

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL GUIDE

Out▼Smart

MAY 2001 • Complimentary

Houston's gay, lesbian, bi, and trans magazine



Dame Edna

The mauve-coifed megastar mother makes a pilgrimage to Houston

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Rob Epstein & Jeffrey Friedman's film *Paragraph 175* • Pete Martinez • A Gay Man and His Mama • Left & Right on Bush's openly gay appointee • Progressive Voters in Action

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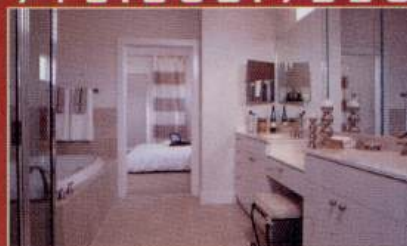


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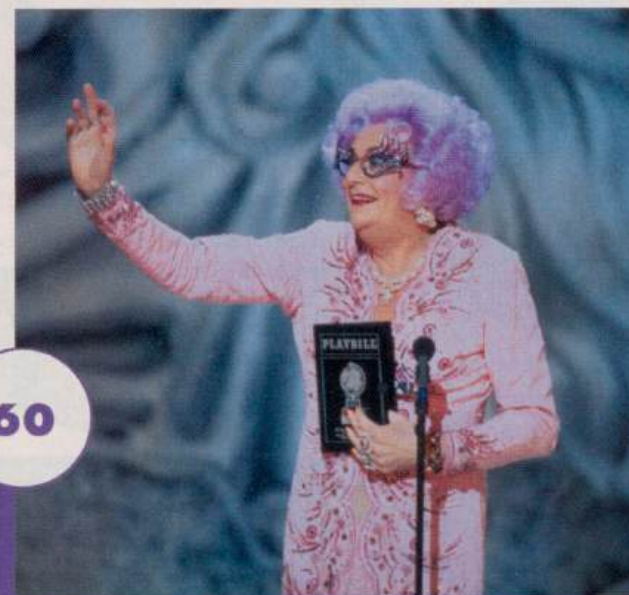


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Dame Edna Photo by Joan Marcus

TOP - ANITA & STEVE SHEVETT; CENTER LEFT - SCHWULES MUSEUM, BERLIN (COURTESY TELLING PICTURES); CENTER RIGHT - UNCREDITED; BOTTOM - LORI DORN (COURTESY BALLANTINE BOOKS)

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May 2001

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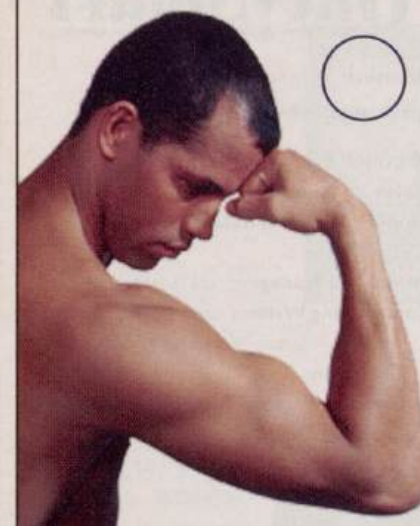
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Letters

BROKEN HEARTS FAN CLUB

Mr. Berlianti, what a great movie! ["The Director Just Happens to Be Gay," interview with Greg Berlianti, director of *The Broken Hearts Club*, by Blase DiStefano, March *OutSmart*.] How about making one that good for women? If you've been able to sit through *Everything's Relative*, you'll know what I mean. Thanks for sharing a nice, believable story.



Director
Greg Berlianti

Patty Mendoza
Houston

WE LOVE DALTON! WE LOVE DALTON!

Thank you for the insightful article on Houston photographer Dalton DeHart ["Dalton's Social Year," by Ann Walton Sieber, January *OutSmart*]. I have been so fortunate to count Dalton as a treasured friend and colleague for many years, and though this remarkable man indeed wears many hats well, this is the first time I have seen his extraordinary talent as a photographer recognized so nicely.



Photographer
Dalton DeHart

Betty Bastankhah
Houston

I am pleased to be an avid reader of *OutSmart* magazine. My partner and I look forward to every issue for timely and interesting local highlights. I appreciate the article on Mr. Dalton DeHart and his tremendous contributions to the community and the preservation of our history. It was a well-de-

served piece that was a joy to read. He has a fantastic talent and the sweetest way of making us all look good! Keep up all the wonderful work and we all will continue to be Out and Smart!

A. M. Harvey
Houston

BROKEN HEARTS NO MORE

I want to thank Daniel Garces for his article "Gay Dating 101" [February *OutSmart*]. Only I wish I had read this years ago! Like many gay men I rushed into the first relationship I found without regard to the long term. And as you can guess, it was a very big disaster. I know now that what I was really looking for in that first relationship was a sense of belonging, just like Mr. Garces mentions in his article. I hope all the newly out gays and lesbians get a copy of this article, tape it to their refrigerators and live by its words every day. Please keep up the good work, Mr. Garces.

Juan Gonzalez
Houston

FAG HAGS NEED LOVE TOO

What about us? We the totally adoring supporters of the gay community need a little love and support too. And that term "Fag Hag," who ever came up with that anyway? Love reading your mag, and would love to see an article on fh's in the Houston area. Love my gay friends.

Brenda Holmes
Houston

BITHEWAY, GREAT TRANSFORMATION

Great move to make *OutSmart* bi and trans inclusive. Nice work and thanks a lot.

Sheryl I. Harris
San Francisco

Love Letters? Hate Mail?

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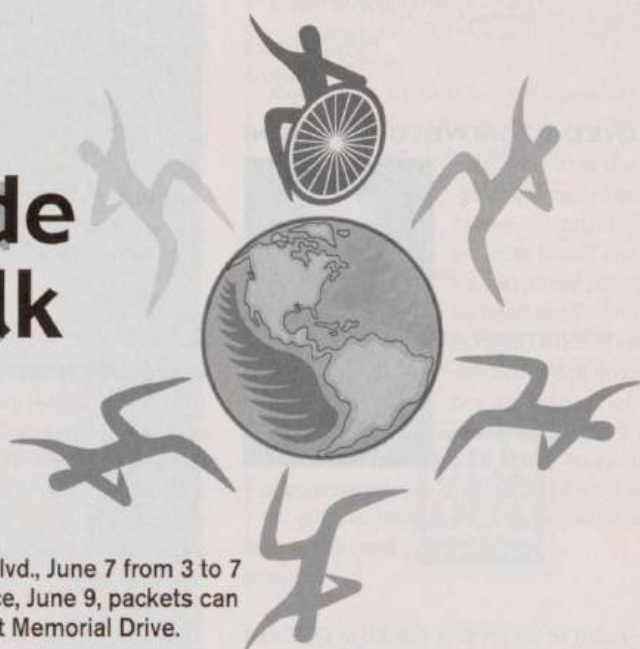
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Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk JUNE 9, 2001



Packet pickup will be at Lobo Bookstore, 3939-S Montrose Blvd., June 7 from 3 to 7 p.m. and June 8 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The morning of the race, June 9, packets can be picked up from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at the race site, Sabine at Memorial Drive.

For more information, contact Mac Crone, 713/661-8919 or MacLCrone@msn.com, or visit our website at www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html. You can also register online at SignMeUpSports.com.

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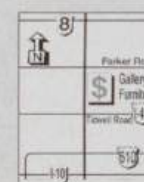
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In&Out

News *IN* our community & *OUT* in the nation

Briefs compiled by Ann Walton Sieber

PETE MARTINEZ

June 16, 1946–March 17, 2001

It was 1988, a grim year for many of us who were losing friends and lovers too fast to grieve or even understand. The NAMES Project AIDS memorial quilt had come to the George R. Brown convention center on Mother's Day in its first national tour, and a diverse group of Houstonians had gathered afterward to talk about how to start a local chapter of the quilt. The discussion went on and on about how and where and the problems to surmount, remembers Michael Bongiorno, who was part of that original gathering. After hours of deliberating, one of the volunteers, a man Michael had only just met named Pete Martinez, stood up and said, "Are we going to meet again?" Yes, everybody said. Martinez said, "Let's meet Saturday," and walked abruptly out of the room. That was odd, Bongiorno thought.

But then on Saturday Martinez walked into the meeting and threw \$75 down on the table. He said he'd gotten various people and Montrose businesses to donate small amounts because they wanted to see a quilt in Houston. "We just sat there sort of looking at each other," Bongiorno said, remembering that day. "Somebody we really didn't know, he just went out and did it, and gave us the inspiration." From that day, Martinez became the beloved caretaker and champion of the quilt in Houston, lovingly helping countless panel makers and members of the Houston gay community who were struggling to grieve and give expression to the lives of those who were dying of AIDS.

And now, the man who helped countless be "named" has himself gone to join all those many people who he



Pete Martinez in Houston's Gay Pride Parade in 1991.

sewed into memory. On March 17, 2001, Pete Martinez passed away at his home after a short and courageous battle with liver cancer. He was 54.

For 13 years, Martinez has been well known as the tireless handmaiden of the AIDS Quilt in Houston.

"On a real personal level, the quilt gave Pete a place to deal with his own grief," said Jackson Hicks, who worked closely with Martinez on the quilt for many years. "And in finding that for himself, he realized he could do that for other people."

"Pete knew from the beginning that he was marking down history in fabric," Bongiorno said, who went on from his work with the Houston quilt to be director of quilt operations with the national NAMES Project office in

San Francisco. "Families would walk in afraid to talk, and he would immediately set them at ease. . . . He was the person in Houston that so many trusted their memories to."

"He had this ability to nurture people who were grieving," Hicks said. "How very gentle he was. In a calm insightful way, he could walk them through the process—how to do the stitching, what kind of materials to use. It would probably have been easier for Martinez to just have made it, but part of what the quilt does for people is to provide a concrete opportunity, something in their hands they can do. He would take the time to show people how to do it, people who didn't know where to begin. He did it for me when I made my first panel."

Martinez staffed the NAMES Project workshop tirelessly. "He was down there every day, Monday through Sunday," said Leora Feldman, who labored beside Martinez on the board of Friends of the Quilt, "—after work, all the time. If somebody needed something, he was there."

Martinez took care of the precious panels, taking them around the city to churches and schools, telling the stories of the people who were preserved in the fabric. He delivered the completed panels to San Francisco, served on the NAMES Project Houston board, and became a "handmaiden of the quilt," a select few from around the country who are chosen to help repair and upkeep the quilt. He became an institution at the Westheimer Arts Festival, holding court in front of Mary's with the NAMES Project booth. *cont. on page 26*

by Ann Walton Sieber

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Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

- Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.
- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.
- For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."
- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA.

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA:
Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylegonovine such as Cafegot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Orap® (pimozide)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Rhythmol® (propafenone)
- Seldane® (terfenadine)
- Tambocor® (flecainide)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take

St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.

- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:
Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

Other Special Considerations:

- KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.
- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:
Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat happen in some patients getting anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and abdomen (stomach area). Loss of fat from the face, legs, and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about 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 HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.
- 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.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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In&Out

**From Mayor Brown's
GLBT Liaison**

**THESE ARE
IMPORTANT TIMES**

by Janine Brunjes

The pace has been a steady and intense one since my appointment as liaison to the GLBT community earlier this year. Mayor Brown has a full agenda for our community . . . and me for him. I am continually amazed and pleased at the mayor's focus on the issues we are facing today. Foremost in his mind is simply to do the right thing and fight for nondiscrimination for the employees of the City of Houston. The mayor's senior executive

With an anti-discrimination ballot up before the city, "not since 1985" have we been called to action as we are being called today"

dum will be avoided and the focus on the GLBT leadership needs to be well developed and ready for the ballot initiative being put forth by our antagonist, David Wilson.

Not since 1985 have we been called to action as we are being called today. I have informed the mayor's office about People for a Fair Houston and the diligent work of Progressive Voters in Action. Our community leadership is crying "volunteer, vote, donate"—any of the above or all of the above.

Honestly, our mayor has become vulnerable for us by insisting that "the right thing be done." With the mayor's confidence in us to pass this ordinance, I am in turn empowered to not disappoint our community nor our mayor. He wants what we want. Equality.

To this end, I have begun holding a monthly Liaison's Roundtable at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center every second Monday of the month. The meetings have been invigorating and very productive. We have focused on the

Liaison continued on next page.

updates on creating a safe work environment for Houston
THE REFERENDUM PAGE

We at *OutSmart* feel the campaign for a city nondiscrimination ordinance is of vital importance. Not simply one of many issues passing by clamoring for our attention, this undertaking deserves the focus of the entire LGBT and progressive community. In the months between now and this November, when the ordinance will likely be presented to citizens for a referendum vote, we will be devoting an ongoing page to this gay rights' issue, inviting the leaders to write, and covering the many aspects of this crucial campaign.

**A CALL TO BE PROGRESSIVE,
A CALL TO ACTION**

Progressive Voters in Action is working to elect progressive people to political office

by Alejandro Morua

Imagine a place where progressive people are achieving real power. A place where a Latina activist dyke professor works alongside a middle-aged white fourth-generation-Houstonian

attorney and a young Indian social work student to elect a straight African-American woman to office who supports gay rights. Are we in San Francisco? New York City?

Dyke professor works alongside a middle-aged white fourth-generation-Houstonian attorney and a young Indian social work student to elect a straight African-American woman to office

a Fair Houston, is leading the fight to stop each of these divisive measures in its tracks. First, Houstonians for Family Values, led by the hard-right Dave Wilson, is proposing to amend the City Charter to pre-



Alejandro Morua (left) and Grant Martin of PVA

In the next two years, our community faces the very real threat of three antigay ballot measures. PVA, along with People for

and Council Member Annise Parker. (In 1985, the radical right repealed a similar ordinance by a margin of 4 to 1.) →

From New York City (population: 7.3 million) to the tiny town of Sorrento, Maine (population: 355), more than 60 million Americans live in cities, counties, or states with laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Imagine Love

Feeling terminally single?
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A Workshop for Single Gay Men

In this workshop: Learn how to identify and overcome the patterns that have kept you single • Find out how to attract partners that are right for you. • Learn the keys to predicting the progression of a relationship • Explore new ways for meeting men and improve your dating skills • Learn about finding and keeping love. April 7 & 8 or Sept. 8 & 9

Improve your relationship skills
for a happier partnership.

A Workshop for Gay Couples

In this workshop: Learn how to improve communication skills • Work through the hot spots of your relationship and put recurring problems to rest • Increase compassion and understanding for yourself and your partner • Resolve your uncertainty about your relationship • Learn keys to working together towards happiness • Restore lost romance and rekindle the passion for your relationship and partner. April 28 & 29 or Sept. 22 & 23



NEW GROUPS FOR GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN

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Both of these items may appear on this November's ballot. Finally, these same conservatives are promising a referendum battle in November 2002, when the Mayor and Annise bring the issue of domestic partner benefits back to the Council table.

In addition to the ballot measure campaigns, PVA is also working to re-elect Annise Parker to Houston City Council. Keeping Annise on Council is essential to protect and advance civil rights legislation important to all fair-minded Houstonians. PVA is also working to elect Ada Edwards to Houston City Council District D. Ada is an outstanding African-American community activist. Working with Ada is an opportunity for coalition building between the LGBT and African-American communities.

PVA is a goal-oriented organization slavishly committed to measurable results. One of our goals for 2001 is to increase our list to 50,000 progressive voters—a job that will take several thousand volunteers working three-hour shifts through November 6, Election Day.

PVA's success directly affects the quality of life for our community. Working together, we empower our volunteers to achieve real political change. Since January, PVA has added over 4,000 voters to its list, and is building to adding 4,000 voters each month. But we cannot meet our goals, and defeat the radical right at the ballot box, without your help!

To help, contact PVA at 713/521-7161 or provoter@Leonn.com. We run phone banks Sunday through Thursday from 6–9 p.m., and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m.–noon. Or, come out on Saturdays from 9 a.m.–noon and walk blocks with us as we talk to voters at their doors. We're waiting for your call! ■

Alejandro Morua is executive director of Progressive Voters in Action, which he co-founded in August 1999, along with Grant Martin, Annise Parker's campaign manager. Morua has been an activist presence nationally, volunteering on the Florida SAVE Dade campaign, where he organized 300 volunteers to talk with 5,000 voters, as well as traveling to Oregon last year to help coordinate the fight against a sweeping antigay ballot measure. Morua graduated from University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business, and worked for Halliburton and Chase Bank prior to running a nonprofit organization.

Liaison

continued from previous page

ballot initiative under way and what our community must do to not only oppose the right, but to dampen their efforts.

The roundtable participants, who represent all walks of the GLBT community, recommend that community leadership continue to focus on exposing the efforts of PVA and ways in which people who wish to participate can be involved. A sense of urgency must be instilled in our every conversation about the ballot initiative and what is really at stake. At stake is another step toward antidiscrimination legislation for our city—the fourth largest in the county at 4.2 million people. The math tells us that there are 10 percent of those who are deserving of antidiscrimination legislation. They are us. Please join in this grassroots effort. “We cannot repeat 1985.” ■

Janine Brunjes is our direct pipeline to Mayor Lee Brown and influencing Houston politics. You can discuss your concerns with her about the upcoming referendum, or anything that you think Mayor Brown should be informed about the GLBT community, at the next Liaison's Roundtable on Monday, May 14, 5–6:30 p.m. at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

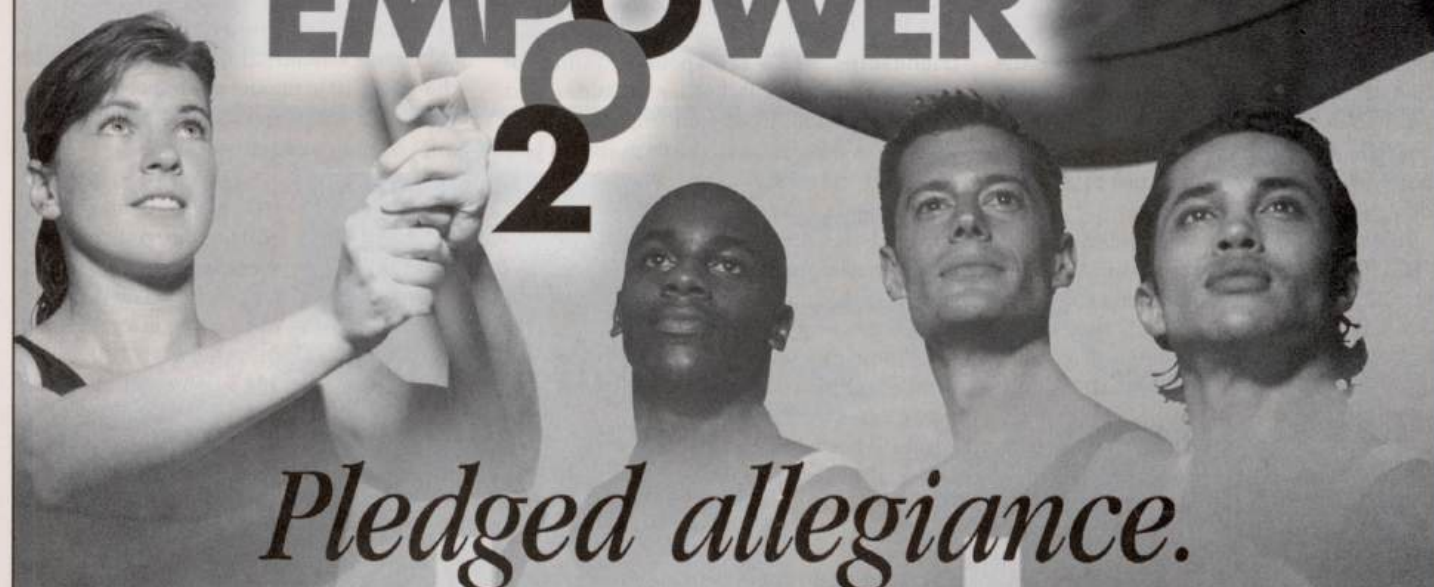


Briefs continued on page 18

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All booths at Empower 2001 are in high visibility/high traffic areas. Primo locations are going fast; allotments are reserved on a first come, first served basis. **October 14, 2001, George R. Brown Convention Center**
Call 713.523.7576 today to choose the location of your booth at Empower.

Briefs continued from page 16

GLBT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Foundation has \$50,000 in college scholarship money to award deserving recipients. The scholarships range from one-year \$500 awards to four-year \$10,000 awards, and are available to 17- to 26-year-old GLBT high school seniors or college students who live in the greater Houston area.

The scholarship foundation is a result of the ongoing effort of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals) to provide support, education, and advocacy on behalf of all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons. In addition to providing continuing education for deserving recipients, they hope to provide role models and encouragement for the recipients.

Making the scholarship program possible are large grants from the Elliot H. Matthews Foundation, an anonymous individual, Chase Bank, and the formation of the Gary Van Ooteghem Scholarship Endowment Fund. The fund has committed \$130,000 to 19 students to date.

Although the official deadline was May 1, H.A.T.C.H. President Kevin Davidson says they will accept applications and be interviewing candidates through June or beyond. You can get an application from your school counselor, or by calling at H.A.T.C.H. at 713/942-7002.

Also, An Uncommon Legacy Foundation gave away \$22,000 in scholarships in Houston last year, and expects to award even more this year, according to Houston Legacy board member Robin Brown. A large part of the mission of An Uncommon Legacy Foundation is to foster leadership and strength in the lesbian community through scholarships to deserving lesbian students. Nationally, Legacy has awarded more than \$750,000 through the years.

The deadline to apply for Legacy scholarships is July 1, and they will be awarded in December for use towards the spring semester. To qualify for the scholarship, all applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, demonstrate a commitment or contribution to the LGBT community, demonstrate financial need, and follow Legacy's Lesbian Leadership

Scholarship guidelines. To find out more and obtain an application, contact Legacy national board member Dr. Joyce Gayles 713/677-6047, e-mail transworks@aol.com, or visit Uncommon Legacy's national website at www.uncommonlegacy.org.

OUR STORIES, OUR LIVES

We received the following call from Dr. Maria C. Gonzalez, who is an associate professor in the department of English at University of Houston. She and Elizabeth R. Kessler, a colleague at the California State University at Northridge, are gathering stories from lesbians of color over age 50:



Two PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. scholarship recipients: Uri McMillan, who attends Rice University, and Eva Thibodeau-Graczyk, who is in the UH School of Social Work's master's program, and who also works with H.A.T.C.H. youth.

"We wish to receive personal narratives from lesbians of color over 50 for a new anthology. These narratives need to address the intersections of diverse issues and attitudes: culture, religion, ethics, family (parents, siblings, relatives, as well as husbands, children, and grandchildren), politics, age, career and colleagues, friendships, same-sex spouses, family of same-sex spouses, and other attitudes that have a clear and important impact on one's decision to self-disclose. The form should be a personal narrative that may include other genres (poetry, lyrics, diary entries, letters, and so forth). Manuscripts should not exceed 20 double-spaced, typed pages. For inquiries and more detailed information, e-mail mgonzalez@uh.edu or elizabeth.kessler@csun.edu." —Eds. Elizabeth Rodriguez Kessler and Maria C. Gonzalez

BE A FAIRY GODMOTHER

The Glass Slipper Project has recently started a Houston chapter. Glass Slipper is a non-profit program where volunteers help a Houston high school student be the "Belle of the Ball" at her prom by collecting new and almost-new formal dresses and accessories and providing them free to students who are unable to purchase their own prom attire. They distribute the dresses at Glass Slipper "boutiques," where each student receives individual assistance from a volunteer "personal shopper" as she shops for the dress of her dreams. The Glass Slipper Project-Hous-

ton is working with the HISD in locating students who need the dresses. Make room in your closets and make prom dreams come true. The project also needs donations of shoes, accessories, jewelry, and pantyhose or donations to purchase those items. For more information about the program, please contact Ellen Chang at 832/545-0202 or eychang@hotmail.com, or visit <http://www.glassslipperproject.org>.

TEXAS BIKE RIDE FOR GLBT HIGH SCHOOL

Now that the Texas AIDS Ride is in limbo or defunct, we're looking around for other cycling opportunities, and this sounds like a really splendid one. For the second year in a row, the Walt Whitman Community School in Dallas is sponsoring a 100-mile bike ride on Saturday, May 19, to raise scholarship funds for the only private alternative high school in the country for GLBT adolescents.

Founded in 1997, the Walt Whitman Community School relies exclusively on private donations and fundraising, as it receives no federal, state, city, or school district support. Funds raised by the ride will create scholarships for GLBT students who have little means of support and have often been abandoned by their families because of their sexuality.



Calling all drag queens (who have a few dresses to spare). Miss Camp America's Bernadette got to go to the Deb-u-Not Ball; you can help some girl have her Cinderella prom.

The one-day bike ride will begin at 8 a.m. and will be routed through the scenic countryside around Dallas-Fort Worth. Participants may select distances of 100 miles, 100 kilometers, 25 miles, or 10 miles.

Walt Whitman officials are expecting over 250 riders to raise more than \$30,000. Rider registration fee is \$25, plus each rider must raise a minimum of \$100 in tax-deductible contributions for the school's scholarship fund. In addition to rider registration fees, ride expenses are being completely underwritten by corporate, organizational, and individual sponsors. As with the first annual ride, it is expected that 100 percent of all contributions will benefit The Walt Whitman Community School Foundation Scholarship Fund.

You can register for the ride online at www.waltwhitman100.org, as well as print pledge forms and get all other info you need to participate. →

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In&Out National Briefs

SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

Our friends at Souforce have announced their schedule of church actions, if you'd like to engage in a little civil disobedience on your summer vacation. Led by Mel White, Souforce is a national network of people of faith which uses "the principles of relentless non-violent resistance as taught by Gandhi and King to the liberation of sexual and gender minorities from religious policies that exclude and discriminate against God's GLBT people."

First up is the ever-popular Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-13, in New Orleans; followed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church National Convention, August 10-12, in Indianapolis; then the Mormon Church National Convention, October 5-7, in Las Vegas (no, just joking, it'll be in Salt Lake City); and finishing with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 12-15, 2001.

If you can't make a trip to protest, you can make your soul force felt by participating in the "Faithful Dissenter's Campaign," which encourages GLBT people and allies to withhold all or a percentage of their usual contribution to denominations that discriminate against them.

"For 30 years, GLBT people and their allies have been supporting oppression with every dollar we donate and every special talent/gift we volunteer to our local churches," says Dr. Mel White, Souforce executive director. "This campaign by Faithful Dissenters to withhold tithes and offerings is designed to empower and give voice to our oppressed sisters and brothers and to 'step up' the level of spiritual resistance against local congregations and/or denominations that discriminate."

Last year, Souforce gathered more than 1000 people who were trained in non-violent civil disobedience, and more than 500 were arrested. For more information about joining up with Souforce, see their website at www.souforce.org.

MAKING THE WORLD AWARE OF GLBT HEALTH ISSUES

That excellent group, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), has just published the first-ever comprehensive document on the state of LGBT health.

Coordinating dozens of LGBT health experts through the recently formed National Coalition for LGBT Health, the GLMA has put together the 500-page *Healthy People*

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2010 Companion Document for LGBT Health. It is written by and for health care consumers, providers, researchers, educators, government agencies, schools, clinics, advocates, and health professionals in all settings. Among the focus areas are access to quality health services, mental health, public health infrastructure, HIV, immunization and infectious diseases, tobacco, injury and violence prevention, and substance abuse.

"All their lives, LGBT people have had to struggle against ignorance in the health care



CAST OF FURTHER TALES OF THE CITY (front row, l-r): Laura Linney, Olympia Dukakis, Jackie Burrows, and Billy Campbell; (back row, l-r): Whip Hubley, Diana LeBlanc, Paul Hopkins, Jackie Richardson, Ted Whittall, Barbara Garrick, and François Robertson.

GIVE US MORE TALES

**Why we're excited about
Further Tales of the City:**

• **Armistead Maupin** was on the set during the filming. "It's twice as sexy as the other

field," said Patricia Dunn, the director of public policy for GLMA. "In many cases health care providers meant well, they just didn't know. Now, we're telling them. While we are still fighting for equal access, still struggling to have our needs understood and addressed, this document will take us much farther down the path toward equity."

GLMA represents the interests of more than 70,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender physicians and medical students, as well as millions of LGBT patients throughout North America. The largest organization of its kind, GLMA was founded in 1981 to combat homophobia in medicine

In&Out

and promote quality health care for all LGBT people.

