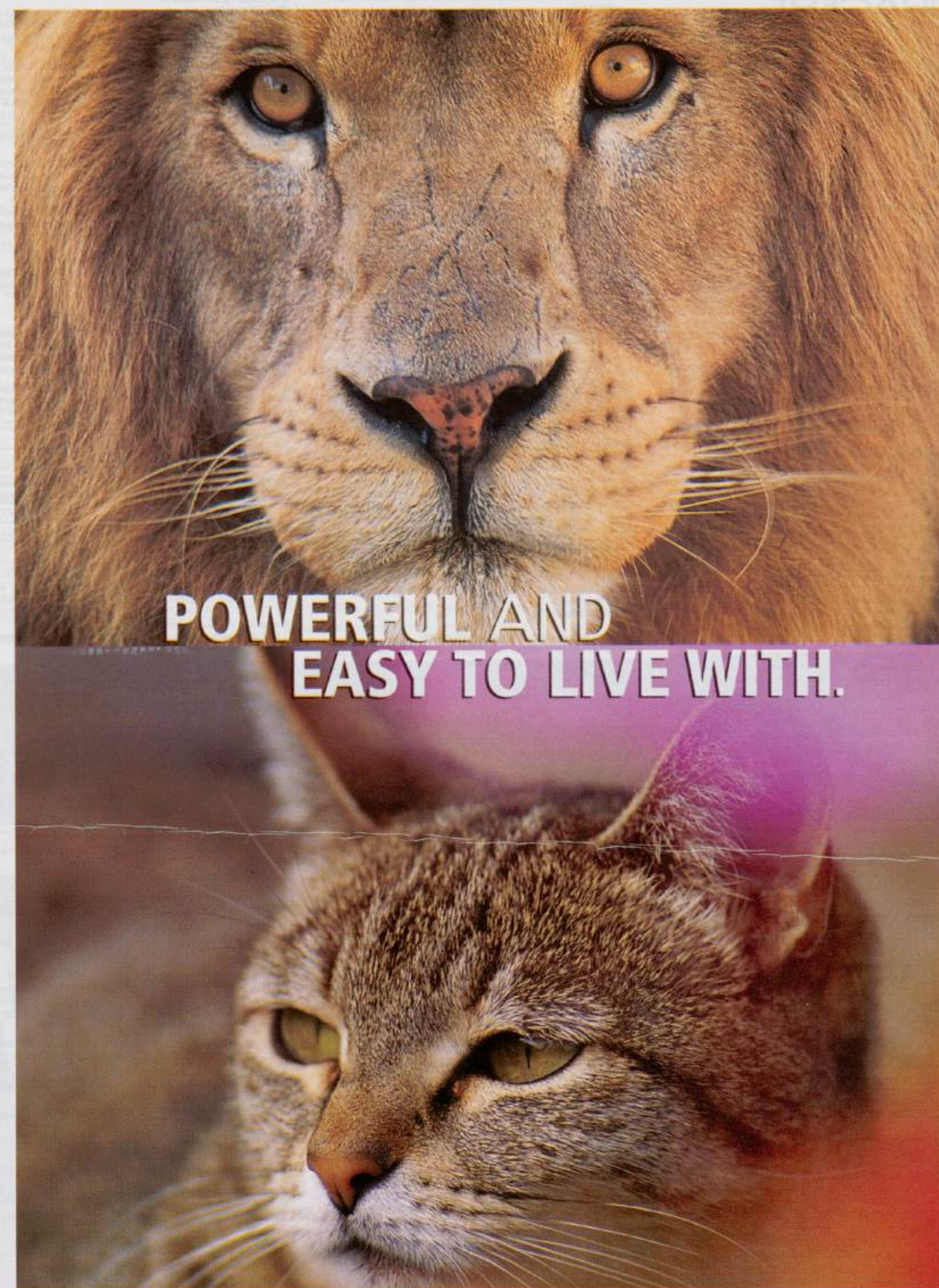
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VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Zidovudine (ZDV), Zalcitabine (ddC), or Zalcitabine (ddI). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) 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.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

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:

- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine® (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaguard®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headaches)
- 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:

- 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.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zorcor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

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)
- Efavir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zert (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

Sustiva® (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

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. 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 14-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two 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. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack.

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 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 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 Kg	Lb	Number of Level Scoops†	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
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	2
≥ 23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	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 foods 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 stored 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.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Business Briefs

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) signed a partnership agreement on June 1 with the **National Association of Gay and Lesbian Community Centers (NAGLCC)** in Los Angeles. The partnership is intended to increase the participation of lesbian- and gay-owned businesses in SBA's capital-access, contract procurement, and technical assistance programs. Under the

agreement, SBA will work closely with 106 gay and lesbian community centers in 36 states to disseminate information about SBA's small-business assistance programs and services to America's gay and lesbian small-business owners and potential entrepreneurs. For more information call Worley Barker of Chase Bank's SBA lending program at 713/640-3385.

Jacquie Brennan and Kevin Johnson are pleased to announce the firm's new name: **Brennan Johnson Law Firm, LLP**. "Being a full-service law firm means that our clients think of our firm as their 'legal home'—one place to bring all of their legal problems and concerns. Our attorneys bring a wide range of interests and experience to many different areas of law," says Brennan.

Within the firm, Jason Grill concentrates his practice in business litigation, landlord-tenant disputes, and probate. Scott Fishman focuses on family, probate, and consumer law. Paula Narcisse handles civic litigation, real estate, and commercial transaction law. Lynette Bratton focuses on contracts, business formation and transactions, and construction law. David Mee focuses on criminal law, civil rights, and civil litigation. Nicole Fiori handles appeals and parole issues, consumer protection, and criminal cases. Lisa VanAuken focuses on divorces, child custody and support, and adoptions. Reed Gonzalez focuses on personal injury, medical malpractice, and HIV law. Cary Farris handles employment, immigration, and consumer litigation for the firm. Kevin Johnson focuses his practice in civil litigation, including auto accidents, nursing home abuse, and personal injury. Jacquie Brennan continues to concentrate her practice on disability and elder law issues, including estate planning. Brennan Johnson, LLP, is located at

2402 Commonwealth, and can be reached at 713/522-1211.

Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc. presents its Table Sales Kick-Off Party on July 16 from 4-7 p.m. Co-chair Gail Swinney encourages participants to attend this year's kick-off party to secure seating at the annual fundraising dinner; this year's theme is "2000: A New Dawn."

The board of directors of Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc. is pleased to announce the beneficiaries of this year's fundraising event. Local beneficiaries include: The Assistance Fund, AssistHers, Bering Omega Community Center Services, Body Positive Houston, Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.), Lesbian and Gay Community Center, Lesbian Health Initiative, Montrose Clinic, Montrose Counseling Center, PFLAG Houston, People with AIDS Coalition of Houston, Texas Human Rights Foundation, and An Uncommon Legacy-Houston. This year's national beneficiary is GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation). Co-chair Carlos Reyes adds, "We anticipate over 1,300 participants at this year's dinner and expect to surpass the fundraising goals of previous years." "2000: A New Dawn" will be held on November 11, 2000 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. For more information, call 713/523-9611.

Two Houston activist groups, the **Equity Rally, Inc** and the **Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus**, working in conjunction with the **StopDr.Laura.com** website are spearheading local opposition to Laura Schlessinger by organizing a protest picket on Friday, July 14, 11:30 a.m., at KSEV AM-700 (11767 Katy Freeway) where "Dr." Laura currently airs her syndicated radio show.

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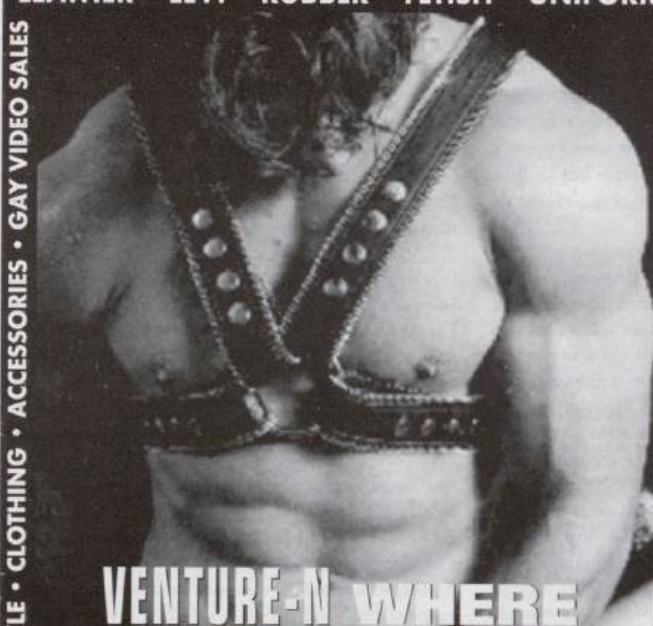
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"This force is to create awareness in the local population of Houston that bigotry will not be tolerated in our city's airwaves. Our ultimate aim is to halt KPRC-TV, Channel 2's plans to air her television show this September," reports Dan DiDonato of the Equity Rally. Calling lesbian and gay people "biological errors," pedophiles and "deviant," Dr. Schlessinger stridently opposes gay marriage, gay rights to adopt children, and counsels parents to isolate their kids from LGBT people. For more information, contact 713/498-8556.

Amazon.com announced the launch of a comprehensive new gay & lesbian bookstore created to help shoppers find and discover a full range of gay- and lesbian-oriented titles in one easy-to-shop location. Located at www.amazon.com/gay-and-lesbian, the electronic bookstore features titles devoted to all aspects of gay and lesbian life, including biographies, history, literature, drama, literary criticism, poetry, mystery and thrillers, nonfiction (including activism, bisexuality, civil rights, coming out, philosophy, sexuality, and transgender), parenting and families, and travel. The site offers editor recommendations and customer reviews, as well as lists of award-winning gay and lesbian titles, including winners of the Lambda Literary Awards—sponsored by the Lambda Book Report, a bimonthly review of lesbian and gay literature—and the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Book Awards. You can also access Amazon.com from the OutSmartMagazine.com website.

ISSUES! magazine, proclaiming itself the only national publication to address the entertainment and social needs of lesbians of color, premiered in April 2000. "I want to be the *Essence* or the *Latina* for lesbians of color," states publisher and founder Stephanie Daniels. "Lesbians of color throughout the world are doing remarkable things. I don't think it's reasonable to try to squeeze the many and varied works and interests of a global community of lesbians of color into a special issue of a magazine, but the more mainstream lesbian magazines continually do just that. We want to talk about the issues that affect us as lesbians and women of color, from breast cancer to relationships to the workplace to the fun stuff, like entertainment and travel." Two years ago, ISSUES! was dreamed up during a road trip between Los Angeles and Oakland. Check out their website at www.issuesmag.com.

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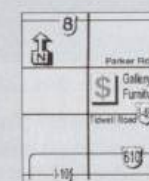


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LeftOut

by Paula Martinac

AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF BIGOTRY

Nobody deserves *that*." We've all heard this phrase used about extreme acts of violence toward gay people and other "others," like blacks and Jews. It's a chilling phrase that points to a troubling fact—that many people only recognize the humanity of those who are different from them when violence strikes.

I've been mulling over the phrase since I heard it again in a disturbing new play, *The Laramie Project*, which looks at how Matthew Shepard's murder shook up the small Wyoming town where the young gay man was brutally attacked. The dialogue of Moisés Kaufman's play is drawn from transcripts of actual interviews with residents of Laramie conducted by the playwright and members of his theater company in the months after Shepard's death. In one unsettling scene, when an interviewer asks a devoutly Christian straight woman for her thoughts about Shepard's murder, she says with a shudder, "Nobody deserves *that*."

The implication behind the phrase is clear: We, in fact, "deserve" most of the prej-

dice we experience. By making ourselves visible, lesbians and gay men are just "asking for it"—to be denied marriage rights, to fear the loss of our jobs, to have our sexual activities criminalized, to die of AIDS, to be shunned by our parents and our churches, to be tossed out of the military, to have our fitness as parents challenged, even to be verbally harassed.

You can see this implied in an Associated Press poll taken in May of this year. The results indicate that 46 percent of Americans still believe homosexuality is a choice, while another 20 percent aren't sure. Many of these same Americans think lesbians and gay men don't merit rights like marriage and domestic partnership because we've perversely opted to be different.

I imagine, though, that many of those questioned in the AP poll would, like the character in Kaufman's play, say that lesbians and gay men don't "deserve" to be beaten to death. In the same way, the killing of four black girls in a Birmingham, Ala., church bombing in 1963 helped turn the opinion of many whites

against racial segregation. And, following World War II, many non-Jews finally "got" anti-Semitism when they saw graphic photos of the Nazi concentration camps.

To illustrate further, take the example of the students at the urban college where my partner teaches. In an English composition class called "The Family," she recently assigned the reading of an article about the extreme experience of a young lesbian who lives in Utah. Last fall, the woman's parents and brothers savagely beat her, because lesbianism presumably dishonored her Jordanian family.

When blaming Republicans won't fly, some gay groups try minimizing the importance of the Democratic betrayal. Witness their supine reaction to California Governor Gray Davis' recent rejection of a domestic partners' bill.

continued on p. 18

Living in New York City, Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. She can be reached at LN@aol.com.



OutRight

by Dale Carpenter

WHEN DEMOCRATS DO BAD THINGS

A governor criminalizes gay sex, yet gay leaders say nothing. An elected official backs antigay marriage legislation, yet a gay group says he's blameless. Another governor vetoes legislation giving gay employees the right to take time off from work to care for a sick lover, yet the state's gay lobbying organization yawns.

Welcome, my friends, to the world of the Democratic double standard.

Under it, a Republican who even hints at doing something that might adversely affect a gay person somewhere is instantly denounced as a homophobic hate-monger. When a Democrat does much the same thing? Well, nobody's perfect.

Consider former Texas Governor Ann Richards. To the gay political establishment in Texas, the colorful Democrat is a saint. Yet despite Richards' ability to wow gay audiences at black-tie dinners with her winning smile and folksy accent, her legislative legacy is darkly antigay. It's her signature you'll find on the state's antigay sodomy law, after all, one of only a handful in the entire country that specifically

targets gay sex. Two men in Houston were recently prosecuted for violating Richards' law in a private home. (Note: a state appeals court has held the law unconstitutional.)

If George W. Bush had signed such a hideous law, gay activists would have blockaded every road between the Alamo and the Astrodome in protest. Yet the excuse factory rolls into production for Richards. Despite the fact that she did nothing to lobby the Legislature to defeat it, gay advocates explain she was forced to sign the law because it was part of a larger overhaul of the criminal code. Despite the fact that Democrats controlled both houses of the Texas Legislature at the time, they complain it was really the Republicans' fault.

Another example of this blame-the-GOP defense came recently from the Stonewall Democrats. In a press release extolling the Clinton-Gore administration, the group excused Clinton and Gore's support of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) by arguing that the congressional Republicans, under the leadership of Newt Gingrich, made them do it. "Sure, Clinton signed the bill, but only

in a political reality created by Republicans," huffed Stonewall.

Never mind that Clinton publicly agreed to sign DOMA before it was even drafted, much less introduced in Congress. Never mind that after Clinton signed DOMA, he and Gore trumpeted their support of the measure in campaign ads on Christian radio stations. Did Gingrich make them do that, too?

Her brother wielded a knife and threatened, "You're gonna die tonight." Her terrifying ordeal ended only when she promised to renounce her female lover and return to Jordan.

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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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Resurrection MCC invites the community to come and celebrate this move with us. We will be holding a Remembrance Service at 1919 Decatur St. on Sunday, July 9, 2000. Our first service in our new Sanctuary at 2025 West 11 St. will be held on Sunday, July 16, 2000. We will only have one service at 11 am on Sunday July 16, 2000.

We invite everyone to share this moment in our history as a community and a church, and as we continue to celebrate God's unconditional love!

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LeftOut

continued from p. 18

Because Democrat Davis and most officeholders of both parties oppose same-sex marriage, gay Californians are left trying to approximate the benefits of marriage by creating a domestic partnership system that confers a series of limited rights to gay couples.

Earlier this year, Davis approved a state-sanctioned registry for same-sex couples that grants no benefits to them other than the right to visit a partner in the hospital. To give the system some content, legislators have subsequently proposed a series of piecemeal bills that would accord domestic partners a few of the privileges of marriage.

One such proposal, which passed the California Legislature and went to Davis for his signature in May, would have expanded the state's family medical leave law to allow an employee to take unpaid time to

care for an ailing domestic partner—just as the employee could do for a spouse.

Davis vetoed the bill. In a statement, he criticized it for going "far beyond what any other state has permitted to a relationship outside the family," underlining the words "outside the family."

I had to read that twice to make sure it wasn't a position paper from the Family Research Council. Outside the family? What are *our* families, potted plants?

It wasn't Davis' first foray into antigay territory. Earlier this year, he suggested that he might demand the resignations of judges he appoints if they don't share his opposition to gay marriage.

There are sound reasons to oppose employer mandates like a family leave law: They're expensive for business and therefore costly to consumers and employees alike. But there are no good non-homophobic reasons

to support family leave requirements for married couples (as Davis does) and oppose them for gay couples (as Davis' veto implies he does).

Yet the California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE), the statewide gay lobbying group, reacted to the veto by saying the measure had not been a priority anyway. "We knew the governor was going to veto the bill," said CAPE's executive director, as if that foreknowledge matters. She then characterized as "minor" four other pending proposals for domestic partners, presumably giving Davis a pass on these bills as well.

That was too much for one non-partisan activist, who told the *Bay Area Reporter* that "our community has been accepting too little from the Democrats, too easily."

Why the double standard? One possibility is that our leaders are willing to sacrifice gay equality on liberalism's altar for the sake of other issues they care about. But that's too cynical.

I suspect it's more like the battered wife syndrome: We keep coming back because we think they won't abuse us again and, after all, *they love us*.

One of these days we'll have a civil rights movement that doesn't look at partisan labels before deciding what to say and do. That day is not here.

OutRight

continued from p. 19

Now many of my partner's students are openly homophobic. They think nothing of making retching noises when two men kiss in a movie. When a speaker from the local anti-violence project spoke to them about the harm inflicted by words like "faggot," some of them shrugged it off. If studies about young people and anti-gay violence hold true, many of them have probably

engaged in verbal or physical harassment themselves.

However, when they read about the brutal assault on a lesbian by her own flesh and blood, the unique form of prejudice that gay people face finally came clear. They began to recognize that the family, commonly viewed as a refuge, may sometimes be a source of emotional and physical violence for those who are gay.

Because extreme violence gets through to people, the lesbian and gay community faces the dilemma of how much we should accentuate its occurrence. In fact, we often overemphasize it, treating the horrific experiences of Matt Shepard and Billy Jack Gaither as the norm rather than the exception.

Despite how effective focusing on extremes might be, it's equally important to steer public attention toward the very common *fear* of violence that lesbians and gay men experience. Sneers, slurs, and threats create a hostile environment, to borrow a phrase from sexual harassment law. Although fear alone won't make the nightly news, it's what most lesbians and gay men face on a routine basis. And getting others to acknowledge how living in fear affects human beings is essential to achieving social change.

For example, how many straight people are aware that it takes substantial courage for a lesbian or gay man simply to hold a lover's hand in public? I'd like to see us all try this educational action: Ask a couple of straight people you know to refrain from any public displays of affection toward a spouse or lover for just one day. Tell them to imagine that if they slip up, they could be verbally or physically assaulted, or both. Ask them how it makes them feel, emotionally and psychologically, to be always on guard.

My guess is their responses might be, "Nobody deserves that."



