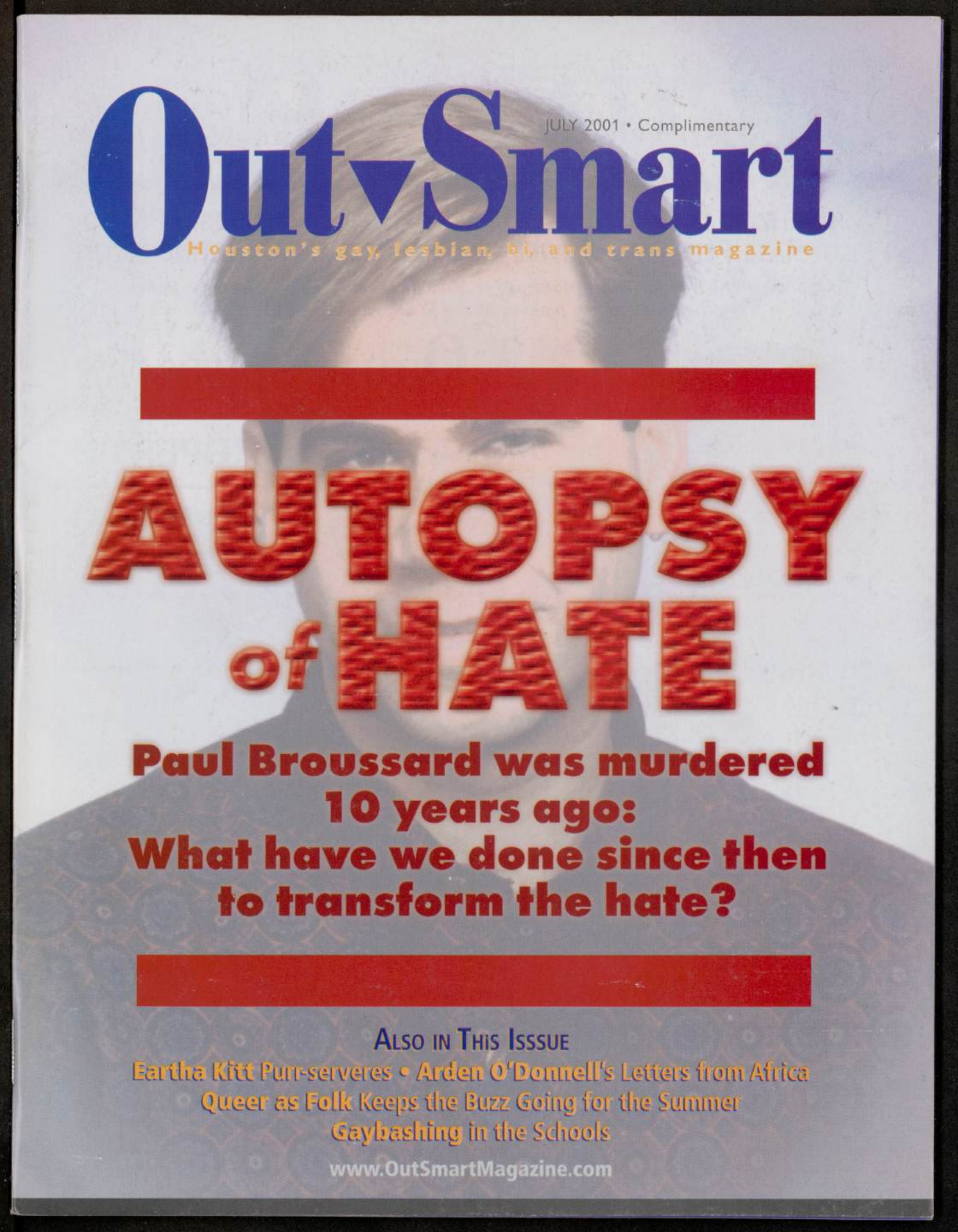
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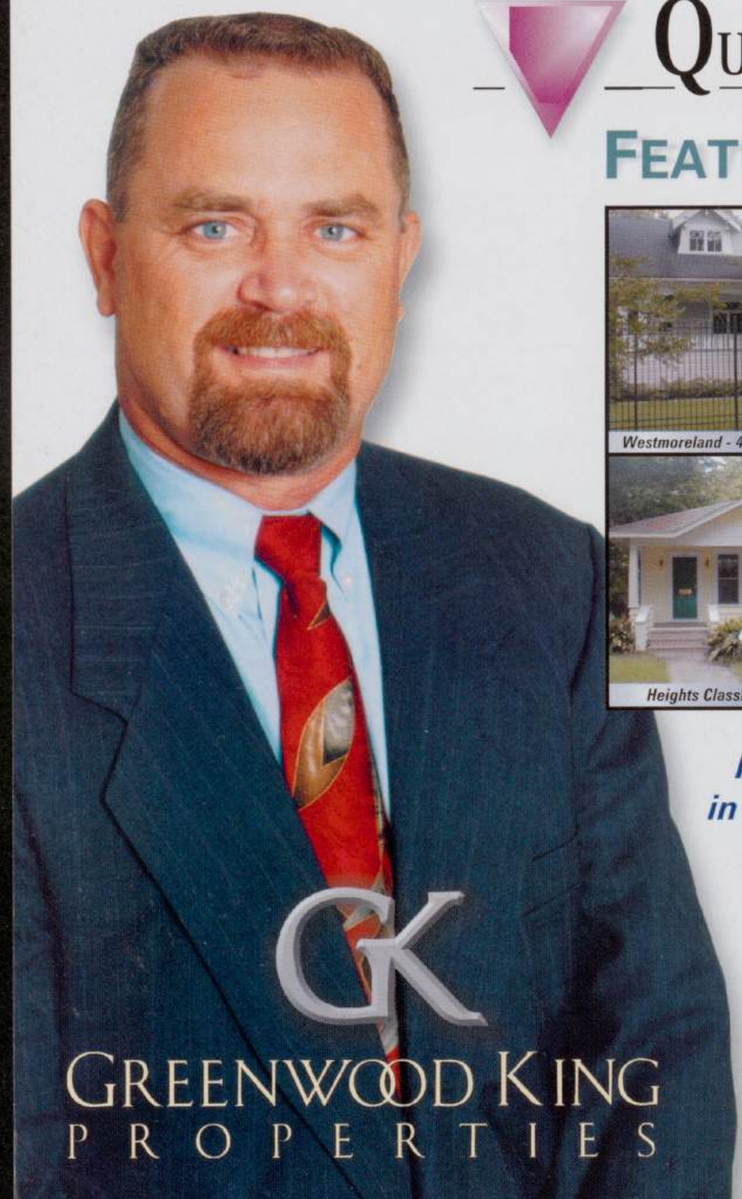
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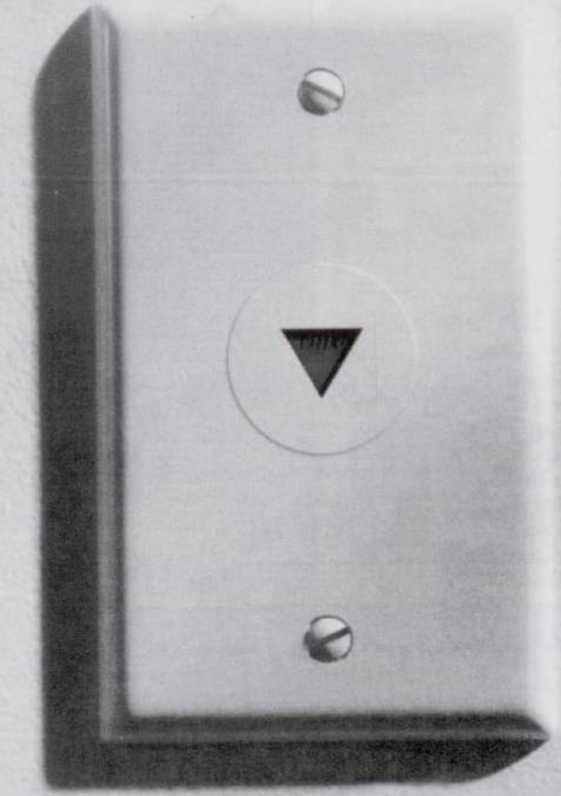
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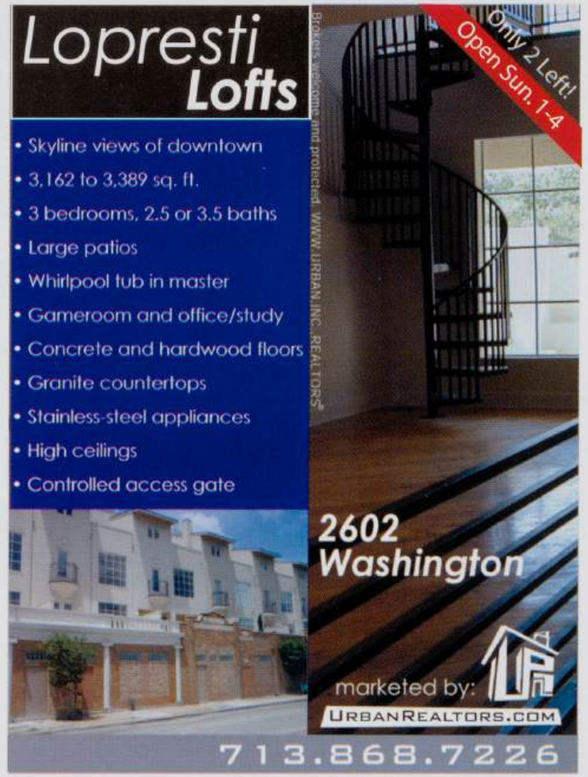
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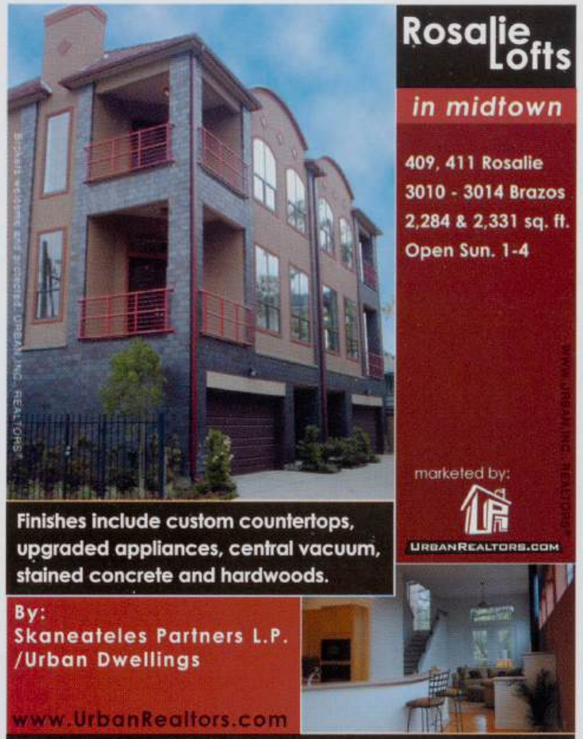
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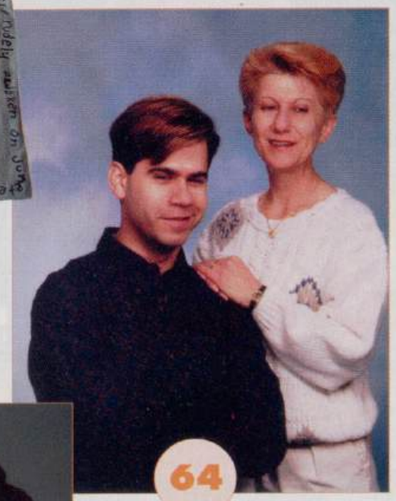