The document is posted on GLMA's website at www.glma.org.

BUSH CLOSES OFFICE FOCUS- ING ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

Amidst all the fury about whether Bush was going to close the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, another important office was shuttered up: the White House Office

shows," he told *OutSmart* last October. "All of the actors get naked at one point. They've been extremely generous in that regard."

• **Showtime** has no restrictions. Maupin said, "Several times I stood in front of the monitor during a love scene and found my own jaw dropping. I turned to this woman producer and said, *Oh my God, are we doing this?*"

• **Pierre Gang**, the director, is gay. He "has a wonderful combination of sentiment and liberal sexual attitudes," said Maupin, adding that he has "a great visual sense."

• **Laura Linney** was just nominated for an Academy Award as Best Actress for her role in *Pollock*. She returns as Michael's friend and neighbor Mary Ann Singleton.

• **Laura Linney** was at the Oscar ceremonies with Armistead Maupin as her date!

• **Olympia Dukakis** and **Billy Campbell** return as Anna Madrigal and Dr. Jon Fielding, respectively.

• **Joel Grey**, **Parker Posey**, and **Lea Delaria** have cameos.

Further Tales of the City premieres with episode #1 on Showtime on Sunday, May 6, at 9 p.m. and airs four consecutive Sundays, also at 9 p.m. Additional playdates are Wednesday, May 30, at 11 p.m. (episodes 1 & 2), and Thursday, May 31, at 11 p.m. (episodes 3 & 4).

—Blase DiStefano

for Women's Initiatives and Outreach, according to an article in *The Washington Post*.

"As of January 19, 2001, this office no longer exists," an answering machine at the former office intoned, "and we will not be able to retrieve your calls. We apologize for the inconvenience."

The office for women's issues had served the function of reviewing legislation and administration proposals to gauge their impact on women, and arranging briefings. They also created a symbiotic relationship with women's groups, alerting them to forthcoming issues, in exchange for early feedback on how those groups would respond. →

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GAY HISTORY MOVES ACROSS COUNTRY

America's oldest GLBT organization and library has moved from Louisiana to LA, according to Billy Blover of the Homosexual Information Center in Bossier City, Louisiana. The ONE Institute and Archives are now housed in their own collection adjunct to the University of Southern California. The collection dates from early Mattachine (secret-1950) through the public ONE (1952) through today, and includes all parts of ONE, such as Don Slater's Homosexual Information Center, Dorr Legg's Blanche Baker Library, Jim Kepner's International Gay & Lesbian Archives, and also collections of Morris Kight, Dale Jennings, Lesbian Legacy, etc. To get information about the archives, call 213/741-0094, e-mail oneigla@usc.edu, or look at the web site at www.oneinstitute.org.

THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE

More than 100,000 GLBT people and their friends and admirers will converge on the theme parks in Orlando, Florida May 30-June 4 for Gay Days, with a round of evermore-lavish cocktail parties, dance parties, and special events.

The event began in 1990 as an informal gathering of gays and lesbians at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom, and has grown into a celebration of tremendous size and impact despite the fact that it has never been officially acknowledged by any theme park management.



For years, visitors have been encouraged to "Wear red and be seen," and the sea of red visible from any place in the park is testament to the popularity of this grass-roots-grown-wild event.

Complete information about accommodations, event and theme park tickets, and event calendars are available at www.gaydays.com. A portion of the profits from the site's operation benefits the Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center of Central Florida.

HIV STUDY TO LOOK AT MARIJUANA USE

SAN MATEO, Calif.—San Mateo, Calif., county health officials have begun recruiting 60 patients infected with HIV who will be

prescribed marijuana as part of a two-year study of the medical benefits of the drug.

Specifically, the county health researchers want to evaluate whether the illegal drug relieves pain and stimulates appetite among the patients, two benefits that medicinal marijuana advocates have pointed to as the main advantages of the drug.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agreed late last year to provide the county with enough government-grown pot for the patients in the two-year study.

COURT STRIKES DOWN ARK. SODOMY LAW

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—An Arkansas court has ruled that the state's antigay sodomy law violates the Arkansas state constitution's privacy rights. Pulaski County Circuit Court Judge David Bogart declared in the ruling: "It is consistent with this state's constitution to hold that an adult's right to engage in consensual and noncommercial sexual activities in the privacy of that adult's home is a matter of intimate personal concern which is at the heart of the right to privacy in Arkansas."

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund sued to challenge the state law on behalf of seven gay and lesbian residents, arguing that the anti-gay sodomy law violates their right to equal protection under the state's constitution.

Four other states—Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri—also have sodomy laws that apply to same-sex sex but not to opposite-sex couples. The Missouri law, like Arkansas, has been struck down by a state court.

MASSACHUSETTS COUPLES SUE FOR MARRIAGE

BOSTON—Taking the route others have taken in Hawaii and Vermont with mixed results, seven gay and lesbian couples in Massachusetts have filed suit in an effort to force the state to allow them to legally marry.

Jennifer Levi, an attorney representing the couples, told reporters, "The constitution of the commonwealth of Massachusetts ensures equal treatment of all citizens. Gay and lesbian couples face different treatment because they're denied the freedom to marry. All these couples seek is equality."

A similar lawsuit in Hawaii several years ago ended with a positive court ruling, but was later negated by a voter-approved amendment to the state constitution that effectively blocked the court decision.

In Vermont, the state Supreme Court in 1999 essentially told the state legislature that gays and lesbians in Vermont had to have the same legal benefits and responsibilities available to married opposite-sex couples, but left to the legislature how to achieve that. The lawmakers adopted a "civil unions" law that technically isn't marriage, but includes all the rights and benefits.

MARYLAND SENATE OKS ANTI-BIAS BILL

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—The Maryland state Senate has voted 32-14 in favor of a bill proposed by Gov. Parris Glendening that would prohibit discrimination in employment and housing because of sexual orientation. The Senate vote came after lawmakers in the state's upper house broke an attempt by Republican senators to filibuster against it.

Observers say the measure now is likely to easily win approval in the House of Del-

egates. The House approved a similar bill two years ago and swift action is expected in that chamber.

Gov. Glendening made approval of the bill one of his top priorities and he frequently speaks of his brother Bruce, who died of AIDS after a 19-year Air Force career.

SOUTH AFRICA'S HIV FIGURES WORST IN THE WORLD

JOHANNESBURG—Two reports indicate how severe the HIV/AIDS epidemic is in South Africa.

According to a report by UNAIDS, South Africa has the largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world. The new data indicates that 4.7 million South Africans are now infected with the virus.

The nation's health ministry also just released a study indicating that the infection rate in the country's KwaZulu-Natal province is the highest in South Africa, with the virus infecting one in every three people.

The study also reported that nearly a fourth of all the women going to public clinics in KwaZulu-Natal were infected. ■

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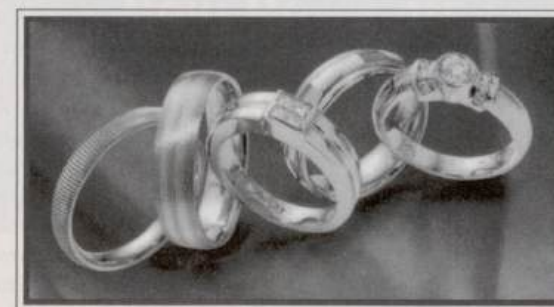
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Pete Martinez *continued from page 16*

Not only did Martinez serve the important role of guiding people through the process, but he was usually the one into whose arms people delivered their completed panels. He had a ritual where he would receive the panel and hold it tight to him in a moment of silence—it was as though grieving lovers and family were able to physically pass on some of their heavy grief to this tender loving person.

When somebody didn't have anybody to make a panel for them, Martinez would do it. He made a total of 48 panels, and helped with hundreds more.

Martinez had an approachable easy-going style, funny and immediate. He called everybody "Helen," and didn't kowtow to status. Bongiorno remembers once when former Mayor Bob Lanier invited members of the gay community to his River Oaks mansion. Martinez remarked to Elise Lanier, "This is a lovely home, but somebody should do something about your drapes." (Martinez himself had a love for elegant furnishings, collecting chandeliers and soup tureens. "His apartment was the ultimate queen's apartment," Bongiorno said, "and everything was impeccable and in its place. If he had wine, it had to be served in crystal.")

Another time, when Martinez was regally directing operations at Bering United Methodist's annual Thanksgiving dinner for people with AIDS, he told one inexperienced volunteer, "Helen, just mash those potatoes, don't make love to them!" Turns out it was the Methodist bishop. When Bongiorno told Martinez that, he didn't care.

Many said that Martinez's small stature helped him be less intimidating to people. Also, others could take courage from this small man who was so unafraid to be out. "People would see that little guy standing up," said Bongiorno, "and at that time it *was* dangerous, people were being attacked."

A native Houstonian who grew up in the old blue-collar neighborhood off Washington and Taylor, Martinez came out in the '60s—

which took courage for anyone, especially a Latina man—and was apparently a notorious figure at the old Pink Elephant. He worked with various local companies, including Stouffer's Greenway Plaza Hotel, where he was banquet manager.

Bongiorno said Martinez had tried volunteering at places like the AIDS Foundation, but found it frustrating. With the quilt, he was able to take the work of his hands, his fine skills as a craftsman, and make a true



difference. Martinez's hero's impact was made manifest at his memorial service, when the sanctuary at Bering was full to bursting.

Martinez expressed his love through his service to the quilt, but he also used it as an outlet for activism and confronting injustice. "He was not a big political or social leader, couldn't make a huge financial contribution," Hicks said. "He was just a little guy... but I think he made a real difference in people's awareness of HIV and AIDS in Houston."

The quilt and Martinez's unpretentious directness could sometimes get in where the more in-your-face ACT-UP folks could not.

"When Harris County wasn't responding to AIDS, we were going around and putting up quilts everywhere," Bongiorno remembers. "Pete marched into the headquarters at HISD and put up 50 panels."

Bongiorno remembers another time when they got a call at the NAMES Project workshop from somebody who said his lover had passed away and that the family was going to come and take everything. They all went to the house and were helping the man pack when the family came and stood at the door and said they couldn't take anything out without a warrant. Martinez just happened to know the next-door neighbors, who shared a back patio with the bereaved man. So he led the crew in passing all the furniture and other belongings over the back fence and into the neighbor's apartment. "He realized the importance of it and had no qualms at all," Bongiorno said, laughing at the memory.

During the Republican National Convention, Bongiorno and Martinez were both participating in the march from Montrose to the convention center in which the police grew violent and started attacking the crowds.

"Helen, these girls aren't messing around!" Bongiorno remembers Martinez exclaiming. "This ain't no candlelight march."

A policeman on a horse approached the diminutive quiltmaker with his billy club raised. Martinez put his hands on his hips. "Just what do you think you're doing?!" he said, staring the policeman down.

The policeman turned and went away.

Bongiorno was there and was plenty scared himself. "You would think Pete would have been afraid, but he wasn't."

Martinez was a man who made his life speak. He was direct and caring and showed his love through his actions over and over.

"He felt people just needed to get out there and do it," Bongiorno said. "There was no reason to sit. And for him that meant sewing." ■

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SAFETY INFORMATION Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Mild to moderate rash is a common side effect of SUSTIVA. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA, because birth defects have been seen in animals given SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA should not be taken by patients who are also taking any of the following: Hismanal[®] (astemizole), Propulsid[®] (cisapride), Versed[®] (midazolam), Halcion[®] (triazolam), or ergot derivatives as there is the potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects.* See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.

* The brands listed are registered trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company. ¹HMS National Prescription Audit, Total Prescriptions fourth quarter, 2000.

References: 1. DPC Study 006, Sustiva/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC. 2. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Dept of Health and Human Services, February 2001.

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Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk, or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had Hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that

these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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Business News

Rock Edwards, manager of the **Prudential Gary Greene, Realtors** Inner Loop office, announces the association of **Charlie Grider**, who has been active in Houston's real estate market for over eight years as an apartment locator. He was most recently president of Best of Texas Apartment Locators, a division of JVL Investments.com, and prior to that was assistant manager of Find-It Apartment Locators where he served as corporate relocation liaison to several local corporations.

Grider is excited about joining Prudential Gary Greene, Realtors and working with their corporate relocation program. Grider says, "I am looking forward to expanding my corporate database and representing Prudential to an ever-growing list of companies." Grider can be reached at Prudential Gary Greene, Realtors at 2900 Wesleyan, Suite 550, Houston, Texas 77027 or by calling 713/961-1722.

The Vermont Teddy Bear Company is coming out with a Pride Bear. Dressed in jeans and a white T-shirt, the bear also "bears" a rainbow tattoo permanently embroidered on its arm. Marketing director **Irene Steiner** said the time has come for this design. "The Pride Bear is a logical addition to our product line. We've offered same-sex bride and groom bears for several years now but realized there was a need for a specific bear to help the GLBT community communicate in a fun and personal way." For \$75 through the company's Bear-Gram gift delivery service, the Pride Bear can be delivered anywhere. For more information, call 1-800-829-BEAR or visit the website at www.VermontTeddyBear.com.

The Human Rights Campaign recently reported that the prevalence of "family-friendly" workplace benefits confirms that coverage of domestic partners is increasing at a rapid pace, but it also points up how many benefits are routinely denied to gay and lesbian workers because they cannot get married. The 2001 Benefits Survey released last month by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) found that 25 percent of respondents reported that they offer domestic partner benefits to opposite-sex partners and that 16 percent reported offering these benefits to same-sex partners. In 2000, SHRM found 10 percent of respondents offered DP benefits. (2001 was the first year that SHRM asked separate questions on same-sex and opposite-sex coverage.)

"This growth rate is phenomenal, and confirms what we at the Human Rights Campaign have observed," said **Kim I. Mills**, HRC's education director. "Domestic partner benefits are on their way to becoming a standard business practice because employers are learning by experience that they help attract and keep good employees."

The SHRM study found that organizations with 2,501 or more employees are more likely to offer domestic partner benefits to same-sex partners than their smaller counterparts. The study also found that, out of 12 market sectors polled, the high-tech and computer industry sector was most likely to offer domestic partner benefits for both same-sex and opposite-sex partners. Market sectors that were least inclined to offer the benefits included manufacturing; finance, insurance and real estate; and government.

"Again, this closely tracks the data we have been collecting for years through HRC WorkNet, our workplace advocacy project," Mills said. SHRM's study measured the spread of a variety of what it termed "family-friendly" workplace benefits, such as dependent care flexible spending accounts, flextime, adoption assistance, financial aid to employees' families, and even pre-paid funeral assistance.

The SHRM questionnaire did not specifically define domestic partner benefits—although HRC has defined that term to include health insurance coverage at a minimum. "We have found that many employers define 'family' quite narrowly, so that many of the benefits listed in the SHRM report would probably not be offered to gay and lesbian couples," Mills said.

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CROUCHING BIGOT, HIDDEN FAGGOT

Bush's appointment of an openly gay person: tokenism or compassionate conservatism?

I suppose we should all be excited that Bush is the first Republican president to appoint an openly gay or lesbian person to a White House position. No doubt, gay Republicans will use this appointment to congratulate themselves for supporting a kinder, gentler Republican on gay and lesbian issues. They will use it as an exclamation point to their I-told-you-so statements. "I told you he wasn't homophobic!" "I told you he cares about AIDS!" "I told you we would get a place at the table!"

Well, maybe they're right. And maybe they're not.

Call me cynical, but I'm just not convinced that Bush's appointment of Scott Evertz to run the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) is anything other than tokenism. We now have a token homosexual who is allegedly going to be the Bush go-to person on AIDS policy. How profound. "Dubya" put a fag in charge of AIDS policy,

something we know he's compassionately conservative about.

I might be excited about Dubya's appointment had the circumstances leading up to it been different. But it was just two months ago, on January 25, that Bush floated the idea of shutting down ONAP altogether. Indeed, on February 7, *USA Today* published a story in which Andrew Card, President Bush's chief of staff, said the decision to close ONAP had already been made.

Only after a public outcry opposing the idea did Ari Fleischer, Bush's press secretary, take to the air announcing that "Card had been mistaken," and promising that "we're concerned about AIDS inside our White House." (Right, but what about outside the White House?)

Now we're supposed to be excited that Bush appointed an openly gay person to head a White House office that is so important he originally wanted to shut it down.

Talk about throwing the gay and lesbian community a bone.

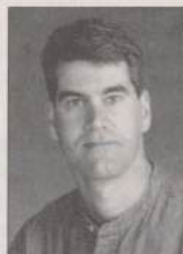
I can just imagine how the conversation between Bush and his Veep went on an issue that is near and dear to Dubya's heart:

W: Boy, Dick, I really stepped in it this time when I talked about closing down that AIDS office. What a mess. I didn't realize so many people cared about AIDS. I don't even know anybody who has it.

VP: Well, Mr. President, don't fret. We'll fix it. We'll keep the AIDS office open and we'll appoint a gay person to run it. That'll

continued on p. 32

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



DEFYING LEFT AND RIGHT

Bush's appointment of openly gay Scott Evertz is a true watershed action—but for many gay leaders, he's damned if he does and damned if he doesn't

Religious conservatives instinctively understand the damage George W. Bush is inflicting on the dying and discredited antigay aspects of their world-view. By appointing Scott Evertz, an openly gay man, to head the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, Bush has crossed an important political and cultural threshold. Incredibly, some gay leaders and writers—who once predicted Bush would never hire an openly gay person—have missed the significance of this moment.

Just as it took a scion of wealth to bring us a New Deal, a Southerner to end segregation, an ardent anti-Communist to open diplomatic relations with China, and a Democrat to end welfare as we knew it, it will take a conservative Republican to cement the gains made by the gay civil rights movement over the years. Bush's action both reflects and reinforces the emerging national consensus

that gays should have an equal place in the life of the nation.

Evertz becomes the first openly gay person ever appointed by a Republican president. He also becomes the first gay person to lead the federal AIDS office. Either of these alone would be significant; together, they are a watershed.

The appointment not only proves Bush's oft-professed willingness to hire people regardless of sexual orientation, but also signals the importance he places on combating AIDS. Just before the Evertz appointment, Vice President Dick Cheney said on NBC's *Meet the Press* that AIDS is a national security issue. When Republicans call something a matter of national security, you know we mean business.

Evertz will report directly to Margaret La Montagne, Bush's domestic policy advisor, which means he will have access to the highest levels of decisionmaking in the

White House. He will also be part of a task force of heavy-hitters—including Secretary of State Colin Powell and gay-friendly Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson—who will address the long-ignored international aspects of the AIDS epidemic.

It's instructive to review the reaction of some gay politicians who toiled mightily to find fault with Bush despite the appointment. The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, the organizational embodiment of the gay left in Washington, conceded it was "an historic,

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



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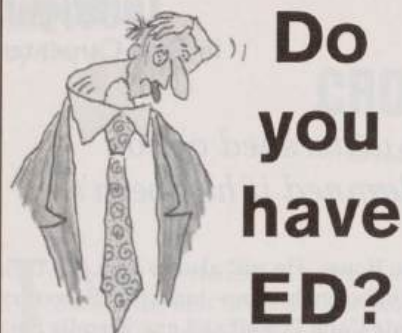
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What have you got to lose?

LeftOut continued from page 30

placate the gay community.

W: But, Dick, I don't know any gay people to appoint... except your daughter Mary and that guy that designed Laura's inaugural gown. And what's "placate"?

VP: Never mind, Mr. President. I've already talked to Mary about this. She knows this gay, pro-life Catholic from Wisconsin, Scott Evertz. Remember, you met him in Austin last year when you met with those 12 gay guys to keep the Log Cabin Republicans from endorsing McCain.

W: Oh yeah. What a meeting. I've never felt so underdressed in all my life. Which one was he?

VP: He was the one who said he thought that since the Boy Scouts of America is a private organization, it should be allowed to discriminate against gays if it wants to.

W: Well, of course it should. What's his name again?

VP: Scott Evertz.

W: Hmm. Whatever. Just fix it.

VP: Sure, Mr. President. It's done.

I hope I'm wrong about how this happened. I hope my cynicism has pervaded my sense of political propriety. I also hope that Dubya's intentions were pure, that Scott Evertz is not a token, and that more openly gay appointees are yet to come. Only time will tell. ■

OutRight continued from previous page

positive step," but devoted more than half of its press release on the subject to criticism of Bush's proposed budget freezing or barely increasing some elements of federal AIDS funding. This reaction was predictable.

Far more disappointing was the response of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), usually a more sensible and centrist voice for gays in Washington. HRC spokesperson David Smith pooh-poohed the appointment of Evertz, comparing it with the alleged 152 openly gay appointees under Bill Clinton.

Yet none of the Clinton appointees served in a position more critical to gays than the one Evertz will hold. Few, if any, of Clinton's gay appointees had the direct access to the White House that Evertz will have. Personally, I'd rather have one openly gay person serving as the AIDS czar than a hundred appointees under Clinton, the most important of whom labored over patents, housing, and relations with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The most tortured reaction from the left

criticized the appointment because it supposedly represents—I love this—*identity politics*. Thus, *Queer in America* author Michelangelo Signorile, whose career has skillfully exploited identity politics, has suddenly found Jesus on the issue: "[T]here are pitfalls and limitations to identity-based politics," he announced in a column, "and we're about to find out the hard way."

Similarly, a board member for the Milwaukee gay community center worried the appointment would reinforce stereotypes about gay men: "I almost would have rather heard that a woman was heading [the AIDS office]."

Never mind that many of the country's top experts on AIDS are gay men (who are still disproportionately afflicted by the disease) and that not one of Clinton's three appointees to the position was gay. For people like Signorile, Bush is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't.

Religious conservatives have a far better grasp of what's happening now on gay issues in the GOP. They were furious at news of the Evertz appointment and became downright apoplectic when it was learned, just days later, that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld had hired *another* openly gay man to screen applicants for jobs in the Defense Department.

James Dobson, an influential evangelical leader, charged that Bush is "creating confusion and frustration for millions of pro-family, social conservatives." The Family Research Council complained that the appointment "sends the wrong message [about homosexuality] to the American people." Lou Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition indicted the Bush administration for being "absolutely disloyal" to religious conservatives and for "stab[bing] us in the back." Robert Knight, on behalf of Concerned Women for America, accused Bush of "advancing the homosexual agenda through appointments."

The most noteworthy reaction on the right came from Republican leaders in Congress, who said... nothing. Knee-jerk homophobes in the GOP today, like hold-out segregationist Democrats in the 1960s, are increasingly isolated politically.

When the history of the gay civil rights movement is written, the spring of 2001 will mark an important season of consolidation. It was then, the history will say, that a Republican president finally had the courage to defy the antigay rogues in his own party. Though such progress is reversible, Bush, cautiously but perceptibly, is truly "advancing the homosexual agenda," which is, after all, about nothing more than equality. ■



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Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5

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*Landmark's
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*Rice University
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**For a schedule
of films with dates
and times, see the
pullout section in the
center of this issue of
OutSmart
magazine.**

Big Queer Screen



Why even have a gay and lesbian film festival?

by Ernie Manouse

So Houston is having another gay and lesbian film festival—our fifth one to date. An interesting idea, a “Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.” I mean come on, if it weren’t for gays and lesbians, would there be any films at all, any Hollywood, any entertainment? Sure there may still have been Judy Garland, Ethel Merman, and Cher, but who would have watched and listened to them! But it is the trend to have festivals that highlight certain aspects of our culture—and gay and lesbian is certainly worthy of that recognition.

We all have a story to tell and we all need a place for these stories to be presented. For the first time, mainstream media has started to include us at the table, but mostly as Gay White Males, who either happen to be dying of AIDS, or are the “wacky” next-door neighbor types. The women are represented too—across from Howard Stern, or making out for the pleasure of the men who leer nearby, or as man-hating psychopaths. Not exactly what makes up the gay Family. So a gay and lesbian film festival gives us a chance to belong and to understand who we really are. Pro-

gramming may vary from the story of a married man coming to terms with his homosexuality to a documentary on female professional wrestlers. But through its diversity, a much more accurate picture of our lives can be shown. It is also a way of feeling connected and understanding the diverse elements that make up our collective community. The festival becomes a place for this voice, our voice, to be heard.

To the general audience, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival is also a way of

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In the photo above are pictured some of the talented individuals volunteering their time to this year's Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Left to right are Ernie Manouse, AmyBeth Gilstrap, Randy Penn, Kristian Salinas, and Marian Luntz.

Those Who Are Left

by John W. Stiles

From the directors of *The Celluloid Closet*, *Paragraph 175* feelingly portrays the gay holocaust, creating a moving portrait of memory, pride, aging, and living



OPPOSITE PAGE: Albrecht Becker (left), age 20, with friends at the beach in Venice, Italy in 1926. ABOVE: Becker (born 1906) with a self-portrait from the '50s, at his home in Hamburg.

If I were to tell you of a documentary film showing at the Museum of Fine Arts this month about the Nazi treatment of gay men in World War II, your first reaction might be to recoil. The horrors visited on any victims of the Nazis do not make for a pleasant moviegoing experience. When the victims are selected because they're gay, the terror may strike too close to home. If, though, I were to tell you that the film was the product of Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein, the same team that

delivered *The Times of Harvey Milk*, *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*, and *The Celluloid Closet*, you might be inclined to rethink your initial reluctance.

Paragraph 175 of the 1871 German Penal Code states, "An unnatural sex act committed between persons of the male sex . . . is punishable by imprisonment." The Nazis, in a homophobic frenzy to protect the "master race" from corruption by gays, expanded Paragraph 175 to cover kissing, hugging, and even fantasizing. More than 100,000

men were arrested by the Nazis under its provisions and somewhere upwards of 15,000 were sent to concentration camps. Most died there. Less than 10 of these men are known to be alive today. Six were interviewed for the Friedman/Epstein documentary. Two declined outright.

One of the six, Karl Gorath, shows us a photo album. As he turns the black construction paper pages of the album we see more and more place holders with no pictures. Klaus Muller, a young German his-

torian employed by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, serves as the interviewer for the film. He asks Karl about the blank spaces. "Bad memories, I don't want to talk about them," he answers in German. He looks up and into the camera lens and waves his hand back and forth as if to say, "cut." The interview ends before it has begun.

Most documentary filmmakers leave uncooperative interview subjects on the editing room floor. In a testament both to

their wisdom and courage, Epstein and Friedman leave the non-interview intact. Karl's silence speaks loudly to the depth of the suffering these men endured. I asked Rob Epstein recently about the inclusion of that particular scene. He replied, "I'm glad you got it. We struggled with that scene, with how [not] to have it read by the viewer as a deficiency of the film. He's the person that just won't go back."

I asked Epstein how making *Paragraph 175* had affected him personally. He took a

deep breath before answering, "In unexpected ways. It made me think about aging and how would I like to imagine myself as an old gay man."

Paragraph 175 is not nearly so much about life in the Nazi concentration camps as it is about getting on with life in the aftermath. These men found ways to cope with what happened—some through denial, some through action. Take the example of the two youngest victims, one a German

continued on page 46

Calendar of Events

MAY

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (Wed.)

HIV Testing. The Montrose Clinic offers 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. **PLEASE NOTE:** Free & confidential HIV/AIDS testing is also available from 1-3 pm on the 9th & 23rd in Conroe at Northwoods AIDS Coalition, 1414 South Frazier, Ste. 106. More info: 936/441-1614.

4-6 (Fri.-Sun.)

Janeane Garofalo said of Sharon Stone and Ellen DeGeneres in *If These Walls Could Talk II*: "I enjoy watching lesbians. Who doesn't want to see good-looking girls make out?" You can enjoy watching & listening to her at her scheduled appearances at 8 & 10:30 p.m. on Friday (\$29.50); at 7 (non-smoking), 9:15, & 11:30 p.m. on Saturday (\$31.75); and at 8 p.m. on Sunday (\$29.50) @ Laff Stop, 1952-A West Gray, 713/524-2333.

5 (Sat.)

Lift for Life. In a united effort to raise funds for Camp Hope (a project of AIDS Foundation Houston), fitness trainers & their clients will come together in this 1st annual event. This fundraiser provides clients the opportunity to train their fit-

ness instructors while raising funds for Camp Hope's children who are infected with HIV/AIDS. 2-5 pm @ Healthspan, 1111 West Loop South. If you would like to participate in this event, contact Ken Belveal at 713/862-6371 or e-mail at kbelveal@houston.rr.com.