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WHEN ALL OF US ARE FREE

Sissy Farenthold interviews Roberta Achtenberg

Roberta Achtenberg became known to the wider gay community and the nation in 1993 when President Clinton nominated her for the position of assistant secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, making her the first openly gay person who was ever nominated by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. In her career, she not only has played an important role in the struggle for lesbian and gay rights (she wrote the 1985 book *Sexual Orientation and the Law*), but has also worked hard for a panoply of other human rights struggles, from housing to advocacy for children. She was on the board of supervisors for San Francisco, and was a candidate for mayor. • On the occasion of Roberta Achtenberg's visit to Houston for the July 9 brunch benefiting *An Uncommon Legacy*, we asked another pioneering female politician if she would interview Roberta for *OutSmart*: Sissy Farenthold. Sissy has been a trailblazing force in feminism and opening up politics her whole life. She staged a high-profile race for governor of Texas in 1972, and was the first woman ever to be nominated for vice president, in that same year. She was the chairperson for the National Political Women's Caucus in 1973-75, and was president of Wells College from 1976-80. And she is well-remembered by the gay community for her keynote address to the 1978 Town Hall Meeting, the seminal gay political convention, in the Astroarena: "No one is free," she said, "until all of us are free." More recently, she was a leader in the fight for Allen Parkway Village. She's currently very active with Rothko Chapel, helping to create programs around human rights and peace issues.

An Uncommon Legacy Foundation's Fifth Annual "Extra Mile Award" brunch featuring Roberta Achtenberg as guest speaker will be held July 9, 11:30 a.m., at the Warwick Hotel, 4701 Main Street. \$60 per person includes full brunch and bottomless mimosas. For reservations or information, call 281/850-1550. All proceeds benefit local charities and scholarships.

Sissy Farenthold: I thought maybe we'd start out with your legal efforts. Your book *Sexual Orientation and the Law* came out in '85. Could you give us a brief rundown on the different areas in what you see as the change or the lack of change in the different areas [you covered in your book]?

Roberta Achtenberg: In 1985, I think it was accepted legal principal that—except for a few private policies that pertained in private workplaces against discrimination in the workplace—there was no broad-based rule either nationally or as a matter of state law. At least there were very few states that had any rule in place that guaranteed people protection against employment discrimination.

Now 15 years later, you have the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act. It is not yet the law of the land, but last year, there were 51 votes in the United States Senate for a federal law that would protect gays and lesbians. If any of us had ever been asked in 1985 whether we would see the possibility of federal protection against employment discrimination in our lifetime, I think we would have said no. And I do believe, that in the next year or two or three, there will be a federal law to protect us against employment discrimination. So in that arena we've made enormous progress.

...[Also] in 1985, the concept of domestic partnership was a very, sort of nascent kind

of thought in people's minds. We had lost lawsuits...

You had been counsel in some of those suits, hadn't you?

Yes, the two earliest suits. One was brought by Matt Coles and one was brought by me for the Lesbian Rights Project. And we lost both of those outright. Both the newspapers and the courts of law treated us as if we were absurd to assert that a gay or lesbian worker would be entitled or should be compensated equally with a married worker—so that a person's partner could be either the beneficiary of medical coverage or dental coverage or bereavement leave. The notion that there



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should be equal recognition of those relationships was thought to be absurd.

Today, you have not only hundreds of private companies offering domestic partner insurance benefits of all kinds—including pension benefits, I might add, in some cases—but you have many states recognizing that principal and, recently, Vermont endorsing that principal in toto. That's an enormous change, a real area where the recognition of the lesbian and gay families has really increased exponentially far beyond anything we could have imagined when I wrote *Sexual Orientation in the Law* in 1985. So those are just two of the radical changes that we've seen in really less than 15 years.

I am anxious to see your book, because I had once taught a course in sex-based discrimination as far as women were concerned. But was there any other issue in that book that we can compare to the situation today?

That book dealt with criminal laws, sodomy laws. That book dealt with child custody, adoption rights, foster parenting. I don't think we dealt with the concept of second-parent adoptions, where a child could have by law, two parents, both of the same gender, which we have in a number of places. Now we have it in California.

And they have it in Israel, by the way.

Yes, I saw that. And actually that is the case that I am most proud of. Those cases were my cases, originally, through the Lesbian Rights Project. We brought all the first cases of second-parent adoption—and won them all, by the way.

Well, that's wonderful. Now there are two areas that seem to me to be very spotty and very painful in coming about, those of same-sex holy unions, and the military.

Well, as far as the same-sex holy union is concerned, I think it's going on two tracks and it will

proceed down those two tracks over an indefinite time frame.

One is I think that we will see more and more denominations allowing the recognition of gay commitments as an article of religious faith and increasingly allowing their priests and ministers and rabbis to perform those commitments with their blessing. So, although some will say no, my guess is that the ranks of those that allow it will increase over time.

At the same time I think that, as Vermont has just done, there will be pressure on Massachusetts and California to act similarly and some of the other states where gay political organizing has been effective in the mainstream political parties for a very long time.

Although Vermont just did the whole thing at once, my guess is most of the other states will be more incremental, since they don't have a supreme court that said, basically, you'd better equalize this or we're going to force you to recognize gay marriage. So there will be increasing movement toward these civil recognitions of lesbian and gay partnerships that will fall short of marriage. And I don't believe the religious and civil will

combine, at least in the short term. Meaning that, right now, although the two coincide for straight people, I think we're going to be operating on a separate and unequal track, two tracks, for a long time to come.

The other question was gays in the military. The organization that monitors the military's compliance with "don't ask, don't tell" has been drawing the attention of the

dent, my guess is that they'll try to loosen the policy in some ways without directly challenging the Congress, who I think is really probably unwilling at this point to address it. I think we're much more likely to get ENDA passed than we are to get the Congress to revisit its "don't ask, don't tell" compromise.

But then, scarcity sometimes can do remarkable things for justice. You know it

was the case with women [first entering] the public universities in the 1870s and so forth.... The scarcity of volunteers is such that it may make the Defense Department...

"Both the newspapers and the courts of law treated us as if we were absurd to assert that a gay or lesbian worker would be entitled or should be compensated equally with a married worker."

Department of Defense, of the Clinton administration itself, to how badly that policy does not work. I mean how much it doesn't work. Obviously that is the kind of thing that pushed Al Gore and, at the time, Bill Bradley to commit to leadership of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that they would be open to a sort of revision of that policy.

I think if George W is elected, I don't know, we will probably see that policy remain in place, or maybe a more egregious policy put into its place. If Al Gore is elected presi-

Maybe so, I never thought about the demographics of the situation.

Yes, they're giving people bonuses to join and all that kind of thing.

Well, from your mouth to God's ears, as we say.

I have been so taken with the different facets of your public life to date, and one thing I was very interested in was your work, when you were a supervisor in San Francisco, and the fact that you were not a single-issue candidate. I

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think it's a great example to anyone holding public office because a holistic approach makes a lot more sense. But I was interested in that work you did on a "children's budget" [for San Francisco]. Well you know, San Francisco is increasingly becoming a city of the well-to-do and the low income and very low income. There's not a lot in the middle. And what that means, there are growing numbers of low-income kids, kids from racial minority homes, kids from immigrant homes, that are coming increasingly to rely on the public school system and the social service agencies. When I was on the board of supervisors, we certainly recognized that we hadn't dedicated sufficient city resources to making sure our kids have everything that they need. So we said that we wanted a percentage of the city's general fund dedicated to supporting children's services—we were able to accomplish that, and that percentage remains in effect to this day. And so you have after-school programs funded as a result of the budget, and Beacon Schools funded as a result...

And what are Beacon Schools?

[Started about eight years ago], Beacon Schools are taking school sites and keeping

them open 14 hours a day and making sure that the constellation of social services that are necessary can be available. It's a place where parents can go. They have computer labs there. Parents and kids can work on community projects together. They're wildly successful. It's sort of trying to recreate com-

"Well, I had probably the most sacred responsibility I've ever had in my professional life: I was the chief law enforcement officer for the Federal Fair Housing Act."

munity. And we've been able to fund those through the children's budget.

My, what a wonderful thing, with this greater and greater dichotomy in our economic grouping.

Yes, and it's been one way that we've been able to, if not bridge the digital divide, at least begin to address it for our low-income kids and for their parents. I mean, everybody nowadays needs to have access to a computer and to the Internet and needs to be able to know how to use it. But we don't have many mechanisms in place for achieving that for low-income people. And Beacon Schools has been one of them and other

kinds of after-school programs—midnight basketball programs and the like have all been funded by this program. So it's been wildly successful.

Of course, I guess you've received more publicity (if you want to call it that) and so forth with your appointed position with HUD.

Well, when you're the first, as I know you know...

Yes, yes. But what exactly were your responsibilities in that position?

Well, I had probably the most sacred responsibility I've ever had in my professional life: I was the chief law enforcement officer for the Federal Fair Housing Act. Which was the act that guarantees nondiscrimination in housing on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, or being a family with children. And so my job was to enforce the Federal Fair Housing Act, and to train all the people in our various 54 offices of HUD to receive the citizen complaints about discrimination in housing, whether you go to rent a house or an apartment, and you believe that you've been offered the apartment on different terms because of your race or ethnicity. You try to buy a house, you try to purchase insurance,

all of those things are covered by the Federal Fair Housing Act.

And the red lining [an illegal policy in which banks discriminate on giving loans to lower-income areas of town, drawing a "red line" around them]...

Yes, the red lining. We did an initiative with the mortgage industry which actually led to a good bit more credit being extended into areas that they had up until then been red lined. I worked with Henry Cisneros...and we accomplished a lot for racial minorities in terms of much more strenuous enforcement of the federal antidiscrimination law and much more proactive work with the various industries—so explain to them how better, more expansive lending practices would add to their bottom line. And it turned out in hindsight that that was probably one of the most constructive things that we did. Because that opened up markets that are still yielding great results from minority home

buyers, for renters, etc. So those were my responsibilities, and I guess the other thing your readers would be interested in is that Henry and I were the driving forces behind the integration of public housing in Vidor, Texas. That was one big civil rights accomplishment in the first term of the Clinton administration.

Oh yes indeed. We kept track of that closely down here in Houston.

Yes, I can imagine that you did. So when I think of the accomplishments of my tenure and having had the opportunity and responsibility to be fair housing assistant secretary... I can't think of anything more important to have been asked to do by the president of the United States.

Well I hope that there'll be another opportunity for you shortly, because we certainly need you in public life, whether it's elected or appointive...

Thank you very much.

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Calendar of Events

JULY

5, 12, 19, 26 (Wed.)

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

6, 13, 20, 27 (Thurs.)

Thursdays Are Delicious.

M. Pussycat and the team of Evolve have turned the upstairs and VIP room (which is open to all on Thursdays) of the infamous club SPY, located at 112 Travis, into the mouth-watering "Delicious" each Thursday with two of Houston's DJs, Cosmic Cat and Alibi, spinning deep, dark, sexy grooves. This crowd is not labeled—it's gay, straight, bi...what-ever you prefer. You can slip away into the candlelit VIP room to hear the sounds of Delerium, Kruder & Dorfmeister, and other chilled-out tunes if you want to get more cozy with your partner. Thursdays are 21up.

8 (Sat.)

Woman Power. Jessica Wicks, founder of the popular Lesbian Film Night series, is hosting "A Celebration of Women's Creativity, Life, and Spirit," a festival-style event featuring artists, live music, and poetry readings. Participants can feast on barbecue. Donations for the center are welcomed. 4-9 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713/524-3818 (center), 713/526-4927 (Wicks), or e-mail to Labrysgr3@aol.com.

9 (Sun.)

Scholarly Youths. PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Foundation scholarships will be officially awarded to this year's recipients at this Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 2 pm @ Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas. Small sharing groups follow the program. PFLAG helpline: 713/867-9020.

11 & 12 (Tue. & Wed.)

Zorro and the Roaring '20s. The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion will be transformed into a giant 1920s-era movie house for a two-night festival of

silent film masterpieces & classic music. • The first film, *The Mark of Zorro*, stars Douglas Fairbanks. Zorro saves the day while carving his famous "Z" into the cheeks of evildoers. • Wednesday evening begins with *One Week*, a film in which Buster Keaton's character and his new bride attempt to build a "kit home" in time for a party the following week; the second feature, *The Idle Class*, stars Charlie Chaplin in a sidesplitting tale of mistaken identities. • Director Donald Hunsberger, one of the foremost figures in silent film accompaniment, will conduct the Houston Symphony in live performances during both nights. • Admission is free. 8:30 pm at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, 2005 Lake Robbins Drive in the Woodlands. More info: 281/363-3300.

12 (Wed.)

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. (see sidebar page 28)

12 (Wed.)

Discover the "Quality" of Your Life. Free lecture & group discussion focusing on the qualities that will support your goals, dreams, & relationships. Let go of "shoulds" & "have to's" and learn to listen to the magic & wisdom of your heart. Light snacks provided. 6-8:30 pm. Space limited to 20. Call for location: 713/664-4365.

13 (Thurs.) & 19 (Wed.)

How to Create a Foundation for Your Relationship to Thrive and Endure is an evening of hands-on info to experience the relationship you desire. On the 13th: for women who love women. On the 19th: for men who love men. 7-9 pm. \$10. For info/registration, call The Center for Creativity, Knowledge and Change at 713/592-5262.

16 (Sat.)

Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc. presents its Table Sales Kickoff Party. Gail Swinney, co-chair, encourages participants to attend this year's kickoff party to secure seating at "2000—A New Dawn," the annual fundraising dinner. Carlos Reyes, co-chair, says that Houston Black Tie Dinner anticipates over 1,300 participants at this year's dinner, and they are expected to surpass the fundraising goals of previous years. "2000—A New Dawn" will be held on

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—WED., JULY 12.

Nov. 11 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. A 501(c)3 organization, Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc. raises & distributes funds annually to local charities & a national beneficiary. The kickoff party is from 4-7 pm. Location and/or more info: 713/523-9611.

19-23 (Wed.-Sun.)

Gay Men's Health Summit 2000. Anyone interested in improving the health & wellness of gay men is encouraged to attend this groundbreaking convergence in Boulder, Colorado. Everyone is welcome. The program includes issues such as mental health, substance abuse, prostate cancer, heart disease, hearing loss, anal health, and HIV disease, with a new focus this year on wellness, spirituality, & holistic health. This year's event is limited to 500 participants, and registration slots and housing are going fast.

3 WOMEN

Strange girl attaches herself to a social butterfly wannabe

3 Women, directed by Robert Altman, is a brilliant, moody, and thought-provoking film in which a strange girl (Sissy Spacek) gets a job in a convalescent home and attaches herself to a coworker (Shelley Duvall) who fancies herself a social butterfly. Their interrelationship, and involvement with a quiet, embittered

woman (Janice Rule) forms the "plot." Critic Leonard Maltin says that it's "...a completely unconventional movie," while rating it with 3½ stars (out of 4). This 1977 film is part of the Museum of Fine Arts' "Film Fatales" series of films which focus on great female roles.

3 WOMEN

Where: Freed Auditorium, 5101 Montrose Blvd.
When: July 15, 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$5 (\$4 students/seniors)
Info: 713/639-7531

Sissy Spacek (left) is the strange girl; Shelley Duvall is the social butterfly wannabe.

DIVINE TRASH

A very trashy Divine One. Inset: a very young Waters.

'Pink Flamingos': Behind-the-Scenes and 'Pink Flamingos': Restored

An outrageous 1998 documentary on the making of John Waters' *Pink Flamingos*, *Divine Trash* features a collection of just about everything from behind-the-scenes interviews to the rehearsal for the notorious "eat s---" scene, better known in polite company as "the gulp heard round the world." *Trash* features interviews with John Waters, his family, Jim Jarmusch, Hal Hartley, Paul Morrissey, Jonas Mikas, and others. • Once you've seen the documentary, you can see the movie! Yes, it's the well-known film about Divine's quest to maintain the title of "World's Filthiest Person," and it is required viewing for all those who think they've seen it all! *Pink Flamingos* featured the "Talking Butt" long before Jim Carrey spoke with his! This special 25th anniversary print includes bonus footage. Stars Divine, David Lochary, Mary Vivian Pierce, Danny Mills, Mink Stole, and Edith Massey. *Absolutely no one under 17 allowed.*

DIVINE TRASH & PINK FLAMINGOS

Where: Rice Media Center, Rice campus, entrance #8
When: *Trash*: Sat., July 15, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sun., 7 & 9 p.m.
Pink Flamingos: Sat., July 15, 11:30 p.m.
Cost: \$5 (\$4 students with valid ID/seniors over 65)
Info: 713/348-4853 or www.rice.edu/~cinema

so check out the website at www.bcap.org for info, as well as news of scholarships & community housing.

20 (Thu.)

Incest Survivors. "How Childhood Sexual Abuse Terrorizes Our Adult Relationships" is a 6-week group for female survivors of incest and the women who love them. The group begins on the 20th, 7-9 pm. \$55 for 6 weeks. For info/registration, call The Center for Creativity, Knowledge and Change at 713/592-5262.

22 (Sat.)

Wigs on Fire. It's a night of fun, dancing, complimentary well drinks, the most outrageous wig contest, & entertainment from the "Inferno Men." This year's event is themed "Got Wig?" to show that "camp" is contagious and, above all, fun. This fundraiser for September's Miss Camp America Pageant lights up the night at 7 pm and burns till 11 pm @ Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto. More info: 713/267-7827.

23 (Sun.)

Hot Summer Night. Don your favorite resort casual attire (think cool & white) for the first annual benefit dinner & silent auction supporting the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Enjoy a fine meal and dance under the stars to boffo entertainment. Tickets are \$35. Proceeds benefit programming at the center. 5:30-9 pm @ Riva's Italian Restaurant, 1117 Missouri. Info: 713/524-3818.

26 (Wed.)

The Go-Go's, the B-52's, & the Psychedelic Furs in one show! 8 pm @ the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. Tickets (\$14.50-\$29.50) available at all Ticketmaster locations; charge at 713/629-3700.

26 (Wed.)

The Erotic Self: Discovering Your Power is a provocative evening designed to inform & stimulate women about the power of our sexuality. This discussion is excerpted from a work in progress, *Woman to Woman: The Erotic Evolution*, by Maria E. Minicucci, Ph.D., director of Center for Creativity, Knowledge and Change. 7-9 pm. \$10. Info/registration: 713/592-5262.

28 & 29 (Fri. & Sat.)

World Dance Houston celebrates the global heritage of dance. The term "world dance" stands for exploration, for a rich interchange among cultures, and the interplay of traditional techniques with modern inspirations. The concerts (not all dance companies on both nights) include Ambassadors International (Ballet Folklórico), Anjali Dance Company (Indian), Grupo Capoeira Brazil, Hanayagi (Japanese), Keito St. James (Native American), Kuumba House Dance Theatre (African), Scoil Dahmsa (Irish traditional), and Sirrom Caravan (Middle Eastern). 8 pm @ the

Heinen Theatre, Central College campus, 3517 Austin at Holman. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 students/seniors). Free parking. Info/reservations: 713/718-6570.

30 (Sun.)

Mildred Pierce. A single mother (Joan Crawford in an Oscar-winning performance) works her way up from waitress to businesswoman but never gains the love of her ungrateful daughter (Ann Blyth). This melodrama was later labeled as antifeminist for its message about women who abandon traditional roles. This 1945 film is part of the Museum of Fine Arts' "Film Fatales" series of films which focus on great female roles. 7:30 pm @ the Glassell School of Art's Freed Auditorium, 5101 Montrose Blvd. Tickets are \$5 (\$4 MFAH members, seniors [55+], & students with ID). Info: 713/639-7531.

PLANNING AHEAD

August 5 & 6 (Sat. & Sun.)

Network and The Women. As timely now as when it was released in 1976, *Network* is a scathing indictment of the TV industry's propensity toward self-prostitution. As the mental breakdown of a newscaster (Peter Finch) leads to higher ratings, a ruthless programmer (Faye Dunaway) keeps him on the air. Finch, Dunaway, and Beatrice Straight won Oscars for their performances. • The women comprising a group of friends destroy each other's reputations at various social gatherings. With Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell, and a trillion other actresses, this 1939 brilliant adaptation of the Clare Booth Luce stage comedy is unique—no men appear on screen. George Cukor made *The Women* after being thrown off the *Gone With the Wind* set by Clark Gable (who objected to being directed by a homosexual). • Both films are part of the Museum of Fine Arts' "Film Fatales" series of films which focus on great female roles. 7:30 pm @ the Glassell School of Art's Freed Auditorium, 5101 Montrose Blvd. Tickets are \$5 (\$4 MFAH members, seniors [55+], & students with ID). Info during business hours: 713/639-7531; after hours: 713/639-7300.