Out Smart

CONTENTS

Vol. 8 • No. 6 • July 2001



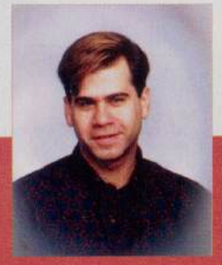












NEWS & COMMENT

7 **Letters**
8 **Maria Minicucci**
10 **Soulforce in the Big Easy**/*Karen Morgan*
12 **DIFFA**
18 **The Referendum Page**/*Rev. Bob Schaibly* Taking GLBT rights to the pulpit.
18 **From the Mayor's GLBT Liaison**/*Janine Brunjes* Stumping for Mayor Brown.
24 **LeftOut**/*Daryl Moore* With the hate crimes bill, the message is loud and clear—and that's what's important.
25 **OutRight**/*Dale Carpenter* The hate crimes mirage—why we don't need a special law.
29 **Letters from Africa**/*Arden O'Donnell* A Houstonian writes home about her work with children orphaned by AIDS in Zimbabwe.

OUT & ABOUT

34 **Calendar** Melissa Etheridge, *Cinderella*, and more.
40 **GrooveOut**/*Chris Sill* Honey, Wotapalava is going on?
42 **Queer Quotes**/*Blase DiStefano* Dame Edna & Chuck George, George Segal, Valarie Rae Miller, Elton John . . .
44 **Eartha Kitt** *Purr*-severes. *by Blase DiStefano*
50 **Movies** *The Closet, Lost and Delirious, The Weekend . . .*
52 **TV**/*Larry Collins Queer as Folk* keeps the buzz going despite summer reruns.
55 **Dining**/*E.J. Arnell*—Red Onion.
57 **"Tapas" Dining Guide**
58 **Bars & Clubs**

FEATURES

64 **Paul Broussard** was murdered in Houston 10 years ago July 3. *OutSmart* dedicates this issue to his memory, and to stopping the hate. *by John Aston*
72 **Angela** Starting a Gay Straight Alliance in a small-town high school. *by Kirk Read*
74 **Gaybashing in the Schools** *by Bill Berkowitz* There are a lot of frightened kids out there.

OVER & OUT

86 **SignOut**/*Lilly Roddy*
90 **SceneOut**
92 **Back Page** Quilt of Hope.

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

23 **Business News**
84 **Classifieds**
82 **OutSmart Advertisers**

◂ ON THE COVER

Autopsy of Hate: Paul Broussard

Photo by **Olan Mills** • Design by **Blase DiStefano**

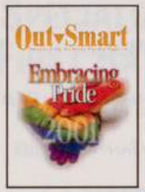
FROM TOP: LANIER MIDDLE SCHOOL; OLAN MILLS; JESS FROHMAN; BLASE DISTEFANO; UNCREDITED; MEDALIST ENTERTAINMENT

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CONTENTS

JULY 2001

In This Issue



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Letters

PROUD

The biographies of the 2001 Houston pride marshals were absolutely wonderful! (June *OutSmart*) And, as the person who nominated the male and female marshals, I would like to say that you have captured quite remarkably the reasons why I chose to nominate Dalia and Mitchell for the honors in the first place.

Pokey Anderson's profile of Dalia Stokes was especially well done. I found it extremely interesting to see the result of two of our community's female political powerhouses coming together for an interview. Pokey's outdone herself with this one! It's a fascinating look both at Dalia and at the very real effects of political activism on our community's quality of life.

John Stiles' profile of Mitchell Katine left me laughing, just as Mitchell himself usually does. And now I have a whole new mental image of Mitchell—as a forlorn youth, expelled from class, singing "Where is love?" on the school steps! That's priceless.

And finally, Roger Donley's profile of Blake and Gordon Weisser was a perfect reflection of our community's surrogate grandparents. For those of us who find only rejection from our families, it's wonderful to have people like the Weissers who help us realize that not all families are like our families. And that we are capable of being loved and accepted, just the way we are. I revel in the thought of Blake Weisser taking on Jesse Helms . . . heh . . . I'll bet he didn't know what hit him, until it was over.

Thanks, *OutSmart*—you always get it right!

Brandon Wolf
Houston

I just picked up the June issue. You should be real proud. I thank you for such great coverage of the Pride Committee, and just your general coverage of the state of Pride in Houston.

Jack Valinski
Executive director, Pride Committee of Houston

NOT PROUD

My name is Aaron Coleman. I am a gay, African-American poet, musician-songwriter, and performance artist. As one of the three featured poets in the current gay pride guide *Pride.01*, I wanted to take this opportunity to take you, collectively, to task. In your June edition of *OutSmart*, you feature interviews of the community at large, under the moniker of "Pictures of Pride." Out of the 84 persons you interviewed, only three were black, and they were males, representing less than 4 percent of the total persons interviewed. This is hardly representative of the theme of Gay Pride 2001, which is "Embrace Diversity." Your anticipated response of this being an oversight is totally unacceptable. Once, yet again, the majority has seen fit to disrespect a sizable and vital constituent of the gay community; and not one black lesbian is represented. I find it disgraceful. It's one thing to preach diversity and entirely another to practice it! And all this in the fourth-largest city in the United States!

Aaron Coleman
Houston

As a member of this community I sometimes wonder if we are all reading from the same page when speaking of diversity, so let's start with the actual definition of this year's slogan for pride:

"em·brace (m-brs): To clasp or hold close with the arms, usually as an expression of affection. To include as part of something broader. See Synonyms at include. To take up willingly or eagerly; embrace a social cause."

"di·ver·si·ty (d -vûr s -t , d -): The fact or quality of being diverse; difference. A point or respect in which things differ. A state of difference; dissimilitude; unlikeness."

Now knowing the conveying fundamental character of each, this one gay man asks each person who reads this how much inclusion of diversity do you see in this gay community?

If anything it's more separatist now than ever. There has not been a real pride parade in a good while—the parades now are more like endless advertisements instead of a celebration of our diverse selves.

Being gay today is almost like being at the Gap or Starbucks: There is one on every corner and a certain uniformity which leaves no room for the individuality we seek to celebrate. It's ironic, really; the power of inclusion is so intoxicating that this community has become like every other community—a target market.

Amazing. [Although] we've lobbied for equal rights, fair treatment, and discrimination laws, this individual believes wholly before we can ask this of others it must first come from within this community.

Name Withheld
Houston

INCINERATING OUR ACTIVISTS

I am writing in response to Paula Martinac's article: "Activists Ablaze: Burning commitment? Burned-out is more like it." (LeftOut, June *OutSmart*) I have been an activist for more than 20 years and had the opportunity to work on the staffs of both the Human Rights Campaign and PFLAG National in Washington, D.C. My response to those who question the ability of our organizations to retain experienced and talented staff is threefold.