5 (Sat.)

Houston Arts.

This free outdoor event features talented visual & performing artists in a celebration of Houston's vibrant multicultural art scene. Included: original artwork, interactive demonstrations, exhibits, and live musical & dance performances. 10 am-6 pm @ Uptown Park on Post Oak Blvd. & Loop 610. For more information: 713/297-6282 or www.uptownparkhouston.com.

5 (Sat.)

Celebrating Patronage. Throughout history, the generosity of patrons—from Beethoven's beloved Archduke Rudolph

to the legendary American patronesses Jeanette Thurber & Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge—has transformed the cultural landscape. Da



JACK ATTACK: Fans of Jack (Sean Hayes, left) may want to tune in NBC's *Will & Grace* at 8 p.m. on May 10 to see exactly what kind of fan Jack attracts. In the episode "Last of the Really Odd Lovers," Jack realizes that Grace's pal Val (Molly Shannon) is more than a fan of his—she's a stalker!

Camera Music Center at 713/524-5050 or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

10 (Thu.)

Success Unlimited. You are invited to experience Whoopi Goldberg, Hollywood's hippest square; former Gov. Ann Richards, wit & wisdom; Candice Carpenter, technology for women by women; Loretta LaRoche,

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:** calendar@outsmartmagazine.com. **NO LISTINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—FRI., MAY 11.**

the joy of stress; and featuring a special presentation "For Love & Money" with Iyanla Vasant for love & Suze Orman for money. Success Unlimited—The Empowerment Seminar for Women @ the George R. Brown Convention Center, 9 am-4:30 pm. Tickets (\$179 general seating, \$279 special VIP package includes premier seating & a Q&A luncheon with Loretta LaRoche, Candice Carpenter, and Ann Richards) available by calling Events Unlimited: 281/397-8124. Info: www.SuccessUnlimitedOnline.com.

10 (Thu.)

Considering Adoption? Family to Family Adoption, a nonprofit licensed agency, is offering a free seminar on adopting a child in less than a year: Cur-

rently, they have programs in the U.S., China, Russia, Bulgaria, Guatemala, Bolivia, & other countries. Everyone in attendance will be given a free information package: 6:30-8:30 pm in the board room @ Bellaire Medical Center, 5314 Dashwood. More info: 713/249-5941.

10-12 (Thu.-Sat.)

Jason Stuart. "I hear Bill and Hillary took everything that wasn't nailed down! I guess eight years in the White House can feel like a hotel, and a painting given as a gift can look like a towel." So jokes, openly gay comic Jason Stuart, who is the headline @ Bad Dog Comedy Theatre in Austin. More info: 512/805-2364.

11 (Fri.)

ComedySportz, an improvisational comedy troupe, presents two special matches in honor of Mother's Day. These shows honor moms in every game, and they'll give prizes to the oldest & youngest mom in attendance, as well as the mom with the most family members with her. Don't leave home without your mom, 'cause she'll get in for free, and you'll look like the "favorite son or daughter." So bring your mom, grandmother, mom-in-law, or any other relative with maternal instincts and get down to ComedySportz for this night of "mothering" at 7:30 & 10 pm @ Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. Admission is \$10. Reservations/more info: 713/868-1444.

12 (Sat.)

TATS (Texas Association for Transsexual Support) is a volunteer-led peer support group devoted to helping transsexual persons, their partners, families, & friends accept life and experience it to the fullest. TATS now meets on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month. 3 pm (6 pm May 26) @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. More info: 713/524-3818 (the center), 281/437-2975 (TATS), tats@GenderWeb.org.

12 & 13 (Sat. & Sun.)

Slant: Bold Asian-American Images. Forget Jackie Chan & Jet Li. America may see more yellow faces on the big screen these days, but the presence of these stars is actually misleading. They are Asian, not Asian American; and the view through an Asian-American director's eye is much different. With "Slant," you won't see any karate chopping, but there will be ass-kicking all the same. A small but powerful sampling of current Asian-American cinema, these works blast stupid stereotypes and approach themes of cultural gaps & identity with humor & innovative perspective. "Slant" features two programs of works including *Angry Little Asian Girl* by Lela Lee; *Love Ltd.* by Jennifer Phang; and *Behold the Asian: How One Becomes What One Is* by James Hong. 9 pm on Sat., 3 pm on Sun. @ Aurora Picture Show, 800 Aurora, 713/868-2101 or www.aurorapictureshow.org. All shows are \$5 donation.

TRANSGENDER FESTIVAL 2.0

Gender-bending at DiverseWorks



Drag King Mo B. Dick

MAX! 12 Minutes MAX! highlights local and regional gender variant talent in a showcase of individual vignettes—none more than 12 minutes long (thus the title!). Last year's version of MAX! packed the house. This year's edition promises to be every bit as entertaining. Return performances from Houston's **Jennifer René Pool** and Dallas's **Janelle DuBois** are just the beginning. **Jami Ward**, a local transgendered stand-up comedian will grace the stage, as will poet **Troy Ham**, performance artist **Kimberly Burnham**, poet **Ina Shook**, poet **Donna Garrett**, and more.

12 Minutes MAX!

When: Friday, May 18, 8 p.m.
Cost: \$12 general; \$10 members;
\$8 students/seniors

WHAT IS DRAG KING? **Judith Halberstam**, professor of literature at UCSD and the author of *Female Masculinity* and *The Drag King Book*, will present a slide show exploring the multiple relations between transgender identity and drag king performances. • When walking down the streets of New York City and you hear someone say, "Look at that DICK!" you know they're talking about only one person—**Mo B. Dick!** (The "B" stands for Bodacious.) In his one-man show, *The man, the myth, the motion*, Mo will prove he's all man and that he's got the goods to prove it!

The Drag King Scene

When: Saturday, May 19, 8 p.m.
Cost: \$10 general; \$8 members;
\$6 students/seniors

Both Shows at: DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway **24-Hour Reservations:** 713/335-3445

THE BOYS OF MONTROSE

Theatre New West provides fun and titillation with *Bed, Boys and Beyond*

Joe Watts's company Theatre New West is staging a production of *Bed, Boys and Beyond* which will run through May 26. Although the original was set in the Chelsea section of NYC, this is the first time the show will be produced outside Manhattan, and lyricist Jeff Dobbins created special lyrics just for Houston, spotlighting our own Montrose area.

Due west of downtown And south of West Gray Lies an idyllic retreat That's chic and just a bit risqué. It's our sovereign little zone, Thousands of queens upon

Clockwise from top right: Jeff Dawson, Laurence Edwards, Basil Anderson, David Barron, and Ronnie Boyd.



its throne. After you've been here a while You'll see it's less a neighborhood and more a lifestyle.

Welcome to Montrose, Land of bistros, boutiques and boys And great places to play. Filled with boytoys and bears

And nobody stares at men strolling in pairs. Where you're free to greet other guys on the street With a warm, affectionate kiss. If every boy in view looks just like you, That's the beauty of life here in Montrose.

Bed, Boys and Beyond plays 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays through May 26 at Theatre New West, 1415 California Street (one block north of Westheimer, between Commonwealth and Waugh) in the ground floor of Sonoma. For reservations, call 713/394-0464. \$20.

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17 (Thu.)

PowerDates4Men is open to single gay men only and takes place every third Thursday of the month @ Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. \$5 donation at the door. Info: PowerDates4Men@PDQ.net.

18 (Thu.)

Syphilis Awareness Day. Free testing from 11 am-6 pm @ Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer. For more info: 713/830-3000.

18-20 (Fri.-Sun.)

The Desert Hearts Women's Festival is a gathering of women in nature celebrating who they are as women of pride. This 10th women's festival takes place on a secluded, wooded ranch in the scenic Texas Hill Country, 50 miles NW of San Antonio. Camping, comedy, and live music will keep you busy, plus daytime fun and games and the market place for shopping. Come alone or bring a gang. Tickets may be purchased by personal check, or MC or VISA. Early purchases really help the festival: \$65 if postmarked by May 15 (credit card or money order if postmarked after May 15); \$75 cash at the gate. Tickets will be mailed to you along with camping hints & a map. Adult women only. Sorry, no children or pets allowed. More info or for special arrangements if arriving before noon or after 8 pm on Fri.: 830/796-7001 or 830/796-7446. E-mail: beaux2@indian-creek.net. Mail checks to: DHWF, 10101 Hwy 173 N, Bandera, TX 78003.

19 (Sat.)

Power Struggles. "Overcoming the Power Struggle in Relationships" focuses on how to keep the spark alive through communication skills & techniques that honor differences & enhance intimacy, love, & respect. This class is for both those in a relationship and those singles who want to conquer these dynamics before they get involved. 10 am-noon; \$25. Registration: 713/529-4414. Info: Denise O'Doherty at 713/524-9525.

21 & 30

By the Book. Randy Wayne White, who always features gay or bisexual minor characters (not bad guys) in his books, will be signing his latest book *Shark River* on Monday the 21st. Julie Herman, who has a gay character in her latest book *Three Dirty Women* and the *Bitter Brew*, and Dean James, who is gay and has a new book *Closer Than the Bones*, will be signing their mysteries on Wednesday the 30th. Both signings take place at 6 pm @ Murder by the Book, 2342 Bissonnet, 713/524-8597. Also on May 30: Both Julie Herman (a 2001 Agatha Award nominee) and Dean James (a 1995 Agatha Award winner and *Murder by the Book* store manager) will speak about their new books. Tickets (\$25) include lunch, talk/Q&A, complimentary valet parking, & book signing (books available at the luncheon). Tickets available only until two days before the event or until sold out. 11:30 am @ The Briar Club.

PLANNING AHEAD

JUNE

June 2 (Sat.)

Tenth Annual Summer Kickoff Fun Run, which includes a 5K run, a 3K health walk, & a 1K kids' run (ages 12 & under), will be held @ Clear Creek High School in League City. Entry forms: 281/482-0982. More info available at www.jamesglennrun.com.

June 3 (Sun.)

The Rainbow Fishing Club is going fishing. Limited spaces are available for today's trip on the New Buccaneer, so send your \$20 deposit ASAP. Total cost is \$70. The boat boards in Galveston at 6:30 am, leaves at 7:30. Reservations/more info: John at 713/523-6381.

June 6 (Wed.)

A Little Day Music. Da Camera's free lunchtime performance series ends with a performance by the Horace Alexander Young Trio. Noon in the Grand Foyer of Wortham Theater Center, Texas at Smith. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring & enjoy their lunches while listening to the music. For more info: 713/524-7601, ext. 15.

June 22 & 23 (Fri. & Sat.)

National Lesbian Health Conference set in San Francisco. Among the subjects that will be investigated

STRESS REHEARSAL

Author Loretta LaRoche
is here to the rescue



LIFE IS NOT A STRESS REHEARSAL. For most of us, life has become such a pressure cooker of unrealistic expectations, information overload, unrelenting marketing, isolation, and workaholicism that we're even stressed out over being stressed out. Loretta LaRoche, the "Erma Bombeck of Stress," is here to the rescue. *Life Is Not a Stress Rehearsal* takes an honest and hilarious look at the gizmos, self-help regimens, talking heads, and comfort products that we have all come to believe will make our lives better—and shows us how, in reality, they contribute to making us feel powerless, stressed out, overwhelmed, and inferior. *Life Is Not a Stress Rehearsal* delivers a hilarious, life-enhancing take on life in the fast lane—and how to slow down and enjoy the ride.

Lecture & Booksigning

When: Friday, May 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

Where: Body Mind & Soul,
4344 Westheimer

Cost: No cost for lecture

Calendar

are cancer & tobacco use, substance abuse, mental health, wellness & nutrition, disability, impairment, immune disorders, family issues, access to care, and the problems faced by underserved populations. The conference is set to take place in the Laurel Heights Conference Center @ the University of California, San Francisco. Info: 415/255-4547 or www.glma.org.

PERFORMING ARTS

◆ **Bed, Boys and Beyond** is a musical revue that explores the confusing, poignant, & often hilarious lives of five men searching for love & acceptance while facing the challenges of being gay in today's society. 8 pm, through May 26 @ Theatre New West, 1415 California (on ground floor of Sonoma Restaurant bldg.). Tickets \$20. Reservations: 713/394-0464. Info: 713/522-2204.

◆ **Betty's Summer Vacation.** In Christopher Durang's latest work, unsuspecting Betty rents a vacation house with her overly talkative friend Trudy and a group of strangers. Little does she know what her new vacation home holds in store for her: a group of anti-social misfits whose scandalous antics are encouraged by a mysterious laugh track which haunts the house. Tickets \$32-\$42. May 4-27 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/52-STAGE.

◆ **Deathtrap**, a thriller by Ira Levin, was a hugely popular stage & screen success with gasp-inducing thrills & spontaneous laughter. Tickets \$12. Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, May 18-June 30 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

◆ **The Devil's Disciple.** George Bernard Shaw's adventure story, is set during the American Revolution. When the advancing British Army decides to make an example of Anthony Anderson, the town's minister, by hanging him, they find the raucous Dick Dudgeon in his stead. Suddenly finding themselves on the same side, the rabble-rouser and man of the cloth must devise a plan to save the small New Hampshire community. May 18-June 17 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets (previews are \$19-\$35; on or after May 23 are \$32-\$49) can be purchased at the box office or by calling 713/228-8421.

◆ **Eating Crow** is a comedy about a young man who sets out to reverse his fortune through flattery. Tickets \$20 & \$25. Through May 19 @ Main Street Theater in Rice Village, 2540 Times Blvd. Reservations/more info: 713/524-6706.

◆ **Hair: An American Tribal Love-Rock Musical.** Set in New York City in 1968, *Hair* is a fun and, at times, disturbing & unsettling look at the hippy counterculture movement of the times. It is irreverent & silly and poignant & soulful, but always full of the energy & spirit of the late '60s. The show is, at its core, an anti-war piece. May 4-June 2 @ the Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury. Ticket prices/info: 713/467-4497.

◆ **Houston Grand Opera** (HGO). Verdi's monumental music drama *Don Carlo*, though set in 16th-century Spain & France, explores a myriad of conflicts that are as relevant today as they ever were—church vs. state, parent vs. child, lover vs. rival, Catholic vs. Protestant, liberal idealism vs. established authority. Through May 5. • Daniel Catán's *Florencia en el Amazonas* details the journey of the legendary diva Florencia Grimaldi & her fellow passengers on a boat ride down the Amazon. Through May 13. • Both operas @ Wortham Center's Brown Theater, Texas at Smith. Tickets (\$22-\$200) available by phone at 713/227-ARTS, in person at the Wortham Ticket Center, or online at www.houstongrandopera.org. →

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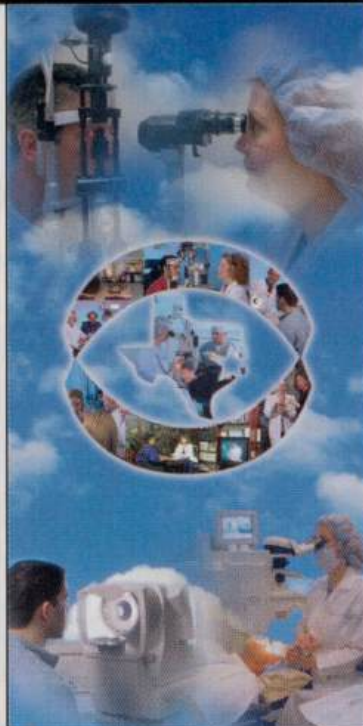
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◆ **The Man Who Had Three Arms.** Rarely produced since its initial brief Broadway run, Edward Albee's 1982 play was savaged by critics, a fact that isn't so hard to understand since "it's partly about them," the three-time Pulitzer Prize-winner was heard to remark at a recent rehearsal. The enigmatic author's comment aside, *Three Arms* is indeed about many things: celebrity, money, faith, morality, mortality, & consciousness itself. As the evening's guest speaker is introduced, the "Man" of the title is revealed to be a once-lauded, now-dismissed creature pushed over the edge of civility. What begins as a benign if not boring lecture soon explodes in typically Albee fashion into an evening of theatrical fireworks & sardonic wit. The audience is forced to bear witness as a man destroyed by forces beyond his imagination lashes out at the blinding dark. Albee was present at a few rehearsals for his play, which runs through May 12 @ Atomic Cafe, 1320 Nance. Admission is \$12. Reservations: 713/222-ATOM; administration/directions: 713/228-8956.

◆ **Mr. Bundy.** Life seems pretty hopeful for a middle-class couple who, with their eight-year-old daughter, are putting their family back together again until a crazed couple arrives on their doorstep and informs them that their neighbor, Mr. Bundy, is a convicted child molester. The problem is that Mr. Bundy is a good friend and sometime babysitter for them. Tickets \$14 (students/seniors \$10). May 18-June 23 @ Actors Theatre of Houston, 2506 South Boulevard, 713/529-6606.

◆ **Picnic.** William Inge's Pulitzer Prize-winning romantic drama/comedy plays through May 13 @ Galveston's Strand Theatre, 2317 Ships Mechanic Row. For more info, call 409/763-4591 or 877-STRAND9 or visit www.galveston.com/strandtheatre.

◆ **Riverdance** is a celebration of Irish music, song, & dance, which focuses on the evolution of Irish dance, as well as its similarities with & influences on other cultures. The original international phenomenon returns to Houston for eight performances only, May 29-June 3 @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets (\$36-\$65) can be purchased at all Ticketmaster locations & online at Ticketmaster.com. Charge by phone: 713/629-3700.

◆ **Raised in Captivity.** This Houston premiere will have you rolling in the aisles with the wacky antics of these dysfunctional & love-starved characters. The play starts off as an improperly-applied shower-head shoots off the spigot and kills the mother of twins, Sebastian and Bernadette. Layers upon layers of hysteria then ensue. There's a death-row-pen-pal, an abandoned dentistry practice, a trip to Africa, a genius baby being born, the appearance of the ghost of the deceased mother, and a therapist gouges her eyes out with an ice pick. All of this goes on while our six characters fall in and out of love (if you can dare to call what they're experiencing love!). Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm through May 19 @ Ashland St. Theatre, 2610 Ashland St. in the Heights. Tickets: \$15, with discounts for students/seniors. Special rates for season tickets & groups of 8 or more are available. For reservations/more info: 713/426-3019.

◆ **Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery** is the story of a young girl's coming of age in the South in the '60s. It is a loving tribute to several older black women who "fed, read, loved, and raised" the character Daughter in Georgia public-housing projects. May 25-June 26 @ The Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main Street. Ticket prices/more info: 713/520-0055.

◆ **Three Days of Rain.** A brother & sister search for a family mystery concerned with locked hearts & hidden identities. Tickets \$20 & \$22. May 2-27 @ Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo. More info: 713/868-7516.

PERFORMING ARTS

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

◆ **Charlotte's Web.** A young girl teams up with a spider & a rat to save an irresistible young pig from the butcher. Tickets \$6. Saturdays at 11 am & 1:30 pm, May 12-June 30 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

◆ **Houston Ballet.** The perfect introduction for children (as well as adults, for that matter) to the beauty of classical ballet is *Coppélia*, the 19th-century comic masterpiece. Set in a Bavarian village, *Coppélia* draws the young lovers Swanilda & Franz into the world of the eccentric Dr. Coppélius & the mysterious, enchantingly lifelike Coppélia, whom they believe to be his daughter. Attracted to this shy beauty reading in the toymaker's window, Franz steals into Dr. Coppélius' fantastic shop; so do the jealous Swanilda & her curious friends. They soon discover that Coppélia is but a lifeless doll, and decided to play tricks on her proud creator. The confusion & mayhem that follows as Coppélius seeks revenge are resolved in the final act's wedding festival. Houston Ballet will give FREE performances May 11-13 at 8 pm @ Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. Tickets: Miller Outdoor Theatre box office at 713/284-8350. For more info: Miller Theatre website at www.ci.houston.tx.us or the Houston Ballet website at www.houstonballet.org.

◆ **There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom.** Bradley Chalkers sits in the last seat in the last row of Mrs. Ebbel's fifth grade classroom. No one sits next to him because no one likes him, not even his teacher. Except for one person, Carla, the new school counselor. She shares her lunch with him, even hangs his picture in her office. They become good friends until the day she has to leave the school. Will Bradley remember the lessons of kindness Carla taught him, or will he revert to being the class monster? Saturdays at 2 & 5 pm, May 5 & 12 @ Main Street Theatre's Chelsea Market location, 4617 Montrose. Tickets are \$8 (adults) & \$6 (children, students, seniors). Reservations/info: 713/524-6706.

RADIO

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

◆ **Lesbian & Gay Voices** 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.

◆ **Art-o-mat.** DiverseWorks joins a network of sites throughout the U.S. serving as hosts for a national

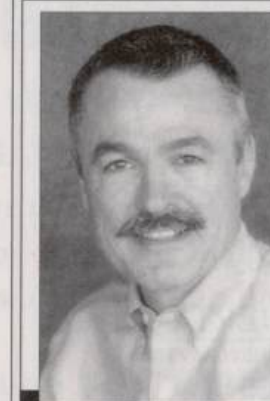
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project known as Art-o-mat. Artists T. Clark Whittington and George Doles III, residents of the tobacco town of Winston-Salem, founded the Art-o-mat project in 1997. Their mission was to create an outlet where artists can expose their names & works to people who would otherwise not see it. They worked under the premise that art should be progressive, yet personal & approachable. What better way to do this than with a heavy cold steel machine? Whittington has refurbished an old cigarette vending machine specifically for DiverseWorks. The group Artists In Cellophane, as well as Houston-based artists, have filled the machine with original works of art that can be yours to keep for a mere \$3-\$5. The machine will be refilled with new art monthly. DiverseWorks will keep it filled to meet your demand. Through June @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/223-8346.

◆ **Between Darkness and Light** features the work of two contemporary artists who use intense darkness & illumination to explore the rescue efforts of the Danes & Bulgarians during the Holocaust. Judith Ellis Glickman's photographs and Karen Gunderson's paintings & drawings not only pay tribute to the moral courage exhibited by the people of Denmark & Bulgaria, but also challenge each of us to take a stand against prejudice, hatred, & violence. Through July 31 @ Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline. For more info: 713/942-8000.

◆ **Lauren Kelley.** A Houston native currently living in Chicago, Kelley creates drawings, paintings, photographs, & sculpture that investigate the layers of issues associated with the image, sexuality, & identity of African-American women. Her goal is "not to make the viewer uncomfortable, but to giggle, step closer to the work, and reevaluate the punchline." May 11-26 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/223-8346. Opening reception: Fri., May 11, 6-8 pm.

◆ **Positive Art.** The photographs in this exhibition were taken by participants in the Positive Art Workshops of the Glassell School of Art. The workshops target adults who are HIV positive. Participants were encouraged to make images and keep journal entries that revolved around issues of self or that described a sense of place. The resulting work is a fascinating insight into the lives, feelings, thoughts, & poetry of people who have been afflicted by HIV. The exhibition is scheduled to hang around at least through May at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

◆ **To the Trade** is a trade show for the art industry. The exhibition doubles as an actual trade fair oriented toward providing services & enabling the viewers to commission the services offered. Artists will be on hand for demonstrations, presentations, panel discussions, & workshops all open to the public. May 4-June 16 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/223-8346.

CALENDAR DEADLINE

for OutSmart's
June issue is
Friday, May 11, 5 p.m.



THE NIGHTTIME PRIDE PARADE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 23 HONORS

Grand Marshals Mitchell Katine and Dalia Stokes,
Honorary Grand Marshals Blake and Gordon Weisser, and
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Pride 2001 (June 1-24) will also feature a variety of
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The space reservation deadline is 5 pm on Friday, May 11, 2001

continued from page 37

TOP: Heinz Dörmer (left) on a camping trip in 1931 with his friend Werner Henneberg, who died in a concentration camp. **BELOW:** Dörmer (born 1912) spent nearly two decades in German prisons and concentration camps for violations of Paragraph 175, Germany's anti-sodomy law.



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OutSmartGuideTo HoustonGay&LesbianFilmFestival5



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

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

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

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

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

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

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. 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.

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 face, 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 Quinaglut®. Cardioquin®, Quindex, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Catergot® and others, for migraine headaches)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)
- Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC), you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

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

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

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 Zocor® (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.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

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

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

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

- Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zent® (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (ddidanosine, 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 15-20% 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 nausea, gas 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. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

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	Body Weight 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 food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Angelika Film Center

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Call theater for film, dates, and showtimes.

Aurora Picture Show

Bi All Means

Tues., May 29, 9 p.m.

"Bi All Means" provides a contemporary and positive look at bisexual identity through documentary and narrative shorts:

• *Female Bidentity: Women Tellin' It Like It Is* (1998, Jennifer Hardacker, 19 min.) is a documentary that intersperses clips of bisexual women discussing what it means to them to identify as bisexual and how this affects their lives.

With fun, "sing-a-long" music-videos clips featuring Amanda Udis-Kessler's song "The Borderline Bisexual Blues."

• *A Summer Dress* (1998, François Ozon, 15 min.) is a lively narrative that tells the story of Frederick and his holiday encounter with a stranger on the beach, which further complicates his already ambivalent teenage sexuality.

• *Peep* (1998, Lea Rekow and Nicky Glover, 3 min.) is an intersection where sex and fashion meet.

DiverseWorks

HUGE

Thurs., May 31, 8 p.m.

HUGE is an all-original program featuring commissioned digital shorts by an array of New York directors. Twenty artists/directors have been invited to interpret the word "huge" in three minutes using a digital camera for one day and editing equipment for two days. The videos include documentary, comedy, and



John Cameron Mitchell sprouts wings as Hedwig. Inset: Director John Cameron Mitchell (we assume he's the one with the long blond hair behind the camera).

▲ *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* shows only once at the Museum of Fine Arts.

▼ *Nico and Dani* starts May 25 at Landmark's Greenway Theatre.

Nico (Jordi Vilches, left) is best friends with Dani (Fernando Ramallo), but Dani's feelings go a bit further.



G...A...why?: What Makes Something Gay?

Fri., June 1, 8 p.m.

Is it content? Intent? Or is it a matter of perspective? This collection of short works asks, as well as invites, each of us to find the answer(s) to that question.

Cucumber Chronicles deconstructs a gay personal ad, word for word, in a campy, post-Monty Python, semiotic study. In the beautifully crafted piece *Tell Me Who Ruby Was*, the complexities of human relationships are explored. And a new perspective on Barbie is offered, this time through the glass of a microwave door, in the hilarious short *Micro-wave*. (After the screening of this collection of short works, there will be a panel discussion on "What Makes Something Gay?" The panel will consist of filmmakers, curators, and folks just like you.)

Landmark's Greenway Theatre

Nico and Dani

Fri., May 25-31, but may run longer

(Spanish w/English subtitles, 2000, 90 min.)

Nico and Dani chronicles the summer holiday of two teenage boys who test the limits of their friendship while discovering much about themselves. Dani and Nico are left on their own at Dani's beach house for a few days; late-night dates and in-house parties promise to be the order of the day. However, their respective sexual awakenings lead them in different directions. *Nico and Dani* successfully captures that moment between the stifling safety of childhood and the invigorating terror of adulthood.

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Hedwig and the Angry Inch

SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING

Thurs., May 24, 9 p.m. (USA, 2000, 95 min.)

Based on his acclaimed off-Broadway play of the same name, John

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Cameron Mitchell's musical stars Mitchell as Hedwig (born Hansel), a drag queen traveling the U.S. with her band, the Angry Inch. While in her native Germany, Hansel falls in love with an American G.I. and, in order to marry him, has a sex-change operation (which goes badly). Left somewhere between male and female, "Hedwig" forms a rock band and tours the country. Described as "Rocky Horror Picture Show meets Tommy," the film took the audience and director's awards at this year's Sundance Film Festival. *Thanks to Fine Line Features for providing the film.*

Paragraph 175 (USA, 1999, 81 min.)

Sat.-Mon., May 26-28, 5:30 p.m.

From Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, the team who created *The Celluloid Closet*, another chapter of the Holocaust unfolds through interviews with six of the known surviving homosexuals who endured unspeakable horrors under the Nazi regime. (See page 36 for more on Paragraph 175.)

Gaea Girls (UK/Japan, 2000, 65 min.)