10-12 (Thu.-Sat.)

Health Conference in Canada. "LGBT Youth and Families: the Foundation of a Healthy Future" is the topic of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's (GLMA) 18th Annual Conference. Hundreds of LGBT physicians, medical students, & other healthcare professionals are expected to converge in Vancouver to focus on changing family structures. Programs are designed to examine ways that physicians can cross cultural & generational boundaries to improve the healthcare of LGBT youth. Interactive plenary sessions, lectures, panel presentations, & small-group discussions will also investigate other areas

of medicine relevant to the LGBT community, including primary care, mental health, lesbian health, HIV/AIDS, geriatric & special-interest issues. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. To register, call 510/843-8048 and ask for Kirsten Berzon, or go to www.glma.org.

10-13 (Thu.-Sat.)

Grease. One of Broadway's longest-running musicals hits Houston's Aerial Theater, and with it comes two of the stars of *Laverne & Shirley*: Cindy Williams (Shirley Feeney) and Eddie Mekka (Carmin "the Big Ragu" Ragusa). Tickets: at sfx.com or the Aerial Theater box office or charge by phone at 713/629-3700.

PERFORMING ARTS

♦ **After (taste).** Houston-based artist Serena Lin gives us a site-specific installation of sensory experience. Using light, sound, video, & projection, the artist takes us on a journey tracing the evolution of tasted experience. Visitors are drawn along a path to a place embodying that suggested metaphorical lingering moment following taste, the pervading sensation you can't get rid of—the aftertaste. Through July 15 @ Diverse-Works, 1117 East Frwy, 713/223-8346.

♦ **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.

♦ **Arsenic and Old Lace**, the famous madcap comedy by Joseph Kesselring, presents the audience with the quirky old Brewster sisters, their nephew Teddy (who believes himself to be Teddy Roosevelt), and Mortimer, the poor flabbergasted nephew who is as surprised as anyone to learn that his maiden aunts have taken it upon themselves to relieve elderly men of a lonely life—or life of any kind! Through July 16 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$17): available at the Alley box office or by calling 713/228-8421.

♦ **Bourbon at the Border.** Love, politics, & issues of survival dramatically intermingle in this beautiful & tragic love story of two college students who meet & fall in love during the Freedom Summer of 1964. Thirty years later, will Mae & Charlie escape the unspeakable ghost of a Mississippi summer? Through July 30 @ The Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main St. Info: 713/520-0055.

♦ **Bus Stop**, by one of America's premier playwrights William Inge, tells the story of a headstrong nightclub entertainer pursued by a belligerent cowboy intent on slinging her over his shoulder and carrying her off to his ranch in Montana. Several bus passengers have been stranded in a cheerful diner in the middle of a howling snowstorm where they come to terms with life and each other. Through July 9 @ Galveston's Strand Theatre, 2317 Mechanics Row. Tickets \$10-\$15. Info: 877/787-2639 or www.galveston.com/strandtheatre.

♦ **Evita.** Winner of seven Tony awards, Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical relates the fascinating story of the ambitious, charismatic Eva Peron, one of the world's most powerful women. Theatre Under The Stars' (TUTS) production will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the original Broadway production. July 11-23 @ Wortham Center's Brown Theater. Tickets (\$16-\$75) by phone from Admission Network, 800/678-5440; in person at TUTS TIX, 2600 SW Frwy @

FAIRY TALES

Fairy Tales is a roller coaster," says director Joe Watts about his latest show, produced by his Theatre New West at Sonoma. "Some of the numbers are roll-on-the-floor hysterical, while at the end it's like a mini-opera." With no spoken dialogue, *Fairy Tales* is a "gay musical" ("or is that redundant?" asks Joe): The first half of the show is a straightforward musical revue, one song performed after another, not particularly related. But then in the second half, the performers take on roles—a man

dying of AIDS, his lover, his family—and they start interacting through song, such as in the piece called "Dear Dad," in which the man comes out to his father. • Joe Watts has been directing high-quality theater in Houston for over 17 years through The Group, a roving theater concept, which played in venues from Stages, to the old Kindred Spirits, to the Lovett Inn.

Now that Joe has an unchanging venue at Sonoma restaurant, he has recast his group at Theatre New West. • *Fairy Tales* plays Fridays & Saturdays, 8 p.m. (with one Sunday matinee July 16, 2 p.m.) thru August 5 at Sonoma, 1415 California, 713/394-0464. \$20.

GERMAN TALES



The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston (GMCH) will perform a joint concert with Schola Cantorosa (pictured), a gay men's chorus from Hamburg, Germany. Houston is one of only four cities hosting the German singers on their way to Festival 2000 in San Jose, California. Festival 2000 is a celebration of lesbian & gay voices featuring 6,000 singers in choruses from Australia, Europe, & North America. Our own GMCH will also be making the trek to San Jose for the festival. The Houston concert will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 12, @ the Kaplan Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 5601 South Braeswood. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased through any chorus member or at the door. For more info, call 713/521-7464 or visit www.gmch.org.

Calendar

Kirby: outfits (Sound Revolution, Vena Edge). Wortham box office 510 Preston St. am to curtain on day of performance. Info: www.wortham.com.

♦ **For Her Child's Sake or Her First False Step** is the hilarious play by Richard Green. He is a doctor who is being laid off by his hospital, as you tell him with popcorn. Tickets \$9, \$8 (seniors/seniors); matinees \$7. July 21-Aug. 26 @ Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd, 713/682-3525.

♦ **Gypsy** is the semi-biographical musical romp through the life of the famous fan dancer, Gypsy Rose Lee. July 14-Aug. 6 @ The Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury (Town & Country Village). For directions/ticket info: 713/467-4497.

♦ **I Love You but You're Sitting on My Cat** has the "Singing Fertle Family" from Dumpster, Texas, falling on hard times. The out-of-work kids have moved back home, the retired parents are living on a fixed income, & now an unexpected bill has created a financial emergency. But not to worry...Earl has come up with a surefire method to win money by gambling, so the whole gang is taking a bus trip to the glittering casinos of Lake Charles, Louisiana. \$15 admission & reservations required; food & drink are available throughout the show. Thursdays-Saturdays @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt, 713/522-7722.

♦ **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 over! Every Friday & Saturday night, 7:30 pm (8 pm curtain) @ Prima Pasta & Seafood, 2710 Richmond (tween Kirby & Buffalo Spdwy). Tickets are \$38.95 and include salad, choice of entree, dessert, coffee, tea, milk, gratuity for dinner service & tax, plus the show. Tickets: 713/944-CLUE (2583).

♦ **Mary, Mary.** Mary's marriage has foundered on the rocks of her unrelenting sense of humor. When we meet Mary, she appears at the apartment of her former husband, Bob, who is on the verge of marrying a rich young health fiend. A handsome film star enters the picture and so begins the story of a modern marriage gone hilariously awry. Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, through July 29 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets \$10 (seniors/students \$8). Info/reservations: 713/726-1219.

♦ **The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me...** by Dan Butler (better known to audiences as Bulldog Briscoe, the womanizing sports talk show host on NBC TV's long-running hit, *Frasier*) is somewhat autobiographical. Billed as a "whirlwind tour of the gay American landscape," this one-man show juxtaposes 10 predominantly gay characters in 14 vignettes. The characters question, contradict, and challenge one another's credo of what "being gay" really means. Actor Andrew Dawson returns from his new home in New York City to re-visit the characters he created in the original Houston premiere which was staged at The Little Room Downstairs (LRDS) in April 1998. *The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me...* premiered at Actors Playhouse in New York City in 1995. It was performed originally by Dan Butler and later by Greg Louganis. This production is directed and designed by LRDS artistic director Richard Laub. *The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me...* plays through July 9. All tick-

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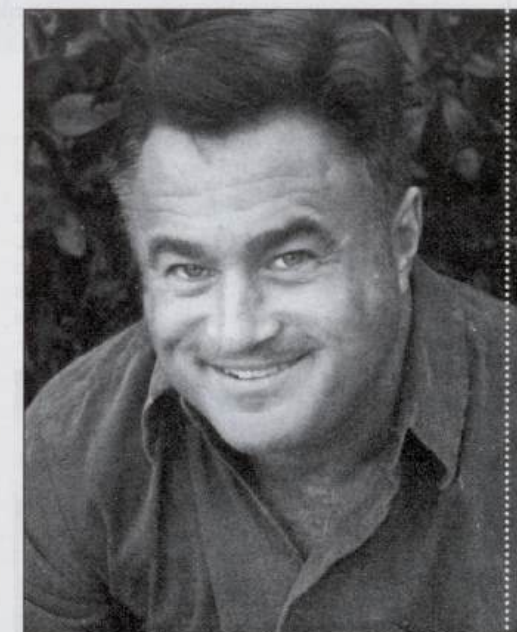
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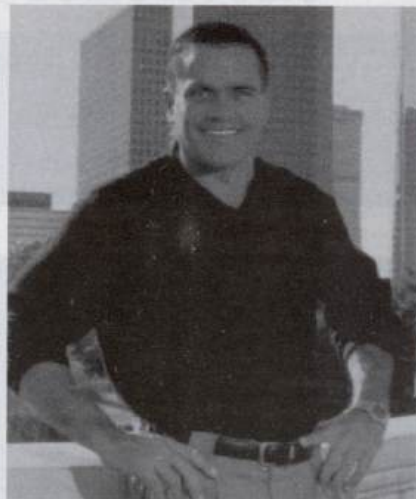
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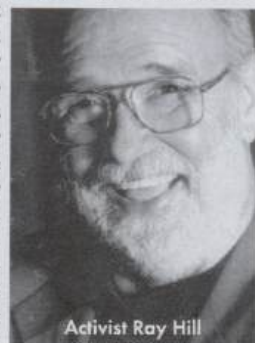


Multimedia artist (and OutSmart cover model) STUTZ poses with "Three Women Blues" (acrylic on corrugated metal), one of her works in her recent Mental Vacation show at Scudiero's.

Foreign Objects, a show of STUTZ artwork scheduled to open July 1, is the story of the artist's last road trip through Europe with her trusty companion, a dachshund named Olly. Incongruent scenes abound in this visual tale. Using a variety of styles, STUTZ takes the viewer on an often humorous look at how a stranger can interpret the unfamiliar when the most foreign object is, in reality, herself. All works are mixed media on plywood. This show runs through August 12 @ Mo Mong, 1201B Westheimer, 713/524-5664. For more information, visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~artstutz>.

ets for this special engagement are \$20 (students/seniors half-price). Show times are at 8 p.m., except Sunday performances, which begin at 7 p.m. The theater is located at 2326 Bissonnet, between Greenbriar and Kirby. Charge by phone: 713/522-LRDS (5737).

◆ **OUTLAW: Queer Like Ray Hill.** In 1958, while attending Galena Park High School, Ray Hill came out. In 1958, sodomy was not just a crime but a felony, and three convictions could get you life in prison. Hill will tell you that coming out in 1958 at Galena Park Hill was perhaps courageous, perhaps naïve, perhaps even stupid. Whatever it was—and Hill doesn't say—it was pure Ray Hill, a gay activist who constantly sticks his neck out and frequently aggravates folks while leading the fight for gay rights. Hill's new one-man show focuses on the struggle to end discrimination against gays & lesbians, and what it was like to be the rare, out, queer person in the buckle of the Bible-belt. An extraordinary storyteller, Hill chronicles experiences not shared in any of his previous performances. Don't come expecting a documentary though; fighting hypocrisy is never without irony, and Hill serves it up with humor & honesty. He's been called "a modern-day, gay Mark Twain," and Edward Albee, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, has called him "an important



Activist Ray Hill

scourge." **OUTLAW** purports to be Hill's most ambitious performance to date, fully realized on a technical level, with set, sound, and multimedia elements as part of the overall design. Through July 15 @ Ashland St. Theatre, 2610 Ashland in the Heights (Ashland @ 26th). Tickets are \$12. For reservations or more info: 713/426-3019.

◆ **Patience**, an English comic opera from the clever pens of W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan (who brought us *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *H.M.S. Pinafore*), is presented by the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston. At the time of its inception, *Patience* was a wicked barb pointed at the aesthetic cult of the day, if not squarely at its champion, Oscar Wilde. G&S audiences today enjoy the broad good humor & fun of the book and Sullivan's delightful music, with or without a passing knowledge of Mr. Wilde or his dissertations on "manners before morals" and the other precepts of aestheticism. July 21–30 @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Fridays, Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 2:30 pm. Tickets \$16–\$36. More info: 713/627-3570 or visit www.gilbertandsullivan.net.

◆ **Tamalalia 2000.** Part musical revue, part fashion show, part morality play, *T2000* takes our heroine on her wildest ride yet, courtesy of a discarded, old time machine. Actress Tamarie Cooper rides the time-stream from the domestic bliss of *The Woodlands* to the dawn of mankind, the not-so-distant future, and finally, quite literally, to hell and back. Directed and choreographed by Cooper, *T2000* features an original score by Infernal Bridegroom Productions composers Anthony Barilla and Chris Bakos and lyricist Greg Stanley. This is Cooper's fifth in what we hope is an end-

Calendar

less number of Tamalalia productions; if you've never seen one, you gotta go. July 20–Aug. 26 (Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 8 pm) @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets are \$10 for Thursday performances, \$15 for Fridays & Saturdays. Reservations: 713/52-STAGE.

◆ **Titanic.** More than 85 years after the R.M.S. Titanic first sailed into history, the story behind the legendary maiden voyage opened at Broadway's Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on April 23, 1997. *Titanic* soon went on to win five Tony awards. As one boards the ship of dreams, the lives & yearnings of the crew, staff, & passengers unfold against *Titanic*'s backdrop of facts more incredible than any fiction. The pride of nautical engineering, the largest moving object in the world, the "unsinkable" R.M.S. Titanic went down in just two and a half hours after steaming full speed into an iceberg, July 11–23 @ Jones Hall. For ticket prices and to charge by phone: 713/629-3700.

THEATER

Young People

◆ **Tombigee: The Spirit of the Swamp.** A young girl is determined to save the swamp and its animal occupants from destruction. With the help of Tombigee, the spirit & guardian of the swamp & its creatures, she sets out to teach others about the wonders of nature. Tickets are \$8, and all seats are reserved. Through July 14 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/52-STAGE.

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, 8–10 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.

◆ **Clinging to Humanity: In Search of Hope.** The collection of poems and artwork by Saul Balagura included in this exhibition is the ultimate expression of compassion. Balagura is not a survivor of the Holocaust, yet through his creative process he transcends space & time to evoke the thoughts & emotions of victims & survivors. Through Aug. 27 @ the Holocaust Museum, 5401 Caroline, 713/942-8000.

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for OutSmart's August issue:
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"I JUST WANT TO BE WHO I AM"

Jon Peterson is presently starring as the emcee in the touring company of *Cabaret*. He joined the tour in January, when it was in Seattle, where a critic commented: "Jon Peterson might be a contestant in a bodybuilder contest, but nevertheless he is marvelously dissolute and cynical as the emcee." He's traveled through approximately 15 cities and will probably flit through another 15 by 2001. • Peterson's first show, in 1981 in London, was *The Sound of Music* with Petula Clark. ("She's adorable," he says. "She was like an auntie or a mum or a big sister. Really sweet.") • I got acquainted with Peterson on his cell phone while he was at a Baltimore train station eagerly awaiting the arrival of a friend.

OutSmart: When I went on the web and searched "Jon Peterson," I came up with a Ohio Republican representative.

Jon Peterson: I don't want anything to do with any Republican representative, thank you very much. Don't slur my name with that...

Gladly. In *Cabaret*, first there was Joel Grey, then there was Alan Cumming, now there's Jon Peterson.

[Feigning exasperation] Oh, good God.

Grey comes across as a straight man, Cumming comes across as bisexual, and you're openly gay.

"Openly gay" sounds like openly admitting that you're a serial killer.

[Laughs]

Well, I guess so. I'm just me. It's a shame we have to use that title.

It just seems important for those people who are scared of who they are to know there are those of us who can be open about our homosexuality.

I just want to be who I am. I am who I am, and that's it. If anyone wants to react badly to that, then react badly to that away from me, please.

Thank you very much, yes.

[Laughs] I hope they react badly to you away from you, too.

[Laughs] Still, it does seem important at this time to have labels.

It is really, 'cause we're still at an early stage—although it's wrong, it's kind of necessary now.

Were you born in London?

Yeah, I just came over to the states about a year and a half ago, and I've just stayed. I love it. I've got my green card...and I ain't

moving, baby. I like it here.

[Laughs] How old are you?

37. [He was born Aug. 9, 1962.]

Oh, you look younger.

I just look fabulous!

[Laughs] Well, you're still young.

If I look after myself, I've got a few years left.

[Laughs] Did you see the Tony Awards Sunday night?

No, I hadn't seen any plays because I had been away [on this tour]. So I just channel-surfed, and then I saw *Austin Powers* was on, so I watched that instead

.... You know, I'm just waiting at the train station for a friend of mine who's just arrived. Can I say hello to him real quick?

Of course.

To his friend: "How are you? I'm just giving an interview on the TV."

I'm back. We're just about to walk to the cab.

Where's your friend from?

New York. He's a priest, and he's a great, wonderful man. He always takes me on walking trips when I go to New York, to places I wouldn't want to go to on my own. And people don't attack us, because he's a priest and he's got a collar on, and they just back off.

[Laughs] **Fun question: If you were stranded on a desert island, and you could have only one movie with you, what would it be?**

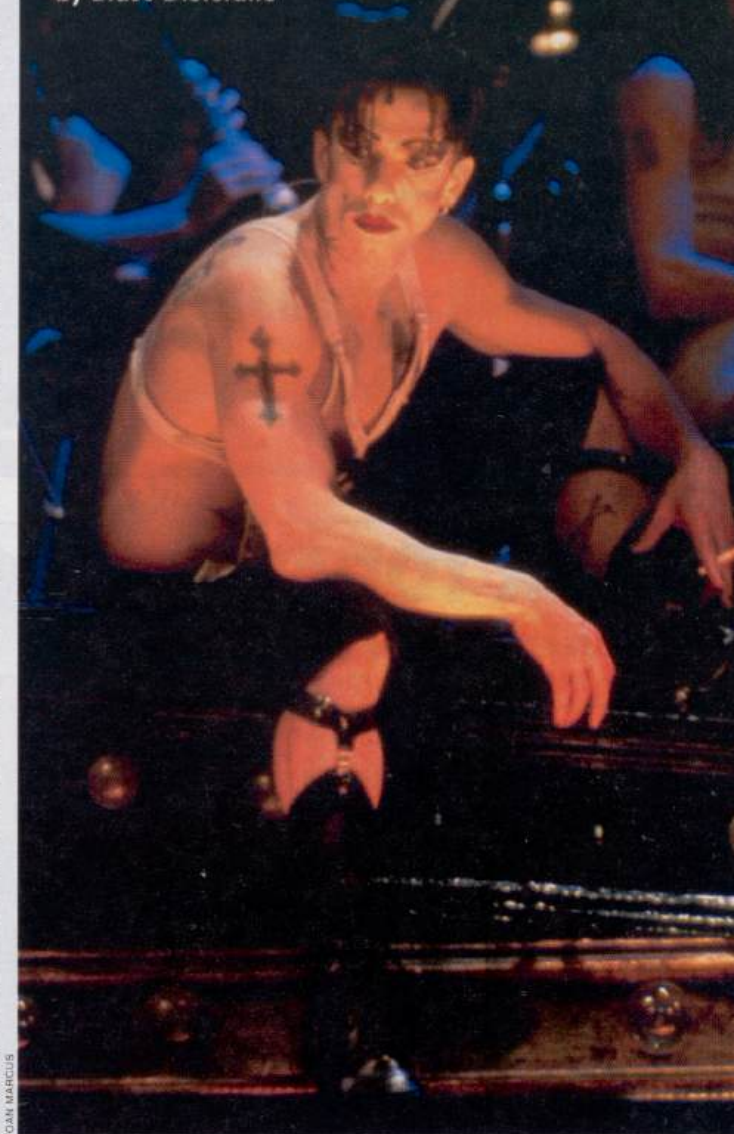
Oh, God. Oh, straining to think. I have no idea. It would have to have Ida Lupino in it. And it would have to be in black and white as well.