First, as a nonprofit professional, I am aware of the sad truth that nearly all nonprofits experience a higher turnover rate than for-profits. This is due mostly to unreasonably long working hours and even more unreasonable pay. Toss in the limited availability (if offered at all) of real benefits, such as insurance, EAP programs, disability, etc., and you have a recipe for turnover.

Second, and harder to say for diplomatic reasons (!), is that too often our organizations select leaders and make decisions based on personalities rather than sound principles. While it is often true in many workplaces that *who* you know is more important than *what* you know or can contribute, it seems to have been raised to an art form within our community.

Third, and finally, there exists among many minority communities the irrational need to "kill our wounded," as an old saying does. Losing sight of the big picture and the immense resources of our opponents, too often internal bickering and backstabbing sabotage real progress and results.

Toss in what appears to be a lack of willingness to take stock of mistakes and weaknesses, an exaggerated focus on sound bites, big money, and photo ops, and you have a recipe for running off good people. Will these things change? I hope so. In the meantime, I continue trying to do my part via the Internet, faxes, e-mails, organizing locally, and personal contributions when I can.

Thank you for *OutSmart*—keep up the good work!

Jeffrey B. Garrett
North Manchester, IN

DIFFA-RENT STROKES

Just a quick note to say I saw the advertisement for DIFFA (June *OutSmart*) and I thought that it was a *great* picture and tastefully done. I support DIFFA and think it's a *great* organization and have enjoyed the way executive director Rodney Honerkamp has handled the local office here in Houston. Thank you, *OutSmart* for having Blendorama advertised in your magazine and to the individual who talked to Rodney Honerkamp to get it there.

R. Garza
Houston



PLEASED WITH POKEY

I especially enjoyed reading "Rebels & Survivors" by Pokey Anderson ("The life stories from four of our lesbian 'ancesters,'" March *OutSmart*). Just now catching up on my reading and was fascinated by this article. Please encourage her to write more stories for your publication.

Russ Byrd
Houston

CORRECTION



In the June SceneOut, we misidentified the current and past Mother of Montrose. Muriel Reeves (left, a.k.a. Reavis Bell) was crowned the new Mother of Montrose at Mary's on May 13, taking over from 2000 Mother of Montrose Ginger Vitis (a.k.a. Jerry Rockwell). We regret the error.

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In&Out

News IN our community & OUT in the nation

Briefs compiled by Ann Walton Sieber



Maria Minicucci (left)and her partner Deb Murphy.

Maria Minicucci

August 15, 1950–May 15, 2001

by Ann Walton Sieber

If Maria Minicucci upset an entire community by dying way too early, at age 50, she compensated for it in some part by living a life that was uncompromising and full-bore. Thoreau cautioned that we may come to the end of our lives and realize we haven't lived: Maria came to what should have been the halfway point of her adult life and realized, I hope, that she'd been living very fully indeed.

Maria was a big woman—in her physical size, sure. But this extended to her impact in the community, the scope of her ideas, the breadth of her creativity, her sexuality, and her caring.

Maria was at the center of Houston's GLBT community—rather remarkably, for she only moved here three and a half years ago—and when she was found dead of a heart attack on May 15 while visiting her mother in Niagara Falls, the ripples spread out through the community within minutes. It was a shock that jolted the center. Maria was such a familiar presence at queer gatherings: Walking into Baba Yega's or the community center or any Pride event, it felt bizarre to know Maria would not be there, for she so often was.

Maria Elena Minicucci was born August 15, 1950, to Emily and Ernest Minicucci and grew up in a blue-collar Italian neighborhood in Niagara Falls, just minutes from the crashing water of the falls. Maria's father was a policeman, her mother a housewife. Maria had a strong personality (and a penchant for ruffles and frills), and she felt a misfit in her fiercely Roman Catholic and conservative neighborhood. Her own struggles with being an outsider set her up for a life of helping other outsiders and underdogs. Maria's calling came early: Already at age five, according to her partner Deb Murphy, Maria was teaching the other little girls in the neighborhood the joys of their own sexuality.

Maria defied her parents—who didn't see any reason why she should go to college—and majored in social work and psychology at Buffalo State (only 15 minutes away from Niagara Falls). Starting her career of helping those outside the mainstream, she went to work for the welfare department in Buffalo.

While only 23, Maria married a man, but the union was not successful. She had an affair with a gay man, who introduced her to Buffalo's gay bar scene. Before long, she figured out where her true desire lay and, around the time she was 25, started dating women (and obtained a divorce). In classic Maria style, she didn't just assume a "sexual orientation"—a rather clinical term—she immersed herself in a totality of being. As she wrote years later in the *Houston Voice*, "I have, for 25 years, been completely captivated, enthralled, and ecstatic with my heart's desire. . . . This Great Love in my life is—My Lesbianism."

In the next 15 years, Maria embarked on a life of expression, uninhibited living, intellectual pursuit, and giving of herself to others.

A few years after she'd immersed herself in her newfound lesbian life, she moved to Florida and opened a straight bar with a lover who was a former quarterback in women's pro football, and who had created a scandal when she was discovered with a prostitute. Tiring of a life of pool lounging and peach daiquiris, and disgusted by the election of Ronald

continued on page 80

Melissa Etheridge

live...and alone

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Taking On 10,000 Southern Baptists

A Houstonian describes her experiences with Soulforce at the Southern Baptist convention in New Orleans

by Karen Morgan

On June 11-13, some 10,000 Southern Baptists descended on New Orleans for their annual convention. Perhaps the most egregiously antigay religious group in the U.S., the gathering promised a concentration of homophobia and ignorance. Believing that such misinformation should not go unchallenged , Rev. Mel White brought his Soulforce protesters from all over to spread their own message of hope and truth. Soulforce is made up of gays, lesbians, transgenders, bisexuals, and their supporters, all who follow the teachings of Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. in advocating nonviolent resistance. Participants are asked to take a pledge to uphold the ideals of Soulforce: to seek truth, to love, to suffer for the cause (or take on the perceived enemy's anger without retaliation), to control passions, and limit possessions.

Becky Ingalls, one of our own Houstonians, attended the protest as a member of Soulforce. Ingalls has been a high school counselor for HISD for 13 years and also runs a private practice. Ironically, she was raised Baptist and her whole family is still of the Baptist faith. In her career, she has seen firsthand the kind of damage that the Southern Baptist teachings can do, and she feels a pretty high percentage of teen suicide can be attributed to this kind of misinformation. She became aware of Soulforce about two years ago and asked to receive the e-mails and periodic updates. She finally decided she wanted to take an active part.

"I was scared," Ingalls confessed. "This was the first thing I'd ever done in public."

Before attending the convention, Soulforce participants were asked to write a letter to a Southern Baptist board member asking for just a few moments of their time to have a short conversation, a cup of coffee, anything to get a dialogue going and work toward a common end. Ingalls was asked to write her letter to a Pastor Coe from Arizona. He didn't reply.

After arriving in New Orleans on Monday night, participants were directed to the St. Mark's Methodist Church where they received training and watched videos on nonviolent resistance. Tuesday morning, Soulforce forces were divided into five different squads of 60 to 70 each; each took a two-hour shift outside the Superdome, where the conference was taking place, starting at 7:15 a.m. as the convention-goers arrived. Under a giant banner that read, "Southern Baptist teachings are killing our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children," the Soulforce participants stood in silent vigil for two days.

At one point, some Southern Baptist delegates stepped between Fred Phelps and Soulforce members, shaking hands and apologizing for his behavior.

A very few delegates, some confrontational and some actually genuine, tried to ask what was meant by "Southern Baptist teachings." They were directed to a hospitality room in the Holiday Inn just down the block where Rev. White and other clergy talked to them about how harmful their teachings are, citing specific examples and answering questions. A small number actually went.



Holding a "jazz funeral" for all of the Southern Baptists who have died because they were gay.

But for all their effort and care, Ingalls admitted that Soulforce's presence didn't seem to make much difference to the delegates; most just passed them by, without comment.

When asked if this treatment, these attitudes, made her angry, Ingalls replied, "You really have to have your head together." She said many of the protesters use some kind of mantra to prevent it from getting to them, to keep them focused on. One woman thought over and over, "They are victims of misinformation." Ingalls kept her mind filled with a song she sang in church—"Undivided," written by Mel Tunney, who, ironically, is himself a Baptist. "In our hearts we're undivided, worshiping one Spirit, one God."

The notorious Fred Phelps was present, pastor of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, known for attending AIDS victims' funerals carrying a sign that reads "God Hates Faggots." He and his church family were marching on the esplanade protesting the Soulforce presence. However, Ingalls did say that not all the Southern Baptist delegates were that extreme. At one point, some delegates stepped between Phelps and Soulforce members, shaking hands and apologizing for his behavior.

On Wednesday, to end the conference, Soulforce members held a "jazz funeral" to mourn the death of gay Southern Baptists, marching around the perimeter of the Superdome to the tune of "When the Saints Come Marching In." Ingalls was among the 34 protesters arrested on charges of trespassing as they attempted to take a casket inside the Superdome. On the bus headed for the New Orleans city jail, Ingalls asked Rev. Mel White what he thought would come of the arrests and the days of nonviolent protest.