Sat., May 26, 7:30 p.m., & Mon., May 28, 9:30 p.m. Follow the physically grueling and mentally exhausting training regimen of several young Japanese women wrestlers. Given access to this closely guarded universe, codirectors Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams create a fasci-

nating film about women who are considered subservient by most Westerners, but are depicted here as violent as any member of the World Wrestling Federation.

Vampire Lovers (UK, 1970, 90 min.)

Sat. & Sun., May 26 & 27, 9:30 p.m.

Hammer Films, the most financially successful film company in the history of British cinema, specialized in low-budget horror movies that quickly captured audiences in Britain and the U.S. with their emphasis on blood and gore. *Vampire Lovers* was the first Hammer film featuring nudity and has been hypothesized as the vampire film Sigmund Freud would have made. An angry father (Peter Cushing) goes after a lesbian vampire who ravished his daughter and other young girls in a peaceful European village.

The Wolves of Kromer (UK, 1998, 83 min.)

Sun. & Mon., May 27 & 28, 7:30 p.m.

Described as a modern fairy tale, *The Wolves of Kromer* is also a parable about prejudice and homophobia: The "wolves," played by actors with furry coats and tails, are actually young gay men. On the fringes of the British village Kromer, young wolves are falling in love while an evil maid plots a murder and frames the wolves for the homicide. The incident creates havoc in the village and whips



Top Photos: Gaea Girls wrestle (l) and Gaea Girls gaze. **Lower Photos** (clockwise from left): *Tell Me Who Ruby Was*, part of *DiverseWorks*; "G...A...why? What Makes Something Gay?"; Javier Albala (l) & Gustavo Salmeron in *Not Love, Just Frenzy*; *The Wolves of Kromer*; Rich Bernatovech (l) & Eric Cole in *Sleep in a Nest of Flames*; Charles Henri Ford in *Sleep in a Nest of Flames*; and Peter Cushing (center) in *Vampire Lovers*.



the populace into a bloodthirsty mob frenzy. Directed by Will Gould. • With **Something Close to Heaven** (USA, 2000, 28 min.) Directed by Dustin Lance Black. Set in a small Texas town, this is the story of a boy's struggle with sexual awakening. Trying to suppress his secret desires, he fantasizes about capturing a mysterious winged woman.

Rice University Media Center

Sleep in a Nest of Flames (USA, 2000, 116 min.)

Fri., June 1, 7 p.m.

Directed by James Dowell & John Kolomvakis. In 1931, Charles Henri Ford blazed forth on the literary scene when he and co-author Parker Tyler completed *The Young and Evil*, an honest and celebratory depiction of gay life in New York's Greenwich Village. Featuring archive footage and extensive interviews with Allen Ginsberg, Paul Morrissey, and Philip Johnson, *Flames* paints a vibrant portrait of the now-91-year-old Ford, one of the century's most artistically influential personalities. *Directors Dowell and Kolomvakis will present a Q&A.*

Not Love, Just Frenzy

(Spain, 1996, 103 min., Spanish w/English subtitles)

Fri., June 1, 9:45 p.m. & Sun., June 3, 9 p.m.

Directed by Alfonso Albacete, Miguel Bardem,

& David Menkes. Yeye, Monica, and Maria throw a wild party in the hopes of finding a roommate. Instead, they become targets of an ex-boyfriend-turned-male-prostitute running from the law, a homophobic undercover cop, a transsexual lesbian pimp, and a trio of drag queens who terrorize Madrid's mass transit system! • With **Forever Bottom** (USA, 1999, 4 min.). Directed by Nguyen Tan Hoang. A humorous look at the stigma of being on the receiving end in gay male relationships.

Finished (USA, 1997, 75 min.)

Sat., June 2, 5 p.m.

Directed by William E. Jones. As a performer in gay pornography, Alan Lambert knew his time as a hot commodity was limited, and he acted on this knowledge with a logic that led to his suicide at the age of 25. Originally intended as a morality tale against the vanity of gay male culture, Jones's beautiful experimental film becomes instead a complex examination of an industry thriving in the shadow of Hollywood, and a compellingly personal reflection on the ephemeral nature of glamour and the power of the moving image.

• With **The Fall of Communism as Seen in Gay Pornography** (USA, 1999, 20 min.) Directed by William E. Jones. A disturbing critique of the gay porn industry's infiltration of East-

Thurs., May 24 • Saturday, May 26 • Sunday, May 27 • Monday, May 28 • Tuesday, May 29 • Thursday, May 31 • Friday, June 1 • Saturday, June 2 • Sunday, June 3 • Wednesday, June 6

The Opening Party

for Houston's Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.
6-8 p.m.

At press time, details had not been confirmed.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch

Museum of Fine Arts
9 p.m.

Paragraph 175

Museum of Fine Arts
5:30 p.m.

Gaea Girls

Museum of Fine Arts
7:30 p.m.

Vampire Lovers

Museum of Fine Arts
9:30 p.m.

Paragraph 175

Museum of Fine Arts
5:30 p.m.

The Wolves of Kromer & Something Close to Heaven

Museum of Fine Arts
7:30 p.m.

Vampire Lovers

Museum of Fine Arts
9:30 p.m.

Paragraph 175

Museum of Fine Arts
5:30 p.m.

The Wolves of Kromer & Something Close to Heaven

Museum of Fine Arts
7:30 p.m.

Gaea Girls

Museum of Fine Arts
9:30 p.m.

Bi All Means

Aurora Picture Show
9 p.m.

OutSmart Website

www.outsmartmagazine.com

HUGE

DiverseWorks
8 p.m.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival Website

www.hglff.org

Sleep in a Nest of Flames

Rice Media Center
7 p.m.

G...A...why?: What Makes Something Gay?

DiverseWorks
8 p.m.

Not Love, Just Frenzy

Rice Media Center
9:45 p.m.

Finished & The Fall of Communism as Seen in Gay Pornography

Rice Media Center
5 p.m.

Women

Rice Media Center
7 p.m.

Live Nude Girls Unite! & Home for Christmas

Rice Media Center
9 p.m.

Film Festival Closing Night Party

Rice Media Center
9-11 p.m.

Massillon

Rice Media Center
5 p.m.

Just One Time

Rice Media Center
7 p.m.

Not Love, Just Frenzy & Forever Bottom

Rice Media Center
9 p.m.

Live Nude Girls Unite! & Home for Christmas

Rice Media Center
7 p.m.

Just One Time

Rice Media Center
9 p.m.

A special thanks to the Houston Endowment for its very generous support of the film festival

Friday, May 25

Nico and Dani

Landmark's Greenway Theatre
(scheduled to run through May 31; call theater for showtimes)

Angelika Film Center

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

Aurora Picture Show

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

DiverseWorks

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

Landmark's Greenway Theatre

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

Museum of Fine Arts

Tickets: \$5
(\$4 for museum members, seniors, and students)
Location: 1001 Bissonnet
Info: 713/639-7515 or www.mfah.org

Rice Media Center

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

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

OutSmartGuideTo HoustonGay&LesbianFilmFestival5



Right: Anthony (Lane Janger) in *Just One Time*. Far right: a stripper in *Live Nude Girls Unite!* Inset: film-makers of *Live Nude Girls* Julia Query (left) and Vicky Funari.



From director William E. Jones: Left: a frame enlargement from "Finished." Inset: a still from the video "The Fall of Communism as Seen in Gay Pornography." Right: a frame enlargement from "Massillon."



ern Europe, Jones's mesmerizing collage of adult films shot in the former Communist Block concludes with a shocking series of screen tests involving young men being "auditioned" for a future production. *Director Jones will present a Q & A.*

Women (USA, 1999, 86 min.)

Sat., June 2, 7 p.m.

Directed by Maia Akiva. Shot on a budget of \$3,000, this confident first feature stars *General Hospital's* Hazel Patterson as Jennifer, a mysterious and attractive young woman who enters the lives of Tom and Karen, a straight man and lesbian who share a life-long friendship. Tom and Karen's friendship is shaken up when they discover their mutual attraction for the enigmatic Jennifer. *Women* is a witty and sincere look at the unusual alliances between lesbians and straight men. *Director Akiva will present a Q & A.*

Live Nude Girls Unite! (USA, 2000, 70 min.)

Sat., June 2, 9 p.m. and Wed., June 6, 7 p.m.

Directed by Julia Query & Vicky Funari. Co-director Julia Query (lesbian, exotic dancer, and daughter of Dr. Joyce Wallace, high-profile feminist activist) took to the picket line with her fellow dancers when their employer, San Francisco's famous "Lusty Lady," violated their worker's rights. • With *Home for Christmas* (Norway, 2000, 5 min., Norwegian w/ English subtitles). Directed by Frank Mosvold. While her mother is preparing the Christmas turkey, Annie tells her she is a lesbian. Is her family's loving response a dream or a dream come true? Winner of the Best Short Film Award at Outfest 2000, Los Angeles.

Massillon (USA, 1991, 70 min.)

Sun., June 3, 5 p.m.

Directed by William E. Jones (see also *Finished*). Director Jones's astonishingly mature

first feature is a beautifully contemplative cinematic poem on growing up gay in the Midwest. Over beautifully pastoral images of his hometown, Jones narrates his at-times-painful recollections of growing up in conservative Ohio and his eventual misguided migration to California in search of a gay-friendly oasis.

Just One Time (USA, 2000, 92 min.)

Sun., June 3, 7 p.m. and Wed., June 6, 9 p.m.

Directed by Lane Janger. When New York City fireman Anthony (Lane Janger) reveals his fantasy for a threesome to his fiancée, Amy (Joelle Carter), she is less than amused. Amy reluctantly agrees to find a beautiful woman to share the matrimonial bed, but stipulates that she'd like her own threesome. Jealousy is inevitable as their wedding date looms, and they wonder—will one time prove to be one time too many?

OutSmart'sGay&LesbianFilmFestivalGuideSponsoredBy

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Those Who Are Left

continued from page 46

look below the surface lies at the heart of their success as filmmakers.

Theirs is an unusual partnership. Few films list "co-directors." I asked Epstein: How exactly do they go about co-directing?

"There's no set formula, we're both present on the set most of the time and, if for some reason, something takes us away, we

Bull—"and so we're directorial in the editing process. That allows for a lot more arguing and disagreement. We have similar sensibilities so when we argue it's usually because something is not working and we have to find another way."

I asked Epstein how he and Friedman met.

"I was living in San Francisco in 1975 and working on the film *Word Is Out*, a

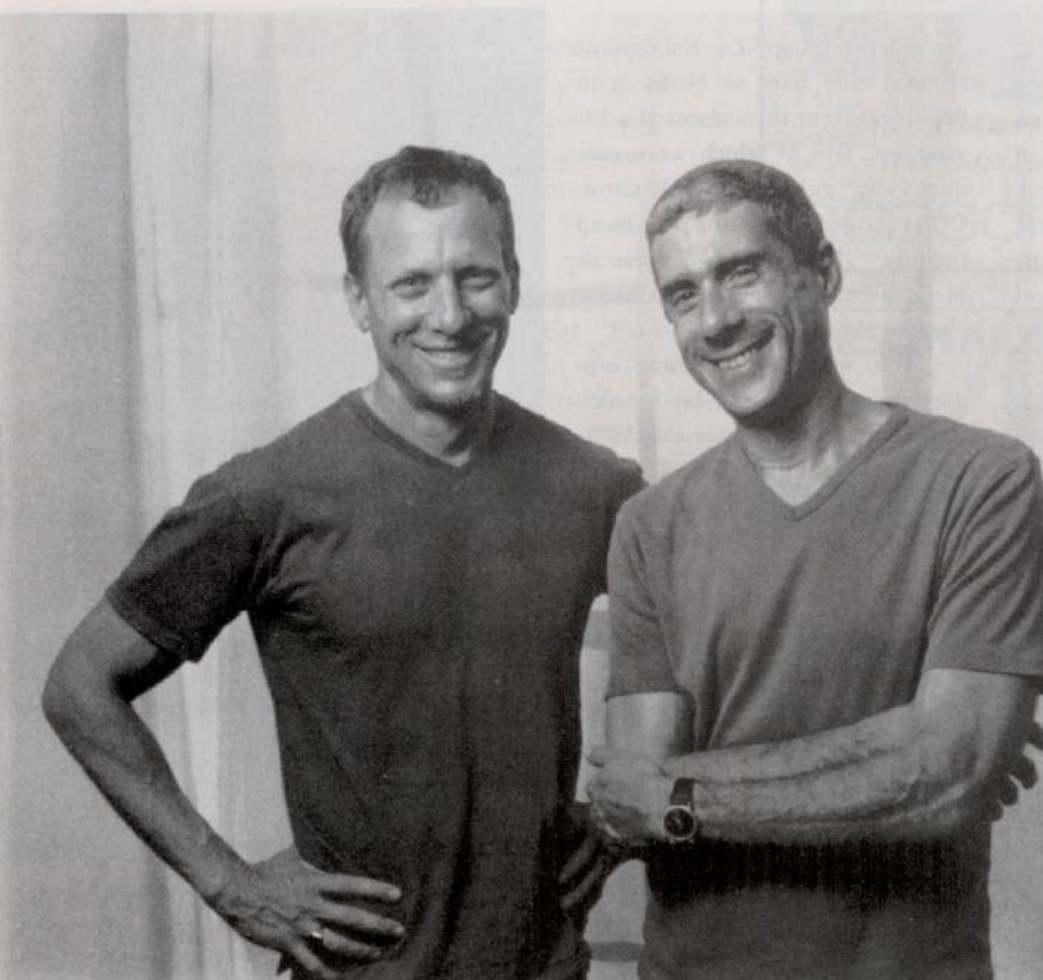
tor on the project—I asked him how in the world that happened.

Epstein laughed. "A very brave move on the part of Peter Adair [a pioneer in gay and lesbian cinema who died of complications from AIDS in 1997] to bring in a neophyte. I guess he saw the possibility that as a young person, a young gay man, I would bring all of that into the film, which I did. He encouraged and nurtured and allowed

me to grow in that process with a watchful eye but with a free rein. It was Peter's brilliance and generosity that allowed that to happen."

From *Word Is Out*, his very first work, to his latest effort, *Paragraph 175*, Rob Epstein has repeatedly demonstrated the sensitivity toward his subjects and open-mindedness crucial to documentary filmmaking. Epstein talked about his approach to the subject and subjects of *Paragraph 175*.

"Going into it, I think we expected to have a much closer sense of camaraderie with these men. Their experience was so different from anything that we've experienced that it really wasn't the case. [We were] outsiders from every respect. These were German men, Christian men, and subjected to abuses we cannot even fathom." Instead of drawing back, though, Epstein finds common ground with these men. "I'm not yet an old gay man, but I might be someday. I think about that in looking at these men and how they're dealing with the last years and months of their lives and looking



Filmmakers Rob Epstein (left) and Jeffrey Friedman, co-directors of *Paragraph 175*, are the same team that delivered *The Times of Harvey Milk*, *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*, and *The Celluloid Closet*. Epstein: "We're both present on the set most of the time and, if for some reason, something takes us away, we trust the other to steer the ship. . . . And we trust each other's instincts."

trust the other to steer the ship. If we're doing an interview, [only] one of us is *doing* the interview and confers with the other during reel changes. We go into an interview very well-prepped. We spend a lot of time working out what we expect the direction of the interview to be so we're like-minded going in. And we trust each other's instincts. In the editing process, we're both very involved. We both have very strong editing backgrounds"—Friedman worked with William Friedkin on *The Exorcist* and Martin Scorsese on *Raging*

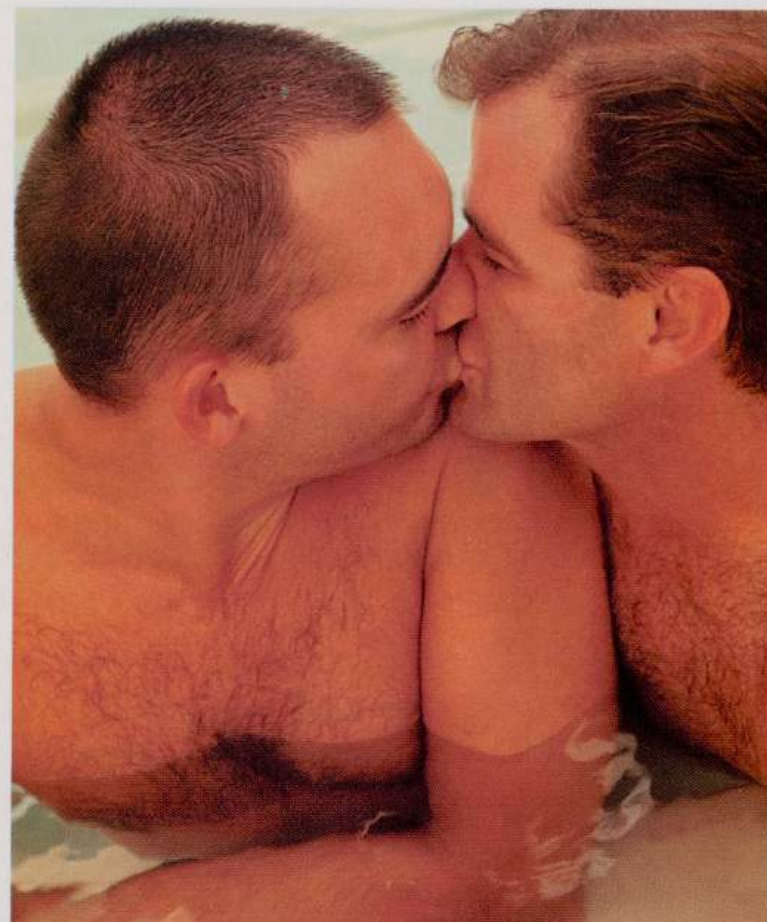
very early landmark gay documentary. Friedman saw the show in New York and wanted to meet the filmmakers and came out to San Francisco. One of the filmmakers hosted my 24th birthday party and Friedman was at that party. We've been partners in film for 14 years; we were partners in life for 10 and we've remained family as our relationship changed."

I had read that Epstein had answered an ad for volunteers for *Word Is Out* in pre-production and ended up as a co-director

back at the lives they've lived." *Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein's Paragraph 175 makes its Houston debut at the Museum of Fine Arts, Saturday & Sunday, May 19 & 20, 7:30 p.m. It will be screened again at the MFA Saturday-Monday, May 26-28, 5:30 p.m., as part of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.*

When John isn't writing for OutSmart, he keeps himself busy writing film reviews and essays for his website, www.johnwstiles.com.

MARC GELLER (PHOTO COURTESY TELLING PICTURES)



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WOMEN TO BE RECKONED WITH

Stevie Nicks and Ani DiFranco find common ground in new releases

Stevie and Ani. One dresses in exotic chiffons and velvets, the other wears a nose ring and tank top. One writes songs so shrouded in mystery, only she knows the meaning. The other's lyrics often are so direct you're ready to follow her into battle. Could there be a sharper contrast between two of modern music's most original rockers? Maybe not, but with both women releasing new CDs this spring, they share more in common than just rhyming first names.

In her first studio release since 1994, Fleetwood Mac front woman Stevie Nicks makes a welcome solo return with

Trouble in Shangri-La. No signs of trouble exist here as Nicks is in fine vocal form throughout the 13-song set, five of which were produced by gal-pal Sheryl Crow. Other guests lending a hand include Macy Gray, Sarah McLachlan, and the Dixie Chicks' Natalie Maines.

Even with such a strong supporting cast, *Shangri-La* is ultimately all Stevie. From the 1972-penned "Sorcerer" to radio-ready ballad "Everyday," Nicks reclaims and redefines her role as the high priestess of rock with a new sense

of confidence. Yes, all the mystery is still there—something unequivocally missing from today's pop stars—but also present is a wiser understanding of herself and her universe. On "That Made Me Stronger" she realizes that only she can find her true self again when a friend refuses to help her with songwriting. "Well you know me better than I know myself. Can you write this for me? He says no, you write your songs yourself."

That made me stronger. It made me hold on to me." Good advice is hard to find, but lucky for Nicks (and us) she takes it and runs with it.

Newfound maturity is also apparent on Ani DiFranco's latest release *Revelling Reckoning*. Gone are the old issues of sexual labeling. DiFranco has since married (a man) and moved on, something her lesbian following has had to deal with.

Her music has moved on too. Always one to experiment, DiFranco's endeavors prove worthwhile on rousing solo performances that make up about half of the double CD. This is especially true on *Revelling*, the first CD, where DiFranco shows off her love affair with

the guitar. *Revelling* also finds her tinkering with jazzy influences as legendary horn player Maceo Parker and trumpeter Jon Hassel make guest appearances.

Reckoning, CD two, exposes the more intimate side of DiFranco. She paves a smooth road into her heart and mind by slowing down the musical tempo and turning up the lyrical content. Fans of DiFranco's signature call-to-arms prose won't be disappointed; she's still as outspoken as ever. She calls the Reagan-Bush era a "plague" on the opening song "Your Next Bold Move." But the difference now is her search for atonement in herself and society. *Reckoning* becomes a move into maturity for DiFranco.

Stevie Nicks is back as high priestess of rock: Yes, all the mystery is still there, but also present is a wiser understanding of herself and her universe.

Here lies the common ground between Nicks and DiFranco. Maturity. There's nothing more important to an artist's career than growth, but to flourish as an artist requires a certain maturity. How one reaches that maturity is to each her or his own, and how one expresses it ultimately becomes their legacy. Despite their contrasting images, both Nicks and DiFranco

have discovered a new level of confidence and maturity in their artistry. They're a little older, a little wiser—and we are a little better off for it. ■

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

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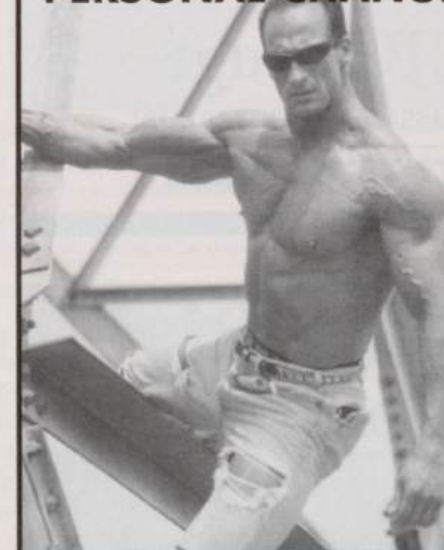


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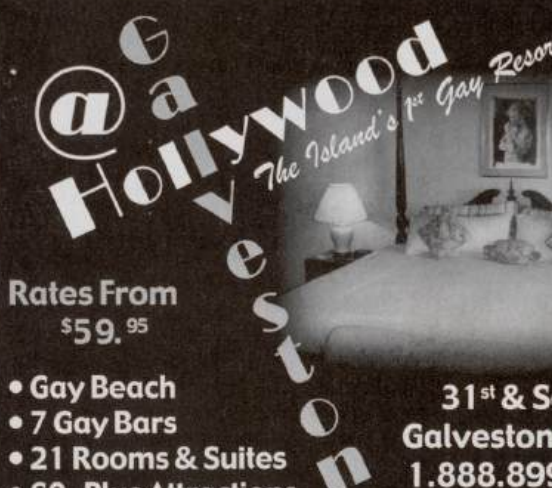


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(NBC, 4/2/01)

In the episode "There's No Place Like Homo" on *The First Years*, the following exchange took place between Warren Harrison (a gay lawyer played by Mackenzie Astin) and his mother (played by Patty Duke).

Warren: . . . I did some pro bono work . . . and they're honoring me with a community service award. I was hoping you and Dad would come. It's kind of a big deal. . . . Because this group, it's the Gay & Lesbian Legal Association. . . .

Mom: What a Christian thing to do, son, to help those people.

Mom, I am those people.

I was going to have some tea . . .

Mom . . . Mom . . . I am those people.

I have um, um, Earl Grey and . . .

Mom, listen to me! Mom.

Why are you doing this? Why are you doing this now? . . . I have maybe a year and a half left. Warren, I didn't need to know this.

You already know this, Mom, and ever since you threw me

out of the house, we've been playing this game . . . Threw you out?! . . . You chose to leave.

You were forcing me into therapy to make me straight, Mom, and I'm not. I can't be. And we can stop pretending that I can. . . . [Shouting] I have a right to live my life as I choose, Mom! [Also shouting] And we have a right to live our lives the way we choose! Even if that means going to my grave hanging on to the hope that before I get there, I'll see my son married to a woman. Why does your right supercede mine? How dare you, Warren. You wanted honesty . . . here it is. You're my first-born child, you'll always be my baby. I love you, Warren, but I hate the fact that you're different. And it's too late to ask me to change that.

Then I won't. All I ask is that you be [at the awards banquet] for me. Please come. [He leaves, and she picks up the invitation to look at it. Warren's parents don't show up.]

Robin Tyler (lesbian comic)
on Eminem (rapper)

(Gay & Lesbian Review, 4/2001, Robin Tyler)

In an interview, *Rolling Stone* asked Eminem, "Would you say 'nigger' on a record?" The rapper's response was that "[t]hat word is not even in my vocabulary. I don't think that you can put race alongside gender, a man preferring a man." Here, then, are some of Eminem's words, with "faggot" and "lez" changed to racist and ethnic slurs:

My words are like a dagger with a jagged edge

That'll stab you in the head

Whether you're a nigger or a kike

Or the chink, wop or wetback

Pants or dress-hate niggers, the answer is yes.

You niggers keep egging me on

'til I have you at knifepoint, then you beg me to stop.

If Eminem were to put this on an album, he would be attacked, vilified, and disgraced. And yet, when he uses the words "faggot" and "lez"—or "bitch" and "slut," for that matter—it's called humorous and satirical. Thanks to the serious work of community advocates over generations, hate applied to other groups is generally not tolerated these days, even by the likes of Eminem. And yet, gay people and women are still fair game. Those nongay artists who would protest the altered lyrics above, but who call it "art" when applied to GLBT people, must believe that we're second-class citizens. Those GLBT artists who feel similarly need to develop some self-respect.



Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Mackenzie Astin (Out, 4/2001, Jeffrey Epstein)

"Mom has always been an icon to the gay community, which has been wonderful for me as her son."

Patty Duke (The Bulletin, 1986)

One of many reasons Patty Duke has been an icon to the gay community: Accepting the AID FOR AIDS (AFA) Woman of the Year Award in 1986, she said, "Whether or not they know it now, everyone will be involved in the fight against AIDS in one way or another. Whenever one segment of human life becomes endangered—no matter what form the battleground may take—mankind as a whole becomes vulnerable. Denial and lack of involvement are invitations to defeat. . . . I am pleased to accept the AFA Woman of the Year Award in the name of the inevitable victory over AIDS we are all seeking."

Margaret Cho

(author & "fag hag," . . . and we mean that in the nicest way)



The following quote is taken from Margaret Cho's new book *I'm the One That I Want* (Ballantine Books, \$22.95), which is a must-read for everyone. Run, don't walk, to your nearest bookstore . . . now!

When I really understood that I was surrounded by homosexual men, the first thing I felt was *safe*. I felt calm and protected and thrilled at the voyeuristic possibilities all at the same time. I knew I'd be okay. . . . I had been the object of keen interest of many of my father's friends and a male relative, and I had already received countless touches that felt rude and invasive. I was wary of men. . . .

Homosexuality brought me back to men, made me see they could be trusted, and even loved. I've never stopped feeling this way.

Patty Duke and Mackenzie Astin

(actress, *The Miracle Worker*,
Valley of the Dolls)
(actor, *The First Years*)



LIKE MOTHER, LIKE SON *The First Years*, a new NBC show about young lawyers, stars, among others, Mackenzie Astin as a gay man. In April, Mackenzie's real-life mom, Patty Duke (pictured here with her son) guest-starred as a mother in denial of her son's gay lifestyle. Though in real life they're both presumably straight (but definitely not narrow), Astin now joins his mom as having played gay: Duke starred as a lesbian fashion designer who wants to be a mother in the 1981 Canadian film *By Design*.

From Joan Rivers: *The El! True Hollywood Story*, which was essentially a one-hour April Fools' joke: **SUSAN LUCCI:** She [Joan] was passionate all right . . . passionate for men, passionate for women . . . **KATHY GRIFFIN:** I was one of many, I'm not gonna lie. I can just remember her screaming in bed—she's a screamer. I liked that.

LILY TOMLIN: She must have called me five, six times a day.

JOAN RIVERS: People think I'm a lesbian. I have no idea why. I mean, the girl/girl thing truly has never appealed to me. I do have masculine legs, though.