OK, you're still on that island, and you can have only one person with you—not a friend, lover, or relative—who would it be?

Do they have to be alive?

An interview with Jon Peterson, the latest to play the erotic, engaging, ominous emcee in *Cabaret*

by Blase DiStefano



JOAN MARCUS

No.

Oh my goodness. You know what? The Dalai Lama.

Do you do meditation or yoga or anything like that?

No, nothing like that. I just wish I did.

Cabaret's Houston opening was June 27; the show will continue at Jones Hall through July 8 only.

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THE DAY DAVID DRAKE KISSED ME

When David Drake's semi-autobiographical show, *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, debuted off-Broadway in 1992, it was such a quintessential expression of the souls of gay men at a particular point in time that *New York Newsday* exclaimed that *Larry Kramer* will become to Gay Pride Day what *Miracle on 34th Street* is to Christmas. *Larry Kramer* won the Obie Award (the off-Broadway equivalent to the Tony Award), and became the longest-running one-man show in the history of New York theater. • Now, *Larry Kramer* has been made into a film, directed by Tim Kirkman, produced by Filmnext. David Drake wrote the screenplay, including a completely new final scene. David talked to *OutSmart* from his home in New York City.

Alan Davidson: You've had great success with *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*. The longest-running one-man show on off-Broadway, international tours, and now *The Movie*. As I was watching the movie, I kept thinking, this piece is how many years old?

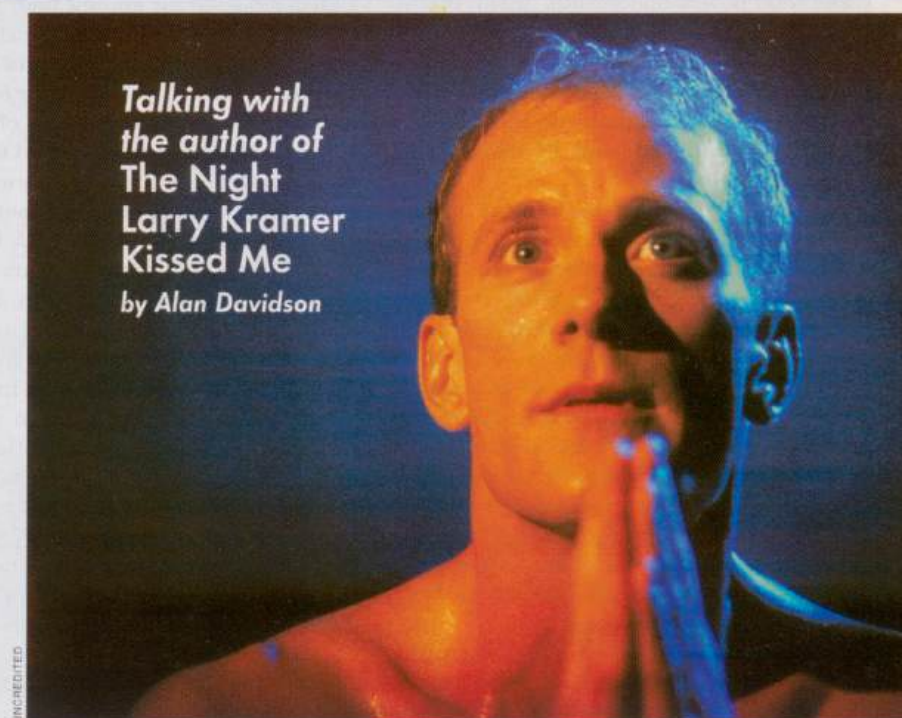
David Drake: *Larry Kramer* was a reaction...to the AIDS crisis. You know, some of the greatest literature, and I'm not saying my literature is great, comes out of a time of high stakes. The literature of WWI and many wars. At the time of *Larry Kramer*, there was very much a war mentality, a fighting of something that was completely decimating this community. Some of the literature written by gay men in the last decade is considered some of the finest literature of that decade. Edmund White, Michael Cunningham...

Paul Monette and Tony Kushner... *Larry Kramer's* work. So many writers rose to the occasion in the '80s and the early '90s to speak out on it in the way that they were seeing the world. Some very comedically, others very politically, others romantically.

But you're not finding that these days. Now things have calmed down in a way, because lifesaving drugs have begun to change the course of the narrative of HIV and AIDS. The Clinton administration moving into the White House has changed things as well. It's given us access in ways that we were outside of the government and now we're "out" and "in" in many ways. We have to keep those places...

And you—meaning the audience, meaning the community—just by being out, that's a big step...[in] the work environment—and home environments too, as gays and lesbians continue to expand their definitions of family by having children, adopting children, living together

Talking with
the author of
*The Night
Larry Kramer
Kissed Me*
by Alan Davidson



and all of that. They automatically come out—in their communities, in their schools, on their neighborhood boards and their co-op boards. It's tiresome to be that out. But they really are, and I see that as really courageous. I see that as Stonewall II, the expansion of activism. I think in terms of being an ambassador for gays and lesbians, and it's just how I go through my daily life,

The idea is that there are these closets.... All of this energy doesn't go outward, it goes inward. We spiral into these little places, into these little nooks and crannies, and in those places we go mad.

particularly as a teacher who shares myself as an openly gay man.

But you can only really be yourself and be fully human. Honesty and dignity, those are two of the high ups for me. Just being true and the best you can for yourself.

To tie that into the spiritual level for me, it's struggling within myself at a spiritual, emotional, and psychological level that gives me the

fortitude and the integrity to go out into the world and say, *This is who I am*.

Yes, I realized this and so much more in hindsight than I did when I was consciously writing *Larry Kramer*.... I realized in hindsight that the wound at the core of *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* is the lonely gay boy. That is the core pain, the core spiritual wound, the wound of the soul that must be healed.

Many of these scenes are ways that I'm addressing healing them, or at least examining them. "12 Inch Single" is about the late-night club crawl.

It's about "All I need is loving you and music, music, music."

Your "Why I Go to the Gym" and "12 Inch Single" monologues seem to be one piece in the sense that they address the sexual addiction issue in our community, which is just now being brought forward, addressed and healed in a significant way.

The gym piece has got titillation because the environment is very titillat-

ing, and I spin jokes on that. But underneath those things are the fear of bashing, the competition between gay men and straight men and what hovers underneath. Again, that is connected to the child who was bullied for being a sissy, for being different, for being a queer, for being other, not one of the pack. Little kids can smell that with each other.

I felt the undercurrent of violence in those monologues.

There's a lot of violence in the show... "Why I Go to the Gym" becomes a pulling up of subconscious fears and subconscious anger. And having to fight for your life—the Paris Island thing that comes at the end, fighting enemies, fighting gay-bashers.... But then "12 Inch Single" flips that. We go internal and we show internal violence. In this search for something so tender and so gentle that is our birthright, our romantic intimacy, our love gets twisted and twisted and gnarled all the way down into what turns out to be acting out on each other. Acting out on one's self. That's where you get, partially anyway, into the drug and alcohol abuse....

I think it's about energy, male energy that gets oppressed. In "12 Inch Single" there is a piece where I say "to the cell where they keep the men, a holding pen." The idea is that there are these closets.... All of this energy doesn't

go outward, it goes inward. We spiral into these little places, into these little nooks and crannies, and in those places we go mad.

I also see a trend among men like ourselves who have survived to this point and have been to the bottom of that spiral and in some way found our own transcendence. We now have a chance to speak to the community about our experience and what is possible for us as men, as healthy, loving, intimate men.

It's an ongoing process. I think the AIDS crisis denied people like me—I am 36 now—denied me a generation of men, hundreds of thousands of them were wiped away. They never lived to the age of 36. For a long time I just didn't see anybody in the in-between stages. I didn't see anybody in grown-up manhood. I saw these 20-somethings, like myself, or these guys in their 50s, these old men who I felt I had nothing in common with. There were no examples of people living their lives. What happens next, what happens after you come out? And that's really what *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* is all about....

In the "Thousand Points of Light" you speak to the little star that's unknown. That is one of the most poignant and beautiful things that I've seen in re-

sponse to the AIDS epidemic.... OutSmart just sponsored a showing of *The Times of Harvey Milk*. There's that scene when they scan the candlelight vigil, the night that he was killed.

That river of little flickering flames, it was one of the inspirations of that vigil piece. I had a series of pictures posted up on my bulletin board in front of my desk and there was a picture from the [Harvey Milk] movie of that.

...Honestly, I think complacency will bottom out and there will be a resurgence of movement. Another generation will come in and say civil unions aren't good enough, I want gay marriage. Someone's gonna come and stomp their foot and say separate but equal isn't good enough for me.

Is there anything in closing about seeing Larry Kramer brought to film?

Well, it has been transcendent for me to let go of it in a way. That it's preserved and it's done in a way that I am very happy with.

I let it go for a long time.... Then the director Tim Kirkman, he'd seen it several times in New York and he had this vision on how to interpret this stage work. In conclusion, I'm really happy with this movie version, I feel like it's created the immortal version of *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*.

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Seth Green

(Buffy the Vampire Slayer)

(Entertainment Weekly, 6/2/2000)

"There was a rumor that Richard Simmons and I were engaged. We met once, but it was not a romantic thing at all."

Chris Rock

(Us Weekly, 5/29/2000, Andrew Johnston & Marc S. Malkin)

Rock, on the subject of acting opposite Morgan Freeman: "When he wasn't feeling my ass, it was pretty cool."

Janeane Garofalo

(Entertainment Weekly, 5/26/2000, Dan Snierson)

Frequent *Late Night* guest Garofalo on Conan O'Brien's sidekick Andy Richter: "His appeal is off the charts. I can't think of anyone sexier on television, besides possibly Debra Messing from *Will & Grace*."

Amy Brenneman

(Us Weekly, 6/5/2000, Peter Wilkinson)

At some point on [CBS's *Judging Amy*], she wants to pursue a homosexual story line. "I have a girlfriend who I want to come on," Brenneman announces, with a big, gleaming grin. "Have us a little lesbian love affair. Lesbianism's chic. No big deal."



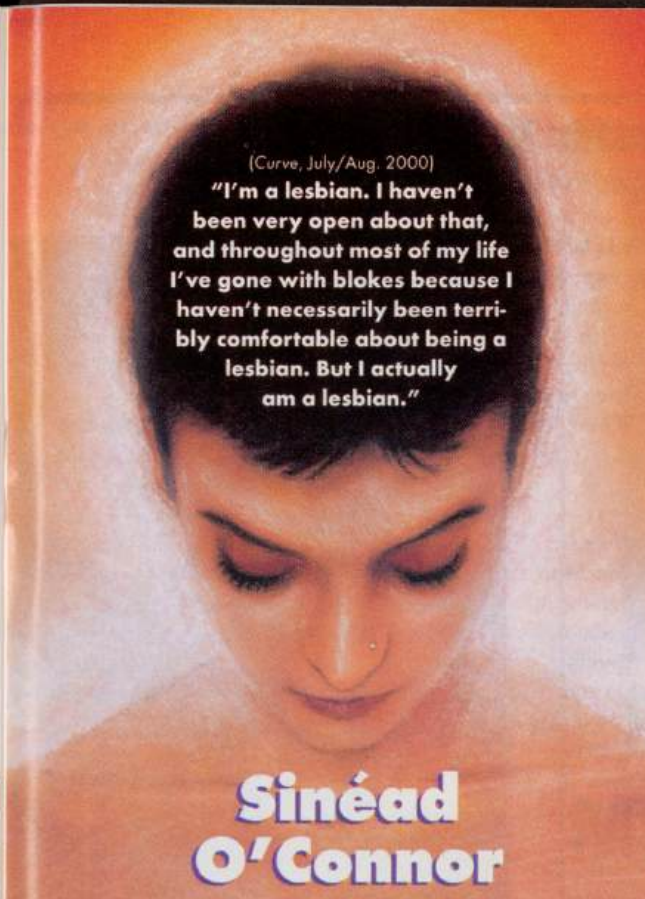
Amy Brenneman (pictured here in her hit TV series *Judging Amy*): Is next season's offering a lesbian love affair?

Eminem

(Entertainment Weekly, 6/16/2000, Corey Takahashi)

When MTV asked recently if he had a problem with gays, Eminem told Kurt Loder he likes gay men; he uses "faggot" to mean coward. Responds [GLAAD's Scott Seomin, the entertainment media director of the gay and lesbian advocacy group]: "That's supposed to make me feel better?" Seomin, who issued a bulletin condemning the rhymes, says he talked to Eminem's manager, who "advised me to remain silent because Eminem is a fireball and you're just going to make matters worse." GLAAD is also holding meetings with MTV, and is urging the net to, among other things, tape a special with Eminem talking to gay teens—which seems about as likely as him doing a Celine Dion cover album....

► Mark Wahlberg (left) and George Clooney: Are they going to film a remake of *Adam's Rib*, with Wahlberg in the Spencer Tracy role and Clooney in the Katharine Hepburn role?



Sinéad
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Compiled by Blase DiStefano



George Clooney & Mark Wahlberg

(Us Weekly, 6/5/2000)

On the two films Clooney has made with Wahlberg: "Mark and I have now locked into a marriage. We're Tracy and Hepburn."

George Clooney

(At the Cannes Film Festival)

"The big news is...I'm really a woman."

DJ Qualls on Todd Phillips

(Entertainment Weekly, 5/26/2000, Dave Karger)

"I was shooting my love scene and [the actress] wasn't sitting on me the right way," recalls DJ Qualls, who plays gawky virgin Kyle [in the recent *Road Trip*]. "[Director Todd Phillips] climbs on top of me—I'm in my underwear—and says, 'You need to do this,' and plops on top of me. It was the best!"

k.d. lang

(The Advocate, 6/20/2000, Michele Kort)

Michele Kort: ...I have a straight girlfriend who told me that you were the one woman who really made her feel confused about her sexuality. k.d. lang: That's my job! To transcend gender. There have been many examples of performers who do that—Elvis, Mick Jagger, Madonna. Art transcends gender. As an artist, it's imperative that you go right past the genitals and right into the heart. That's my job, that's why I'm here, it's my assignment.

Angelina Jolie

(Entertainment Weekly, 5/26/2000)

On Diversity (from *Elle*): "I like everything. Boyish girls, girlish boys, the heavy and the skinny. Which is a problem when I'm walking down the street."

On Choosing Roles (from *Talk*): "I always play women I would date."

On Social Position (from *Elle*): "I need someone physically stronger than me.... I am always on top. It's really unfortunate. I am begging for the man that can put me on the bottom. Or the woman. Anybody that can take me down."

▼ Angelina Jolie (right) eyes a "boyish girl," Jenny Shimizu, in the 1996 film *Foxfire*.



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Deep Inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

Amadeus Duets With Vachon

Lesbian producer Christine Vachon has partnered with openly gay actor Tom Hulse (best known for his portrayal of Mozart in 1984's *Amadeus*) to bring Michael Cunningham's gay-themed novel *Home at the End of the World* to the big screen. *Home* is a poignant tale about two boyhood friends, Bobby (straight) and Jonathan (gay), who get involved in a bizarre triangle with their female roommate, Clare. Jonathan intends to father Clare's child, but that plan gets tossed when Bobby and Clare fall in love. They redefine the American family when they join forces to raise "their" child in NYC's East Village. No word yet on when *Home* will hit theaters.

Jack in the Litter Box

Will & Grace star Sean Hayes is spending his summer vacation getting into a major catfight! Hayes, who plays the flamboyant Jack on the hit NBC show, just scored one of the leads in the upcoming Warner Brothers combination live-action and animation flick, *Cats and Dogs*. Hayes will provide the voice of Mr. Tinkles, an evil cat in the film. The story follows an earnest young pup (whose voice will be provided by *Cider House Rules* star Tobey Maguire) who helps thwart a fiendish feline plot to take over the world. The voices of Alec Baldwin, Susan Sarandon, and *Green Mile* star Michael Clarke Duncan will also be showcased in the movie, which the studio hopes to turn into a major franchise.

Another Kind of American Beauty

American Beauty producer Bruce Cohen recently shared his love of drag with a group of chi-chi Los Angeles queers. Asked by the Human Rights Campaign to talk about how his professional and activist lives intersected, Cohen spent the bulk of his 45-minute talk at the classic eatery Spago talking about how and why he has strutted before the Hollywood A-List (from Jack Nicholson to Carrie Fisher) in women's clothing. The 38-year-old Cohen, whose credits include *The Flintstones* and *To Wong Foo...*, finished by displaying a copy of the framed photo of him dressed as Marilyn Monroe that he presented to his mentor Steven Spielberg the



Openly gay Tom Hulse (seen here in 1984's *Amadeus*): Does he get it on with openly gay producer Christine Vachon?

day after he won the Oscar for Best Picture. The photo is now on display in the bathroom used by Spielberg's guests at Dreamworks Studios, Cohen said.

Sean Maher Hits *The Street* Twenty-something cutie Sean Maher, who was the star of last fall's short-lived *Ryan Caulfield, Year One*, has been recruited by the Fox Network again. This time the brunette hunk will star in the re-vamped version of *The Street*, a new Wall Street drama created by *Melrose Place* and *Sex and the City* creator Darren Star.



Courtney Love (seen here in 1996's *The People vs. Larry Flynt*): Does she get it on with *Creek*'s James Van Der Beek?

Dawson's Hole? The most interesting casting rumor going around has Hole rocker-slash-actress-slash-occasional-bisexual Courtney Love doing a hard sell to the producers of *Dawson's Creek* to guest star next season as the very hetero older love interest of James Van Der Beek. Courtney playing Mrs. Robinson in *Capeside*? Romeo will believe it when he sees it. • In other casting news, Tony-winning actress Audra McDonald has signed on to play the nurse in HBO's production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Wit* opposite Emma Thompson.

Romeo San Vicente wouldn't mind pussyfooting around with Sean Hayes. You can reach Romeo in care of this publication or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com. For more *Deep Inside Hollywood*, visit www.popcornq.com, www.gay.com, or www.query.com.



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GrooveOut

by Chris Sill

ENDLESS SUMMERTIME

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Invincible Summer —
k.d. lang (Warner Brothers)
Summer in Houston means two things, heat, humidity ...and Galveston Island. OK, maybe three things. Might as well make it four, because no trip to Galveston's beaches this summer will be complete without k.d. lang. With *Invincible Summer*, the sultry

chanteuse has captured both the splendor of summer and of being in love, in the season's most spirited release. • Inspired by Southern California's sun, lang set out to create an album that feels like summer. Musical influences from the Mamas and Papas, the surf punk genre, as well as Brazilian music, give *Summer* the feeling of a warm breezy day at the beach. But what's summer without love or at least a fling? Hence "Summerfling," the album's first single, a romantic tale about summer love drenched in a '60s-esque soundtrack.



Lang sounds quite carefree here—as indeed she does on much of the album. Not to worry, she provides plenty of vocal heat, just not in the torch style to which we've grown accustomed from her. This is a woman rejuvenated by sunshine and love and she wants the world to share in her joy. • Treading into deeper

waters is the Roy Orbison-sounding "Love's Great Ocean." It's a gorgeous love song almost too perfect for lovers walking hand in hand on the beach. And "Simple" dives even deeper as lang unravels the complexities of love. She resurfaces on "Curiosity" where she finds dangerous fun in obsession ...even if it's with her dog Saylor. • If lang had control of the world's weather, it's safe to say she would have summer all year long. Fortunately for Houstonians, she doesn't possess those powers. We'll gladly take her *Invincible Summer* over an endless summer any day.

Songman — Nomad

(Australian Music International)
If you're searching for something more meaningful than a summer fling, head down under and take a spiritual journey to the world of Nomad. Hailing from Australia, Nomad (Adam Plack)

unites ancient Aboriginal didgeridoo sounds with thick downtempo beats on his newest creation, *Songman*. • A songman is the keeper of songs and stories for the Aboriginal Dreamtime. Nomad spent weeks collecting material and getting approval from tribal elders for reproducing their work. *Songman* respect-



fully translates their sacred message into a modern soundscape of hypnotic rhythms and seducing grooves.