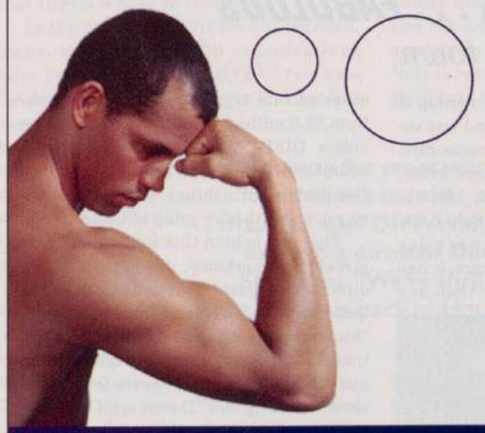
"The best I hope for is that it affects the people that participated," he replied.

Ultimately no charges were filed. When the bus pulled up in front of the jail, a policeman told them they were free to go.

In summing up her experience, Ingalls says, "What was important to me is that I didn't know I had the courage to do something like that. I don't know if it was my conscience or the spirit of God that led me to confront the Baptists and their teachings. I'm glad I did."

It looks like Reverend White got the best he hoped for.

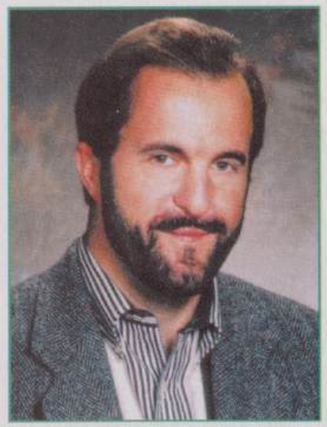
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DIFFA is back in town

DIFFA once had a high profile in Houston—and around the country—for leading the fight against AIDS before anyone else, and doing it with impeccable high-flying taste and tony style, with events like Heart Strings, Take a Seat, and Dining by Design. But then DIFFA (which stands for Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS) seemed to fade away, and we didn't hear much on either the local or the national fronts.

Now, we hope you've started to notice DIFFA is making a comeback, first with their Wreath Collection last year during the holidays at the Warwick, then their Eat Out & Chip In hosted by Café Annie's Robert Del Grande, among others.

And now on Sunday, July 8, DIFFA is throwing their Blendorama—which, if that oh-so-intriguing chartreuse promo ad is any indication, should be quite the splash. Blendorama is billed as an afternoon of "groovy music, icy concoctions and hmmmmm, let's see what else we can think of. . . ."

DIFFA was started in 1984 by a group of New York design professionals, and was really the first organization on the scene raising money for AIDS. Three years later, designers Michael W. Dale, Betsie Weatherford, and Lynn Billings Etheridge started a local group, and soon it was going strong. In DIFFA/Houston's 14 years, it has raised more money for HIV/AIDS than any other private organization, granting more than $2.6 million to local AIDS service providers. DIFFA's events are orchestrated by volunteers from the fields of fashion, interior design, furnishings, and architecture, so you know they're going to be amazing.



(Left to right) DIFFA/Houston founders Michael W. Dale and Betsie Weatherford with DIFFA/Houston director Rodney Honerkamp.

The man behind this renewal of energy is Rodney Honerkamp, who became DIFFA's director in August last year. Honerkamp has quite the Houston résumé, having spent the '80s working with the Institute of International Education, which brought scholars and other international figures to town, and then working for David and Suzanne Saperstein, bold-type River Oaks phenomenons known for their Metro Traffic Control and their extravagent tastes. Perhaps this background in the erudite plus the wealthy was the perfect preparation for his role as DIFFA's shining white knight.

"Houston for years was the foundation's number one chapter," said David Sheppard, DIFFA's national executive director, speaking from their New York offices. "But through those heavy volunteer years, well, we just burned people out. We're thrilled that DIFFA is back in Houston."

In the years since DIFFA was founded, many, many other AIDS organizations have been formed—but DIFFA's role as a fundraiser linking business and professionals to the hands-on agencies has become ever more indispensable. DIFFA went through some rocky years in the early '90s, according to Honerkamp. The national DIFFA office put a lot of promotion and hope into the 1994 Gay Summer Olympics. They anticipated bringing in $1 million, but the Olympics were a flop, and they actually owed several hundred thousand. But far worse, DIFFA had made the over-hopeful error of pledging the expected money to the recipient AIDS organizations. The board of directors was determined to make good, calling on all the regional offices to help with the massive fundraising effort, and raising controversy and over-stressing the organization. Houston went from being the strongest regional DIFFA group to basically hibernating while they regrouped and rekindled. "It was bad judgment and a mistake in timing," Honerkamp said, "but it wasn't like the director flew his girlfriend to the Bahamas."

"Houston for years was the foundation's number one chapter," said DIFFA national executive director David Sheppard. "We're thrilled that DIFFA is back in Houston."

DIFFA states that their granting philosophy "has been to support start-up or emerging programs and ideas that reflect a unique or innovative approach to a problem." Through the years, DIFFA has provided money to the Assistance Fund, AIDS Foundation Houston, AVES, Bering Community Service Foundation, Body Positive, the Houston Buyer's Club, the Center for AIDS, Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos, Interfaith Care Partners, Houston AIDS Information Link, the Montrose Counseling Center, the NAMES Project, Omega House, People with AIDS Coalition, and both Baylor College of Medicine (Department of Pediatric Infectious Diseases) and UT Health Science Center (Department of ObGyn). ■

LESBIAN ROBIN HOODS?

An Uncommon Legacy's band of merry women honor Monica Lamb at their annual brunch

To recognize her support of the lesbian community both locally and na-tionally, former Houston Comet Monica Lamb will be honored with An Uncommon Woman Award at the sixth annual Uncommon Legacy Extra Mile Award Brunch, July 29. Legacy's Extra Mile Awards will go to: Janine Brunjes, Ardeth Eversmeyer, Rev. Carolyn Mobley, and Councilmember Annise Parker. Plus, poet laureate Donna Garrett will be a special guest, as well as the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, who will do a piece in tribute to their "sisters."

Legacy members like to describe themselves as "lesbian Robin Hoods," since their

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AN UNCOMMON LEGACY FOUNDATION, INC.

goal is to raise money from those members of the lesbian community who are already prosperous and established and give it in grants and scholarships to those who are up-an-coming, and those groups who are addressing lesbian issues.

Dedicating itself to enhancing the visibility, strength, and vitality of the lesbian community, Legacy grew out of a series of garden parties first held in 1990 by New York advertising executive Vivian Shapiro and freelance journalist Lys Marigold. Using the name "Uncommon Women," the women threw lavish parties on New York's Long Island and asked guests to donate money to a general fund. The money was then distributed to lesbians who worked for the political, social, and economic advancement of the lesbian community. The parties became so popular and successful that by 1993, 500 lesbians donated over $117,000 at a single event. That same year, Shapiro and Marigold officially formed Uncommon Legacy Foundation Inc. And Legacy has stuck to its course ever since, convincing lesbians with more than a little spare change to help perpetuate the cultural, educational, and political legacy of the lesbian community.

The 6th Annual Uncommon Legacy Extra Mile Award Brunch will be Sunday, July 29, 11 a.m. at the Warwick Hotel. For invitations or to pay via credit card, please contact Stephanie at 713/774-1744. For further information on An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, Inc., please visit Legacy's website at www.uncommonlegacy.org.

AIDS Rides and Breast Cancer Walks

The Pallotta TeamWorks is producing numerous AIDS rides and breast cancer three-day walks—including the second time out for the enormously successful Alaska AIDS Vaccine Ride. In the Alaska Ride's debut last year, almost 1,500 riders raised $4.1 million that went to AIDS research. Pallotta TeamWorks is a for-profit California company, and has become the foremost producer of such events in the country.

Upcoming rides are in Montana AIDS Vaccine Ride, July 30–Aug. 5; Alaska AIDS Vaccine Ride, Aug. 20–25; Canada to U.S. AIDS Vaccine Ride (from Montreal to Portland, Maine), Sept. 5–9. If you are considering participating in this monumental experience, or wish to make a donation, call 888/553-4567 or visit www.vaccineride.org.

Pallotta also produces the Avon Breast Cancer 3-Days—last year, each event drew from 1,800 to 3,100 participants walking around 20 miles for three days running, and raising from $5 million to $11 million. Upcoming walks are in San Francisco, July 27–29; Colorado, Aug. 3–5; Seattle, Aug. 10–12; New York, Sept. 21–23; Atlanta, Oct. 5–7; and Los Angeles, Oct. 19–21. To register, crew, volunteer, or pledge financial support, call 888/3DAYAVON, or visit www.breastcancer3day.org. →



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Mayor Lee Brown

One Step Closer to Ending Discrimination

Just in time for the Pride parade, the news came from Austin on June 21 that the Texas Supreme Court had decided in Mayor Lee Brown's favor in upholding his executive order banning GLBT discrimination against city employees, against the lawsuit brought by City Councilman Robb Todd and local businessman Richard Hotze.

Mayor Brown issued the executive order soon after taking office in 1998. Todd and Hotze then sued, saying that the executive order was illegal because it went against the 1985 referendum fiasco (orchestrated by Hotze) in which a similar nondiscrimination ordinance was voted down 4 to 1 in what was then the largest voter turnout in Houston history.