Joan Rivers (comedy legend)
(The El! True Hollywood Story, 4/1/2001)



JOAN RIVERS Is she a lesbian?!

TRACI BINGHAM: I was walking down the red carpet . . . she just grabbed my boobs. I mean, it's okay if we're in private doing stuff like that, but in public—I was so disgusted.

GRIFFIN: I thought Joan and I had something special. [Pause] Tell her I said hi.

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JOAN: I just don't want to say anything 'cause it's just too new. I'll just say . . . okay, I'll just say she's from New York . . . and she's a senator. That's all.

Ricky Martin (singer)

(Entertainment Weekly, 4/6/2001, Jim Mullen)

A woman claiming to be [Ricky Martin's] girlfriend says he's all man. She said that about the last guy she dated, too. Elton John.

THE Mother OF ALL Megastars

Dame Edna is no Mother Teresa . . .
but she was Gertrude Stein

by Blase DiStefano
Photos by Joan Marcus

*I*t is no fun having mauve hair, not when you are a school kid. I always felt different from the other girls anyway, somehow brighter, more on the ball. . . . I was rebellious, yet far from naughty, prematurely intelligent, yet certainly no know-all. But the thing that set me apart most of all was my halo of bright wisteria curls. . . .

"I was always tall—I was a tall baby—and my mauve mop naturally made other girls, whether black, mousy, blonde or

ginger, green with envy. My only friend seemed to be [my kindergarten teacher] Miss Ely. . . . With a spooky premonition of the future, Miss Ely comforted me. 'One day you will be proud of your height and your unusual hair,' she said soothingly. . . . I later learned to be proud of the crowning gift Dame Nature had given me when, as a teenager, I first started to grow hair that I could sit on."

—Dame Edna Everage
My Gorgeous Life (1989)

→



Dame Edna Everage graces
Houston's Jones Hall stage
June 5–10!

Dame Edna & Tony

Pretty in Pink:

Dame Edna presents the Best Costume award at last year's Tonys. Inset: Her manager, Barry Humphries, accepts Dame Edna's Tony for a Live Theatrical Event.



BOTH PHOTOS: ANITA & STEVE SHEVET

Last year Dame Edna: *The Royal Tour* received a special Tony Award for a Live Theatrical Event. Her manager Barry Humphries accepted the award. However, Dame Edna herself presented the award for Best Costume Design wearing a pretty pink ensemble. A month earlier, after learning that she would receive the award, Dame Edna made it part of her act. From Guy Wegener of theatre.com: "During the segment in which Dame Edna tele-

phones the real-life babysitter of a hapless audience member, Dame Edna spoke to 'Sue' about not only her own experiences as a sitter, but also as a Broadway star. 'Can you believe it?!' the self-styled 'Housewife Superstar' trilled into the onstage phone, 'I've received a Tony for this show too!'"

Dame Edna has also received the Drama Desk Award and an Outer Critics Circle Special Achievement Award, among many others.

The 2001 Tony Awards will be broadcast live Sunday, June 3, on PBS from 7-8 p.m. with the first 10 awards, then continue on CBS from 8-10 p.m. Returning as executive producer of the telecast is Gary Smith, who served in that same position for five years (1993-1997).

Tony Trivia on executive producer Gary Smith: In 1963, Smith was 27 years old and working as the art director of *The Judy Garland Show* when he was asked to become the show's producer, something he described as "a baptism by fire." Smith went on to produce Paul McCartney's first and only television show, Elvis Presley's last, Bette Midler's first, and Bing Crosby's last. He was responsible for an adaptation of *Peter Pan* that starred Mia Farrow and Danny Kaye, four years of Emmys, three years of People's Choice

Awards, four years of AFI "100 Years" specials, ABC's 24-Hour Millennium coverage, Command Performance Specials for the Queen of England, as well as productions for Frank Sinatra, Luciano Pavarotti, the Apollo, Woody Allen, and Radio City Music Hall, among others. He produced President Clinton's Inaugural Gala in 1993 and 1997. And last, but not least, Smith has been executive producer for most of Barbra Streisand's specials, including the May 2001 telecast of her AFI Life Achievement Award.

WHO IS DAME EDNA?

In case you've been out of the loop on the eccentric part of the entertainment front, Dame Edna Everage is the hilarious creation of Barry Humphries, an Australian import who became popular in England in the '70s. Dame Edna—who refers to her audience and fans as "Possums," a somewhat-yucky but nevertheless endearing term—became wildly popular in the early '80s. She sings, dances, but mainly talks to her audience with her distinctive brand of interactive and improvisational humor. Because of the wonderfully wry expressions on her face, Dame Edna's silences can be as funny as her phrase turning.

Although it may appear as if it is Humphries who dons the "gay" apparel, the mauve-coifed Dame Edna is truly a separate entity; she even states in one of her letters recently written to her fans on her official website: "My manager Barry Humphries has been asked to speak at Harvard University where they will no doubt take his grandiose claims as the inventor of my act with a big pinch of salt. Obviously, in his pathetic way, he is angling for another honorary degree."

As John Simon of *New York Magazine* says, "The funniest man in today's theater. Also the funniest woman."

When I was offered the chance at an almost-exclusive interview with the dame (with Dame-like modesty, let me point out that you'll be fascinated to know that for her upcoming Houston show, at press time only *OutSmart* and the *Houston Chronicle* were granted the chance to talk to the megastar), I found the 20 minutes allotted hardly enough time to delve deeply into this tall, mauve-topped dame's psyche. "What do you think of our new president?" "Do you believe gays should have the right to marry and to be out in the military?" "Has another woman ever put the make on you?" I had so many questions, so many. But alas, unless someone else asks Dame Edna Everage, these burning questions will go unanswered.

MOTHER OF A GAY SON?

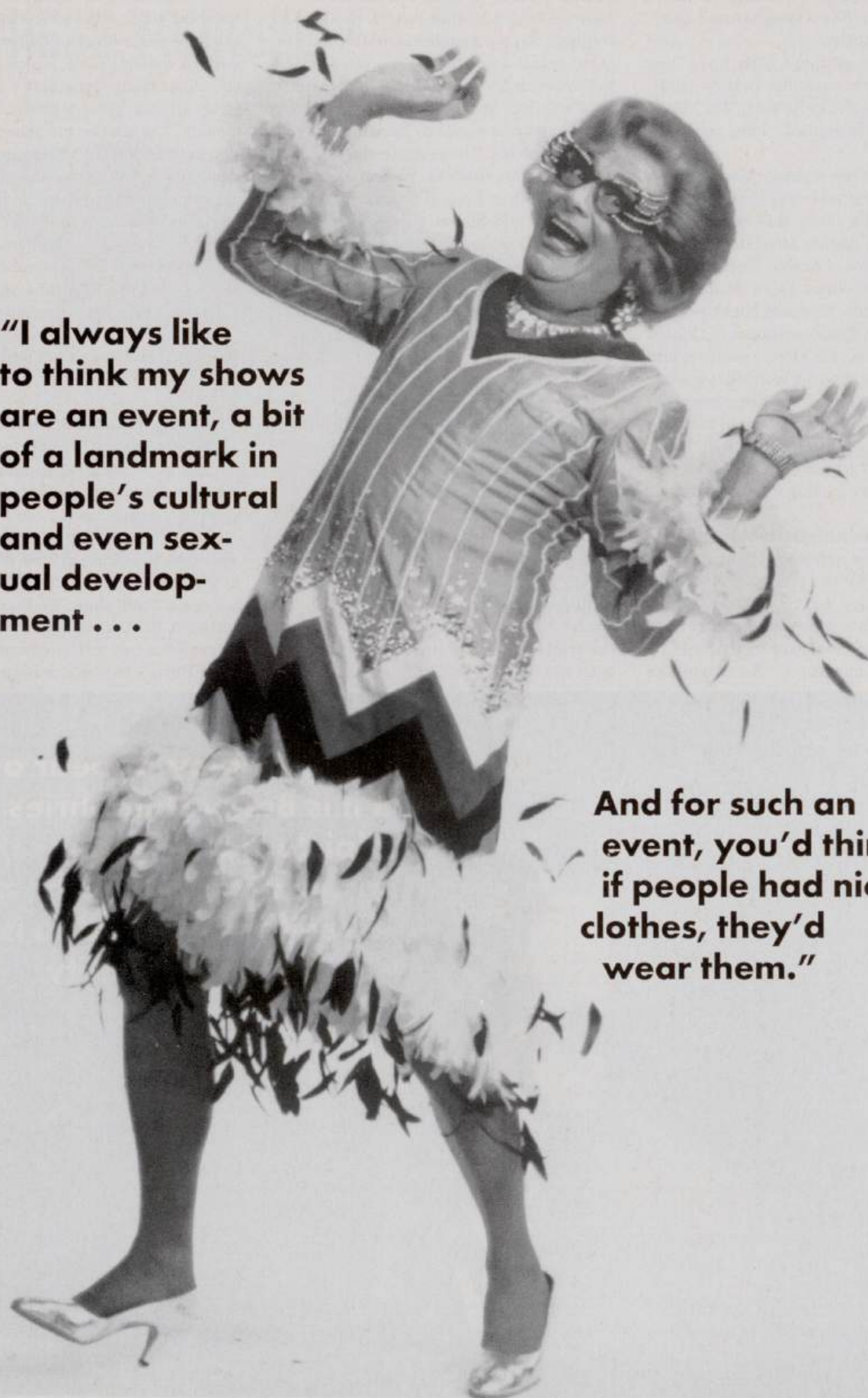
According to the press release, "Dame Edna is a housewife, megastar, investigative journalist, social anthropologist, talk-show host, children's-book illustrator, chanteuse, swami, advisor to British royalty, spin doctor, and icon."

They forgot "mother."

Kenneth Everage is one of three children the dame bore. In *My Gorgeous Life*, Dame Edna recounts the evening when

"I always like to think my shows are an event, a bit of a landmark in people's cultural and even sexual development . . .

And for such an event, you'd think if people had nice clothes, they'd wear them."



Kenny needed to talk to her about something important. She was exhausted and had taken a sedative.

"Things were getting a little fuzzy," she says, so she can't remember exactly what he said, but she *thinks* he said, "I'm hilarious," to which she replied, "I beg your pardon, Kenny."

According to her memory, Kenny for some reason went on to say that he had been hilarious for years, that "some wonderful people in history have all been hilarious: Lawrence of Arabia, Oscar Wilde, General Gordon, James Dean, Michelangelo, Beethoven, Florence Nightingale..." Dame Edna continues, "I *think* he said 'hilarious.' I'm almost positive, and if it wasn't that, it was a word that meant much the same thing." The discourse continued, until Kenny's mum ended it by saying that "there's nothing wrong with being hilarious. But if you are, darling, then for heaven's sake try looking a bit happier about it."

In my phoner with Dame Edna, the word "gay" never comes up. Right when my lips are pursed for the probe—"Kenny told you he is hilarious, but..."—Dame Edna expertly maneuvers the conversation. "I never knew what he meant by that and I still don't," she interrupts. "Every now and

then, our paths cross, but because I'm so busy, we see each other briefly. He's always trying to tell me something, but frankly he never gets it out. I think it's a son wanting to bond with his mother and it's natural. I have a feeling he has a little girlfriend tucked away he wants to introduce me to and he's too shy. That's my feeling."

Talk about clueless. Wanna know how clueless? When I ask if Kenny (who is now in his mid-30s) is still president of the Joan Crawford fan club, Dame Edna leaks more clues: "No, he's now president of the Yvonne De Carlo fan club incorporating the Gloria Grahame Society and the Australian chapter of the Virginia Mayo Society."

"Boy, is he busy," I interject.

"He is very busy," Dame Edna says. "He was asked to be honorary treasurer of the Mitzi Gaynor Society, but he's too busy, too busy."

Though clueless, she apparently does have a motherly side, because what Dame Edna is saying in her response to Kenny's "hilarity" is that there's nothing wrong with being different. And she should know—when you're born with mauve hair, you grow up understanding the trials and tribulations of blending in with the tedious people.

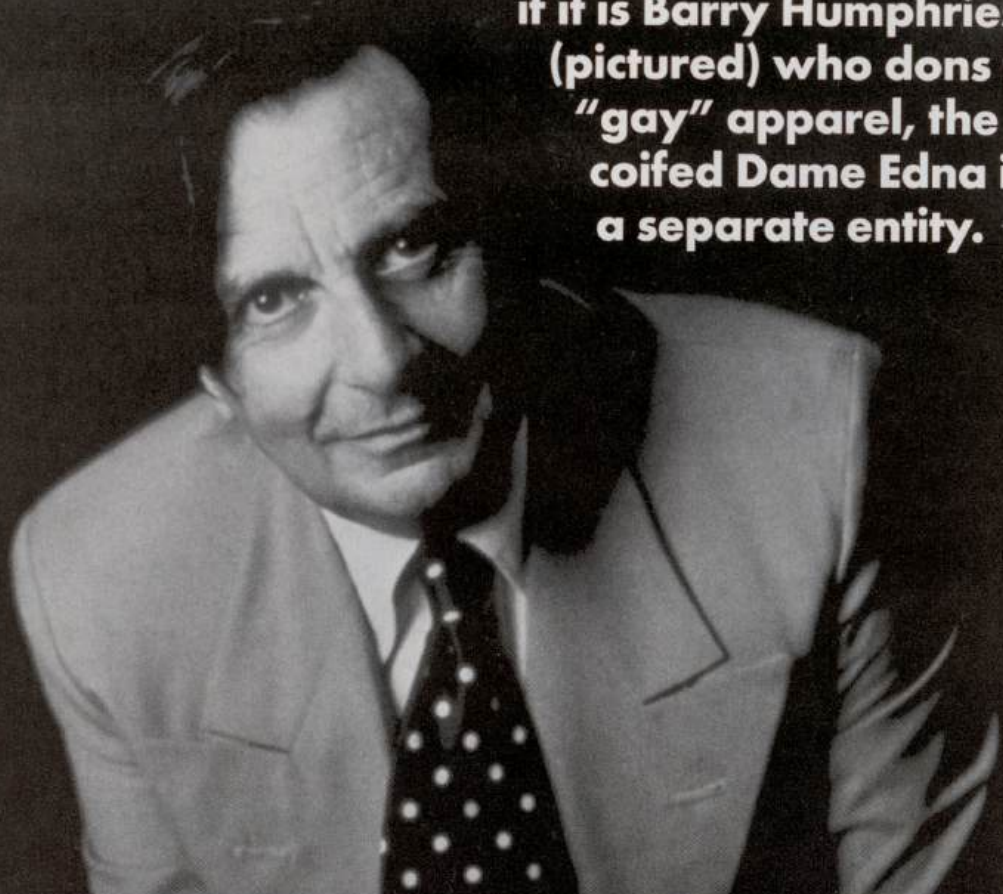
Though she later dyed her hair brown for a few years, she soon accepted the fact that she was different and reverted to her natural wisteria roots, which have become one of her many trademarks, including her glitzy glasses, glittery gowns, and glorious gladioli. The glasses are showy and attention-getting, which, as you can see, fit the dame to a T; the gowns also are showy and attention-getting and are designed by her hilarious son Kenny; and the "glads," as Dame Edna refers to the flower she distributes to some lucky members of the audience, are "from Australia, and they're bigger and brighter than American ones, I'm sorry to say." Once you know Dame Edna, you know she's not really all that sorry to say anything.

STRAIT-LACED & UNSAVORY?

The humorous Humphries is straight but gay-friendly. The dauntless Dame Edna is also straight; however, she is considerably strait-laced... on the surface.

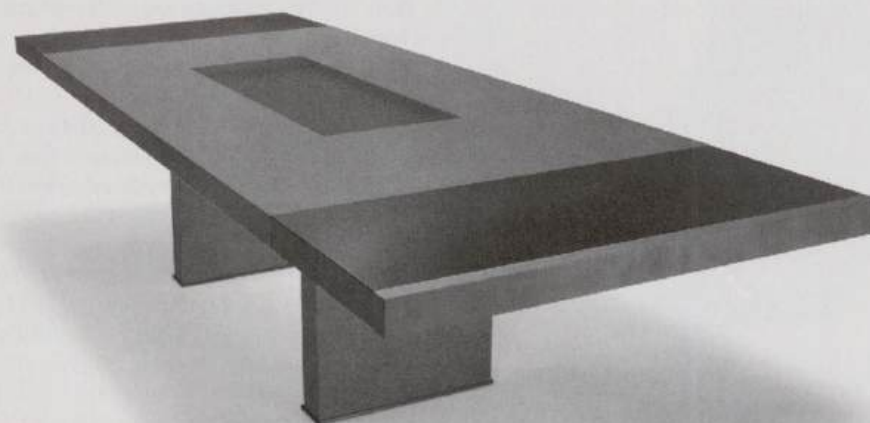
Our phone conversation takes place while she is in Chicago, one of many cities in which Dame Edna will be performing her one-woman show. We begin our conversation at 10:30 a.m., and it seems that Dame Edna has just awakened. There is a bit of Barry's bass at the beginning, but in

Although it may appear as if it is Barry Humphries (pictured) who dons the "gay" apparel, the mauve-coifed Dame Edna is truly a separate entity.



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only a few seconds Dame Edna's voice reaches its high-pitched low tone. "I love communicating with people," she says, "and the joy of my show is that people understand me. You know, they think I'm a British entertainer. I'm not. I'm an Australian. There's no language or dialect problem. You're not thinking *What did she say, what was that again?* Everything I say is crystal clear."

Crystal clear . . . verbally, that is. To a question from Sam Whitehead of *New York Time Out* as to whether her audience in San Francisco was largely gay, Dame Edna's response was somewhat conventional: "Someone told me there were people with proclivities in the audience, but I didn't notice anything unusual, and I saw nothing unsavory."

"I was Gertrude Stein, and, strangely enough, my bridesmaid Madge Allsop was Alice B. Toklas."

"Proclivities" and "unsavory" are the kind of words Dame Edna thrives on—they're not everyday words and their meanings are not necessarily crystal clear, yet they have an almost . . . uh, well, *unsavory* sound to them. She wants your mind to go in *that* direction, but she doesn't want to be responsible for taking you there. Actually, I love the fact that she takes me there; that's part of the fun. And simply imagining her beautifully executed voice saying those words tickles my funny bone. In fact, I had to force myself to not laugh over her answers for fear of not being able to decipher them later.

"I'm very approachable, as you found, Blase," she humbly offers. "You may find me physically a little daunting, mainly because of my incredible intellectual power, which cuts like a laser beam through hypocrisy."

Sadly, there was no time to garner some of that intellectual power in a discussion of politics, so I can only surmise that, had she been an American citizen, she would have voted Republican.

RELIGIOUS & REINCARNATED?

Luckily, there was time to touch on religion and reincarnation. Are you ready?

"People have said [somebody like me] could only happen in America, that I should start a religion," Dame Edna begins. "Where you are [in the States], Blase, is really the home of all these—dare I use the word?—'crackpot' religions. I think I dare. But mine would be a wholesome religion, and it would be just encouraging people to be more like me. It wouldn't cut across any of their accepted beliefs. I don't presume to play God or Goddess, I just want people to be nicer. Frankly, wouldn't you say the world would be a better place if everyone was like you?"

With her question, I am abruptly removed from my total concentration on her non-stop discourse, and I let out a surprising guffaw and a "well, yes."

"I'm in a position to almost achieve that," she says matter-of-factly.

Knowing that she believes in reincarnation, her saintly attitude inspires me to ask if she thinks she was once Mother Teresa.

"Well, the problem is that she was alive at the same time. So I would have been very busy, wouldn't I?"

She continues over my laughter. "I didn't enjoy it much, but I was the wife of President Lincoln. All I did was work on the redecoration of the home. If you read about Lincoln, you'll find his wife was mostly out shopping. She was the original shopper and decorator."

Any others?

"I was Emily Dickinson, the poet. I was Gertrude Stein, and, strangely enough, my bridesmaid Madge Allsop was Alice B. Toklas."

"No!" I exclaim.

"Isn't that amazing!" Dame Edna concurs, then asks, "Ever seen a photograph of Alice B. Toklas?"

"Yes," I answer, wondering what's coming next.

"Alice is a beauty compared to Madge," she says. Apparently, Joan Rivers is not the only woman who can get away with such a politically incorrect comment.

I'M GLAD, YOU'RE GLAD

When I ask Dame Edna about celebrating Mother's Day, she says she'll mostly be talking to her American godchildren. "Nicole Kidman is a goddaughter of mine," she says. "Russell Crowe is my godson. I taught Russell everything he knows. When he was a baby, and he was being christened, I brought a beautiful bunch of gladioli, and I put one in his little hand, and his little chubby fingers closed around the sturdy stalk." (If this conjures up in your mind something a little phallic, it's supposed to, though Dame Edna would be appalled if someone were to imply that her words have double meanings.) "And do you know I think that's what gave him the idea of *GLADIATOR*. . . the word association. Because he thanked me when he got the Oscar. Do you remember that? He didn't say the words, but his lips formed my name."

"I wondered what that was," I say, my mind straying to thoughts of whether being "glad" and "hilarious" might both have something to do with clutching gladioli. "That must have been a very thrilling moment for you."

"Yes," Dame Edna replies, "it made me proud of my little protégé," and then out of the blue, "How old are you, Blase?"

"I'm 54."

"You're a toddler, you're a child," she says.

"Do you mind telling your age?" I timidly ask.

"Let me say that I'm a little bit older than you," she says, but then continues with a typical Dame Edna remark,



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"but you wouldn't think it. I'm slightly on the wrong side of 50 and, believe me, I'm going to stay there. I'm not moving."

HOUSTON & AN ISLAND

She may not be moving, but she is traveling. Dame Edna's visit to the Space City is expected to be a special treat for Houstonians. "My son Kenny designs all my clothes," she says, "and he's designed some special outfits for Houston. I have heard—and this is a relief to me—that the women who come to the theater in Houston dress to the nines."

"Has this not been the case elsewhere?" I ask.

"I swear I've been very, very disappointed, even heartbroken, at the very low standard of dress," she says. "I always like to think my shows are an event, a bit of a landmark in people's cultural and even sexual development. And emotional development. Moral, physical, emotional... call it what you will. And for such an event, you'd think if people had nice clothes, they'd wear them. I say to women in Boston and Detroit and Chicago, *If you have nice clothes, where have you hidden them?*"

"Do you plan to visit former President Bush and Barbara while you're here?" I ask.

"I haven't had an invitation," she says. "It's extraordinary, isn't it, because I helped Barbara out of a polyester phase. But no thanks from that family. But they might come to see me. You might try and arrange for someone to extend an invitation."

Instead of saying *Huh?* which is what I'm thinking, I say, "That's a good idea," and then I immediately change the subject. "So Kenny designs your clothes?"

"A lot of women wear his clothes," Dame Edna says. "A lot of stars are asking where they can get Kenneth Everage originals. I think he's the Bob Mackie of the millennium. Wait till you see the ones I'm going to wear in Houston."

"I can't wait," I say.

Apparently our time is up. "Sorry, but I've got a couple of other people I've got to talk to," she says.

I beg to ask one more question, and she graciously agrees.

"If you were stranded on a desert island, and you could only have one person with you—not a friend, family member, or lover—who would it be?"

"Do you know," she says, "I think it would be Hillary Clinton."

"Why is that, Dame Edna?"

Her priceless retort: "Because it is the only way to keep her out of American politics."

I laugh heartily.

She ends with the perfect aside: "Naturally, I wouldn't talk to her, and I'd keep her on the other side of the desert island."

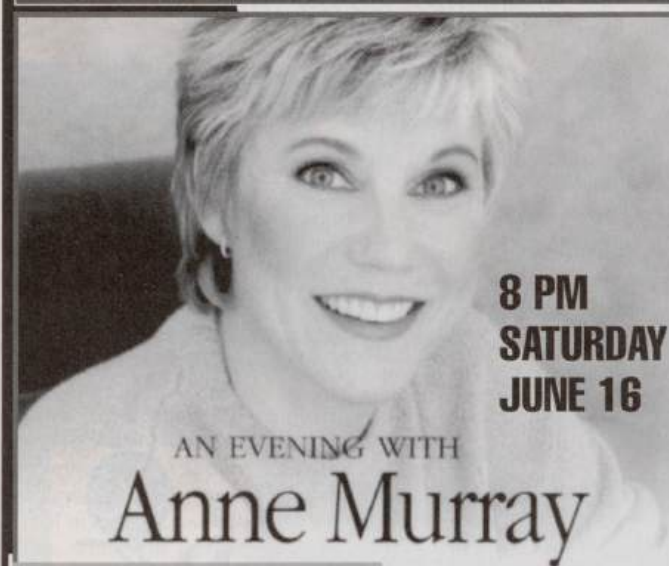
Dame Edna: The Royal Tour plays June 5-10 at Jones Hall. Ticket prices range from \$36-\$55. A privileged Possum price for OutSmart readers: \$40 orchestra tickets for Wednesday, June 6—use discount code "J" online at ticketmaster.com, at any Ticketmaster outlet, or by phone at 713/629-3700. Performance times are Tuesday-Saturday, June 5-9 at 8 p.m., with a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. and the Sunday performance (June 10) at 7:30 p.m. As syndicated columnist Liz Smith said: "I don't know when I've had a better time in the theater. Go right this minute and arrange your tickets!" Dame Edna opened on Broadway on October 17, 1999, and closed July 2, 2000, to get ready for this royal tour.

Interested in finding out more on the megastar Dame Edna and/or her tour? Check out these websites: Dame-Edna.com and DameEdnaOnTour.com. Her two CDs, Edna's Show Songs—A Precious Collectors' Item and Color Me Edna are available for purchase on the websites and will be available at her Houston show. On one of the CDs, the chanteuse croons "Friends of Kenny," a special song about her hilarious son's friends.

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*Luscious food, lovely casual surroundings—
we share one of our favorite Italian haunts: Prego*

One night, just over a year ago, I was struck by an urgent hankering for a thin crust brick-oven pizza. After driving around town, I was directed to Prego, an Italian restaurant in the Rice Village. I sat at the bar, sipped some wine, and read over the menu while I waited for my hastily ordered pizza. A comfortable vibe circulated around the room, seeming to enter through all of my senses—immediately I was hooked. Now, when I'm feeling too tired to prepare dinner, but feel awake enough to avoid fast food, Prego is always one of my first choices. It's a single restaurant with multiple personalities: a relaxing lunch spot, a hip dining outing, a quiet family brunch option, and a Sunday night jazz hangout. What I like best about Prego is that the restaurant's attitude is casual but the food is gourmet.

During the day, warm sunlight streams through the many windows and lights up the interior. At night, candlelight casts shadows in the warm darkness. Creamy beige walls highlight black and white abstract photos, dark-stained wood shelves display the many wine bottles stacked beside the snug bar area. At the back of the room, a small open kitchen sends active cooking sounds and enticing aromas out into the cozy room.

Prego uses the same menu for lunch and dinner; the pizzas and pastas are fantastic and make a great lunch or add a salad for a light dinner. The thin crusts on the brick-oven pizzas allow the flavor of the toppings to really stand out. The margherita pizza is sweet with whole milk mozzarella, roma tomatoes, basil, and tomato sauce.

The pastas are a good demonstration of the ingenuity of chef and part owner John Watt, who also works the Back Street Café kitchen. The sauces are as varied as the shapes and the ingredients, and will make you want to return until you have had the pleasure of sampling them all. After many visits, I'm still discovering new tastes on the menu. Each dish has its own distinctiveness. If you're feeling like something light but rewarding, try the *capellini* (angel hair pasta), tossed with fresh roma and oven-dried tomatoes, basil, garlic, and olive oil. With the complimentary bread you can dip in their herb-infused olive oil, it makes for a quick and healthy meal.

On the heavier side of the pasta scale is the spaghetti with veal meatballs, pancetta, crimini mushrooms, scallions, and marinara sauce. The rich meatballs make this a wonderful grownup version of a childhood favorite. The sauce is superb and lightly covers the perfectly cooked pasta.



Chocolate Tower: Layers of Chambord-soaked white cake and white chocolate mousse wrapped in a white and dark chocolate lace in chocolate and raspberry sauces.

The intimate bar is an ideal spot to plunk down, by yourself or with a friend, to enjoy a glass of wine and a sample from the appetizers, which are all very good across-the-board.