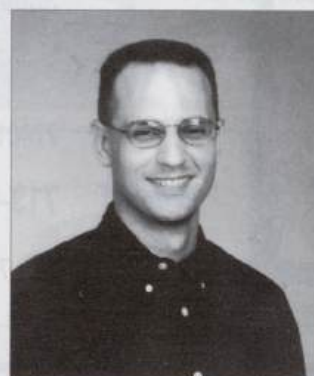
Both of these elements make for great dance music, which is why "With You," the album's first single, has been remixed for club exposure. • Whether you vacation this summer or not, let Nomad take you far from the maddening crowds. *Songman* will replenish your mind, body, and soul.

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



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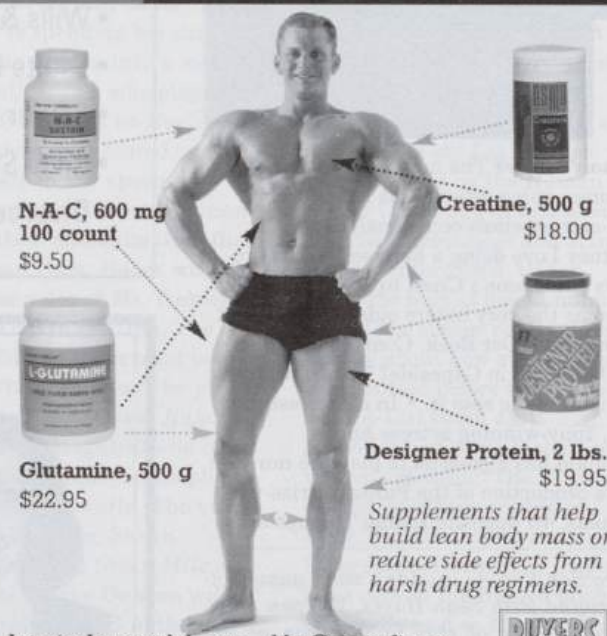
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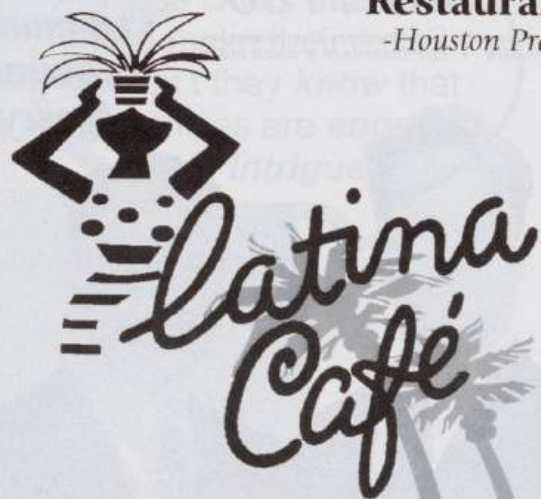


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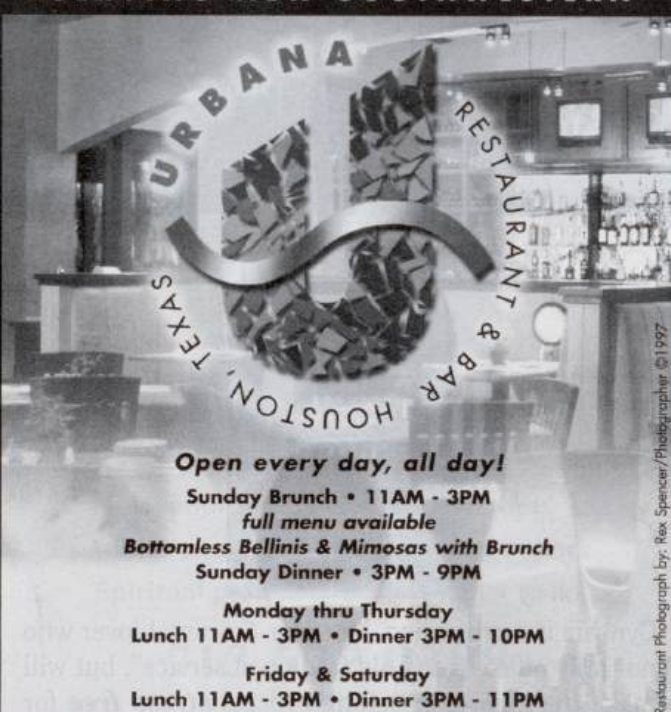
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It's open again and we're happy: because this locale actually provides parking. Enter Houston's beloved Tolkien sanctuary and revel in its prolific menu, featuring Fatty Lumpkin and Bilbo the Magnificent (they're sandwiches, but unlike any you've ever 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)
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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. \$

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4500 Montrose Blvd.
713/529-5057

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

Latina Café

1972 Fairview
713/521-2611

An authentic repository of soul-satisfying Cuban cooking. Dishing out platinos of two varieties, beans in three colors (black, red, and green), exquisite seafood creoles, ropa vieja (literally "old clothes" because that's what this shredded beef looks like), Latina Café has been a Montrose standby for forever, it seems. Their intimate non-fussy decor has the feel of Continental sophistication to me, an informal place where one can just relax with old friends over a glass of wine or a demi-tasse of Cuban coffee, in a cup as small as a baby's fist, yet as strong as a gym rat, and as dark as top soil. \$

continued on page 48

DineOut by Shelley Barnes

Buzz of the Island

Galveston's Mosquito Café will leave you itching for more

If I ever come across a magic lamp, I've already pegged my three wishes. One, I want to live in the space that is Mosquito Café, basking in its simple elegance and breathing in the fresh Galveston air. Two, I want owners Jerry Bear and Jack Parker to be permanent houseguests and feng shui my home with their karmic charm. And three, I want Liz Aguilar as my personal chef, whipping up her impromptu concoctions and indulging my every gustatory whim.

OK, so maybe I'd wish I were a multimillionaire, but only as a means to quench my Mosquito Café fetish. If you think I'm exaggerating, mosey on by the next time you're in Galveston. You'll thank me. You may be so moved as to write me into your will. (See? I'll get my wishes granted one way or another.)

After just one very quick lunch, my dining companions and I agreed to make an entire weekend of Mosquito Café so we could sample everything. We'd have a nice long dinner, crash at some Strand hotel, and return for breakfast for probably the best sausage frittata and squash muffins in Houston. Am I making myself clear?

One of the smartest moves in restaurant history was giving Liz Aguilar free reign in Mosquito's kitchen. This endears me to Jack and Jerry that much more. With no experience in the restaurant business and with Aguilar having no formal chef training but simply a knack for suiting her own tastes, Jack and Jerry have created a

The space is pure charm, fitting nicely with Galveston's freshly renovated Strand architecture. It's also my dream house (removing the many tables of course) with its huge window-pane windows, high ceilings, mustard interior, bright hardwoods, and antique glass. And here's the rub: Not only are owners Jerry and Jack the most personable duo since Will and Grace, they actually designed the space themselves, right down to the Ergami art gracing the walls.

"We wanted a space where Galveston's creative community could showcase their work," says co-owner Jerry Bear, an attorney who still manages to fit in a busy practice while playing host to his hungry guests. "We moved in and fell in love with Galveston. The town is filled with good people, and it's becoming more and more progressive. The only drawback was the lack of dining choices." Indeed, although the

city by the bay offers abundant seafood, much of it fried, as well as doses of Mexican and barbecue, the eclectic/healthy end of the spectrum was a tad lacking.

So Jerry and Jack put the pressure on Aguilar to relocate from Houston, and turned Galveston's culinary community on its head: There isn't a fryer on the premises, and Aguilar came straight from the Daily Review Café. Need I continue? That's the pull of Mosquito Café. Despite its modest location on 14th Street three blocks east of Broadway, Mosquito Café is already a mainstay with local artists, medical professionals, and just

Starting with the salads, it's clear this place caters to more of a bohemian crowd than Old Guard Galvestonians. Aguilar used to be a vegetarian, and though she claims her love of bacon and pork has made her a wanton

lover of meat, the menu is peppered with pure vegan (no eggs, no dairy) vegetarian dishes, such as bow-tie pasta with pesto and pine nuts and roasted veggies in olive oil and garlic. Other scrumptious vegetarian offerings were the side dishes, such as couscous with orange essence, almonds and currents, roasted tomatoes and lentils marinated in three types of vinegar. Each sandwich is accompanied by one of these side dishes; superb and originally seasoned, any one of them could stand alone as the featured dish.

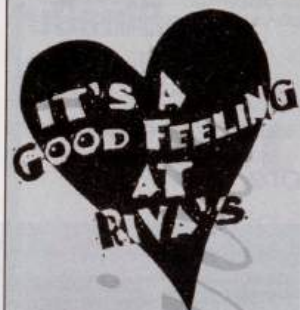
My favorite items vied from completely opposite ends of the food chain. On one hand, I couldn't resist the Garden Delight salad (\$6.25), its tasty sun-dried tomato vinaigrette gently coating morsels of roasted red peppers, asparagus, goat cheese, and Roma tomatoes. My companions, both salad fanatics and no slouches in the kitchen,



Prepared by former Daily Review Café chef Liz Aguilar, Mosquito Café's food is so healthy and delicious that we were tempted to come for an entire weekend's worth of meals.

about any other Galvestonian tired of hush puppies and fried shrimp combos.

BOTH PHOTOS: SUSAN HENRY



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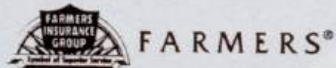
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were even more impressed with the Spinach salad (\$6.25) with walnuts, parmesan, and balsamic onions in an herb walnut vinaigrette (although I personally think it was one ingredient—grilled sweet potatoes sautéed in balsamic vinegar—that most wowed them).

As I basked in lettuce leaves, trying to distinguish one compelling flavor from another, we all stared in awe as the Mambo roasted pork sandwich took its spot among its herbivorous neighbors. We had all agreed to share the dishes—a rational way to conduct a food review, yes, but frustrating when you've hit the big Lotto. Very rarely do I see a sandwich that stands up to its description. But this, with its modest listing of ingredients, is a knockout. The pork is tender and prac-

we gave it serious consideration for an entire 10 seconds—and after 60 there was not a single crumb left.

There we were, three fat-ladies-waiting-to-happen, brimming with smiles and gratitude and ready to head back to the city, when Jerry gave us two compelling reasons to stay just another minute: squash muffins and lemon bars. Now, you may be thinking a restaurant with fresh-baked pies and cakes may be slightly off-kilter touting lemon bars and squash muffins (or at least a bit out of touch with the chocolate-loving masses). But actually, these men have hit on something big. Lines form out the door to get a morning muffin on the way to the nearby medical center, and the lemon bar...well, we managed to make it the topic

"We moved in and fell in love with Galveston," says Mosquito co-owner Jerry Bear. "The town is filled with good people, and it's becoming more and more progressive. The only drawback was the lack of dining choices."

tically melts with each bite, on a focaccia that's firm yet unusually moist and light, all accented by a luscious tropical fruit chutney.

For Galveston's manly men, the Nueva York steak sandwich (\$8.95) can hold its own next to their giant burgers, with a juicy, tender cut of beef seasoned with mildly spicy chili mayonnaise.

We sampled just a smidgen of one of the locals' favorites, the Killer Chicken (\$6.95). A fitting name, all three of us lapped up this pecan, celery, apples, and herbed mayo/sour cream mixture, wishing we had ordered a full serving.

Just for completeness sake, not because we wanted to, we ordered the sausage frittata with Swiss chard and potatoes. We were caught completely off guard by its decadence. Claiming to be full, we briefly contemplated saving it for my friend's husband, a committed frittata lover. In fact,

of conversation for the entire hour-ride home to Houston.

The only thing that stumped us was why Jerry and Jack chose such an unfortunate name, especially when there's nary a mosquito to be found. Unlike the oppressive, stagnant environments in which mosquitoes thrive, the café is bright, airy, a breath of Galveston sea air on a good day. And unlike its blood-sucking namesake that leaves you itching, but not for more, Mosquito Café leaves you with a smile that smacks of satisfied satiety. So why did these seemingly sane owners name this charmer after a quirky little pest?

We were so engrossed with eating we forgot to ask.

Mosquito Café, 628 14th Street, Galveston, 409/763-1010. Mon.–Wed. (lunch only), 7 a.m.–2 p.m.; Thu.–Sat., 7 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sun., 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

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A Taste of Houston

Tapas-style reviews

continue on page 44

Paulie's

1834 Westheimer
713/807-7271

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

Pot Pie Pizzeria

1525 Westheimer, 713/528-4350
2207 Richmond, 713/526-1702

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. \$

Riva's

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

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

River Café

3615 Montrose
713/529-0088

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

Sonoma

1415 California St.
713/522-7066

Wildly eclectic menu features steak pasta, Osso Bucco, and crispy crab cakes (heavy crab with minimal cake), bursting with fun and flavor. Very reasonable, and a great party atmosphere. For their Sunday brunch and afternoon T-Dance (on their patio, with its exhilarating wide-open view of downtown), owner Jay Allen makes the ultimate host. \$\$

La Strada

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

Yes, they do more than Sunday brunch. It's called award-winning cuisine and matching wine list available to the entire population seven days a week. Two hip locations differ in style and mood, but not in the yummy, unconventional pastas or reliable bellinis. \$\$\$

Taco Milagro

2555 Kirby Dr. (@ Westheimer)
713/522-1999

Café Express' answer to upscale Mexican fast food enjoyed at a slow, savory pace. Chalupas come stacked with almost every ingredient in the house; salads and enchiladas are exotic versions of their brethren Tex-Mex fare. A salsa bar spanning an entire wall satisfies tastes from mild to muy caliente. Sip a cool one (with salt) to the trickle of two flowing patio fountains. \$

Thai Spice

5117 Kelvin (behind & above Antone's)
713/777-4888

Starve yourself for a day, then gorge on their expansive lunch buffet. Even for buffet skeptics, the four variations on egg rolls and spicy Pad Thai will make a believer out of you. If you're still in doubt, sample the beef curry and satays. You may have a wait, but the place is teeming with locals and natives vouching for its authenticity, so you know it'll be worth it. \$\$

This Is It

207 W. Gray (@ Bagby)
713/659-1608

No other place dishes up soul food like this hearty Fourth Ward spot. Just one foot in the door, and you'll smell pork chops and collard greens like mama still makes. The cornbread is the sweetest, moistest that Houston has to offer. For the uninitiated, display just a hint of down home naiveté to the gals behind the steam table and they'll give you the skinny on each dish. \$

Urbana

3407 Montrose (@ Hawthorne)
713/521-1086

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

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)
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\$\$\$	\$31 to \$50 (expensive)
\$\$\$\$	\$51 or more (very expensive)

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Galveston

Gay Mecca?

Story by Ann Walton Sieber
Photographs by Susan Henry

About 1900 Galveston: "The city exhibited a rare harmony of spirit. Blacks, whites, Jews, and immigrants lived and worked side by side with an astonishing degree of mutual tolerance."

—Isaac's Storm, by Erik Larson

The harmonious atmosphere in Galveston that Erik Larson describes in his book about the 1900 hurricane might today be easily expanded to also include gays and lesbians.

"Galveston Island near Texas, it's the most undiscovered gay mecca," says Eldridge Langlinais, who owns Island Properties Realities, and last year, with his lover, Tim Jennings, opened the Paradise, a gay guest house. "Thousands of gay people are living here. The personality of Galveston is very, very gay-friendly."

For decades, the gay and lesbian community of Houston has sought out Galveston as a place with an easygoing pace and all the gaiety and freewheeling fun of a beach town, a place with a small-town atmosphere in everything but its progressive embracing of the gay community.

"When you come over that causeway, everything slows down," says Galvestonian Susan Henry.

It's remarkable that this town of 60,000 has a half dozen gay bars; two well-established gay guest houses; a monthly publication, *The Galveston Gayzette*; and numerous, numerous businesses owned by local gay individuals and couples. The many gay women and men who live on the island have played a strong civic role in helping revive Galveston, work on its historic neighborhoods, promote its arts. The wider community is smart enough to realize this and be thankful. Indeed, for the past two years, Galveston has been alight with economic

development and people wanting to buy properties.

And just as the town as a whole is accepting of the gay community, many of the gay people I spoke with made pains to be inclusive of everyone, too.

"Not just gay, I emphasize gay-friendly," Eldridge said, in talking about the island and his guest house. "I am not one to exclude gay-friendly heterosexuals. There are hundreds of wonderful heterosexual people who do not care what you do—you can slow dance right in front of them. I would not exclude those people for the world."

What *OutSmart* first started thinking about Galveston when we heard about David Bowers, the openly gay three-time city councilman who ran for mayor this spring. Although he lost by a small margin, we were impressed that his sexual orientation, though known by everyone, really didn't seem as though it were an issue in the race.

As we started to talk to people in Galveston and explore gay community down there, we discovered a very gay-friendly town, but one quite different in nature from Montrose. Even though both share a certain funky eccentric ambience, in Galveston, there is much less of a strong sense of bold-blaring "gay identity," and more just a sense of people being who they are—some straight-laced, some outlandish. Sexual orientation was just one aspect of people's lives that they didn't feel called to make a

big to-do over. Indeed, in seeking out quote-unquote Gay Galveston, we didn't want to come down and create a label where there really wasn't one. But at the same time, a small town this liberal and accepting, this friendly and fun, and this close, seemed cause for attention and celebration.

"It's like everything down here," says Nathan Sweeten, who owns the huge Peanut Butter antique warehouse on the Strand. "It's much more laid back. But I never felt down here that there was ever a problem with anybody in the public eye, if you were gay. It being a small town, you can be gay and live here and enjoy the small-town life much more freely than in most any other small town."

Which is not to say that Galveston has achieved gay utopia status, and is about to be annexed as an island colony of Vermont. Although there is an acceptance of being gay, there is also a feeling that maybe you just don't shine a spotlight on it. Also, the biggest employer is the University of Texas Medical Branch, and they have a reputation of being conservative; they don't offer domestic partner benefits, and some employees don't feel safe with being out.

Galveston had their Anita Bryant moment two years ago, when a local Baptist minister, Ken Barber, wrote a column for the *Galveston County Daily News* protesting the opening of Bob Wilkins and Sherman Houck's gay guest house, the Hollywood, spouting homophobic rhetoric of the most nauseating stripe. He organized a protest in front of the Hollywood, and though

his numbers were few, they were telling, with skinheads carrying a Swastika flag, and a KKKer coming in his white pointy get-up (until he got too hot, and stripped back to his jeans).

After Barber's column and protest, for two weeks, the *Daily News* carried an expanded "Letters" section as readers, largely heterosexual, wrote in objecting to Barber, with headlines like, "It's not Barber's place to judge others," "Bible shouldn't be used as crutch for hateful ends," and "Galveston enriched by intellect of diverse people," in

which the letter-writer says, "Galveston Island has been greatly enriched by the intellectual, civic, academic, financial, social, spiritual, and aesthetic contributions of the gay community."

Susan Henry says she had known Galveston was a gay-friendly town before that, but the Hollywood incident really confirmed it very concretely in her mind.

"I think every gay person who lives in Galveston thought and knew these things," she says, "but we always wondered. When the whole Hollywood thing happened, it

showed the support the community felt. It really was a defining moment in Galveston."

Special thanks go to Susan Henry for her generous help with the *Galveston OutSmart* issue. Thanks also go to Eldridge and Tim at the Paradise, to Bob and Sherman at the Hollywood, to Daniel Zorn and the many other Galvestonians who gave of their time, expertise, and enthusiasm in making this issue come together. It was wonderful to have so many wonderful people to talk to, and we only regret that we were unable to speak to everyone.