Although the current Texas Supreme Court is usually quite conservative, in this case they ruled that neither citizen Hotze nor Councilmember Todd "have standing to challenge a mayor's authority to issue an executive order prohibiting city employees from discriminating based on sexual orientation." Seven of the eight judges were in agreement with the decision, and one concurred in part and dissented in part.

Since the court was ruling on whether Todd and Hotze even had the right to sue, they stated that in the ruling, "we express no opinion on the merits of the underlying claim."

"I had no doubt at any time what the outcome would be," said a confident and smiling Mayor Brown, "—not only is it the right thing to do, it is the legal thing to do. I have been and always will be committed to equal treatment of everyone. . . . No government and certainly not the government I represent and love should be in the business of discrimination."

Q EMERGENCY!

Q Patrol has been protecting Montrose for 10 years—no more?

Governor signs hate crimes bill. Violent crimes down according to new study. City council proposes nondiscrimination policy. Sounds like good news for our community, doesn't it? We are safe, the laws are on the books and acceptance seems to be growing, so we don't have to worry about being a victim of violence in the Montrose area.

Don't be so sure. Yes, we have come a long way—but all of the laws, television shows, movies, and Pride events cannot protect people from those who are interested in creating havoc for others based on sexual orientation.

Q-Patrol has spent the past 10 years walking the streets trying to protect people—but we are now in serious danger of having to stop. Q-Patrol was born out of the murder of Paul Broussard and a series of attacks on people coming and going from clubs in our neighborhood just a decade ago. As of late the patrol has seen a decrease in membership and donations and an increase in community apathy. We would like to be patroling the streets every Friday and Saturday night through the summer. But right now it is rare that we have a patrol out Fridays, and even Saturday patrols are getting scarce—we just don't have the people.

We don't need martial artists or retired special forces officers; all that is needed to volunteer is to be at least 18 years old and have a burning desire to help your fellow citizen.

The patrol is also in dire need of money; our expenses are few but have a hefty pricetag. I know that there is not a single organization in our community that doesn't need help. But I am putting forward this urgent call to arms to save the patrol. Remember the only way the patrol can help you is for you to help the patrol and that time really is now.

Q-Patrol Inc. is a nonprofit corporation affiliated with the Houston Police Department's Citizens on Patrol program. If you want to join us or just get more information, please call 713/528-SAFE (7233) or e-mail us at qpatrolinc@aol.com or qp_callouts@hotmail.com.

— Chris Arasin, chairman Q-Patrol

Transgender Shelter Opens in Galveston

Community Awareness for Transgender Support has opened a small halfway house in Galveston for transgenders who would otherwise be homeless. The facility has been up and running since mid-February.

"For far too long our community has been turned away from 'mainstream' shelters," says Cris Williams, president of Community Awareness for Transgender Support (CATS). "We are attempting to help our community take its first tentative steps toward assisting those of us whose only options seemed to be the streets or prostitution."

The center has been started and supported through the time and generosity of the CATS membership. Started a year and a half ago, CATS is a "nonprofit peer-led resource and information group which endeavors through grass roots education, activism, and advocacy to advance the quality of life for all those whose physical makeup, emotional, sexual and/or self expression do not fit current cultural gender stereotypes."

If you are a transgender in need of assistance with housing, please call the CATS 24-hour helpline at 409/741-2501 or e-mail us at tghelp@tghelp.org.

If you would like to make a donation to help the center pay utilities, please send it to the CATS 52nd St. House Fund, C/O Capital Bank, 3007 S. Shepherd Dr., Houston, 77098. The center is also in need of cleaning supplies, food and canned goods, two bunk-beds, and a kitchen table and chairs. →

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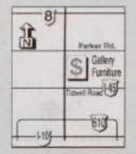


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THE REFERENDUM PAGE

updates on creating a safe work environment for Houston

TAKING GLBT RIGHTS TO THE PULPIT

Clergy for a Fair Houston joins the battle for a city nondiscrimination ordinance

by the Rev. Robert Schaibly,
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston

The teaching that homosexual behavior is a sin is a prejudice hidden under the fig leaf of religion. Biblical literalists do not take literally most of the teachings of the Bible. Certainly there are fundamentalists who have gotten a divorce, for example. Do Christian literalists keep a kosher home? Do they avoid shellfish and pork? The same Holiness Code in Leviticus that prohibits homosexual relationships also says children who curse their parents are to be put to death; that the punishment for adultery is death; that the punishment for incest is death. May we expect a citywide referendum demanding the enforcement of all these?!

The writers of Leviticus tried to bind together a disparate people surrounded by diverse cultures and religions. The Book forbids haircuts and permits holding slaves as long as they are from foreign countries. It says we are not to sow fields with two kinds of seed, not to wear garments made of two different kinds of material, not to harvest fruit trees until the fifth year, not to have sex with a woman who is menstruating. How seriously can we take this today as a guide for living our lives? It is in this same context that homosexual behavior is forbidden. This is because the people of that time knew homosexuality as pederasty and temple prostitution, and no one is contesting the moral wrongs of those.

There is no commandment against homosexual behavior but there is one against adultery. None of the prophets addresses the issue. Jesus himself says nothing about it. But what glee some ministers take in saying, "God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve." Have you noticed they never go on to admit, "It was these heterosexuals who were responsible for the expulsion from the Garden of Eden!" No, we never hear that part, do we?

Soon the Houston City Council will vote to add sexual orientation to the list of categories for its nondiscrimination ordinance for city employees. We who are happy to see this happen will probably have to confront one referendum seeking to repeal it, and perhaps another that may try to prevent insurance benefits ever being given to anyone not biologically related to the city employee or the employee's married spouse. In the interest of justice we must all act to prevent these from passing on November 6.

continued on page 20

From Mayor Brown's GLBT Liaison

Pride and Mayor Brown

by Janine Brunjes

Riding the fence may be the way to keep the peace, but it's a lousy way to make a stand—or a statement. With enough information and commitment, I believe we are all given opportunities to articulate our messages clearly. After our past Pride month, I hope every one of us continues to maintain a sense (or at least a semblance) of that pride in all that we do. It's a lot like the Christmas spirit. While it's nice to have a dedicated day to reflect on the nature of giving, one must realize that December 25 isn't the only day it's supposed to happen. Similarly, the "pride factor" should figure in our everyday lives. The GLBT community is aware, possibly more than any other segment of the population, that the challenges we face in this life—that life itself—is no dress rehearsal. It is what is. And now is all we have. And it's up to each one of us to make a difference.

I must admit that I was very proud to ride in the Pride Parade with Mayor Lee Brown. He has demonstrated to our community that he is a man of his word and is willing to show it. Most politicians treat causes—gay or otherwise—as issues du jour, to be as quickly forgotten as the soup on yesterday's blue plate. Mayor Brown, however, walks what he talks. To show his support of the

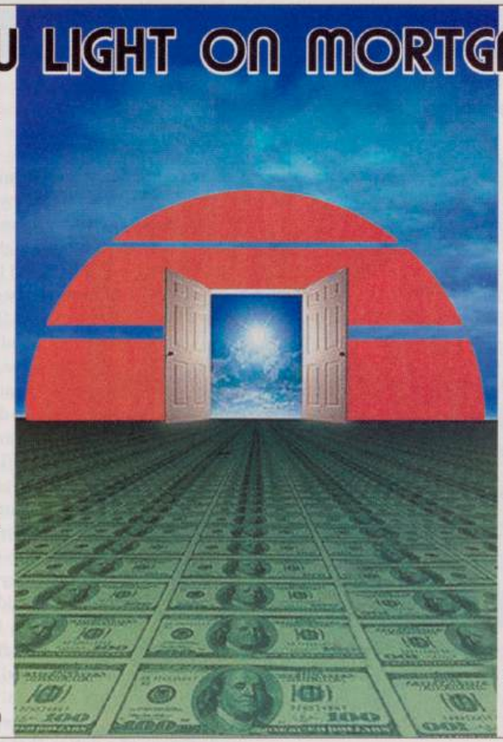
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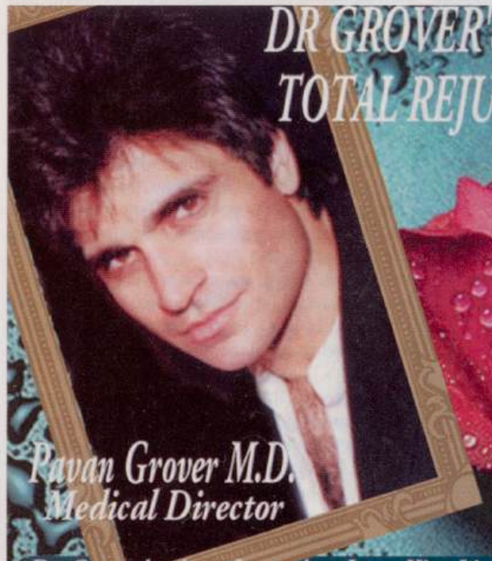


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GLBT Rights to the Pulpit

continued from page _____

All the world's religions have a variant of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," or in some wordings, "Do nothing to others you would not have done to you."

Coming together in this spirit, a number of religious leaders have gathered as Clergy for a Fair Houston. We support the City Council's nondiscrimination ordinance in employment. We want to be sure the people of Houston know that not all religious leaders are antigay. We want to prevent any repeat of the 1985 experience by organizing now. We think social acceptance has changed markedly and would like to advance it further. We hope many congregations and/or their governing boards will support the inclusiveness of the Houston City Council's decision.