The pan-roasted mussels are beautifully mild, the accompanying flavors of corn, scallions, and parsley allowing the mussels to speak for themselves. The wood-grilled Tuscan bread, thickly cut and topped with green sauce is a delicious way to sop up the residual juices.

In the pan-browned potato gnocchi, gooey clumps of mozzarella are mixed in with tangy oven-dried tomatoes and porcini

mushrooms—you'll be dreaming of this dish.

If you happen to be sipping on a bold red wine, you might try instead the raviolini; gorgonzola is stuffed into the pasta pockets and explodes out to join up with the sinful butter sage sauce and sprinkled walnuts. What a combination!

Other must-try appetizers are the corn flour-crusted oysters, lightly sautéed in herb butter with asparagus, black olives, and roma tomatoes, and the potato-crusted lump crab cake with lobster and roasted corn butter. (It is served as an entrée as well with French green beans and parmesan mashed potatoes—divine.)

There are seven types of salad: the Caesar is a fair rendition, but there are more interesting options such as the house salad with greens, artichokes, olives with gorgonzola cheese, or either of the tomato salads.

But all of these delights aside, let's talk about why Prego has become a favorite dining location: its entrée menu. The risotto is exquisitely prepared, just the right amount of chewiness and moisture. Try the risotto with goat cheese, peas, roasted corn, green beans, mushroom, and asparagus. Or, for a special occasion, try the risotto with lobster, caramelized onions, oven-dried tomatoes, and sherry. Both are tremendous. Well-blended flavors infiltrate the fluffy grains, yet each bite is different from the next with the variety of ingredients.

For an Italian restaurant, Prego has an incredible selection of seafood offerings, some tossed with pastas or on their own. The Mediterranean shellfish soup—their version of bouillabaisse—is filled to the brim with lobster, shrimp, mussels, clams, oysters, calamari, and scallops swimming in a tomato-saffron broth. This is for seafood lovers only (and rich ones too—it's \$19.95). The seafood is lovely and tender; however, the night I sampled the shellfish soup, I experienced an unpleasant aftertaste and feel that it is to be avoided.

Highly recommended would be the lasagna with veal meatballs, cheesy with rich tomato sauce and great with their bread; or the parmesan-crusted veal scallopini, tangy, crunchy, and fulfilling with the accompanying veggies, garlic mashed potatoes, spinach, and artichokes. Both are my

DineOut
by E. J. Arnell

standby dishes if the specials, always including fresh fish, don't sound appealing.

I haven't felt the need to venture into their category called "Pecan Wood Grilled Selections." My read is that these items are on the menu for people who don't feel like true Italian food, but are with someone who does. They grill a collection of pork, chicken, fish, lamb, and beef and twist the ingredients to resemble Italian fare, like adding Chianti-mustard sauce to beef tenderloin.

Just in case you are feeling full just from reading this, know that when the server flaunts the gorgeous-looking dessert tray it's impossible not to order something. Like the dinner menu, there is something for everyone's palate, and the desserts are prepared in-house daily. One of the meekest-looking desserts just happens to be one of the best, the *panna cotta*. Intense flavor is packed into this cream-based custard, served with fresh berries. Naturally they have tiramisu, with a spongy bottom that is thicker than most, a beautifully



Chef and co-owner John Watt.

creamy center, and a dusting of cocoa on top of the marscarpone cheese. I could explain the nine others, but they are worthy of a first-hand viewing.

Sunday brunch at Prego is truly a combination of breakfast and lunch, with eggs crossing over many barriers to find themselves in unfamiliar, interesting territory. Try the brunch pizza, which has a thin crust with tomato sauce, prosciutto, mozzarella, and an egg that is cracked on top before the pizza is slid into the brick oven. The egg comes out gooey, which is perfect for dipping the crispy edges of the pizza into the soft yolk. Make sure you ask for a well-done pizza if you like hard eggs.

Of the two frittatas on the brunch menu, I tried the one with pancetta, fontina, and scallions, served with flavorful but soft, roasted rosemary pesto potatoes. The pancetta and scallions end up on the bottom, with the fontina covering the entire top with parsley sprinkles. Despite the flavor of the pancetta and the scallions, it still

seemed a little bland. Salt and pepper really helped—which is the way with eggs—but I was made to feel like a goof for asking for the non-existing ketchup. It may be an Italian restaurant, but hey, it's breakfast in America.

Also for Sunday brunch they offer cinnamon French toast, an oven-roasted pancake or parmesan crepe that comes topped with a seafood armoricaine sauce, and a couple of pastas and calzones. The regular menu is available for brunch, as are the daily specials, which tend to be a little heavy for the early hours.

Prego's strength truly lies in the food, but this award-winning restaurant has received acclaims for both the food and their wine list. *Money Magazine* called them Houston's best-kept secret, and the *Wine Spectator* gave them their award of excellence for the past three years. Fortunately, the amount of national attention hasn't caused them to become pretentious or sloppy. Use your mood to choose your food, and try Prego when you're feeling up for something downright delicious. ■

Prego, 2520 Amherst (in the Rice Village), 713/529-2420. Opens Mon.-Fri. at 11:30 a.m., opens Sat. & Sun. at noon. Mon.-Thur. & Sun., open until 10 p.m. Fri. & Sat., open until 11 p.m. Live acoustic jazz guitar by Ray Wilson, Sundays from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

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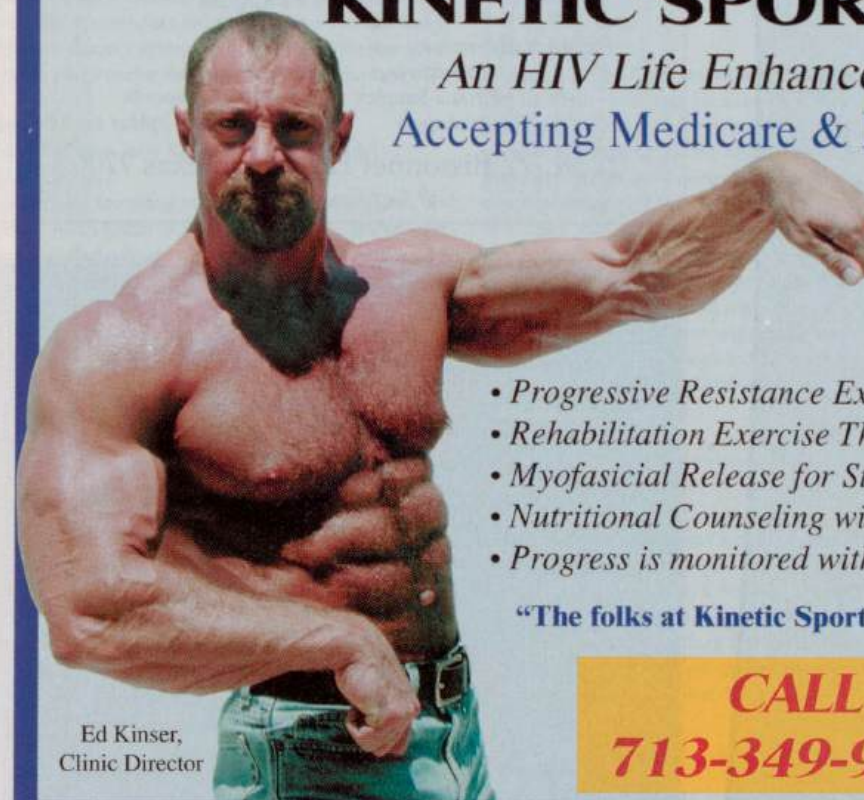
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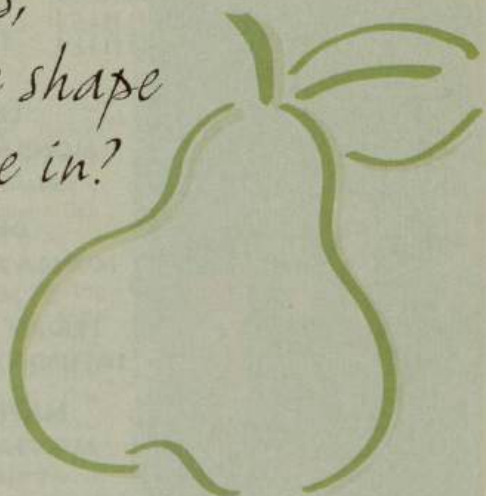
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A Taste of Houston

Tapas-style reviews
OutSmart Restaurant Guide

A note about our "tapas" dining reviews: You may have noticed that our advertisers are listed in our tapas section. Biased? You bet! By advertising in OutSmart, our advertisers are indicating that the business of the gay & lesbian community is important to them—and that's important to us at OutSmart. Of course, there are many other excellent and supportive restaurants out there, and we rotate mention of them into our tapas section.

Baich's Bar and Grille

2016 Main
713/650-8830

Baich's (pronounced bay-chess) Bar and Grill is housed on the ground floor of the 2016 Main Condo. Serving uptown Southwest cuisine in a downtown atmosphere, this classy spot is the perfect location for a quiet romantic dinner. For starters try the corn crab chowder; a Baich's specialty made with sweet yellow corn and fresh lump crabmeat. There are pizzas, pasta, and a variety of sumptuous entrees: my favorite being the Southwestern Pasta consisting of chicken breast grilled to perfection, black beans, and pico de gallo with a tomato-cilantro cream sauce over fettucini. The art covering the walls is by superstar artist and 2016 Main resident Kermit Eisenhut. Live jazz on Friday nights. Entrance on Main with valet parking. \$\$

Barnaby's Café

604 Fairview (Hopkins)
713/522-0106

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

benjy's

2424 Dunstan (b/w Kelvin and Morningside)
713/522-7602

Lose those distracting mirrors and you've got pure orgasmic Asian fusion in a single-page menu. Seared tuna wraps stuffed with goat cheese and fresh greens are indescribably delicious and served with thin, crispy veggie chips; inventive salads will make you second-guess yourself, so bring several companions and split everything. \$\$

Boulevard Bistrot

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

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

Café Composé

1525 Westheimer
713/529-5449

The charming crew at Café Composé has taken the old Pot Pie location near the Westheimer curve and repainted it in wake-you-up spring neon colors. This

French-influenced sandwich-and-salad joint has a charming "let's put on a show!" exuberance, and its menu offers fresh and inventive items like the Middle Eastern chicken shawarma sandwich, and intriguing salads like "légumes du France" (portobello mushrooms and grilled eggplant with a lemon-herb dressing), or the "al menga" (mango, black beans, and pico de gallo with mango dressing). The prices are good, the atmosphere fun, and the youthful staff accommodating to special orders (although beware the hidden \$1 charge for the green salad with the sandwich, which is not printed on the menu). \$

Churrascos

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

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

Crostini

2411 S. Shepherd
713/524-8558

Although Chef Chai Rapesak is Thai, he opened Crostini five years ago because he loved pasta, and his inventive "contemporary Italian" dishes are most delicately intriguing. Taking fresh Thai herbs he creates such dishes as lemongrass pasta, salmon griglia brushed with ginger balsamic vinegar, and papaya salad in a spicy lime vinaigrette with feta cheese. Or try the popular appetizer Shrimp Crostini, stuffed with crabmeat and topped with sliced portobello mushroom, mozzarella and sweet jalapeno sauce. All served in the sedate open room with its facade of French doors curving along Shepherd, brick-colored walls, reddish wood chairs and jazz in the background. \$\$

Daily Review

3412 West Lamar (@ Dunlavy)
713/520-9217

This intimate cafe hides in a residential neighbourhood, but is well worth finding. They serve contemporary American food in a casual atmosphere. Two must-tries are Tony's Southern Fried Chicken (served only on Wednesdays) and the delicious organic 100 percent Hereford beef. When the weather permits try sitting in their shaded patio overlooking the garden. Great beer list. \$\$

divino

1830 West Alabama
713/807-1123

There is a lot of passion in this father-son team, both self-

taught experts in the two themes at divino: "Italian restaurant" and "wine bar." The wine list is great for sampling with the two-ounce tastes, and the menu is simple and good. The pasta dishes come in two sizes and the larger portion is definitely a meal's worth. For entrees there is chicken, pork, beef, and fish, which come with a variety of vegetable and grain accompaniments. \$\$

Eatzi's Market & Bakery

1702 Post Oak Blvd. (@ San Felipe)
713/629-6003

Its Alice in Wonderland myriad of choices (approximately 1,500) is a tad overzealous, but the presentation of this gourmand deli take-out is so stunning you'll be drooling within minutes. Everything baked is gorgeous and crusty, and the glass-enclosed salads, sides, and entrees span the globe. Take home an array of prepared dishes—asparagus, couscous, stuffed filet mignon wraps, a half-dozen or more chicken salads, several dozen pasta salads, just to give you a taste—and your guests will think you slaved for hours. Of course, all this comes with a price tag, so bring your Amex and prepare yourself for a food-filled obstacle course. \$

Estancia Grill

414 West Gray
713/807-1111

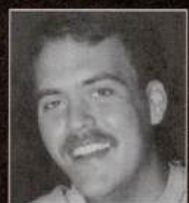
An open grill is the focal point of the kitchen at this casual upscale eatery. Already known for its Argentinian dishes, the new menu features cuisine from all of the Americas including Mexico and other Latin American countries. The bar menu serves up mouth-watering tapas. Also served are pastas, steaks and seafood entrees along with a variety of soups, salads and sandwiches all of which reflect the bold flavors of South America. Best of all, chef Greg Webb promises to dish up some of his favorite items, most notably the Opal Duckling. The atmosphere sparkles with simple elegance and the service is attentive. \$\$

Java Java

911 11th Street
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A comfortable neighborhood restaurant that exemplifies the homey Heights, serving breakfast, lunch, and weekend dinner specials. Thursday is chicken fried steak night, Friday is seafood, and Saturday is prime rib. With a mural outside and the purple medley of painted plaster walls and rustic cement floors, owner Matt Parson has created a cozy "just settle yourself in" atmosphere. The menu offers healthy sandwiches, burgers, and pastas, and a salad bar worth visiting. A new covered patio is filled with tropical plants "from the yards of everybody who works here," says longtime waiter Richard. "We're all plant freaks and I said it doesn't make sense to go spend a lot of money on plants when we all have more than we know what to do with." \$

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A Taste of Houston

Tapas-style reviews

Lobo Bookshop & Café

3939 Montrose
713/522-5156

A tasty little neighborhood sandwich shop/bookstore for the adult in every-
one. The pristine sandwich menu (lunch only) features tasty turkey, chicken,
and roast beef sandwiches—simple, fresh, and filling. Add chips, a drink, and a
touch of voyeurism and you've got a sensual meal. Bring a friend or a good
book, or peruse the store for some interesting reading. If anything, it will
whet your appetite. \$

El Meson

2425 University (Rice Village)
713/522-9306

Somewhere between Pappasitos and a Florida Cuban dive, this Rice Village Cu-
ban-Mexican is the darling of Medical Center diners. Regulars insist on the
black bean soup, chunky guacamole (some say the best in the Southwest) and
potent margaritas, and its low-key atmosphere make it a comfortable haven for
families. We learned about yuca here (like a potato, only yummi-er), and have
been a yuca devotee ever since. \$

Mosquito Café

628 Fourteenth Street, Galveston
409/763-1010

This trendy, sleek little cafe offers a welcome break from the typical Galveston
fried seafood scene. Gay owned and operated, the Mosquito offers fresh gour-
met salads, sandwiches, and pasta, and has a beautiful patio dining area with oh-
so-Southern iron furniture and umbrellas and lots of tropical island flowers. Located
within walking distance of the Strand. \$

Niko Niko's

2520 Montrose
713/528-1308

Serving good hearty Greek food since 1977, Niko Niko's is the crossroads of
Montrose, where you can see just about everybody pass through on a Saturday
night, from Urban Animals, to hungry Pacific Streeters, to white-haired Unitar-
ians. As hearty as Zorba the Greek, every item in the house is full of flavor, from
the mousaka to the souvlaki. \$

Oscar's Creamery

1201 Westheimer
713/521-1808

Cyber-space and dairy. Who knew what a wonderful combination it would
make? The folks at Oscar's Creamery, that's who. Priding themselves on the
best damn vanilla ice cream (even calling it "vanilla" seems a shame) this side
of Brenham, Oscar's also boasts a wide and ever-changing variety of specialty
flavors to tease, tantalize, and thrill your palate. After recently adding an internet
bar, you can order up a double waffle cone of mocha fudge coffee ripple and
go online to see where, exactly, they find the mocha fudge coffee cows it
comes from. \$

Pot Pie Pizzeria

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 out-
door 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 broth-
ers Silboey bring you Italian cuisine so unusually well seasoned you'll notice the
pasta as well as the sauce. The simple dinner salad is alive with fresh vegetables and

A Taste of Houston

Tapas-style reviews

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. \$\$

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 match-
ing wine list available to the entire population seven days a week. Two hip loca-
tions differ in style and mood, but not in the yummy, unconventional pastas or
reliable bellinis. \$\$

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. \$

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. \$

Ziggy's Healthy Grill

2320 W. Alabama
713/527-8588

Ziggy's was always healthy and wholesome, but now that the three new owners
are doctors, you know you're in for a guiltless gourmet experience. Although the
decor is still a bit on the utilitarian side, we seek out Ziggy's when we don't feel
like being embarrassed about our urge to eat healthy—you can even ask to see
their binders with the nutritional contents of all their dishes. Both healthy and
yummy, they offer comfort food like lean meatloaf, sweet yam fries, and pecan
acorn squash; we especially love Ziggy's baked veggie sandwich and buffalo burger.
They've all sorts of wild game burgers (known for being way lower in fat than
regular cow beef)—even such exotica as ostrich, antelope, caribou, or kangaroo!
Their latest offering is the Tuesday happy hour, with fresh blueberry margaritas
and discounted appetizers. \$

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

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

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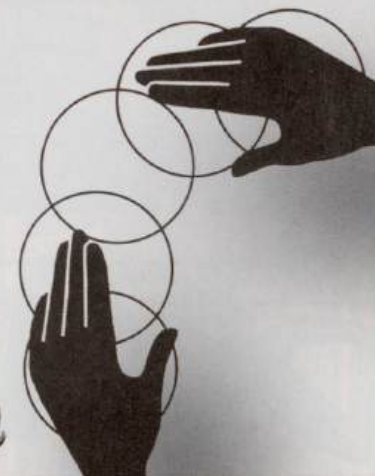
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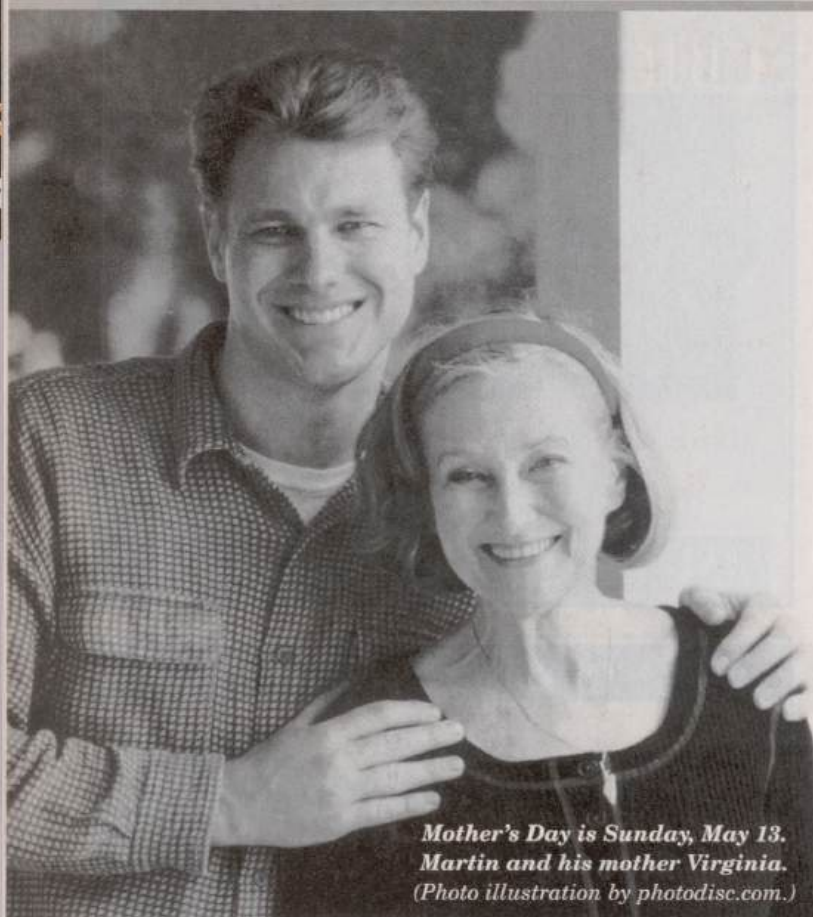
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*Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13.
Martin and his mother Virginia.
(Photo illustration by photodisc.com.)*

A Gay Man & His Mama

*Learning to "turn into the skid"
after the loss of his mother*

by Randy Siegel

Mother was the taproot of our family tree. During her last few years, visiting her hospital room was a daily ritual for my two brothers and me. Through visits, doctor conferences, and updating family friends, my brothers and I grew closer. Looking back, I know this was Mother's plan.

She knew she was our touchstone and worried we would drift apart after she died. Our lives were so different, and in many ways she was our only connection.

My mother died more than 10 years ago. Her death was a slow one. It often is with cancer.

Upon her death, our family appeared to fall apart. Two coming-outs, three divorces, and a mental breakdown followed, yet the broth-

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New Listing
1311 West 22nd Street \$189,900
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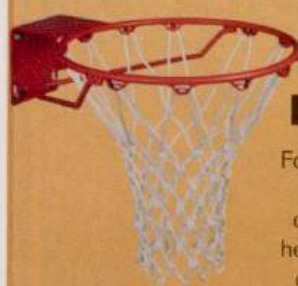
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ers stayed together. Having two gay sons may have been a lot for her at first, but in time I know she would have come to accept the change. For above all else, she loved her boys.

Despite my love for her, I could not grieve her death. The pain of losing Mother was too intense. My feelings froze the day she died.

Friends with casseroles, flowers at the funeral, and the long limousine ride home followed. When I look back, all is little more than a blurry memory, a surreal dream faded over time.

At her service, a flood of emotions raged beneath the surface, yet I could not cry, really cry. I feared I might lose control. If I were not careful, I would sink so deep that I could never resurface. After the service I barricaded myself in her kitchen, unable to

face the host of friends who came to pay their respects. I was afraid

**I see the elegant
Sunday suppers
where she served
Kentucky Fried
Chicken out of sterling silver bowls. I see the silly flowered bathing cap she wore to the beach each summer. I hear the sound of her laughter, and I smell Chanel No. Five.**

to see my own pain mirrored in their eyes.

Instead of facing my pain, I shut off my emotions and lost my

emotional core. Blocking emotions in one area of my life meant blocking them all.

If loving someone meant losing him, I could not risk loving. I pledged I would never again feel like an abandoned child.

For 10 years, I was disconnected from people, even those I loved most. For 10 years, I was numb.

Today, the ice is melting and I am beginning to regain feeling. Seeing a lover share the challenges of a new career with his mother jolted my emotions from their sleep. His mother's intense concern, sincere sympathy, and loving support made me long for my own mother. Never have I felt so alone.

I feel raw, vulnerable, and lonely. I spend more time by myself and tear up while watching the most benign television shows. My feelings flinch at the most innocent comments. I miss my mother so much my stomach aches.

Instead of masking the pain, I am leaning into it. I am turning the wheel into the skid.

"I came to explore the wreck," poet Adrienne Rich wrote. "I came to see the damage that was done and the treasure that prevailed."

By facing her death, I am free to see her life. Her memory is now with me always.

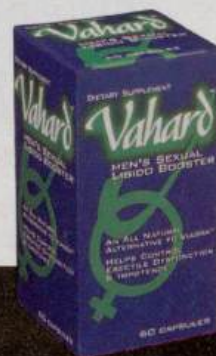
I laugh when I remember what an awful cook she was. I awoke each morning to the

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sound of toast being scraped and the smell of burning bacon. Regardless of being culinarily challenged, she insisted on fixing her boys a big breakfast.

I see the elegant Sunday suppers where she served Kentucky Fried Chicken out of sterling silver bowls. I see the silly flowered bathing cap she wore to the beach each summer. I hear the sound of her laughter, and I smell Chanel No. Five.

A special bond holds a gay son and his mama. Perhaps it is because we will never marry a woman who can replace our mother's love.

For most gay men, our mothers are irreplaceable and losing them is one of the hardest things we face. For no matter how much we are loved by fathers, friends, families, spouses, or lovers, no one can replace a mother's love.

As a child, I would chant "Mama! Mama! Mama! I want you!" when nightmares came. Within seconds she was there, and the bogeyman would disappear into the night.

Closing my eyes, I feel my mother's loving arms around me, and I am at peace. For me, there's still no safer place than in Mama's arms. ■

Randy Siegel is a writer, trainer, and coach living in Asheville, North Carolina. He can be reached at RASWriter@aol.com.

Big Queer Screen continued from page 35

introduction—to show our straight counterparts who we are, what our art is, where our concerns are, and how we view ourselves. The best way to get to know any group of people is to learn how they know themselves. Although your story may not exactly be told, the struggles we all face may well be. And if we, along with the rest of the community, take that from a film, the walls that separate us as a community may start to be replaced by a feeling of unity in the bigger sense of the word.

So armed with uniqueness, we present the fifth annual Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. And boy is ours unique! Unlike other festivals across the world, our festival does not have a central programming voice, or curator—we are actually a consortium of film houses that have come together to present programming that would appeal to the gay and lesbian community. Each of the venue presenters agrees to program their movie house during the last week of May with what they feel is the best example of film currently available that fits both our mission and their own. To a newcomer this idea may seem a bit odd and problematic, but after watching how this festival functions, I began to see why this works and why it is of

service to our community. Six separate locations, six separate programmers, and six separate one-week programs. DIVERSITY. Our venues are Landmark's Greenway Theatre, Angelika Film Center, Museum of Fine Arts, Rice Media Center, DiverseWorks, and the Aurora Picture Show, with organizational, programming, and nonprofit status help coming from the Southwest Alternate Media Project (SWAMP) . . . a great group of Houstonians dedicated to the art and power of film in so many different forms, all coming together to help us celebrate our own pride through gay and lesbian film.

This year, two of the most exciting things to mention are our partnership with C1TV and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. C1TV (currently airing on Warner Cable Channel 74 every Monday night from 9-10 p.m.) is the first viable gay and lesbian television network. They have come on board with us to offer a \$1,000 prize for the audience-voted best independent film at this year's festival. They are also helping us with national advertising and additional fundraising. You can learn all about this at our website www.hglff.org, along with all the scoop on our opening night screening party and film. For opening night, we are very pleased to have a special advance

screening of the new film *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, based on the hit off-Broadway musical. This film will not be in release until late summer, so this is truly a coup. *Hedwig* will be screened following the opening night party on May 24 at 9 p.m. at the MFA. Tickets are available for both party and film together, or each separately.

This year's festival is one not to be missed. In this issue of *OutSmart*, you will find a listing of the programming we will be offering. So kick back with your favorite beverage and a pen, and circle all the films of interest to you and your family and friends . . . and then come out to the movies. Enjoy the parties, meet the visiting filmmakers, and vote (online) for your favorite film. Remember, this festival is for us first and foremost—so take advantage of all it has to offer—and enjoy. See you at the movies. ■

Serving as the marketing/PR chair for the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Ernie Manouse studied film (and communications) at Loyola University in Chicago. As anchor of Channel 8's WeekDay Edition, he is KUHT's chief entertainment reporter and film critic. This is his fourth year co-hosting the Pride Parade with KRBE's Maria Todd, and he's also been a frequent presence emceeing the Black Tie Dinner and Miss Camp America.



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From the Heart

by Alan Cohen

AH, JUST RIGHT!

*The true perfectionist
looks around and sees that life
is already good and rich*

A friend of mine declared, "I used to think I was a perfectionist. I found the tiniest flaws in everything. Then I realized I was not a perfectionist at all; I was an imperfectionist! If I was a perfectionist, I would see perfection wherever I looked."

The life we experience is the product of the vision we use to interpret events. At any moment we can see through the eyes of appreciation or criticism. And we will see more of whatever we are focusing on. We master the game of life by finding good wherever we look. And there is much good to be found.