People on the Island

NURSE AND AIDS VOLUNTEER JOHN RODRIGUEZ

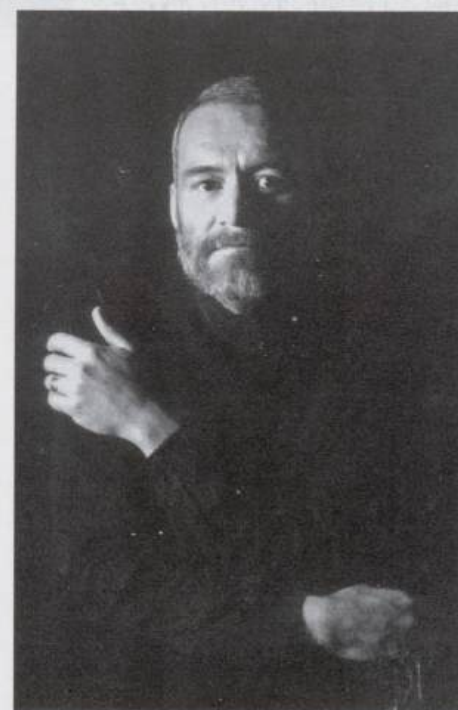
Recognized as AIDS volunteer of the year at Misty Valdez's drag fundraiser for AIDS in June, John Rodriguez knows about this illness from both sides of the fence. In the early '90s, he worked as a nurse on a project doing AIDS clinical trials. When he was diagnosed HIV positive in 1992, he worked for as long as he could, and then kept on helping as a volunteer.

"When I stopped being a nurse, it was kind of strange because you wonder, *What do I do now? Just wait to die?*"

Not quite. John is a soft-spoken, amiable man, gentle-humored, who gets excited in a non-egotistical way about things like his collage artworks, and his many posters and "historic" relics of gay life from Galveston and the Montrose. He's fashioned a rich island life with his partner, Paul Garrison.

John was young when he met Paul, who is 12 years his senior ("We got together real fast, like by the end of the week"), and he moved from Montrose to Galveston in 1981 to live together. Eighteen years later, the quick-start affair is still going strong.

John and Paul live in a garage apartment so interesting and comfortable, I wanted to move in on the spot. Paul has modified and added on to it through the years, till it is filled with inviting nooks, a second story deck amidst the trees, antique day sofas, historic relics. In front, Paul has created a garden paradise with a flowering frangipani tree and crepe myrtle, fruit trees, an enclosed bower with pond (in which their boisterous dogs like to submerge themselves). John served me Long Life Tea and fresh strawberries; Paul brought me a bag full of tart apples he'd just picked.



John Rodriguez

Although he confesses that he sometimes feels pretty lousy, John works every Tuesday afternoon in the Food Pantry, and is on the community advisory board for the AIDS Clinical Trial Unit (ACUTE), the same project in which he was earlier employed as a nurse, and one of several sites around the country doing AIDS trials. (They're always in need of volunteers, John says. If you're interested, call Karen Waterman at 409/747-0214.) There isn't much of a formal AIDS community in Galveston, John says, but those who work in the field are "there because they want to be."

"I've been on both sides, as client, as nurse," he says, "and there's no difference.... There's a lot of compassion, genuine compassion and interest."

"I've got to give credit to these folks." He points at a smiling group portrait taken of the ACTU nurses before they went on the AIDS walk two years ago. "I've created a wonderful family in Galveston."

WRITER AND AIDS ACTIVIST JANET COHEN

Janet Cohen came to Galveston in 1990 with her partner Melody Blake to be the first executive director of Galveston's AIDS Coalition.

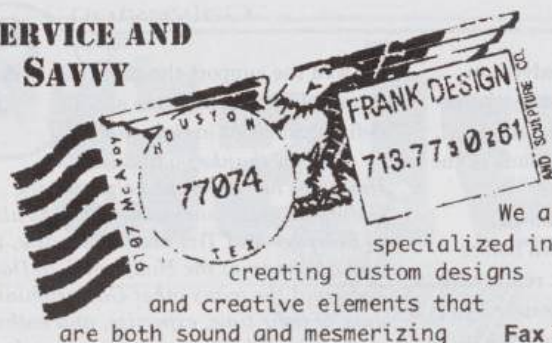
"Initially it was really hard to find gay community, and the lesbian community was basically invisible," Janet says. But wherever Janet goes she creates community, whether writing commentary in the local newspaper, founding the Galveston branch of PFLAG, organizing a clergy panel on gay and lesbian issues in the Bible, or even throwing a massively successful party at the Galvez Hotel for the coming-out episode of *Ellen*.

A robust outgoing woman, Janet brings an optimistic flair to any project. She is a frequent guest commentator for the *Galveston County Daily News*, as well as Houston publications, writing about issues of social justice, from hate crimes, to religious freedom, to gay rights, as well as lighter "be grateful for the seagulls" pieces.

"I have to say the *Galveston Daily News* is really remarkable," Janet says. "Every time I submitted something about AIDS, it got in. Everything related to events in the gay and lesbian community got in."

When writing about the April 1999 protest at the Hollywood Guest House, although her column was very serious, she also brought in a touch of wry humor, writing: "The grand wizard/dragon of the Ku

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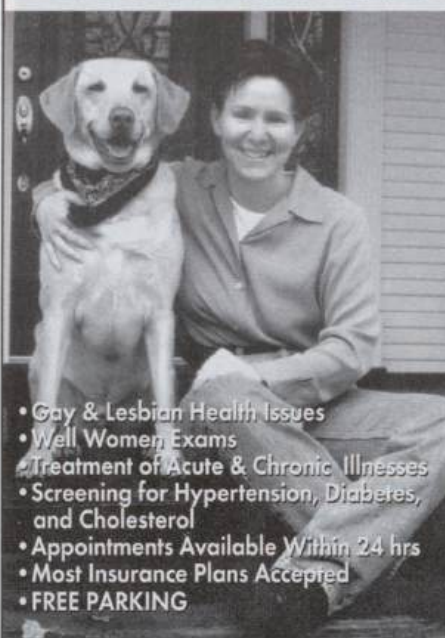
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Klux Klan stole the show. Tell me why that closet drag queen even bothered.... He took care of that robe better than I took care of my prom dress 25 years ago."

Although Janet is no longer on staff at the AIDS Coalition, she is involved as a volunteer. She now makes a living as a consultant and as an independent broker for viatical settlements. (She named her company ViAdvocate, which reflects her consumer-advocate approach to this sometimes tricky field.) Her latest project is to start a group for LGBT youth and their friends; called GAYS (Galveston Area Youth Support), they had their first meeting in April. Janet has found an easy peace in Galveston—as a gay person, and just as a person—and seems to have settled in for the long haul.

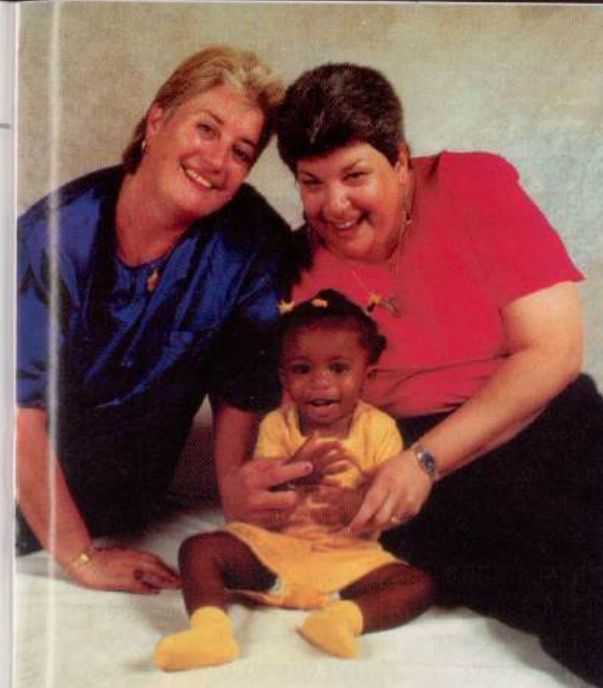
"Galveston's such an integrated city that if you are gay or lesbian, it doesn't matter," she says. This was especially apparent when Janet and Melody brought their beloved daughter Joy into the family last year, and were congratulated by everyone from one of the powerful women leaders of the African-American community to a local rabbi. When the couple enrolled her in a daycare, Joy was the first child with lesbian parents. Were there protests or any discomfort from the other parents? "Quite the contrary," Janet laughs. "Within a year, I was asked to be president of the parents' advisory committee." A large step for humankind, perhaps, a shrug for Galveston.

To contact Janet Cohen about any of her various community projects, call 409/744-3200 or 888/744-GIVE, janettexas@aol.com.

PIANIST OMA GALLOWAY

Born on the island, entertainer Oma Galloway remembers the days when Galveston was a mecca for big-name entertainers like Mel Tormé and others, who would perform at the Balinese Room and at the Galvez Hotel. He remembers Splash Day before its gay days, when Esther Williams and Johnny Weissmuller would come to proclaim the official opening of the summer season. "Which was ridiculous," Oma says, laughing in his soft-spoken way, "we have no winter here."

Oma left the island in 1946, majored in music at TSU, and went on to tour the piano bars of the world, making an annual circuit to such disparate tourist destinations as Palm Beach, Japan, and Amsterdam. ("I let my fingers do the walk-



Janet Cohen (right) with partner Melody Blake and daughter Joy

ing.") He added Galveston to his circuit, and moved back in 1986 when his parents fell into ill health. Soon thereafter, he was introduced to George Mitchell and began a two-month contract playing at Mitchell's showpiece Tremont House...an engagement which has been continued for 14 years and running.

"I think Galveston is accepting of everybody," he says. "I have not run into any human prejudice, period. If people draw lines, they draw them to limit themselves due to fear, or I don't know what."

Ever humorous and understated, Oma is a wonder at the piano, playing rippling



Oma Galloway

lilting versions of whatever the cocktail-hour patrons request, simultaneously talking to me or whoever in his manner that bespeaks an old-school gentility and charm. Oma also periodically stages an evening of songs and performance at the Strand Theatre, in which he also sings. "I guess I'm the princess in the ivory tower," Oma says as he plays a song from *Cinderella*, the music floating up into the lofty three-story atrium of the Tremont, which is indeed ivory-colored. A regal older woman in large jewelry and hair pulled suavely back sways in her seat, her hands making wave motions in front of her. "That's one of her favorites," Oma says, nodding a smile at her, which she acknowledges with a little finger wave. "Galveston is a very forgiving place,"

Oma says for perhaps the third time in our conversation, with shades of meaning known only to him. "It's a lost little jewel."

You can hear Oma Galloway play at the Tremont House, 2300 Ship's Mechanic Row, Tues. 5-7 p.m., Wed. 6-9, Fri. 5-11, Sat. 6:30-11, Sun. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 409/763-0300.

ARCHITECT DAVID WATSON

David Watson's architectural firm has overseen some of the most significant restoration projects in this preservation-conscious town. His firm oversaw the restoration of the U.S. Custom House into the Galveston Historical Foundation (shown in photo), and won the American Institute of Architects Houston chapter's award for best preservation project this year for their restoration of the stately Garten-Verein, the dancing pavilion where 1880 Galveston society hob-nobbed and flirted.

David started coming to Galveston in 1980 when he wrote his grad school thesis on restoration in Galveston, and just stayed on. When David first arrived, the downtown area was so run-down that "we were literally mowing the Strand sidewalks" because it was overgrown with grass. After decades of ups and downs, Galveston has been in a slow upswing since the early '90s, and has really taken off in the last two years. David says people have been moving to the island "nonstop," and wanting to build or restore homes. "Usually December gives our office some downtime," he says, "but not this year. We've been

Galveston



running full out. I don't know how long this much development can keep up."

In terms of preserving Galveston's magnificent Silk Stocking District and other historic areas, the gay members of the island community have played a key role.

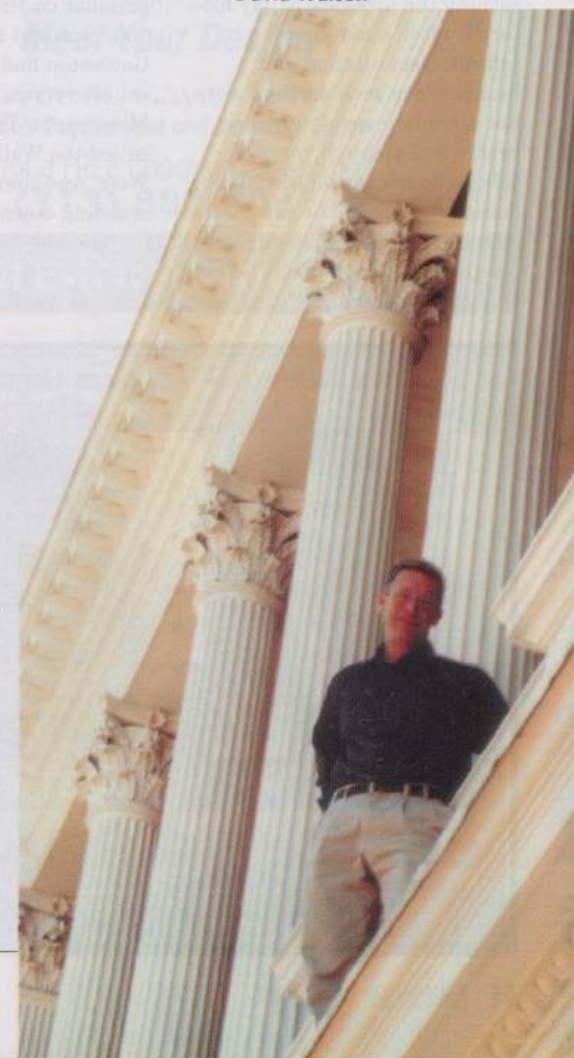
"A lot of the gay community has been more adventurous in going into the old areas and doing restorations. For one, the school districts in the central area are not as advantageous, so that might make it harder for families with children."

Part of David's dream as an architect is to see a downtown where people are living and working—this is finally coming true, with historic buildings being renovated for use as living spaces, such as with Randall Davis' Clarke & Courts apartments next door to the Tremont House. Likewise, the 10-story Gene Lafitte Hotel and the old Medical Arts Building will soon be offering downtown living spaces.

David has been discovering firsthand the exhilarations and exasperations of restoring a historic building. In 1994, he bought the 1889 Wegner building, a former

continued on page 64

David Watson





Galveston's Song: I Will Survive

Galveston has a history of colorful characters and lenient cops

by Craig Thistleton

In the summer of 1969, I was on break after my sophomore year in college. It was a giant year for rock music and I was listening to Joplin, Hendrix, and the Doors. In the midst of all this came a country pop gold record by Glen Campbell about a mythic-sounding place called Galveston. I remember asking someone, "Where the hell is Galveston?" and the reply came, "Somewhere in Texas, I think." Later, I got the atlas to look it up and there it was on the Gulf of Mexico. Men walked on the moon that same Many who come to Galveston become arm-chair historians, since the island has ghosts that practically sit in your lap as you read. Discerning the presence of gay history is often a matter of informed speculation and hunch, since such matters were not discussed openly until recently. But through years of talking to friends on the island, doing research in the excellent island's Rosenberg Library, and reading books, especially Gary Cartwright's excellent

Galveston: A History of the Island, I have been able to piece together some likely stories about the long-standing presence of gay citizenry on the estimable and eccentric island just 50 miles to the southeast of Montrose.

Thirty-two miles long by one and a half miles wide, this sandbar has seen it all; from the cannibalistic Karankawa Indians, to New Year's Eve 2000 fireworks over the water. In between, there were French explorers, Spanish explorers, pirates, civil war, fires, yellow fever epidemics, and riches beyond belief. After the war for Texas independence, Galveston was the Republic's first capitol. General Santa Anna was held prisoner on the island after he was captured at San Jacinto. Galveston had the first and finest of everything west of the Mississippi. The Strand was called the Wall Street of the West. And then it all came crashing down on Sept. 8, 1900.

The hurricane that hit Galveston that day is still the nation's worst natural disaster.

But the city is more a lesson in survival than in catastrophe. Against all odds, it's still there. Maybe that's the kinship that many in our community feel with the island. It welcomes anyone who is strong, independent, and resilient. It doesn't seem to judge you on any other basis. It was in this laissez-faire atmosphere that some of the most colorful characters in Texas history were able to develop.

The pirate and privateer Jean Lafitte was the hero of the War of 1812; he plundered the enemy ships after he defeated them. But after the war, piracy was not as politically correct, so he was forced to set up shop outside the U.S. He picked an island in the Gulf under Mexican rule called Campeachy, later to be named Galvez Town after the Viceroy of Mexico, Bernardo de Galvez; in time the name mutated into "Galveston." Lafitte spent almost 10 years in Galveston, living most of his

adult life with a man named Pierre. It was said that Pierre was his half brother, but Jean never confirmed that and there is nothing to suggest they were related. They built a large house, entertained lavishly, and were connoisseurs of fine food and wine, antiques, art, and fashion. They ordered their clothes directly from Paris



through New Orleans. There is no evidence that I could find that Lafitte ever had a long-term relationship with a woman.

Then there was BOI (Born On the Island) Miss Bettie Brown. Miss Bettie, as she was always called, was the socialite daughter of James M. Brown, one of Galveston's wealthiest businessmen. Even though Galveston was quite laid-back for its Victorian times, Miss Bettie managed to raise eye-

brows. She traveled all over the world alone or with a female companion, and owned an apartment in Paris. She drank, smoked, crashed parties unchaperoned, and drove her own carriage, again according to Cartwright. She would engage the men in races up and, and island society speculated about her "unconventional" lifestyle. She died at home in 1920, but her ghost is said to haunt the place to this day.

The first week I was in Houston in 1975 I was told that if I really wanted to have a great time, go down to the island, that the police didn't raid

the bars or the baths (as they were doing quite regularly

in Houston). A friend seawall late one night. It was fall and there were few people around. Suddenly, a light shown down on them from the top of the seawall. It was a city cop. A voice said, "Is everything OK down there?" When my friend replied in the affirmative, the man in blue called out, "Just want to make sure nobody's gettin' hurt. Have a nice night!" And then he was gone.

In the 1950s, gay men and women would go to Sunday tea

dances at the black clubs on the island, according to Hank Hinkle, a friend of mine who used to travel to Galveston from Houston to attend the dances. At the gatherings, there was both same-sex and interracial dancing—which was pretty unheard of back then in pre-Civil Rights south. Another friend Gigi Desoto, who grew up in Galveston and graduated from Ball High, told me that Splash Day in the '50s and '60s was so popular with the gay community, who would pour over from Houston for a day in the sun to be themselves, that one year state police and the Texas Rangers closed the causeway, saying the island couldn't hold anSo the next time you load up your car and head for Stewart Beach, remember this: Through all her triumphs and tragedies, Galveston has remained a complete original among cities. For many years the town was referred to as "the Free State of Galveston" because she was so unlike the rest of Texas. But isn't a state of freedom where we all want to live? In his book chronicling the 1900 hurricane, *Galveston: The Horrors of the Stricken City* (rushed into print just months after the storm), author Murat Halstead bestows the title on Galveston of "The Queen City on the Gulf." I guess that about sums it up.

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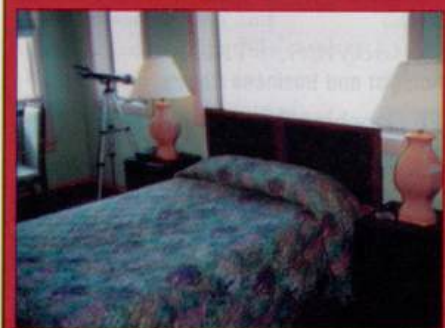
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Galveston Guest Houses and Bars

Where to Stay, Where to Go

by Jeffrey Downs • photos by Dan Marks (unless otherwise noted)

GUEST HOUSES/B&Bs

Hollywood Guest House

Billing themselves as "Galveston's first gay resort," the Hollywood Guest House's U-shaped building has an almost New Orleans feel, with all 21 rooms opening onto a cozy central courtyard with pool. Everyone is encouraged to relax, take your shoes off—or everything else if you like, as clothing is optional in the busy courtyard area. Or gaze at the water or people-watching from their large second-story deck.