Coming together in this spirit, a number of religious leaders have gathered as Clergy for a Fair Houston. We want to be sure the people of Houston know that not all religious leaders are antigay.

Rev. Robert Schaibly

We have three actions in mind. We want something visible. We want a printed statement signed by clergy that says to be religious, to be a good person, one does not have to be antigay. And we want to stimulate discussion in churches through adult classes to provide a point of view that has gone unspoken, and hence unheard, in much of Houston.

The Visual Statement: Two weeks before Election Day we plan to wrap yellow ribbon that says "Hate-Free Zone" around as many church and temple buildings as will welcome it! The board of the congregation I serve—First Unitarian Universalist Church—has voted to do so. Ask your church and synagogue leaders now to get permission for this. PFLAG has offered to provide the ribbon. (Contact me at Bob@firstuu.org.) We want Houstonians to hear the message that spiritual values preclude hate and require us to be fair in employment. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," said Martin Luther King.

Clergy Statement: The clergy on the planning committee have drafted a statement we hope all sympathetic clergy in Houston will sign, and which we will then publicize in the media:

"We come from many faith traditions and communities so we ourselves obviously have different ideas. We are residents of a great city and citizens of a nation that guarantees constitutional freedoms and protections to all. Discrimination in the workplace is immoral as well as economically costly. We respect the diversity of the world in which we live. In our various faiths we find support for laws which protect persons from discrimination. Hatred and prejudice are not family values! Therefore we urge Houstonians to defeat any attempt to limit equal rights in employment. We support the goal of equality, dignity, and respect for all people."

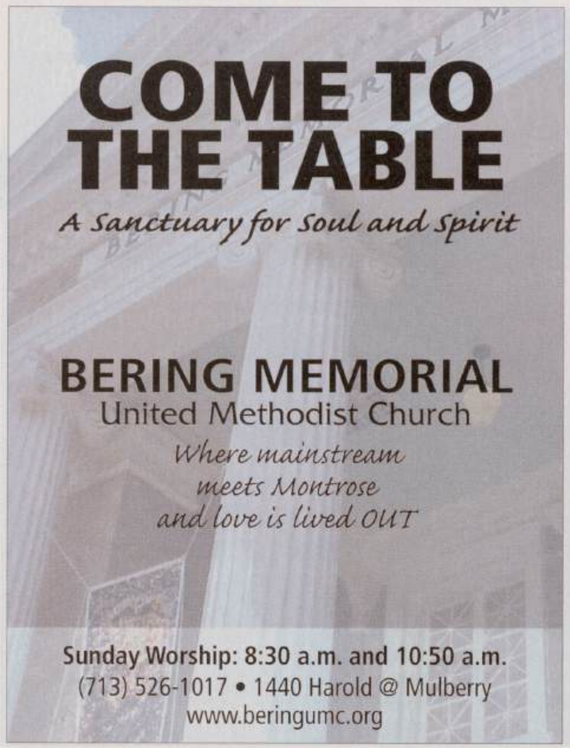
We make a point of identifying ourselves as clergy because there are so few clergy and so few churches that will stand for simple justice for gay people. If clergy will not take a stand neither will congregations. As Edmund Burke said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing."

Religious Education Classes: Third, we want to work through our congregations by means of adult education programs and youth programs to teach about this issue in discussions. Some of our denominations have published materials that will work well to get the conversation going.

We are also announcing to all GLBT people who are hurting from preachers who revile them, congregations that reject them, and denominational assemblies that vote about their very existence, that there are religious groups in Houston where anyone can affirm the values called religious and find healing and hope. There is a refreshing and positive spirituality in the world.

Living out our message of love and justice, health and wholeness, requires progressive religious people to stand up and be counted. These may not be the best of times, but these are our times, and we shall make the best of them!

The Rev. Robert Schaibly is a graduate of Michigan State University and Harvard. He has studied psychology and Zen Buddhism extensively. For 19 years he has been minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church, where10 years ago he and his partner, Steven Storla, a college English teacher, had a commitment ceremony.



Pride and Mayor Brown

continued from page 16

nondiscrimination ordinance for city employees, Mayor Brown approved earlier street closings, and added street closings to make way for the Equality Rally—a rally that allowed our voices to be heard by the city of Houston, the elected officials, and our own community. Later this summer, he will attend the GLBT Finance Committee's event (Elvia's downtown, August 16 at 5:30 p.m.).

Stepping out on a limb, being politically vulnerable by supporting righteous (and often controversial) causes, takes great conscience and courage, especially in today's hot political climate (just ask James Jeffords). It's also not uncommon to have a disturbing number of strange bedfellows (just ask the pro-life and pro-choice movement, sliding between the sheets together in their mutual support of campaign finance reform). Mayor Brown, however, speaks his mind on the issues he cares about without talking out of both sides of his mouth. He doesn't court those who want to deny city employees equal rights for the simple fact that he doesn't believe in oppression. He's the first mayor in the city who ever saw the need for a liason to the GLBT community, for god's sake.

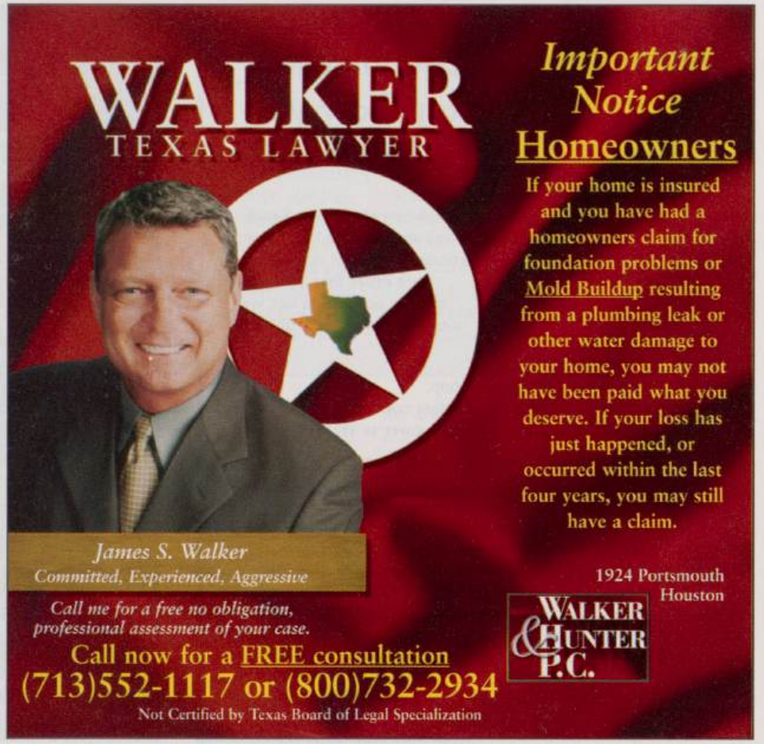
I know election time is still a ways off, but we as a community need to be acting and preparing now. I believe Mayor Brown deserves another term. Houston needs him and, more importantly, we need him. One glittering pride parade does not a policy make. We need to continue to express ourselves by supporting the issues we care about. Today, nondiscrimination policy, tomorrow domestic partner benefits. And don't be misled. As election day comes closer, some council members are going to be crawling out of the polished woodwork to stir up conflict just in time for the polls to open. It may be politics, but it usually muddies the clear waters of truth—we need to be vigilant in finding out who believes what, and who's in support of who. As someone on the inside, let me tell you this: I'm pretty proud to stand beside and promote the policies and decisions of our mayor. Because if there's one thing I've seen up close and personally, it's this: Mayor Brown stands firms on our issues; he does not vacillate. No way. And these days, it's more than a vote for the right candidate, it's a vote of confidence. And conscience.



Janine Brunjes is the GLBT liaison to Mayor Lee Brown and our direct pipeline to influencing Houston politics.

Briefs continued on page 78





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Hollywood Frame Gallery owners **Kathleen and Ricky Connaughton** are pleased to announce a "Screen Queens" exhibition, which is comprised of special lithographic posters that were made by an S2 Art company, Art of the Movies, in association with the American Film Institute and their selection of the "100 American Movie Poster Classics." Through this historic project, the 100 most memorable and striking movie posters of the 20th century are being reissued as a spectacular collection of limited-edition fine art lithographs. • Using old-time, hands-on lithographic techniques, the program recreates early film posters exactly the same way they were made during the first half of the century—from painstakingly hand-drawn plates, slowly "pulled" one color at a time on the extremely rare antique lithography presses of the S2 Atelier in New York City. All the posters are exactly the same size as the originals, but, unlike their predecessors, will be printed on durable archival paper with the finest-quality inks, guaranteeing that these masterworks of American culture will be preservec for generations to come. • Visitors to Hollywood Frame Gallery will be able to view and purchase six posters from the completed lithographic editions in the collection, including posters from the films *Tootsie*, *Cleopatra*, and *Gilda*. Prices start at $325. • Hollywood Frame Gallery is located at 2431 Bissonnet, 713/942-8885.