While having lunch with some business associates at an upscale restaurant, one of our party asked the waiter for an unusual dish not on the menu. The waiter replied that he would ask the chef to accommodate the request. Then another member of our group sarcastically commented, "I'll bet that will just tweak the chef's day!"

But the waiter did not flinch. "Actually," he replied smoothly, "I'm sure he will be glad to accommodate you—this gives him a chance to shine."

Every situation gives us a chance to shine, if we recognize our power as creative spirits. No situation is any one way, except what we make it. *You can make anything out of anything.* So why not make it perfect?

The story is told about a man who was walking along a

city street when a flower pot fell off a sill above him and crashed at his feet, missing him by inches. There are four paths of response the man might take. First, the path of knee-jerk reaction: He would yell a curse toward the window or perhaps

Ram Dass noted there are three kinds of people: those who say, "not enough!"; those who say, "too much!"; and those who say, "ah, just right!"

dash up the stairs, find the owner, and punch him out. Second, the path of the victim: This experience would confirm his belief that the world is out to get him, and he would go about the rest of his day protecting himself from evil, retelling his story many times. Third, the path of detachment: He would rationalize that this was his karma, do nothing, and just keep walking. Finally, the path of love: He would go to the flower store on the corner, buy a new plant, and deliver it to the person whose plant had been blown off the sill by the wind.

Shakespeare declared, "There is nothing good or bad, but thinking makes it so." We see the world not as it is, but as

we are. Changing the world is not about setting it right, but seeing it right. If you believe the world is broken and you need to fix it, you will find more and more things broken. If you see the world as whole and beautiful, you will find more and more things to celebrate.

Ram Dass noted there are three kinds of people: those who say, "not enough!"; those who say, "too much!"; and those who say, "ah, just right!" Actually, there are just two kinds of people, for "too much" of one thing is really "not enough" of another. We are continuously choosing between affirmation and resistance.

Does seeing perfection mean we are to simply be passive observers and sit around and do nothing? Not at all. Perfection includes the process of changing, growing, expanding, improving, and moving ahead. But our actions to improve do not proceed from an attitude of pushing against lack. They proceed from a sense that things are already good, and wouldn't it be a delightful adventure to make them better? The true perfectionist creates effective change by seeing the highest possibilities and becoming so excited about them that conditions must rise to match the vision.

Several years ago while I was walking through the Los Angeles airport, I felt annoyed by the massive construction going on. I saw ugly makeshift plywood walls to my left and right, a maze of paint-laden scaffolds, and long winding detours to baggage claim. I grumbled to myself about what a mess the place was, and how long it was taking to fix it. Then I discovered a sign that stopped me in my tracks. It was an artist's rendering of what the airport would look like when the construction was complete. It was magnificent! The glass atrium roofs, sleek marbled corridors, and potted palms were a delight to behold—a far cry from the current mess. Then I relaxed. If that is what this is leading to, I thought, then I am glad they are doing it. When I dropped my resistance, I enjoyed the process, including the construction phase.

The entire universe is in a construction phase, never totally complete as it is, but always perfect as it unfolds. When you appreciate the beauty as you go, you become a true perfectionist.

Living in Hawaii, Alan Cohen is the author of 15 popular inspirational books, including the award-winning *A Deep Breath of Life*. He can be reached at admin@alancohen.com or www.alancohen.com.

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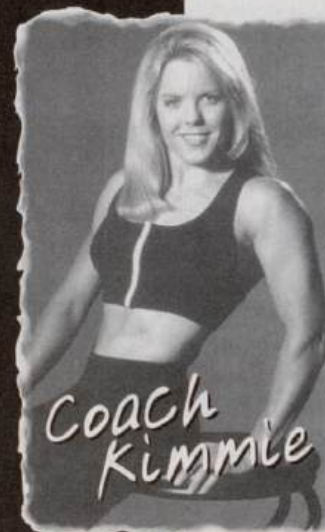
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Community Resource

OutSmart has plans to publish a separate directory of community resources. If the information for your GLBT community group is not listed below, or if you need to make a change, please call Ann Sieber at 713/520-7237, or e-mail ann@outsmartmagazine.com. We will run community listings in the magazine once every few months until we publish the directory. Divisions are listed alphabetically: Community, Counseling/Support, Health, Professional, Religious/Spiritual, Social, Sports, Youth/Parents.

1) fluent, or at least functional, in English & Spanish; 2) comfortable discussing sexual matters with total strangers; 3) comfortable with various ethnic & sexual cultures; 4) able & willing to commit at least 2 hours a week; 5) able to staff the hotline during office hours; & 6) willing to make at least a 6-month commitment. 4126 Southwest Frwy, Ste. 1310, 713/626-2837 or 1-800-981-2837.

COMMUNITY

- **Adoption.** Family to Family Adoption Services is an adoption networking agency in partnership with several nonprofit adoption agencies who are dedicated to finding loving homes for thousands of orphans. They sponsor a free workshop for prospective adoptive parents seeking more info about adopting children from China, Russia, Ukraine, India, Romania, & Guatemala, as well as domestic adoptions. Single men & women and couples from 25-60 years old are eligible. Info and/or next workshop date: 713/219-1472 or 713/294-5941 or Fam2fam@aol.com.
- **"After Hours"** is a late-night radio show in which a different host and crew present interviews, music, and mayhem. Saturdays, midnight-3 am, KPFT 90.1 FM, 419 Lovett, 713/526-5738.
- **Alpha Lambda Organization** serves the social, cultural, and political needs of the gay and lesbian students at the University of Houston Downtown. Meets Tuesdays 2:30-4:30 pm, UH Downtown, 1 Main St., Ste. 1016-S, 713/221-8921. wnghtc@zeuz.dtu.edu.
- **The Amazon Xociety** is an intergenerational feminist nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating an empowerment lifestyle among women and girls. Emphasis is placed on organizing, implementing, and sustaining practical programs as our platform to initiate real-life changes. Come participate in a real-life collective for women working together. Make new friends & work on crucial issues affecting women. Info: Bernadine @ 713/731-0251 or e-mail: xociety@hotmail.com.
- **AYES** (Amigos Volunteers in Education & Services) provides social & healthcare services to HIV-positive individuals. Free HIV, STD testing & counseling in English & Spanish, from 10 am-5 pm. Volunteer wish list:

- **BiNet** is a support/social/educational group open to all women & men exploring their sexuality or identifying as bisexual. Confidentiality is maintained within the group, & the use of assumed names is respected. BiNet is an active part of the queer community & is accepting of diverse lifestyles. Meets every Wednesday, 7:30-9 pm @ Hobbit Cafe, 2234 Richmond Ave. For more info: 713/467-4380.
- **Black Lesbian And Gay Coalition (BLAGC)**, an organization dedicated to providing visible leadership in the African-American GLBT community, meets every Monday, 7 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713/801-7386.
- **Colt 45's** is an all-volunteer charity. Despite the name, you don't have to have an overwhelming love of western attire, lore, or guns—all you need is a big heart & a willingness to help others when they need it most. As a 501(c)(3) charity, the Colt 45's created the AIDS TroubleFund, Stone Soup Fund, & Till Thacker III Memorial City Charity Fund. If interested in becoming a member, leave a message at 713/526-6077 or join us the 2nd Monday of each month, 8 pm at the BRB.
- **Community Awareness for Transgendered Support (CATS)** is a transgendered peer-led resource and information support group in the Brazoria/Galveston county area. Meetings first Fridays, 6 pm, 409/762-2243, tghelp@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/tghelp.
- **"The Dyke Show" with Comedian Nancy Ford** is back for a limited engagement; open mic available for musicians, poets, and comics. Thursdays, 9-11 pm, The Inbetween (between Chances and the New Barn), 1102 Westheimer, 713/521-5822.
- **The Feminist Online Network (FEMINET)** is a free

e-mail list with announcements, info, & resources of interest to feminists & lesbians in the Houston/Galveston area. Postings include health info, political activism, resources, calendar of events, more. Subscribe at <http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/FEMINET>.

- **Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston (GLSH)** is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization offering the community information & referrals to businesses, legal, and medical professionals, and a variety of organizations, as well as info on HIV/AIDS, coming out, etc. Call 713/529-3211. GLSH also operates the Hate Crimes Hotline, 713/529-9615. www.gayswitchboard.org.
- **GLOBAL** (Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Alliance) is a support, social, educational, & political group for University of Houston's LGBT community and its allies. It strives to educate & be a resource to the UH community on gay issues & to provide a welcoming atmosphere for all UH students. It is diverse in its ethnic, racial, religious, political, & gender makeup. Students from other area colleges & junior colleges are welcome. Whether you are struggling to come out, a hard-core gay rights activist, or just looking for some fellow queers to hang out with, GLOBAL is the place for you. Meetings Wednesdays 4 pm, UH University Center, 713-743-7539 or 713/743-5180; global@bayou.uh.edu; www.uh.edu/~global.
- **Gulf Coast Archives and Museum** is seeking to create a more permanent repository of Houston's GLBT memory & memorabilia. Call to make a special viewing appointment or to donate your own precious items. 2507 Capital, 713/227-5973, gcsm@mail.com, www.houstongayweb.com/gulfcoastarchive.
- **Gulf Coast Transgender Community** is an open group for the support of all transgendered people. Meets 2nd Saturday of each month (crossdressing required) at 7 pm. Call for location. Open discussion 1st Thursday of each month (crossdressing not required) at 7 pm at Chances. 713/780-4282.
- **The Hollyfield Conference Center** provides meeting & conference facilities to the general public & offers the facilities to gay and lesbian community-based organizations at a reduced rate. 2700 Albany, Ste. 100, @ Tuam. More info or to schedule an event, write or phone: P.O. Box 66722, Houston, TX 77266, HollyFdn@aol.com, 713/523-6900.
- **The Homeless Pet Placement League** is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that rescues & rehabilitates stray & abandoned cats & dogs. Volunteering, foster care, or adopting: 713/862-PETS. (713/862-7387)
- **Houston Faerie Circle** is an unstructured group of queer men and their friends who gather to explore spirituality from a distinctly queer and nontraditional point of view; Guests welcome. Saturdays 2-5 pm, 713/500-5401, www.gayguides.com/houstonfaeries. Free.
- **Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus**, 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm, Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd. 713/521-1000.
- **Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Located in the heart of Montrose, serves as the central resource for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgendered communities. It offers community publications as well as extensive information on organizations & activities. Rental space is available for meetings & social events. Programming includes separate men's & women's coming-out groups, HIV testing & counseling, Lesbian Movie Night, Montrose Writers Project, "What Lesbians Do" discussion series; and Write On, Women writing group; as well as intermittent community forums. Nine organizations office at the center: The Diversity Alliance/Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition, Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Houston, Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals), Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, Pride Committee of Houston, Q-Patrol, and Texas Human Rights Foundation. Volunteer meetings: 2nd Thurs., 7 pm and 2nd Saturday, noon. 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

- **"Lesbian and Gay Voices"** radio show is a magazine format produced by community activists: includes interviews with community & national leaders, music, reviews of gay and lesbian cultural events. Mondays, 8-10 pm, KPFT 90.1 FM; 713/526-4000; e-mail: LGVoices@aol.com.
- **Log Cabin Republicans.** 4th Monday of each month, 6:30 pm (social), 7 pm (meeting) at Renata's, 2006 Lexington, 713/529-9100.
- **Men's Gathering of Houston** gives African-American men who describe themselves as gay, bisexual, or same-gender-loving the opportunity to discuss issues about forming healthy relationships with themselves and with others. Recent topics have included dating, dealing with partners with addictions and domestic violence. Meets on alternate Saturday nights 6:30-9:30 pm. 713/528-4461; e-mail: themensgathering@yahoo.com.
- **National Organization for Women (NOW)** is a volunteer organization (not a service agency, nor a research facility, nor set up to provide legal assistance on individual cases). 713/861-2553, HoustonNOW-owner@egroups.com. National: www.now.org. Join Houston NOW by sending \$35 annual dues (sliding scale \$15 and up as you can afford) to P.O. Box 667522, Houston, TX 77266-2522.
- **Outrage, Inc.** is a nonprofit social group raising funds for Houston area HIV/AIDS charities by producing special events including the annual Halloween Party & the Pride Party. Meets 2nd Tuesday. Other events include beach parties, Austin splash & other socials. 713/706-2508, outrage.org/~outrage.
- **Pride Committee of Houston** is an energetic group of people who meet year-round to develop/organize Gay & Lesbian Pride activities in June for our community. Meets 7 pm, the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month @ the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. For more info or to get involved: 713/529-6979, info@pridehouston.org.
- **Q-Patrol, Inc.** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation dedicated to the protection from and reduction of hate crimes based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Q-Patrol, Inc. operates a Citizen's On Patrol program (affiliated with the HPD) in the Montrose area on Friday & Saturday nights. No special skills or abilities necessary, only a desire to help other people. 713/528-SAFE (7233), qpatrolinc@aol.com.
- **Second Chance Pets** is a nonprofit organization that helps stray, abandoned, & unwanted animals find permanent homes, providing medical care & an adoption site for the animals. Foster homes are needed (especially for dogs & cats, as are volunteers for adoption days, publicity/fund-raising, & adoptive homes. 281/286-3535, www.secondchancepets.org.
- **Sisters** is a support group for African-American lesbians & friends. Meets 2nd Sundays, 5-8 pm. Call 713/801-0027 for meeting location, or e-mail at SISTERSOFHOUSTON@yahoo.com.
- **The Stonewall Democrats of Houston** work to educate voters & elected officials about GLBT issues and offer opportunities to volunteer in political campaigns. At monthly meetings & events, you can talk to city & state politicians one-on-one. There are over two dozen Stonewall chapters across the country. Meet at Bibas One's a Meal Restaurant on W. Gray, upstairs in the Greek room, last Monday of each month. Social 6:30 pm, meeting 7 pm. Info: Mark at 713/854-8773.
- **Texas Association for Transsexual Support (TATS)** is a group devoted to dealing with the issues that affect those that identify as transsexual. Usually at least two meetings per month, a business meeting and a discussion meeting. Transgender Community Center, 239 Westheimer 713/780-4282.
- **Texas Human Rights Foundation** is a statewide, not-for-profit legal agency, which advocates on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bi, transgendered, & HIV community and publishes the booklet *AIDS and the Law: Know Your Rights*. If you feel you have been discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation or HIV status and

- need legal advice or attorney referral, call 713/522-0636, or outside Houston call tollfree 1-800/828-6417.
- **Tri-Ess** is a support group for heterosexual crossdressers, their wives, partners & families. Meetings once a month, screening required, 713/349-8969.
- **An Uncommon Legacy Foundation** is a nonprofit lesbian foundation dedicated to enhancing the visibility, strength & vitality of the lesbian community. Legacy invests in our future by awarding scholarships to out students with leadership potential, and by awarding grants to fund projects & organizations that contribute to our community's health, education, & culture. It promotes philanthropy among women and demonstrates the growing power of lesbian giving. More info: 713/520-1142.
- **The Unity Committee** is a committee of all the representatives from the local transgender groups. 281/585-0586, tghelp@yahoo.com.
- **What Women Do** is a popular series on lesbian sexuality and controversial issues in the lesbian community. Among recent "spicy" topics have been "Own Your Desire," "The Whole Shebang," and "First Comes Lust." Sessions are facilitated by psychologist Maria Minicucci (Center for Creativity, Knowledge and Change), and lesbian health educator and activist Deborah Bell (Fem-Net online community). A \$3 donation is welcomed, but not required. 7 pm the first Thursday of most months (call to confirm), the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.
- **The Women's Group** is a feminist group for all women (each woman defines her own feminism) that meets every Sunday at 10:45 am in the Sojourner Truth Room, 3rd floor of the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin @ Southmore (elevator accessible). For more information, call Iris Greer Sizemore at 713/529-8571 or Laura Reich at 713/529-1886, or e-mail HouWmnsGrp@aol.com.

COUNSELING/SUPPORT

- **AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH)** relies on volunteers to help meet the needs of its 2,000+ clients. Choose from over 22 direct and indirect client volunteer programs. You'll join a pool of more than 400 talented volunteers in Hotline, Information, & Referral, Buddy, Helper, Art Therapy, Stone Soup & many other programs. Whether you can commit to 4 hours a month or 40 hours a week, AFH needs your time and talent. Volunteer department: 713/623-6796. Website: <http://www.aidsfhelp.org>.
- **Astro Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf** meets the 2nd Friday of the month, 7 pm, at Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer, 713/830-3072 via Texas Relay 1-800-735-2988.
- **The Bering Lunch Bunch Gang** is a walk-in support group for retired persons living with HIV/AIDS, followed by fellowship and lunch at a local restaurant. Tuesdays, 11 am @ Bering Memorial UMC, 1440 Harold. Info: Russ Robinett, 713/526-1017, ext. 206 or e-mail rbmumc@clearsail.net.
- **The Bering Spiritual Support Group** is a nurturing space in which we whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS unite in spirit for the celebration of life through sharing our mutual support, strength, acceptance, & love. This walk-in group meets Wednesdays, 6:30 pm @ Bering Memorial UMC, 1440 Harold, for potluck dinner, speaker, & small groups for newcomers: Positive/Negative together, HIV+ only, Caregivers, & Family. Call Christine Coberly at 713/526-1017, ext. 211 or Rev. Stacy Pever, ext. 202.
- **Bering Support Network** includes counseling, support groups, visitation, and retreats. Call Christine Coberly at 713/526-1017, ext. 211 or e-mail chbmumc@clearsail.net.
- **Centergy.** Rediscover the joy, the joy of releasing the energy at your center. Centergy offers weekly programs for anyone willing to face habitual behavior: individuals, pairs, families, groups, organizations, business relations. Both mixed and women's groups meet weekly.

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

• **For Mature Audiences Only** is an inclusive multi-issue health & wellness community for persons over age 35 to celebrate the successes and share the challenges of midlife changes. Topics include ageing & ageism, mentoring, promoting health & wellness, job loss & career changes, retirement, burnout, living single or coupled, maturing relationships, mortality, and more. Tuesdays, 7 pm, Bering Memorial UMC, 1440 Harold, Room 218. Call Russ Robinett at 713/526-1017, ext. 206 or e-mail rbmumc@clearsail.net.

• **Gay & Lesbian Helpline**'s phone counselors can help you clarify & prioritize your issues & sort through options. The helpline is an anonymous & confidential safe space for you to voice your thoughts. Whether concerned about coming out, locating resources, or just finding something to do on a Friday night, let us be the ear you need. Our counselors are friendly & supportive and have your best interest at heart. Operates out of the Fenway Community Health Center in Boston, MA. Gay & Lesbian Helpline's hours: M-F, 6-11 pm, Sat 5-7:30 pm, and Sun 5-10 pm. 1-888-340-4528.

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

• **Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston** (GLSH) is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization offering the community information & referrals to businesses, legal and medical professionals, and a variety of organizations. It also provides information on HIV/AIDS, coming out, etc. P.O. Box 66469, Houston, TX 77266-6469, 713/529-3211. GLSH also operates the Hate Crimes Hotline, 713/529-9615.

• **gayDAR** (Dream-Affirm-Restore): a wellness community for those who are interested in personal growth and making healthy connections. Mon 7-8:15 pm, Bering Memorial UMC, 1440 Harold, Room 218. Call Russ Robinett at 713/526-1017, ext. 206 or e-mail rbmumc@clearsail.net.

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

• **Gay Men's Process Group** is a general process group dealing with life issues that affect gay men (coming out, career, family, relationships/dating, etc.). Meets Tues., 7-8:30 pm. Info: Daniel Garces, 713/526-8390. E-mail: daniel_garces@yahoo.com, www.dansmnd.net.

• **Gay Men Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse Group** provides a safe space for reclaiming our lives through the sharing of our stories with respect, understanding and acceptance in our journey toward healing. An intensive therapy group limited to 4-5 participants. Assessment required. Call Christine Coberly at Bering Memorial UMC, 713/526-1017, ext. 211 or e-mail chbmumc@clearsail.net.

• **Grief Therapy & Support Groups**. Ongoing support group for grieving a death. 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month. Six-week grief therapy groups are scheduled as needed Mon, 7-8:30 pm. Bering Memorial UMC, 1440 Harold, Room 224. Call Christine Coberly, 713/526-1017 ext. 211 or e-mail chbmumc@clearsail.net.

• **Helping TransGenders Anonymous** (HTGA) is a 12-step support group for transgendered people dedicated to helping those who are having difficulty accepting themselves or for those involved with a transgendered individual who is having trouble adjusting. HTGA's philosophy is that the wearing of clothing opposite to one's birth sex is but an outward manifestation of an inner feeling. HCDA is run by a licensed counselor and has been meeting since Jan. 1991. All are welcome. Meets Tues, 7:30 pm, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold, http://www.brendat.com/hcda.htm.

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

• **Jewish Family Service** offers individual, couple & family counseling to individuals of all ages regardless of sexual orientation or religious affiliation. Our professional counseling staff have received training in working with GLBT issues and can help individuals deal with interpersonal problems, relationship conflicts, dealing with families, HIV/AIDS-related concerns & other issues frequently facing sexual minorities. Sliding-fee-scale. To make an appointment/more info: 713/667-9336.

• **Lambda Center A.A.** is the meeting center for AA and Al-Anon groups throughout the day (and night). 1201 W. Clay. For meeting times, call 713/521-1243.

• **Lesbian Coming-Out Group** is open to all women regardless of age & length of time of living out of the closet. \$3 donation welcomed but not required. 7 pm, Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

• **Men's Coming-Out Group** is open to all gay, bisexual and questioning men regardless of age. Each meeting includes discussion and support. \$3 donation is welcomed but not required. 7 pm the third Friday of the month @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

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

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

• **Out Together** is a support group where individuals & couples can share thoughts, experiences, & knowledge about mixed orientation marriages—where one spouse considers him/herself gay, lesbian, or bisexual. 1st Sun. & 3rd Thu. of each month. Confidentiality ensured. Straight spouses meet Tuesdays, 7:30 pm. Questions: Bob 713/667-1535 (Bobtx54@aol.com), or Jackie 281/558-3159 (jackie_mag@msn.com), or Sarah 832/428-7463 or e-mail spousesp@att.net.

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

• **Professional & Volunteer Caregivers Groups**. Focus on grief/burnout issues and self-care for those who work with persons who have HIV/AIDS. 1st & 3rd Mondays, Bering Memorial UMC, 1440 Harold, Room

211. Call Christine Coberly at 713/526-1017, ext. 211 or e-mail chbmumc@clearsail.net.

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

HEALTH

• **AIDS Clinical Trials Unit, UTMB Galveston** is seeking HIV-positive individuals who wish to participate in clinical trials as a treatment option. Participants in a trial are followed closely by a medical team, plus all labs and physical exam findings are shared with a patient's primary care provider. Study visits, labs, and medications are provided at no cost to participants; provisions for travel and child care expenses available. Houstonians and other non-Galveston residents welcome. To find out more, or if you're interested in participating 409/747-0214 or 877/324-ACTU, actu@utmb.edu, http://129.109.146.226/actu/.

• **AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.** (AFH) is committed to improving the quality of life in the greater Houston community through HIV/AIDS education, healthcare, social services, & volunteerism. AFH is a direct provider of resources for HIV/AIDS services & information and works in collaboration with other community-based groups to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS infection and to support people infected & affected with HIV/AIDS. Services include: Stone Soup Food Assistance & Nutrition Program; housing, employment resources; hotline: Red Ribbon Toy Drive; camps Hope & H.U.G.; prevention & secondary education; and Project CAESAR, a gay men's health initiative. Info: 713/524-AIDS (2437) or visit www.aids-help.org.

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

• **AssistHers** helps lesbians with chronic or debilitating illnesses to live as normally as possible. Teams of volunteers provide assistance with daily living activities such as grocery shopping, laundry, transportation & light housekeeping, etc. P.O. Box 541095, Houston, TX 77254 or call 713/521-4628.

• **Bering Omega Community Services** provides seven programs free of charge for persons living with HIV/AIDS: 1. **Advocacy Program** helps us keep current with HIV/AIDS issues and congress (713/524-9304); 2. **Bering Care Center** is a licensed adult day-care center (713/520-7070 ext. 3); 3. **Dental Clinic** provides comprehensive dental care (713/524-7933 ext. 120); 4. **Financial Assistance** provides comprehensive budget planning, financial counseling and assistance (713/520-5327); 5. **Omega House** provides residential hospice care (713/523-7110); 6. **Sentry Program** provides in-home care visits (713/523-7110 ext. 119); and 7. **The Bering Support Network** provides counseling & support groups (713/526-1017 ext. 117). To volunteer or make an in-kind contribution to any of the Bering Omega Community Services programs: Dena Gray (713/523-7110). To sponsor a benefit or give a financial contribution: the development office (713/524-9304, ext. 101).

• **Body Positive Wellness Center** (BPWC) provides a venue where qualified clients with HIV/AIDS can obtain HIV-specific nutritional assessment/counseling, supervised resistance exercise, massage therapy, chiropractic adjustments, community forums, peer counseling groups, & at-cost nutritional supplements. The 3-month core program enables clients to take important mea-

sures in restoring their health & quality of life as they augment the positive effects of advanced drug treatments. (Chiropractic therapy services held every other Thursday 9 am-12 pm.) 3400 Montrose, 713/524-2374.

• **The Center for AIDS: Hope and Remembrance Project** provides the most current HIV/AIDS treatment information to healthcare professionals, HIV-positive individuals and their caregivers, while advocating Houston as a clinical trial site, bringing innovative HIV/AIDS research to local clinics. It holds monthly "treatment mixers" for HIV-positive people to discuss openly their successes and failures concerning treatment. More info: Stop by the center, 1407 Hawthorne, M-F, 9-6, or call 281/HIV-INFO (281/448-4636).

• **FIRM** (Foundation for Interfaith Research & Ministry) is a nonprofit organization working with local congregations to sponsor care teams. Volunteers are trained to meet many of the social, physical, and emotional needs of people touched by HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, and dementia-related disorders; frail seniors; and other life-threatening conditions. Care team volunteers view themselves as friends and extended family who can offer nonjudgmental, caring, and supportive services. All services are provided free of charge. For more info, contact the Care Team coordinator at 713/682-5995, or e-mail: firm-hou@neosoft.com, www.careteams.org.

• **Frost Eye Clinic**. Free eye exams for HIV-positive persons, Mon, Wed, Fri, 9 am-5 pm, 713/520-2000.

• **HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer** is an open forum for sharing HIV treatment info. Meets 2nd Tues., 7-9 pm, Center for AIDS, 1407 Hawthorne, 713/527-8219, refreshments provided.

• **HIV Testing and Counseling** provided at no charge by Montrose Clinic staff from 7-9 pm, Wednesdays @ the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. More info: 713/524-3818.

• **Houston Buyers Club** provides vital nutritional supplements & info at wholesale cost to people living with chronic illness. We welcome business from people who are not living with chronic illness; it financially supports our mission. Phone 713/520-5288; fax 713/521-7419, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Ste. 605, houstonbuyersclub.com, hbc@neosoft.com.

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

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

• **Methodist Visiting Nurse Association of Houston** (VNA) is a nonprofit, United Way agency that provides home care to patients in the eight-county area of southeast Texas which includes Brazoria, Chambers, Ft. Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties. VNA is licensed by the Texas Department of Health, accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO), and endorsed by the Harris County Medical Society. For more info: 713/520-8115.

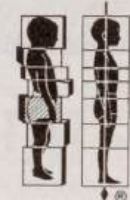
• **Milam House**. Volunteers needed! Reach out, make a difference, show someone you care. Walk the talk at Milam House, a residential center for people living with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers work directly with the residents, providing companionship & emotional support in a one-on-one setting. More info: 713/520-9248, bmyers@pwach.org, www.neosoft.com/MilamInfo@pwach.org.

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• **Montrose Clinic/Houston Clinical Research Network** is a community-based, nonprofit agency. It provides low- or no-cost health, social, educational, & research services; specializes in treatment of sexually transmitted diseases & HIV/AIDS care. Needed: cash gifts for indigent-patient care; volunteer time from general & specialty physicians/lay persons interested in HIV counseling/office support. 215 Westheimer, 713/830-3000 for current outreach HIV-testing sites.