You never feel like you are staying in a hotel, but rather that you are visiting a wonderful, vintage home. The clientele is mixed, though mostly male, but all are friendly. Owners Bob Wilkins and Sherman Houck say, "It isn't unusual for people to check in as strangers and leave as friends; with good-byes said over hugs and tears," said Bob. One of the most exceptional features at the Hollywood is the Lucille Ballroom, a campy, cozy gathering spot at happy hour and at breakfast, decorated with memorabilia of its namesake. Weekend nights the ballroom is packed with guests around the piano bar listening to the stylings of entertainer Marcie Rae. Her rich and raucous voice is also piped through speakers to the deck so that everyone may enjoy the show. Seawall @ 31st, 888/899-0899, www.galveston.com/hollywood. From \$50.

Paradise Guest House

"We forget our guests haven't come just to spend time with us," says Eldrege Langlinais and Tim Jennings, owners of the Paradise. They opened its doors last summer and haven't shut them since, attracting guests from all over the country and the world. • Behind the walls of what seems to be a simple brick house is a lush getaway filled with plants, exotic birds, a pool, seating under a lanai, and even a charming wishing well whose proceeds go to AIDS Foundation Houston. The Paradise has two suites and two guest rooms, each furnished for basic comfort. The community room has a stock of extra ice, towels, and other items (such as cookies!), and even a "gift shop" with tacky-yet-fabulous souvenirs. 2317 Bernardo de Galvez, 409/762-6677, eldrege@aol.com. \$70-\$150.



Garden Inn

Located in the beautiful East End Historic District with its elegant streets overarched by tall trees, the Garden Inn B&B has been lovingly crafted by Angela Whorton and Susan Milligan. Originally built in 1887, the "High Victorian Chalet" was one of the featured stops on the Galveston Home Tour. The extensive back yard contains a gorgeous shady garden with a tiled pool and a hot tub. However, we're sad to report that the two women have put up a for-sale sign. But until it sells ("which could be in another two years," Susan said), they are accepting reservations, and are definitely worth a visit. 1601 Ball Street, 409/770-0592, 888/770-7298. \$75-\$195.



Rainbow Reflections

Val Richardson (pictured) runs a friendly, very family-style B&B for women only. Located just a half-block from the ocean, she has two plush rooms and a hot tub out back in her garden bower, made both private and shady with a draping bougainvillea, decorated with both a Venus and a cowgirl statue. To reach Rainbow Reflections, call 409/763-2450. The very reasonable rate of \$55 includes an extensive continental breakfast.



BARS

Kon Tiki

If you like dance music and drag, then the Kon Tiki is the place to be. Bartenders Jimmy and Angie always have a smile and the drinks are reasonably priced, so you will, too. The dancers are on cubes right in the middle. A small patio out back offers a retreat from the noise—check out the little deck up above. Cover charge. 315 Tremont (a.k.a. 23rd St.) between Mechanic & Market, close to the Strand, 409/763-6264.



Bldv. Saloon

Upscale, yet inviting, the Boulevard is favored as Galveston's gay "class act," and owners Wayne and Richard are real sweethearts. Not for those who like their bars dark and smoky, the Boulevard has as an entire wall of windows with a beautiful view of the Gulf both day and night. Drag shows are featured on the stage, including the Blvd.'s own C.C. Ryder. 3102 Seawall Blvd. @ 31st Street, 409/750-8571.



Robert's Lafitte

Robert's Lafitte is one of the oldest gay bars in town, and is a great place to meet islanders. A slightly older crowd patronizes this neighborhood bar, which opens early in the morning. 2501 Avenue Q, 409/765-9092.



Evolution

Evolution is medium-sized and caters to a more techno-oriented crowd. The crowd is mostly a young, mixed crowd and dresses trendy. This place really gets going after hours; to see it in full force, don't go until around 2:30 a.m. Cover charge. 2214 Mechanic, 409/763-4212.



Pec's

In the Strand area, Pec's has a neighborhood beer-joint atmosphere, with pool and darts. The sister bar to the Venture-N in Houston, owner Bobby Rood has plans to open a B&B upstairs. 2405 Postoffice, 409/762-8808.



Purgatory

At press time, Purgatory was scheduled to open July 1 with their multi-concept bar that includes a video dancefloor, a huge patio where you can lie on the chaise lounges and sunbathe, and a second-story level to look out from. 2515 Mechanic, 409/770-9389.



Le Papillon

Le Papillon is a quieter bar, a good place to sit at a table, talk to your friends, and enjoy the live entertainment on the weekends. 209 20th Street, 409/763-1984.

Naomi Warwick is one of many Houston drag stars to grace the stages of Galveston's gay bars.



Above:
Naomi Warwick as
Dionne Warwick.
Below:
Naomi Warwick with
Dionne Warwick.



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Play Misty for Me

Misty Valdez and the grand tradition of Galveston drag entertainment

by Angela S. Hoover

If you don't know Misty, you don't know Galveston," says Galvestonian Joe Rios. That would be Misty Valdez, also known as the Island Diva, and one of Galveston's several beloved drag performers. Indeed, Misty is such an infamous icon in town that many locals vow that someday a statue will be erected in her honor.

The drag scene on Galveston Island is a long-standing part of the island's culture. It's almost hard to call it "drag" because that just doesn't do it justice. In Galveston, the word is entertainment. The shows are like burlesque, except cleaner. "If you want someone who feels what they are doing, believes in it, and keeps it real, you can find it in Galveston," says Misty, after performing her extravaganza of a show at the Kon Tiki. "It's about feelings."

Every Friday and Saturday night you can catch a show at Robert's Lafitte or the Kon Tiki or most any of the other of Galveston's gay bars. Galveston has 10 regular local entertainers, and many Houston performers such as Naomi Warwick and Black Velvet

who travel so frequently, they are a confirmed part of the scene. Most Houston impersonators enjoy performing in Galveston because of its less competitive atmosphere; many describe the Galveston scene as unified, fun, and rewarding.

The Fat Tuesday of Galveston drag may be Misty Valdez' annual benefit for AIDS, held June 2 this year, which has become a much talked-of event on the island with a huge turnout. Now in its 13th year, the benefit has raised over \$30,000 through the years, and become such a significant part of the community that the mayor issued a proclamation declaring June 2 Misty Valdez Day. There just aren't many small Texas towns where city hall issues proclamations honoring their citizens using their drag names.

About nine years ago Rolando "Rolly" Suniga—a.k.a. Misty Valdez—was working at a Greek restaurant next door to Lafitte, where there was a drag show and free hot dogs every Sunday. Rolly would attend—mainly for the hot dogs, he admits—and started enjoying the shows. "Everyone kept



Misty Valdez

asking when I was going to get on stage, so eventually, I did."

Not long after she started performing, she heard a Houston-area AIDS hospital was closing, so she came up with the idea of making the shows a fundraiser. That became the first annual AIDS benefit show, which brought in \$361. Afterward Galvestonians became upset that the show was not for Galveston, so ever since, the show's proceeds have gone to the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas. This year she raised more than \$5,000.

The mayor's proclamation was due in part to the efforts of Joe Rios, a longtime friend of Misty's who works at the AIDS Coalition. Rios wrote a letter to Mayor Quiroga

summarizing the tireless and selfless career of charity Valdez has provided all these years. "I had to make sure the mayor was aware of how much one individual has given back to the community," says Rios. "It really shows how one person can really make a difference."

With charming modesty, Misty shies away from glorying in her local fame. "The people who work at the AIDS Coalition are really the ones who deserve a pat on the back because they are the ones that have to deal with it every day," she says. "I just do it once a year."

When he's not on stage, you can find Rolly in front of the grill at Charlie's Burgers and Mexican Food at 110 23rd Street, where he has been working for 20 years. You can also read up on Island gossip and happenings in *The Galveston Gazette* in the new column, "Getting Dirty With Misty."

Another permanent facet on the island is Robert, an owner at Robert's Lafitte. Robert doesn't believe in serious drag and enjoys comedy and skits. He has been entertaining for over 30 years and although he suffered a recent heart attack, that hasn't kept his stunning gams out of stockings. He was on hand to perform at Valdez' AIDS benefit—all red, sparkle, feathers, jewels, and "Whatever

Happened to Baby Jane" makeup. He criticizes the current drag scene for being too serious, obsessed with anatomical changes and competitiveness. He feels there needs to be more comedy in the acts, and to do his part, he creates Lady Bird Johnson, Dolly Parton, and Nancy Sinatra. Naomi Warwick agrees that drag is not what it once was, although she doesn't knock its current incarnation.

There just aren't many small Texas towns where city hall issues proclamations honoring their citizens using their drag names.

This nostalgic atmosphere of "getting back to the roots of drag" is what draws so many Houston talents down to Galveston. "The audiences are more responsive here—especially to comedy and characters," Houston's Black Velvet says.

Not only are Galveston audiences more responsive, they are loving and supportive to the talent, making Galveston an ideal grooming ground for green entertainers. Everybody—quirks, defects, and oddities included—is accepted and appreciated. A local barfly as skinny as a number-two pencil and as pliable as Silly Putty basks in his own

Galveston Drag



unique interpretive-style dance. He bends and croons while strutting stork-like all around the dance floor. The Kon Tiki clubbers rewarded him with appreciative applause and beaming smiles.

In fact, Lafitte's prides itself on offering stage time to unpolished female impersonators. As Robert puts it, "Lafitte likes newcomers. A place for someone to get started and give everybody a chance." Likewise at the Kon Tiki, where owner Ron Burgess and emcee Walter Flores are extremely accommodating. In addition, every entertainer I talked to wanted to thank Jesse

Garza for all his emotional and financial support. Garza is responsible for pulling all the talent together for benefits, advertising, promoting, and sponsoring the performers—including the purchase of their wardrobes.

So after a day of sun splashing at the beach or shopping on the Strand, be sure to check out a show around 10 p.m. and tell 'em Misty sent you. You won't believe the treatment you get if you're a "friend of Misty's." As Misty puts it: "I'm very proud of Galveston. I was born and raised here. I love it. I'll be here for life. So when you think of Galveston, think of Misty."

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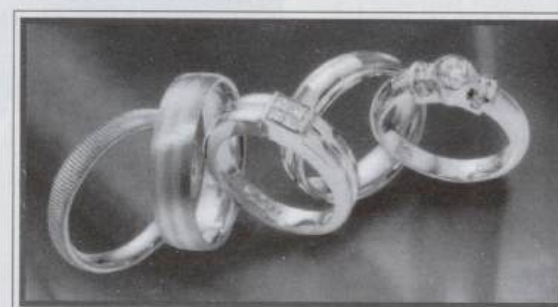
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Galveston Home Improvement

My Inamorata

Okay, I admit it; I'm middle-aged. That face I saw in the mirror first thing in the morning when I was 35 is my daily face today. This is distressing, this is intolerable—I decided a little fling was in order. I talked to my partner; she agreed she too could use a fling, so we started cruising.

Now, when you are our age, you are generally looking for a pretty young thing. You know, great body, great face, dumber than a sack of hammers, your friends all snickering behind your back. Fun! What we wound up with, contrarians that we are, is a historic house in Galveston.

Now, this is not a house in the sense that you could actually inhabit it; it is a house only in the sense that it is an ordered pile of wood occupying some land. We decided that we have to have "vision." The fact that this vision may be a hallucination is something we do not discuss. Actually this vision may be a form of mass hysteria—all of our friends congratulate us and believe they can help us achieve this "vision."

I am worried about the physical attributes of our fling—my partner calls me a pig. How much will the foundation repairs cost? Does the roof still leak? Where is all of this water coming from? How long will it take to replace the subfloor in the kitchen? How am I going to rid the house of the dog piss smell, the cat urine smell, the goat (goat?) smell?

My partner, of course, is femme. Her concerns center around: What kind of makeover does the house need? Colors? Decor? As usual, price is no object. Fortunately, it's going to be years before she can go shopping.

We close, the "house" is all ours, and we are just so proud.

First order of business...the hardware store! I get to live out

This is not a house in the sense that you could actually inhabit it; it is a house only in the sense that it is an ordered pile of wood occupying some land.

every butch's fantasy. A friend (a.k.a. someone who owns a truck) and I go to the hardware store at 8 a.m. one Sunday morning. We go up and down every aisle, look at all



Deb Murphy (left) and Maria Minicucci proudly pose in front of their 1896 Galveston "house."

the goodies, and put everything I think I need in the cart. Four hours (and more money than I'm going to tell my partner about) later, we haul my loot to the "house," where we spend two hours assembling shelves and properly arranging our supplies. I have this momentary sinking feeling that this will be the last sign of order here for a long, long time.

My partner takes two dear men friends to the "house." Since one of these men is an

There's no place like home, or renovating a love nest on Galveston Island

by D. L. Murphy

interior designer and the other an engineer, we are planning on taking shameless advantage of them. One quick visit, an expressed opinion that we are in over our heads (read, out of our minds), and we haven't heard from them since. We remain optimistic; after all, we are dykes, and we can fix anything.

First major task—get rid of that smell. The downstairs was evidently some sort of menagerie. Unfortunately, no one ever thought to muck out the rooms. My partner refuses to enter the house again until I do something about the stench. My friends let me know that they are so sorry, but they will be very much otherwise engaged whenever it is that this task is scheduled, but that they will definitely be available as soon

thing is fine until Neighbor Number 3 comes over with her children, who express their serious disappointment that the garage no longer contains lots of fun things for them to play with. I explain to the children that I am really boring, hoping they will stay away forever. This excites Neighbor Number 3, and she begins to tell me all about her strong family values. I smile and nod; wondering how long it is going to take for this woman to get a clue. I smile for real when I imagine her reaction when 40 queers of all descriptions show up for the first work party and I explain that they are "family."

Finally, finally, a friend comes over with a sandwich and a soda. I ask where my partner is. "Shopping" is the only reply. I resignedly eat my sandwich and reflect on the fact that I am so hungry I don't care that I smell like a goat, so tired that I don't care that my partner is out spending money on stuff we don't need, and so pleased with myself that even chicken salad on a stale croissant tastes great.

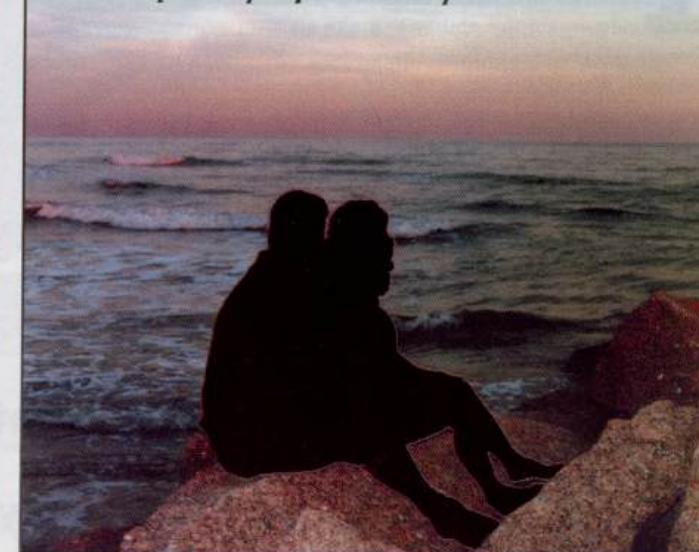
As time goes by and my friends and I work on the "house," I realize that this little fling has turned into a full-blown affair. Let's examine the evidence: I think about the house whenever I'm not with it, I spend all my free time with the house, I spend all my money on the house, my friends wish I would shut up about the house. Sounds like it might be love.

Life is good.

Deb Murphy is a freelance technical writer and a for-hire home/office renovator. She lives in Houston and may be reached at Possumproducts@cs.com.

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I've noticed as I walk along my life path that I've come up against numerous patterns that seem to happen over and over again—seemingly outside my mind's ability to make a change. Maybe you've been there yourself...dating the same type of people, creating similar financial crises, stuck in a bad habit? If this has never happened to you, drop this magazine immediately and proceed to Olympus for your instatement as a divine being. Otherwise, read on!

My travels, both into psychology and into metaphysics, lead me to the energy receivers and processors of the human body. These processors, called chakras (that's Sanskrit for "spinning wheels of light"), seemed to me at first interesting but mostly useless in everyday practicality and especially in therapy.

Over time, however, and with much personal experience from people put in my life to teach me, I found that the seven chakras of the human body had psychological aspects to them. Not only did they exist, but I could work with them on a holistic (body/mind/soul) level and effect lasting change. Most often the confirmation came after working on an issue and then being able to see the difference in my body after the problem was gone...it had been with me for so long, I didn't even realize I had the problem!

Those seven wheels are like psychic CD-ROMS in our spiritual bodies and each contains a psychic Bill of Rights that you can inventory in meditation (also known as sitting quietly and undisturbed). The rights, as you'll learn them in this article, are to be used individually as mantras. If you have an issue with one, then as you chant "I have the right to _____," there will be some kind of body/mind/spirit response. For instance, keep a watch out for a twinge in your body or an inner verbal message like "No you don't," or "That's a lie." You may also feel a gut feeling that the mantra statement is incorrect. These are messages to keep watch for, clues into your internal being.

CHAKRA ONE, at the base of the spine, contains our **physical identity**. Its right/mantra is "I have the right to be here." People with severe abuse or abandonment histories often find this to feel untrue for them.

CHAKRA TWO, right below the navel, contains our **emotional identity**. The man-



Everything
you always
wanted to
know about
chakras...
but were
afraid you
might sound
silly asking

by Shane Hennessey

tra here is "I have the right to feel." You might be surprised at how many people do not believe they have the right to their feelings, or that they can only have certain approved feelings.

CHAKRA THREE, in the solar plexus (between the chest and tummy), is home to our **ego identity**. "I have the right to take action" is the mantra here. This is an important focus area of personal power. Without its abilities, we become doormats to the world with no boundaries and no self-esteem.

CHAKRA FOUR is the heart center, the place of **unconditional/spiritual love**. "I have the right to love and be loved" comes from this area of our social identity. Conditional love in childhood or being hurt by a loved one in adulthood are common wound areas here. It is very important to have a healed heart chakra, because this is the one that mediates the energy from the three chakras above and the three below...sort of a central clearinghouse of energy.

CHAKRA FIVE is in the throat, our center of **creative identity**. It contains our power to express ourselves from the core, and it says "I have the right to speak and be heard." Verbal abuse, being lied to, being reprimanded for telling the truth (if you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all) are all ways of blocking this chakra.

The **SIXTH CHAKRA** is also known as the third eye...the one between your other two eyes. It's one of the spiritual chakras and it anchors our **intuitive abilities**. "I have the right to see" is the statement here. "To see" is inclusive of visual sight as well as seeing the Truth (capital T, honey). Our culture is very reluctant to accept intuition in favor of concrete facts and evidence. Consequently, many of us have problems here.

The **LAST CHAKRA** is at the top of the head and is the place where we **connect to spiritual source**. It also holds our intellect and wisdom, so what we have here is "I have the right to know" being spoken to us. Blind obedience, lies, "doctored truth," and religious abuse are examples of damage done to this area. (Kinda sounds like our educational system, huh?)

Now, as you travel these areas and work the mantras in meditation, if there is an issue with a chakra, it will offer up contradictory messages, feelings, or images (often of the person who thwarted your right), and sometimes symbols that represent the block you have against the mantra. When and if these come, you visualize them at a safe distance away from you. From out there, they don't have as much power as when they are inside your energy field.

Look at the ways you agree to keep these blocks in place in your life. Perhaps it seems to be a good tradeoff. Maybe you just have known no other way. Whatever the case, only you belong in your energy field, not foreign objects and energies. So as you

look at your agreements and contracts, write them down on a piece of paper next to the images out in front of you...use as many pieces of paper as you need.

When you're done, burn all the paper to ash. As for the images, thank them for what they have taught you and their contributions to your life. Then give them a gift of your favorite flower, or any other suitable image. Then blow the whole thing up...dynamite, nitro, A-bomb, whatever. This is your chance to neutralize and be free from old energy that you've been carrying around forever. Burn and blow up as much as you need to. You'll feel freer and lighter.

Once you've finished this process, take some time to check back in with your mantra. You may even find that that area of your body feels different. If the issue resurfaces, burn and blow up more images and contracts. It's just energy that's holding a negative pattern for you. Letting go of it frees you up to make better decisions about your life.