Larry Broughton just returned from the annual Regional Sales Conference where approximately 400 Wells Fargo loan officers from five states gathered. Broughton was one of approximately 25 WF mortgage loan officers who were awarded the 100% Customer Satisfaction All 5 Award. This award is given to those mortgage loan officers who receive all number-five ratings on surveys returned from clients for the past 12 months. The survey requests each client to rate their service during the loan process with a ranking of 1-5 with 5 being the highest possible score. Excellent customer service is a very high priority at Wells Fargo, and obviously, it is an equally high priority for Broughton. For more information, call 713/654-3085.

Ronnie Kee, GRI, ABR, Broker/Owner announced the opening of **Ronald Kee Properties**. With credentials from The Graduate REALTOR® Institute and as an accredited buyer representative, Kee has the ability to offer our community top-notch service when selling or buying real estate in the Houston market. Specializing in the innerloop area, plans are slated for an office location in the River Oaks/Montrose in the near future. For more information, call 713/523-4242.

PlanetOut Partners, Inc. presented the Gay.com and PlanetOut.com Gayest Commercial of All Time Award to **Leo Burnett Worldwide, Inc.** and **Hyundai Motor Company** for the 1999 commercial "Boy Toy." The award honors advertisers that are breaking ground with outstanding commercials that effectively communicate to gay and lesbian customers through gay and lesbian themes. • To select the nominees for the Gayest Commercial of All Time, a panel of jurors—made up of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and gay-friendly advertising and marketing professionals from top-tier agencies and consumer products companies—narrowed down a field of 20 commercials based on their creativity, style, and ability to effectively convey their message. Visitors to the two websites were asked to vote online for the one commercial that best spoke to them as gay and lesbian consumers. • "While more ads today are including lesbians and gays, those that avoid stereotypes and break barriers are getting noticed and bringing social change," said Commercial Closet executive director Mike Wilke. "Hyundai's win should come as little surprise—the ad was so widely liked it sped around the world via the Internet by members of the gay community, who were happy to share it with the global gay community."

Alexis and Lynn, owners of **Club Rainbow**, announced the opening of another community business. Their new **Westheimer $1.00 Mart** carries items A to Z with nothing over a dollar, giving "making a buck" a whole new GLBT dimension. The owners welcome your business and your continuing support to strengthen the community through the use of your dollar . . . literally. Conveniently located in the same shopping center as Club Rainbow, the new shop is located at 1429 Westheimer. ■

Gay and Lesbian Consumers Trust Brands Most From Companies With Progressive Policies

A survey conducted in May by Harris Interactive and Witeck-Combs Communications, Inc. reveals that consumers who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) have deeper trust for products and brands that not only target gay consumers, but are produced by companies that have progressive policies toward gay and lesbian employees. Fifty-six percent of all gays sampled agreed that they trust brands more from progressive companies—with 41 percent reporting they "strongly agree."

In addition, seven out of 10 gay consumers sampled (72 percent) agreed it was important for companies advertising products to LGBT consumers to "demonstrate effective corporate citizenship" by supporting lesbian and gay causes. Seven out of 10 sampled (71 percent) also stated it was important for companies advertising their products to "establish and publicize progressive policies toward gays and lesbians."

"In a market so information-driven, it's not surprising that gays and lesbians ask which companies reach out to them," said Bob Witeck, CEO of Witeck-Combs Communications. "Reputation clearly matters, and companies that develop smart practices internally find they establish deeper connections and loyalty with customers. Lesbians and gays appear to learn quickly how their choice of brands stack up by judging the company that advertises those brands."

The results also show that half the respondents say it is important for companies to use gay images in advertising, and 72 percent of LGBT respondents say it is important for companies to advertise in gay media.

This data provides further evidence for companies like Verizon (sponsor of New York Gay and Lesbian Pride) and United Airlines (sponsor of San Francisco's and Los Angeles' Gay and Lesbian Pride celebrations) that actively pursuing the market makes good business sense. Wesley Combs, president of Witeck-Combs Communications, noted "both companies are known by lesbians and gays as leaders within the community because both offer domestic partner benefits to their same-sex employees and welcome diversity on many levels. Being a good corporate citizen not only makes these companies a good place to work, but also positively impacts the bottom line."

These findings were part of a significantly larger Harris Interactive online study about consumer behaviors of gays and lesbians, as well as other adults. The latest Harris Interactive/Witeck-Combs Communications research was conducted online among 2,692 adults from the Harris Interactive online panel of respondents, between May 3 and May 16, 2001, in which 128 individuals or 4.8 percent identified themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

THE PASSAGE OF THE "JAMES BYRD JR. HATE CRIMES ACT"

Why now? Why ever?

On May 11, 2001, Texas Governor Rick Perry signed the "James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act" into law. The State of Texas has finally pronounced—after a debate that lasted for two legislative sessions—that it is not okay to hurt or kill someone because of their race, gender, religious affiliation, or sexual preference. And, if you do commit a hate crime, you face stiffer criminal penalties.

On its face, this "no-place-for-hate" concept seems unobjectionable. So, it's ironic that the act drew fire from both ends of the political spectrum. Conservatives argue that the act creates "special rights and protections" for crime victims who are gay, placing more value on gay lives than straight ones. Liberals, on the other hand, argue that the act permits the state to become the "thought police"—punishing some individuals more than others simply for what they believe.

Neither of these concepts is new, however. For decades, legislatures have enacted laws that punish some crimes more than others because of who or what the victim is. For example, if you kill a cop, you have committed a capital offense that can lead to the imposition of the death penalty simply because of the profession of the individual you killed. If you conspire to kill a federal judge, you have committed a federal offense that can lead to one of the stiffest criminal penalties available for any federal crime.

At first blush, it might appear that by enacting stiffer penalties for cop-killers and those who threaten the judiciary, the government is placing more value on the lives of cops and judges than on on those average citizens. But that impression is wrong. The purpose of imposing stiffer penalties on those who threaten our police and the judiciary is to send a message that, as a society, we will not tolerate threats against those who protect us and ensure justice. The "special protection" that such laws afford cops and judges is incidental. It is the message that counts.

Likewise, federal and state governments have a history of enacting legislation that attempts to deter individuals from committing acts that are based upon bias or prejudice. For example, Title VII prohibits employers from firing individuals because of their race or gender. The Fair Housing Act prevents landlords from refusing to rent apartments to individuals with disabilities. Both of these acts are "thought-based" to the extent that they prohibit individuals' discriminatory

continued on p. 26



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.

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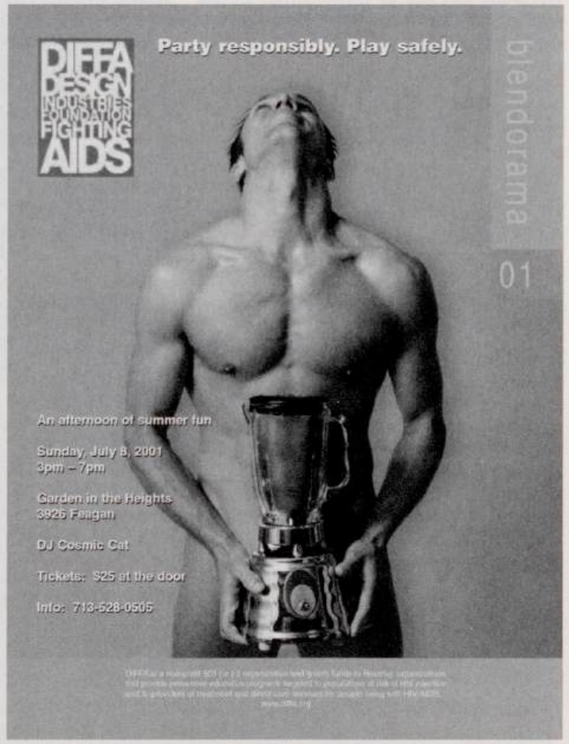
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THE HATE CRIMES MIRAGE

Yes, Texas now has a hate crimes law—but will it make any difference?

Any law that manages to offend both the Christian Coalition and the criminal defense bar can't be all bad. So it's with some ambivalence that I argue that hate crimes laws—like the one just adopted in Texas with the approval of Republican Governor Rick Perry—are an idea whose time has passed.

Although hailed by gay groups as a life-saver, hate crimes laws don't work. Their only value seems to be that they are a kind of trophy commemorating a small victory in the culture war. But, as longtime sexual outlaws, gays should've learned by now the state has no business passing criminal laws for purely symbolic reasons.

Initially, let's dispense with a couple of bad arguments against hate crimes laws. One common argument is that hate crimes laws—which enhance penalties for crimes directed against people or property because of race or sexual orientation or another specified characteristic—imply that some crime victims are more valuable than others.

That might be true if hate crimes laws were victim-focused—that is, dependent on the status of the victim. But hate crimes laws are perpetrator-focused: They look only at the motives of the criminal defendant. Such laws are one method among many by which the criminal justice system marshals its resources (prosecutorial, penal, etc.) against crime thought to present the gravest social threat. Bias-motivated crimes injure not only a person, they terrorize a community. So it violates no principle of human equality to punish such crimes more severely than we do run-of-the-mill crimes.

A second common argument against hate crimes laws is that they punish thought. If that's true, such laws trespass on the traditional American commitment to freedom of thought and speech. But this charge is, in an obvious way, misplaced.