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

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

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

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

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

• **Thomas Street Clinic (TSC)** is part of the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD) providing medical, social, & educational care to the HIV/AIDS-infected person. As an outpatient clinic for the past 10 years, the clinic provides educational workshops, social assistance, up-to-date research studies, & state-of-the-art medical care. 2015 Thomas St. @ Paschall, between I45 & N. Main. Info: 713/793-4000. For understanding of HIV education programs: 713/793-4026. For bilingual assistance: 713/793-4051. TSC's Patient Advisory Board is an elected board that advises the Harris County Hospital District on matters concerning TSC. Meetings open to the public, 2nd Wednesdays, 11 am, 3rd floor conference room at the clinic.

• **VistaCare Family Hospice** is dedicated to serving people experiencing the final phases of life & those who care for them. We provide comprehensive services through our commitment to the highest standards of care. Volunteers can assist in a variety of tasks: patient care, nursing home volunteer, respite or relief visit for the caregiver, bereavement phone calls/visits, office

work, assist during training seminars, delivery person, crafts volunteer or other activities. To inquire about volunteering, call 713/290-1746.

• **Women's Clinic**, Montrose Clinic offers a women's health clinic. Visits include complete well-woman examination, lab work, medication, & referral if needed. A nominal fee is requested but no one will be turned away. By appointment only, 713/830-3000.

• **Yoga**. As a special outreach to the GLBT community, Devanand will offer their classes for free if you mention you saw this in *OutSmart* magazine. Yoga benefits individuals by providing stress relief, better health & a clear mind, achieved by a combination of physical postures, mental exercises, breathing techniques, improved diet. Mon., Wed., Fri., 6:30 pm; Sat., 9:30 am. Free meditation class on Tue, 6:30 pm. Devanand Yoga Center, 3115 West Loop South, Ste. 21, 713/965-9642.

PROFESSIONAL

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

• **Executive & Professional Association of Houston (EPAH)** is established to provide a nonpolitical forum for discussion of business & community affairs, to encourage & foster social & business relationships among the membership, and to support educational and/or charitable causes. More info: 281/587-6066.

• **EXXON Gay & Lesbian Employees** meets monthly to discuss workplace issues, empowerment, social events, etc. For time/location call 713/522-6212.

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

• **Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GHGLCC)** fosters & promotes the economic development & vitality of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, & supportive heterosexual businesses & professional organizations in the greater Houston area. Meets first Tuesday. Info: 713/523-7576.

• **LiB (Lesbians in Business)** is a lesbian empowerment group, promotes lesbians, jobs, networking, & businesses. LiB's hotline: 713/529-0077.

• **Prism** is an employee network for employees of Equilon Enterprises LLC, Motiva Enterprises LLC, Equiva Services LLC, & Equiva Trading Company. The network is open to any employee of these companies and includes gay, lesbian, & bisexual employees & their friends. The mission of Prism is to provide support for members & coworkers, promote equality for employees regardless of sexual orientation or gender identification, and create awareness in management of issues & concerns affecting people in a diverse workplace inclusive of sexual orientation & gender identification. More info: Jim at 281/544-8138, Robert at 713/241-1238, or Dick at 281/544-8730.

• **SEA Change** (Support, Educate, and Advocate for Change) is open to social workers & social work students who are interested in gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgendered issues. For info: John at 281/544-6949.

• **SPECTRUM** is an employees' group of Southwest Bell Communications which is open to both management & nonmanagement LGBT personnel, & those who share their concerns. The group's goals include establishing domestic partner benefits, making the workplace more aware of diversity, & helping direct the company's involvement in the community. Partners are encouraged to attend & participate. 713/567-7733. SBC Intranet Site: Intranet.sbc.com/SBCWIN/corporate/

aware/index.html or Internet Web Site: www.webcom.com/benny/spectrum/spectrum.html.

• **The Stonewall Lawyers Association** is a Houston-area organization for those interested in legal issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgendered people and those living with HIV. Legal professionals, law students, & others interested in these issues are welcome. For more info: Alex Wathen at 713/222-0880.

• **Support, Equality, and Awareness at Shell (SEAShell)** is a gay & lesbian employees group whose mission is to provide support for members and coworkers, promote equality for employees regardless of sexual orientation, and create awareness in management of issues and concerns affecting people in a diverse workplace. For more information, call Becky at 713/245-1960 or John at 281/544-6949.

RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL

• **Bering Memorial United Methodist Church** is a reconciling congregation, and welcomes visitors from all faiths and walks of life. Celebrating more than 150 years of caring, sharing, and giving to the community, Bering has been a deeply sacramental congregation. We proclaim that all people are created in the image of God, and affirm that each person, regardless of age, economic status, faith history, ethnicity, gender, mental or physical ability, marital status, sexual orientation or lifestyle, is a beloved child of God and worthy of God's love and grace, and welcome at Bering, Sunday Worship at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m., 1440 Harold Street @ Mulberry, 713-526-1017 for Directions or more info: www.beringumc.org.

• **Community Gospel Church** holds a high-spirited gathering for a charismatic, Pentecostal worship service. Sunday, 11 am & 7 pm, Thursday, 7:30 pm, 4305 Lillian, 713/880-9235, www.communitygospel.org.

• **Dignity Houston** is dedicated to the welfare of gay/lesbian Catholics & their friends. Meets Saturdays, 7:30 pm, 1307 Yale, Suite H, 713/880-2872.

• **Houston Mission Church** Worship the Lord in a supportive atmosphere. Sundays, 10:30 am-noon, 1505 Nevada @ Commonwealth, 713/529-8225.

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

• **Integrity/Houston** is the advocacy organization for gays & lesbians in the Episcopal Church. Meets 2nd Mondays for Eucharist & potluck dinner, 7 pm @ Autrey House, 6265 Main St. Info: 713/528-6771.

• **Kolbe Project** is an ecumenical outreach to gays, lesbians, & other sexual minorities modeled after the ministry of St. Francis of Assisi. Potluck & community-concern programs: first Thursdays, 7 pm. Healing service: 4th Wednesdays, 8 pm. Spiritual direction by appointment: HIV/AIDS hospital chaplaincy. For more info, call 713/861-1800, or visit info@kolbeproject.org, www.kolbeproject.org.

• **Lesbian/Gay Unitarian Universalist Potluck** The lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered, friends and families of the First Unitarian Universalist Church may be changing the schedule for their monthly potluck/social. If interested, please phone the Church Office at 713/526-5200 for up to date information. The Church is at 5200 Fannin (at Southmore) in Houston's Museum District.

• **Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church—Recovery Support Group** is a cell group church with an emphasis on small groups that meet weekly in the homes of members; we believe that the Holy Spirit has given spiritual gifts to every believer which are to be exercised in the life of the church; our church is evangelical & charismatic in its style of worship; we have a primary outreach to gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgendered people—all are welcome. Sundays, 5:30-6:30 pm, Central Congregational Church, 1311 Holman,

Call: 713/528-6756; FAX: 713/528-6447; e-mail: maranatha@ev1.net; web: www.maranatha.com.

• **Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church** is an inclusive Christian Church with a primary outreach to Houston's LGBT community since 1972. Worship services: Sun, 9 am & 11 am; Wed, 7 pm, Sunday school for children & youth 11:15 am, adult Sunday School 10 am. 2025 West 11th St @ TC Jester, 713-861-9149, mccc@neosoft.com, www.mccc-hou.com.

• **Mishpachah Alizim** Houston's gay and lesbian Jewish congregation, holds services the second Friday at 8 p.m. (in the Baby Barnaby's space). Gay and lesbian Jews, their friends and family are all welcome. Call the info line at 713/748-7079.

• **More Light Presbyterians of Greater Houston** is one of approximately 40 local chapters of the national MLP organization, which is dedicated to full participation of all persons in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) community without regard for sexual orientation. Meets 1st Mondays, 7:30 pm @ the Presbyterian Center, 1110 Lovett Blvd., 281/440-0353.

• **New Hope Christian Center** holds weekly worship services open to all people. Bonita Kirk, founder of the Black Gay and Lesbian Coalition, started this non-denominational group. "Our vision is to be a place where hope is restored, faith is released, and lives are changed." Kirk says. 11 am Sunday @ The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818 (center) or 713/801-7386 (BLAGC).

SOCIAL

• **The Art League of Houston** offers free art classes to all HIV-positive individuals. Complimentary lunch provided. Instructor: Kermit Eisenhut. Classes are ongoing every Thursday, 1-4 pm @ the Art League, 1953 Montrose, 713/523-9530.

• **Asians & Friends Houston** is a social organization for gay Asians & their friends, made up of couples & singles. Events include potluck dinners, movie nights at members' homes or movie theaters, and large parties celebrating Asian holidays. Recognizing that many people are not out of the closet, membership is kept confidential. It's an easygoing & fun-loving group, and all are welcome. 713/626-6300; PO Box 667100, Houston, 77266; http://members.aol.com/texasians.

• **Classic Chassis Car Club of Houston** is open to everyone (car not necessary) who enjoys cars, trucks, models, automobiles, or hanging out with those who do! Meetings are the 1st Wednesdays at the Blue Agave Restaurant, 1340 W. Gray, 7 pm. The club hosts driving tours, workshops, & events at members' homes. 713/797-8615, P.O. Box 920888, Houston 77292-0888.

• **Garden and Yard Society (G.A.Y.S.)** is a gay gardening club for women & men. Bring your gardening friends and supporting partners. Meets 2nd Fridays, 7 pm at various locations, 713/661-6378, 713/520-1066.

• **The Gay and Lesbian Breakfast Club** Created to give gay, lesbian, and straight people an opportunity to make new friends and promote fitness walking. Meets 9:30 a.m. Saturdays for a three-mile walk at Memorial Park, then members can go out for breakfast. Call 281-437-0636 or 713-864-7299.

• **Gay Men's Chorus of Houston** rehearses Thursdays, 7-10 pm @ Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Dr. Singing & non-singing members are welcome. For info, leave message @ 713/521-SING (713/521-7464), www.gmch.org.

• **Houston Area Bears** is a social organization for "bears" (hirsute men) of all sizes & their admirers. Monthly social held on 3rd of each month at Mary's, 10 pm. For more info: The Grower Line, 713/867-9123.

• **Houston Area Motorcycle Society (HAMMS)**, a gay/lesbian motorcycle club, has a social at a different coffee shop in the Montrose area and an organized ride once a month, for those who own a motorcycle or are involved with someone who does. 713/862-8477, http://users.ev1.net/~tgarrison/hamsonline/index.html.

• **Houston Outdoor Group (HOG)** is a social group for gay men & lesbians who enjoy the outdoors. Activities

include camping, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, etc. Day trips & weekend trips (typically a 2- to 4-hour drive from Houston) are usually to state parks or private campgrounds. Local social events include Saturday morning breakfasts & once-a-month potluck dinners. Call 713/KAMPOUT (526-7688) for info or your complimentary newsletter; or write to P.O. Box 980893, Houston, TX 77098.

• **Houston Pride Band** provides musical entertainment for the lesbian and gay community. They are seeking musicians of all skill levels and instrumentation. Rehearsals held at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale, Wednesdays, 7-9 pm; www.houstonprideband.org.

• **Lambda Rollerskating Club** has fabulous door prizes, skate-till-you-drop music, & several skate games. Tuesdays, 8-10 pm, Tradewinds, 5006 W 34th (off 290), 713/410-7215, lrsd@neosoft.com, www.neosoft.com/~lrsd. \$5.

• **Lesbian Film Night** takes place on 4th Fridays and features a flick with a lesbian theme. A potluck precedes the movie, and discussion follows. \$3-\$5 donation welcomed, but not required. 7 pm, the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

• **Lesbian Island Association**, a group for women in their 20s, is based at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Members either meet on Saturdays at the center or enjoy social activities on the town. \$3 donation welcomed, but not required. Call the center at 713/524-3118 for details.

• **Lesbian Literary Discussion Group** meets to discuss all types of literature including Dostoevski, Conrad, Atwood, Potok, Nin, Joyce, Wilde, Chekov, Marx, etc. Wednesdays, time TBA. At the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/523-3037, jsharon@msi.uth.tmc.edu.

• **LOAF** is a social, networking, & support group for lesbians 50 years of age and older. 713/869-1482.

• **Lone Star Nudist Group** is for gay or bisexual men who wish to share nude experiences. Singles/lovers welcome. Monthly meetings. Nude social events, massage group, out-of-town gatherings. 713/866-8847.

• **Montrose Writers Project** meets every week for writers at varying skill levels to read their work, trade ideas, discuss issues. Lead by Bias Falconer, the writers project is one of the center's longest-running groups. Falconer teaches literature at UH & works in the Writing Center at HCC. He plans to lead a series of workshops in different genres—such as poetry, fiction, memoir & drama—accompanied by writing exercises. \$3 donation welcomed, but not required. 3-4:30 pm Saturdays @ the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.

• **Out Skate Rollerskating Club**. Skate every Wednesday night, 8-10 pm at the biggest/best rink in Houston—Zenith Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Rd. @ Beechnut. \$5 plus \$1.50 skate rental. Everyone welcome. 281/933-5818, www.flash.net/~lauper11.

• **Prime Timers Houston** promotes social activities for the older gay and bisexual male, including theater, dining out, movies, potluck dinners, card games, and weekend daytrips. 713/867-3903.

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

• **Rainbow Ranglers** is a nonprofit social/educational service group founded in 1994 to provide country western dance education to the community of Houston while raising funds for local organizations that provide services to our community. Novice lessons Tuesdays, 9-11 pm; Intermediate classes Thursdays, 8-10 pm, Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos, 713/523-1807. Classes are free and open to the public.

• **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** is a nonprofit organization, with chapters in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston, that promotes and stages an annual rodeo event as well as engaging in fund-raising activities throughout the year. 713/777-0410, P.O. Box 710999, Houston 77271-0999.

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SPORTS

- **Bowling** Join Houston's gay and lesbian bowling community for summer league fun and sport. Mixed leagues meet at Palace Lanes (4191 Bellaire Blvd), Sundays, 7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Men's league meets Mondays, 9 p.m. Women's league meets at Dynamic Lanes (59 and Hillcroft), Mondays, 6:45 p.m. and the Luv Luci Duo league meets Thursdays, 9 p.m. There is a nine-pin doubles tournament every 3rd Saturday at Dynamic for all bowlers, league or not. 713/522-9612, Wiccardo@aol.com, www.Texasinvite.com.
- **Good Sports** College football and basketball fans. 713/523-6000.
- **Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club** Different rides every week and different levels, Easy Riders (Montrose area rides), Chainsmokers (faster/longer rides) and Rough Riders (off-road). Free. 713-863-1860.
- **Houston Montrose Athletic Association** organizes the Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk during Pride Week. 713-874-1686.
- **Houston Tennis Club**, an affiliate member of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Association, welcomes men & women of all ages & skill levels. Meets Wednesdays & Fridays 7:30-9 pm & Sundays 9 am-noon at Memorial Park Tennis Center. 713/692-2703.
- **Houston Women's Flag Football League** (HWFFL) is a nonprofit organization open to all women, 18 & over. Competitive & recreational. Can join individually or bring in your own team. 713/981-6753, www.hwffl.org.
- **Independent Billiard League** is a recreational BCA-sanctioned billiard league that welcomes everyone of all skill levels, either on a team or as substitute players. We have 3-player teams that compete at various bars & clubs in Houston on Thursday nights. IBL promotes sportsmanship & friendly competition and is an excellent way to make new friends. More info: 713/522-7062, or P.O. Box 542345, Houston 77254-2345; iblhouston@bhlhouston.com, www.bhlhouston.net.
- **Lone Star Volleyball Association** is encouraging interested volleyball players to join in the fun of playing indoor volleyball. The LSVA leagues play at the Univ. of St. Thomas-Jarabek Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon (between Richmond & Alabama) on Sundays: 4:30-7 pm, recreational & advanced players; 7-9 pm, intermediate players. We are looking to begin a women's league and encourage all women to come out. Those who have never played with LSVA before play for free on first visit. 281/878-4629, http://www.neosoft.com/~lsval.
- **The Montrose Softball League** is a nonprofit adult softball league serving the greater Houston gay community since 1980. Open to both men and women of all skill levels. Voicemail 713/867-3913; write to MSL, P.O. Box 541954, Houston 77254-1954; MSL@QMAIL.COM; www.montrosetballleague.com.
- **Rainbow Golf—Ladies Playing Golf**, Weekend playdays, private lessons. After-work playdays: Wednesdays at 5:30 pm (Sharpstown) and 6:00 pm (Jersey Meadows). For more info: 281/589-7380, or visit www.LPGL@aol.com.
- **Rainbow Riders** is a bicycling club for women of all abilities and experience every Sunday morning. For more info, call Cookie Davenport, 713/869-1686, guisje@aol.com.
- **The Texas Women's Racquetball Club** is open to women racquetball players of all skill levels. Meet monthly to play racquetball for about an hour. Kiki Hummel 281/556-0703, khummel@houston.rr.com.
- **Women's Volleyball League** Women play from every Sunday night, 4:30-7 p.m. at the University of St. Thomas Athletic Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon, at the corner of W. Main. Free for the first game. For more info call Faye, director of the women's division, at 713/522-0687, e-mail faye.safavi@gte.net, website: www.lsval.org.

YOUTH & PARENTS

- **Camp Hope**. A project of AIDS Foundation Houston provides a week-long camp experience for children living with HIV/AIDS. Camp enables children who are HIV+ to meet children just like them. Camp teaches

Community Resource

them how to adhere to their medication protocols and allows them to share themselves without the constraints society places on them. They can experience the outdoors and the joys of childhood in a safe and supportive environment, increasing self-esteem and learning camaraderie. For info about donations needed for camp or to volunteer contact Bob Lawson or Marc Cohen at 713/623-6796 or tohelp@aidshep.org.

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

• **Gay Fathers/Fathers First** is a weekly support meeting for fathers and their partners. Mondays, 8-9:30 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh, 281-505-1788, www.gayfathershouston.org.

• **Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals** (H.A.T.C.H.) is open to anyone gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered &/or questioning, ages 13-20. Fri, 7:30-10 pm & Sun, 6:30-9 pm. Location/info: 713/942-7002.

• **Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents** (HGLP) support group meets to discuss issues pertaining to today's gay families. If you have children or plan to have children, this support group can help with issues like coming out, ex-spouse problems, step relationships, etc. Child-care provided. Newsletter mailed last Wednesday of the month, monthly family activity, the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7-9 pm. Bering Memorial UMC, 1400 Harold. More info: 713/284-4939.

• **Just For Us** (JFU) is a social and support group for youth in the 6th-12th grades who have gay or lesbian parents. Sponsored by Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents. 713/284-4939.

• **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays** PFLAG Houston: General meeting with small group discussions, 1st Sunday (except holidays, goes to the 2nd Sunday), 2-4:30 pm, Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Ave. Mid-month discussion group 3rd Tuesday, 7:30-9 pm, Church of the Epiphany, 9600 S. Gessner @ Bissonnet. PFLAG Houston Helpline: 713/867-9020, www.PFLAG.org. PFLAG Galveston County: 3rd Sundays, 2 pm, AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, 1405 39th St., 409/744-3200 or janettexas@aol.com.

PFLAG Woodlands: 3rd Sunday of each month, 2 pm, Northwood Unitarian Church, 1370 N. Mill Bend Dr., 713/867-9020.

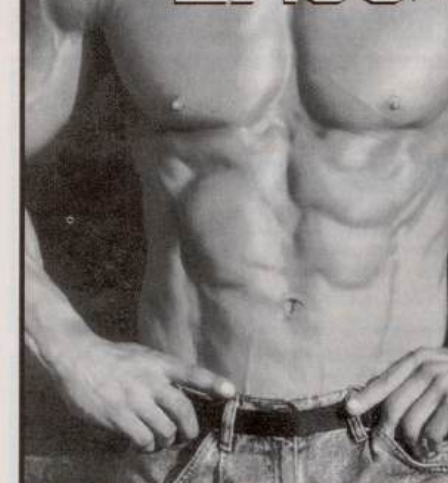
• **StreetWise Houston** is a drop-in/educational & support center for homeless, street, & lesbian youth, ages 13-24, located @ 1828 Arbor St. We provide HIV support groups, drug intervention, housing case management, & GED classes. We are seeking donations of hygiene products (deodorant, tampons, toothpaste, etc.), canned foods, furniture (beds, sofa, dining table), new socks & underwear, dishes, linens, & bus tokens. Also seeking volunteers who would like to teach life skills and/or be mentors to our young clients during afternoon or evening operating hours. For more info: Terry Mims @ 713/524-5757.

• **Youth Empowerment Advocates of Houston (YEAH)** is a safe daytime drop-in shelter for homeless, disadvantaged, and street youth ages 13-24 located at 711 W. Alabama. Services include showers, laundry, clothing, and food. We also provide HIV testing & counseling, case management, support groups, referrals, and assistance with housing. YEAH is a project of Houston Area Community Services. For more information please call Brian Jones 713/523-9324 (YEAH).

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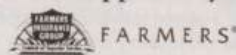
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by Lilly Roddy

This certainly has been a year of retrograde planets. About every two years it happens that we get so many of them all together. Now that Venus is direct (in April), we have Mars going retrograde from May 11 through July 19. Normally, Mars, planet of action and anger, travels through each sign in about a month and a half. In February, Mars enters Sag and (since it's going retrograde) will remain in Sag till mid September. This will cause a lot of the Sags to be especially active and direct. Big stuff coming up in July when Mars and Pluto meet for the second time this year. The first time was in March when the stock markets tumbled. Happy May Day, Cinco de Mayo, and Mom's day for this month. Days to keep your head under the covers are May 2, 6, 14, 15, 25, and 26. Days for fun and gaiety are May 10, 11, 16, 19, 23, 24, 29, and 31.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Time to have that big party you should have given yourself last year when you were too preoccupied. Sure, you are not satisfied with your career direction. Sure, you would like to drop all your responsibilities and find that perfect getaway. But a party you can afford. You are still on your spiritual search as you try to find a deeper meaning to life. As the month comes to an end, you will be dragged back to work and the necessities of daily responsibilities. Party while you can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Just what you all have been waiting for: Saturn (planet of structure, responsibility, duty, obligation... and your parents) finally enters your sign. And those are the good aspects of Saturn. If you want a year to get things done, to get your act together, and to establish boundaries and tell people just where to get off, this is the year. And the end of the month pushes you even stronger in that direction. You are in a no-nonsense mood, making this a great month for decision-making about love, career, and health. You will know you are in over your head when you start explaining to others why jokes are funny.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Now that your career is back on track and you think you have your act together, you can enjoy some of the work you have done in the month of April. Social connections turn into business opportunities and can really help your security needs. You are still working on getting that office or workplace in shape. It seems like the more you do, the more you have to do. You are just on the verge of getting into a long-term commitment. You have taken off your rose-colored glasses and are seeing your partner with clear vision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) We might as well talk about your career because your love

life is still on vacation. You are feeling very self-motivated. And you can take on any task that is assigned to you. Work and career associations can be very beneficial now and some may last for many years. Don't forget to stay involved with business organizations that have some purpose; get rid of the rest that don't. Relationships can make you feel trapped this month. Keep your dance card open.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You have moved into an action-oriented, decisive, no-BS time in your life. Every action has a purpose connected to a longer-term plan. This whole year, you will seem like a person possessed—starting now. Your home will need to be your sanctuary or you will be explosive there. You will have no tolerance for family members who can't step up and do their part. Watch that you don't become too harsh a judge and eliminate those who may have befriended you in the past. Start an exercise program to help relieve those tensions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Shared money and resources are highlighted for you this month. You are dealing with core trust and loyalty issues. Be sure and take it personally and you don't have to pretend that you are surprised by your lovers' and associates' actions. Don't let this substitute for a needed adventure in your relationship. Break those routines by the end of the month and find a place to get away from it all. You are in a good time to meet people from different cultures that might enhance your business opportunities. And what better place to meet them than in their own country? But don't let your eyes off the money.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) This is the month to make sure you are spending your fun time with someone fun. You were way overfocused on work last month and now it is time to play. Relationships play a big role for you this month. You are still wanting to be the great diplomat at work. Tone down your presence there and get some outside interest. By the end of the month, you are seeking out the deeper meanings of life. Get those finances in order. And pay off those old bills that have been haunting you. You will have no patience for them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The first half of the month, you are directing those arrows toward work and getting things in order. This would be a great time to get your computers running efficiently and to update any old files. You are wanting to get your body and your workplace in shape. If you have been wanting to change those health routines, this is the time. After mid-month, you are busy. Be sure you take on only projects that call out to you in your dreams. You will have plenty of opportunities to meet people for work and for love. Just don't overload your schedule.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Creativity is oozing from all your pores this month. You are more upbeat than usual and you seem to attract people like a magnet. You are really ready to get your life going and get those habits and routines updated. Also, you are in the mood to nurture others—if your romantic partner is smart, they could be the benefactor. And on top of that, you are pondering the bigger picture of spirituality and how all this needs to fit into your daily routines. Answers seem to come easily and you always have your hand on the right document. You will feel productive this entire month.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Just how stable does an Aquarian want to be in their home? They always talk about wanting that and it always seems just out of their grasp. Well, this month, it is close at hand. You are going to want to make your homeplace a temple honoring the flowers and the trees. And yet, you have no time for people who can't respect you as a person. You are looking for real actions from those who say they are your family—they're going to have to show it. Children may be difficult or distant. Yet, you show no signs of softening.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You are in the final stages of making major life plans. Some doubts will enter the picture after the 12th, no matter what decisions you make. Family members will be sending double messages about support with hesitancy. Follow what is best for you and not what is best for them. You are trying to reconnect with your past and part of that will include more contact with your family. The consequences of that interaction may not be good, but it will confirm what you always knew and hoped you could avoid. Even for the gentle, sweet, loving Pisces, you have no tolerance for BS from others even when it is generated from your family.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Now that tax day is finished, just what does your financial picture look like? You are in the mood to spend, spend, spend. Many of you are thinking about a new car, and that could easily figure into your future by the end of the month. At work, you are acting like the big mother—but not everybody wants to do what you think is best for them. Love is in the air and your attraction powers are on full strength. By the end of the month, you are more active and definitely more talkative. Don't overload your schedule.



Lilly Roddy is a Houston-based astrologer. She can be reached at lillycath@aol.com or www.cybersim.com/hermes or <http://communities.msn.com/LillysAstrologicalPad>. To see her forecast for all 2001, check out www.outsmartmagazine.com/issue/i01-01/lookingforward.html#lib.

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OUT IN HOUSTON



1 Angie Ladda (Ralph Leal) at the Deb-U-Not Ball on April 8.



2 Lawanda Jackson (right) and **Eric DeMarco** were crowned Miss and Mr. Rich's on March 25.



3 Jack Jackson at Bringing in the Green fundraiser March 16 for the Montrose Counseling Center.



4 (L-r) Anita Renteria of the GLBT Chamber of Commerce and H.A.T.C.H.'s **Kevin Davidson** at Mayor **Lee Brown's** breakfast March 24 at the Allen Park Inn.



5 Patti Aldredge giving the keynote speech at the March 30 PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. youth Scholarship Foundation Spring Fling at the Warwick.



6 The awards circle at the transgender Unity Banquet March 24 at the Westchase Hilton.



7 Maria Todd (l) and **Ray Olachia** coordinated the opening day ceremonies of the Montrose Softball League on March 25, at the Texas Instruments park.

8 The crowd enjoying the Diana Awards on March 31 at the Warwick.

9 The king (**Anita Goff**, left) and queen (**Don Hurst**) of the Krewe of Olympus won

the best Easter bonnet contest at Bunnies on the Bayou, April 15. With over 2000 people attending, Bunnies raised a record \$55,000.

10 Attendees at the Progressive Voters Alliance fundraiser on April 1.

11 Creath Robinson (right) is crowned Mr. Prime Choice April 7 by **Don Gill**.

12 Attendees coming off the bus for another stop on the Progressive Dinner March 24 to benefit AssistHers and Uncommon Legacy.

13 Dr. Janet Mitchell (right), a leader in women's health in the Bronx, visited the Center for AIDS on March 29. Here with CFA's executive director **Joel Martinez**.

14 Ernie Manouse (left) and **Nancy Ford** (in their pajamas) were emcees of the River Oaks Theatre's Academy Awards party on March 25.

15 Cantoni store manager Jeff Levine (right) with **Jeri**, Houston's Make-A-Wish Child, at the March 22 Cantoni Spring Preview Party.

16 City Council candidate Ada Edwards (left) joined **Annisie Parker** at Annisie's re-election kick-off party on March 29 at Sabo.



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