Shane Hennessey is a Houston psychologist who specializes in psychotherapy, hypnotherapy, and Reiki. He can be reached at ethan@pdq.net.

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Galveston



David Watson
continued from page 53

dry-goods store, which he has turned into both office and living space, situated rather symbolically between the Galveston Historical Foundation on one side and the tall modern (and out of place) American National building on the other. "When we cleaned out the termites and rot, all I had was four walls," he says. It has proved an ongoing project, with unexpected costs, and surprises, like the time the winds off the American National building knocked all the scaffolding into a tangled mess in the middle of his lobby. "It's taking what I tell my clients it's going to take," he says, smiling a little bemusedly. "It was a purchase of love."

David Watson's architectural practice is located at 1921 Market Street, 409/762-8000.

POLITICIAN/REALTOR & FLORIST/UNITARIAN
DAVID BOWERS AND LARRY JENTZEN

Although Larry Jentzen and David Bowers may be Galveston's most well-known gay couple, they have struck a laudable balance—a very Galveston kind of balance—of neither emphasizing the fact of being gay, nor ever abnegating it. When David staged his almost-successful campaign for mayor in Galveston's May elections, everybody seemed to know he was gay, yet there were very few rumblings that this was in any way an issue in the race.

"It's just no big deal anymore," David said about the island's attitude toward its diverse citizenry.

Apart from his political career (he has been on the Galveston City Council since 1994 and voted "Best City Council Person" three years straight by the readers of the *Galveston County Daily News*), David runs one of the island's most successful real estate businesses. And in addition to playing the ever-thankless role of political spouse with wry ease, Larry runs an upscale floral and wreath business; his creations have been used in so many layouts in national home and garden magazines that Larry can't keep track of them all.

Larry is also president of the very gay-friendly Unitarian fellowship, and helped put together the long-standing gay and lesbian potluck club, dubbed 28 Barnaby Lane, after the famous address in Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City*.

"The bar scene here doesn't dictate gay life," Larry says. "People network a lot. It's common in Galveston gay life that people's work is their life—it's not so much where

your whole life revolves around the gay scene."

The couple moved to Galveston in 1986 because David thought it was a good place to use as a springboard for a political career.

"Galveston's favorite pastime is politics," David says. "Everyone has an opinion, or rather a collection of opinions. No two collections are the same, even among close friends. There are those of us that are progressive and then there are those that don't want to upset the apple cart that has held all of the wonderful cocktail invitations to these many years."

The Galveston Wreath Company is located at 1124 25th Street, 409/765-8597. The House Company is located at 2615 Broadway, 409/763-8030.

PHOTOGRAPHER
SUSAN HENRY

Susan Henry photographs Galveston's children and much of island life. A lengthy feature article in the *Galveston County Daily News* said that Susan "has developed her natural talent for photography into an art form that not only captures the likeness of her subjects, but their personality as well." She is also one of the island's most friendly and helpful guides (she generously donated her time to take most of the portraits in this article), promoting Galveston's arts



Susan Henry



David Bowers (left) and Larry Jentzen

and sense of community with down-to-earth enthusiasm.

A lot of Susan's world revolves around Postoffice Street, where her photography studio is located, which has started becoming quite a center for artists and visitors, thanks in large part to Susan's loving involvement.

"This whole street's like a neighborhood," she says earnestly. "It's the most unique environment I've ever worked in."

The last attempt to make something of Postoffice Street was when it was paved as a mall back in the late '70s. This actually had the opposite effect, "cratering" all the business, until it degenerated into a dingy boarded-up hangout for Galveston's down and out.

But as the Strand's success began to raise its rents, businesses and individuals began to look at Postoffice again, starting about six years ago, and really picking up steam in the past three. Billing itself as the Postoffice Street Arts and Entertainment District, it runs parallel to the Strand just three blocks to the south (closer to Broadway), and has nine art galleries, three antique stores, and numerous restaurants, bars, and shops, with the Grand 1894 Opera House as its showpiece attraction.

Susan moved from Kentucky to Houston in the 1980s to go to the Art Institute, and first started coming to Galveston to complete student assignments. "That's a long drive to come down as a student," she says. "But it had incredible appeal for me. The historic houses were like they were frozen in time." Although she tried living in Houston, Galveston's allure brought her back, and she made the move in 1984. "I'm from trees and grass and I love all those things," she says. "But they say you get cursed, you get sand between your toes."

As far as being gay, Galveston has been one big open-arm experience for Susan, which it's clear she tries to pass on.

"It's like you're welcomed by everybody," she says. "It's good for young people because it makes you feel better about who you are. Postoffice itself, it's been a haven."

Susan's young protégé at the shop, Tamisha Franklin, who recently graduated from high school in Texas City, nods emphatically, although she adds the complaint, "Everyone's older and taken."

Susan laughs sympathetically. "Being single in Galveston is hard—people do come here in couples."

Susan Henry Photography is located at 2115 Postoffice Street, 409/762-6454.

For more profiles of people on the Island, visit www.outsmartmagazine.com.

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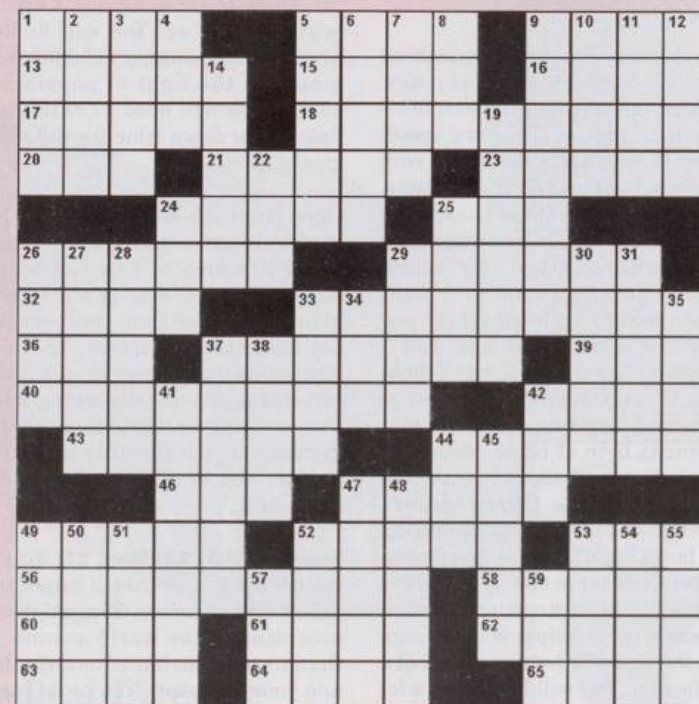
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Across

- 1 With 18, 44, and 65 Across, song about refusing sex with Apollo?
- 5 Armed conflicts
- 9 "___ la vie!"
- 13 Drag queen Joey
- 15 Vows illegal for gays in most states
- 16 Drag queen ___ Phace
- 17 Movie about a cross-dresser
- 18 See 1-Across
- 20 Queer ___ three-dollar bill
- 21 Nurses' assistants
- 23 Prudential rival
- 24 Like a bottom
- 25 Bank acct. earnings
- 26 With 37 and 56-Across, they recorded the song in this puzzle
- 29 Like sex without condoms
- 32 Julia of Hollywood
- 33 Pick up
- 36 Baseball Hall of Famer Mel
- 37 See 26-Across
- 39 Cereal box info
- 40 Musician Ricky Wilson, for one
- 42 It sticks out in front of a sailor
- 43 Took off one's togs
- 44 See 1-Across
- 46 Those of Subaru may include Navratilova
- 47 "___ Children of Heterosexuals"
- 49 Big name in farm equipment
- 52 Shoot your wad
- 53 Well-put
- 56 See 26-Across
- 58 China's Zhou ___
- 60 One kind of opera queen
- 61 Ken of *thirtysomething*
- 62 Where a queen may rule
- 63 Consider
- 64 Winterson's *Written on the* ___
- 65 See 1-Across

Down

- 1 Rod Stewart's "___ Think I'm Sexy?"
- 2 Bauxite and others
- 3 Actor Hartley
- 4 Make a doily
- 5 Douglas' lover
- 6 "Doc, ___"
- 7 Becomes compost
- 8 One that comes quickly
- 9 One that comes quickly
- 10 Gay Chinese film ___ *Palace, West Palace*
- 11 Turned rapidly
- 12 Clothing designer Chow
- 14 Informal jargon
- 19 Fairy tale guy
- 22 Chemical suffix
- 24 www.stopaids.org, e.g.
- 25 Concerning
- 26 Rum drink
- 27 Take in enthusiastically
- 28 Mauve hanky delight
- 29 ___ the crack of 35-Down
- 30 *The Family of Max Desir* author Robert
- 31 Give a large one to
- 33 Etcher's need
- 34 Levels of 33-Down
- 35 Sunrise time
- 37 Karl of A *Streetcar Named Desire*
- 38 Angers
- 41 A doily signals this
- 42 Summer hrs. in California
- 44 You can shoot off with this
- 45 Like a chickenhawk to a chicken
- 47 One that sucks some sap
- 48 Pansy Division song
- 49 Harlan Greene's *What the* ___ *Remember*
- 50 Fashion mag
- 51 Feminizing tail
- 52 Like sex for one
- 53 *The Spell* author Hollinghurst
- 54 Compass Inc., of West ___ Beach
- 55 Monette's *Borrowed* ___: *an AIDS Memoir*
- 57 Blow follower
- 59 It can start a -phyte?

SignOut

by Lilly Roddy

Mercury goes direct this month on July 17. You can start any new projects after July 20 when Mercury is back up to its regular geocentric speed. But for the first 17 days of the month, be sure and finish up any old task and clean out closets, files, and those hard disks filled to capacity with all those pictures you've been downloading from the net. • There are also two solar eclipses and one lunar eclipse this month. A solar eclipse is a new moon and a lunar eclipse is a full moon. The first solar eclipse is on July 1 and is in the sign of Cancer. The Lunar Eclipse is in Capricorn, the opposite sign of Cancer, on July 24. Cancer and Capricorn are signs that emphasize security both at home and in the workplace. The eclipses are likely to make you more conscious of these needs. If there are problems in these areas of your life, you can expect the eclipses to bring "light" to these domains so that you can see them more clearly and solve your problems with the obstruction of avoidance. • The second solar eclipse is in the sign of Leo. This is the sign of attention, creativity, and ego satisfaction. You will be paying a lot of attention to these areas of your life near the end of the month when the eclipse occurs on July 30. • It's birthday month for Cancer; some well-known crabs are Babe Didrikson, Jean Cocteau, and Lilly Roddy.

Cancer (June 22–July 22) This is your birthday month, that annual reconsideration of what you have done this past year and what you are going to do for the next year. This is an especially significant time since Mercury is retrograding in your sign, making you even more introspective than usual during this time. Time to finish up old projects and ideas and clean out those closets. You are more than willing to take action this month, as well as being particularly short-tempered. Those who oppose your actions or plans will be the lucky recipients of your crabby remarks. And they probably deserve them. And if times get really rough, a day at the beach would do wonders.

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22) You are in a period of rest and retreat—you are ready to take it easy for a while. More sensitive to your environment than usual, this may be the perfect time to demonstrate your drama side. You may blow things out of proportion just because you want to feel special. Make sure that you find someone to baby you this month. Then right at the end of the month, you burst forth with a wave of energy and courage that you are going to ride the entire month of August.

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) You are going to be looking up those old friends that you have not heard from in a while. This is an especially good month for you to do some July 4th partying. If you are more business-oriented, then direct your charisma toward business asso-

ciations or community organizations, as you will shine in these arenas. Career activities begin to pick up. You will be busier than usual through January of 2001. You are stepping into the light of popularity. By mid month, you will need a break from activity. Take some down time for reflection and regrouping.

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) Mercury retrograde is making her presence known in your career sector this month. This means that if there have been problems at work that have remained obscured from your view, they will be springing to the surface. Try to see this as your chance to correct things rather than as something specifically wrong with you as a human being on this planet. Group activities increase in your life after mid month, where you can look for support both emotionally and financially.

Scorpio (Oct. 24–Nov. 21) July is a great month for you to take a break in your routines and endeavors. You are able to be more accepting of the world around you rather than to see it as a constant challenge to you and your existence. You could travel to some familiar places, take some classes, or just get down and get philosophical, dudes and dudettes. Ride those waves of mind expansion and just have an old-fashioned flashback. Real life re-enters the picture on July 22 at 7:43 a.m. CDT. "Vo ca tion, vo ca tion, vo ca tion" becomes your mantra.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21) Your money and your partner's money are deeply entwined this month and are set to have an affair. They are wanting to merge at esoteric levels of values that are only dreamed about. You are looking at your investments and what they can do for your future. If there are potholes along the fiduciary highway, you are sure to hit them this month. Keep your eyes open and on the road in front of you. You are also seeking a greater depth and understanding with your partners (or potential partners). If you are not on the same path, that will be made very obvious to you. Partnerships are improving and only get better till Jan. 2001.

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19) Yes, relationships will rear their Hydra-like heads this month. Mercury retrograde is there stirring up the swill and wanting to talk about any problems that your partner sees as a block to y'all's eternal happiness. Or maybe your partner just wants you to pick up clothes instead of throwing them on the floor. One or the other will be important. Mars is also there adding some fireworks of her own. This can mean good sex or good arguments. Which would you like?

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18) Time to get your life and your routines in order. While everyone else is going to be wanting to go on vacation and summer getaways, you are trying to figure out how to make your work space more

efficient. But when you get finished, you will have something real and tangible to show for your efforts; they will only have sunburns and sand in their bathing suits. The Universe turns up the energy on relationships for you after the 12th. Things could get hot and hotter. You won't be spending the summer alone. If your current partner is boring, you will be out looking.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20) You are filled with creative urges this July. You are seeking experiences that are out of control and need a good fixer—and you are just the right one for the job. But even if you get to do a big rescue, it better be fun at the same time, because if there is too much work involved, you won't do it. Participate in activities that satiate your inner child. Take her to the beach, the park, or out on a camping trip. Just don't make her try to be responsible.

Aries (March 21–April 19) Stability in your home and family are important things for you to focus on this month, and you're feeling the need for these things in your life. So look for instability, tempers flaring, and lots of fireworks for the 4th of July. This could also show itself as a desire to redecorate your home, a need to move, or having to go back home and visit your past. Don't be surprised if you find that your sense of individuality feels stepped on, as others seem to think you should be suppressing your individual needs. As always, this is so that their needs get more attention, but you stand strong for yourself—you're more than worth it.

Taurus (April 20–May 20) Getting your message across and well understood are your main goals for this month. Watch out, as you may not be too long on patience—screaming louder won't make them hear you any better. Try getting out and doing something different from your normal routines. This will help your boredom. Watch your spending this month. It will be very easy for you to see something you want and just buy it. This is not a bad thing in itself, but you are going to be more impulsive than usual.

Gemini (May 21–June 21) You are going to be on an over-commitment surge. Life seems optimistic and everything seems possible and you are willing to try to do it all. After Mercury, your ruling planet, goes direct on July 17, you are in a great place to take on new projects and opportunities. There are some job promotions or new career paths for you. Meeting new people seems easier, and fortune seems to smile on you. Relationships improve and if you are single and interested, they will be knocking at your door.



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

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OUT IN HOUSTON



Urvashi Vaid, director of the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, came to town as keynote speaker at the Texas Lesbian Conference, May 19-21. On May 20, there was a reception for Urvashi thrown by the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, and cosponsored with the NGLTF.

1 Clarence Bagby (with the NGLTF) and Urvashi Vaid.

2 (L-r): Community center president Maria Minicucci, Deb Murphy, and Urvashi Vaid.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival opening party at the Alley Theatre, Friday, May 26.

3 Tonjua Yarbrough (l) and Margaret Hastings.

4 (L-r): Cheryl Dunye, Dina Also, and Harryette Wright (event co-chair).

5 Shaunte Angelo (l) and Kristen Kemp.

6 Vanessa Edwards Foster.

7 (L-r): Choreographer Trey McIntyre, event co-chairs Gudrun Klein and Andrew Edmonson, and Channel 2's "Buzz Lady" Roseann Rogers.

8 Justine Tran (l) and May Nham.



On April 25, the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center hosted a reception for Houstonians planning to attend the historic Millennium March on Washington for Equality.

9 (Counterclockwise from bottom left): Yvonne Fleece, Mike Jones, Alicia Garza, Sue Null, Mitch Rainey, Dan DiDonato, Allen Balla, Coy Tow, Rocky Atwood, Brandon Van Vleck, Jim Null, Tammi Thomas, Ron Helaire, Rick Schroeder, and Nick Brines.

Panelists at the Harvey Milk Celebration, held at the Glassell School of Art on May 22, and cosponsored by OutSmart and the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

10 (L-r): Cecily Wynne of Annise Parker's staff; "Lesbian and Gay Voices" producer/host and Pride Committee exec director Jack Valinski; Clarence Bagby of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Cleve Jones, founder of the AIDS Quilt; and Ray Hill. Panelist Ray Ramirez of the Stonewall Democrats is not pictured.

On June 19, k.d. lang visited the KRBE studio to promote her new album, and to help Houston celebrate our Pride Parade.

11 Cindy Hillman (of SoHo Gallery in Galveston, left) and k.d. lang.



1-3: TIM BRIDGEMAN; 4-8: KATYON TRILL; 9-11: SUSAN HENRY

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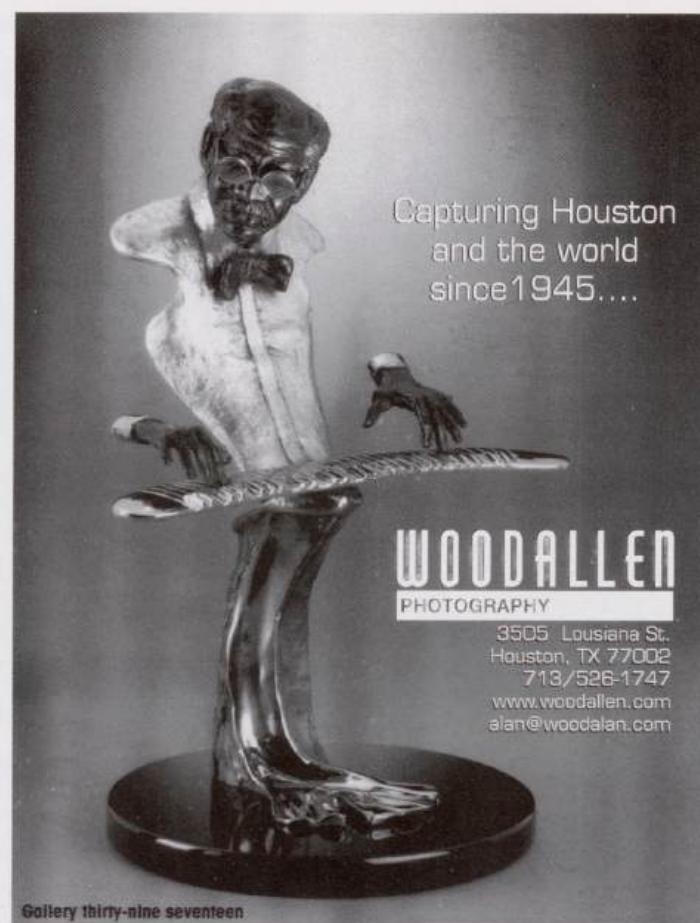
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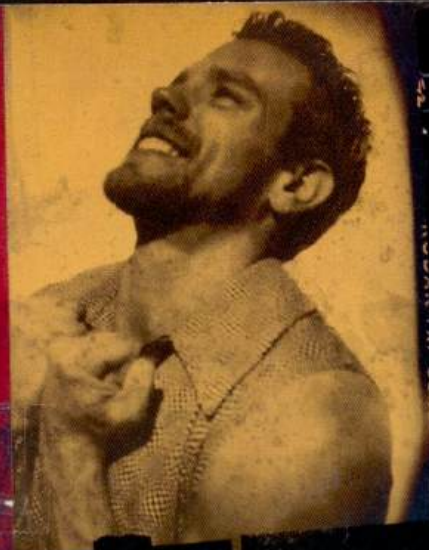


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