No person is punished under a hate crimes law for thinking bigoted thoughts. Nor is anyone punished for speaking or writing about such thoughts. It is the combination of bigoted motivation plus action that results in greater punishment under a hate crimes law.

Is there anything wrong with considering motive in sentencing? There is certainly nothing novel about adjusting punishment up or down based on the reasons why a person commits a crime. We do it all the time, varying sentences depending on whether an act is committed in self-defense, for greed, for spite, and so on. →



Writing from the conservative end of the spectrum, former Houston resident and law professor Dale Carpenter began his column for OutSmart *in 1994. Now living in Minneapolis, he can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.*

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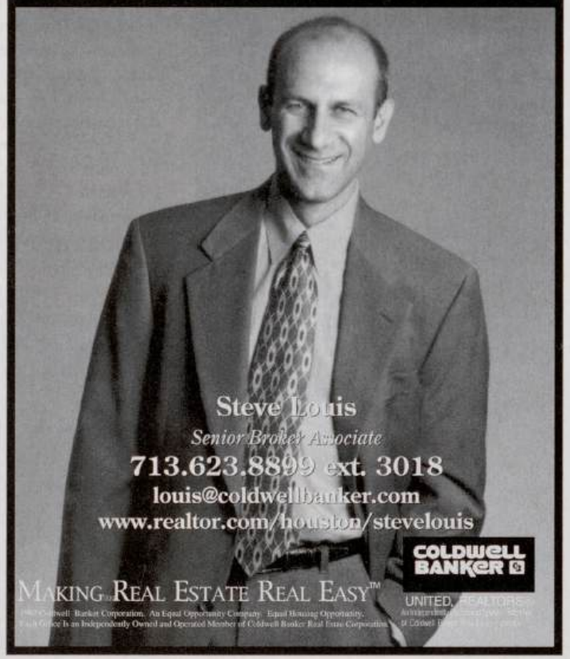
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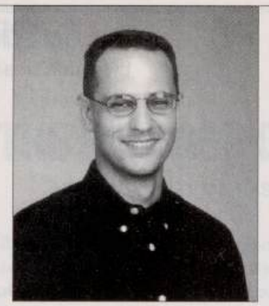
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thoughts from becoming discriminatory deeds. But again, the incidental intrusion on an individual's thoughts is outweighed by society's proclamation that discriminatory acts in the workplace and housing are unacceptable. It is the message that counts.

So now comes the Hate Crimes Act. What is its effect? Will it stop hate crimes? Absolutely not. Will it deter one hate-filled individual from dragging a black man down an East Texas road, or from strapping a pistol-whipped gay man to a Wyoming fence post and leaving him to die? Perhaps not.

But it will send a message. It will say that after 10 years of debate, a majority of those who have been elected to represent Texas have finally agreed that when it comes to acts of violence, Texas is no place for hate. And it is the message that counts. ■

OutRight *continued from previous page*

Sentences are also commonly adjusted because of the degree and extent of the social harm they are thought to cause. The defendant who kills the mother of three young children will typically be punished more harshly—all other things being equal—than the killer of an unmarried person with no friends or living family. Victim-impact evidence can have a dramatic effect on sentencing.

So what's wrong with hate crimes laws? Though they may not suffer the defects usually attributed to them, they have a more straightforward fault: They fail to deter hate crimes.

Most states have a hate crimes law, many of which have been on the books for more than a decade. Yet there is no evidence, no study, of which I am aware that these laws have had any discernible effect on the rate of hate crimes. The world is no safer for gay Texans today than it was before this latest legislative "victory."

Perhaps that should not be surprising. As advocates of these laws have long argued, hate crimes spring from a very deep well of loathing and fear. They are frenzied, often marked by "overkill" (like multiple gunshots and dismemberment) not typically seen in other assaults. They are, it seems, beyond deterrence. More, such laws are rarely invoked by prosecutors both because hate crimes are infrequent and because it is hard to prove the requisite bias motivation.

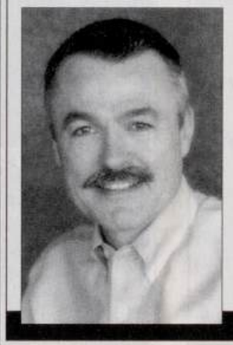
So what is the purpose of passing laws specifically targeting hate? The most honest answer to this question comes from Hawaii Governor Ben Cayetano, who recently signed such a law. Cayetano, conceding there is no epidemic of hate crimes in his state, suggested the law is needed because "there's a statement to be made."

The "statement" made by a hate crimes law is, presumably, that gay lives and black lives and Jewish lives are valuable. It is a symbolic gesture from the state to the populace that—whatever messages of disapproval the state has sent in the past about these groups—violence against them will not now be tolerated. That statement itself is unobjectionable.

The problem is that it is treacherous business for the state to use its criminal laws to make purely symbolic statements. Gays have long been subjected to criminal sodomy laws that are, like hate crimes laws, rarely enforced and unlikely to reduce the incidence of the very activity they purport to target.

Instead, sodomy laws are often supported because of the *symbolic statement* they make in defense of traditional sexual morality. That is, in fact, the precise ground on which then-Governor Bush defended Texas' sodomy law while he was running for president.

It would be far better for us to champion the judicious use of criminal laws, reserving them only for real social problems that law will have some chance to alleviate. No one can doubt that hate crimes are a social problem. But there is considerable doubt, after more than a decade of experience, that hate crimes laws will do anything constructive about that problem. Pursuing them is chasing a mirage. ■



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Information for Patients
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For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

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

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

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

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

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

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

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)

Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)

Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others

Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)

Halcion® (triazolam)

Versed® (midazolam)

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)

Zerit (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

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

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used 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		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	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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Letters from Africa

One woman, one child: A Houstonian writes home about her work with the children orphaned by AIDS in Zimbabwe

by Arden O'Donnell



Editor's note: We first ran an article last month on Arden O'Donnell and her six-month sojourn in Zimbabwe working with AIDS orphans. But as we read more of her in-depth letters to her community back home, we felt this story needed more space in the magazine. • We've read articles about AIDS in Africa; we know the heart-quelling statistics. We know this is a crisis that defies understanding. But sometimes—as we scoot about Montrose in our Starbucks and Bocados life—Africa can seem so unreal. As good as our intentions are, it can be hard to truly realize what is happening with our fellow humans. And even more, it is hard to feel like anything we do here can help with what is happening there. • In reading the account of her work in Zimbabwe, the children she grew to be close to, her descriptions of their lives, we felt we'd been given a window into what is happening with AIDS in Africa—it helped us feel connected in a real way. We hope you feel the same.



Top: One woman, one child—Arden O'Donnell and one of her friends "making AIDS history." Bottom: John with a bike he made out of wire, which he'll sell to raise money for field trips.

My name is Arden O'Donnell. I was born and raised in Houston and I am currently at Boston University studying to get my master's in public health. After graduating from Mount Holyoke College in 1997, I returned to Houston and I worked at the Center for AIDS. During this time I became very involved in community. I was a co-chair of the 1999 HRC winter gala and a participant in the GLBT Chamber of Commerce's Leading and Learning. I had been raised in the gay community. I was lucky enough to have a gay father. My father, John O'Donnell, was an amazing man and an incredible activist. He helped found the Montrose Counseling Center and Body Positive; he was a facilitator for Bering and Friends Support Group and involved with Bering Care Center. He died of HIV in September 1999 just before I left to pursue my career in public health. My experience of living with a parent who is HIV-positive inspired me to help other children who have lost their parents to AIDS. As part of my school work I decided to travel to Zimbabwe for six months and work in a center for AIDS orphans. Three of us went together—Alison Phillips, Amy Carrol, and myself—and I am grateful for our ability to support each other through this experience.

January 25, 2001

First impressions

I have just arrived in Zimbabwe and am beginning to work at the Tsungirirai center for AIDS orphans. It is a nonprofit organization based about 45 minutes outside of Harare. The program is well run and providing incredible support to their clients. I live at the center in one of the two blocks built for housing accommodations, which are also used for temporary housing of AIDS orphans when they are here for skills training. Right now there is a group of 20 girls aged 15 to 19 here for a dressmaking course. These girls face all the problems that orphans in this country face: They have no parents so they cannot pay for their school fees [unlike the U.S., school is not free here], and since many of these orphans have been out of school for a few years, the agency is teaching them a skill which will be marketable and income-generating. There is also a pre-school on site and the kids are adorable. All are orphans, but very few are actually HIV positive (most HIV-positive children die before age two in this country).

One of the first days, I met a woman whom I will call Mary—she is HIV positive and has three children, two girls ages 14 and 12, and a boy age 8. It was obvious she had full-blown AIDS; she was wasting, she described the pins and needles feelings in her legs from the knee down and I knew it was neuropathy, she had chronic diarrhea and thrush. She also casually



mentioned she had tuberculosis. I sat there dumbfounded. Alison gave nutrition advice for the diarrhea and I told her I would read in David Werner's book *Where There Is No Doctor* and see if I could find any suggestions. I went to my room and read some basics: Nothing for neuropathy, but eating yogurt might be able to help the thrush.

Later that day I met her oldest daughter and she took us to their house. It was actually a room about 5 by 10 feet where all four slept. I knew they cooked outside on the fire, but I saw no food. I talked to her a little and suggested the yogurt for her thrush; she smiled, but I knew they did not have the money to even buy this. I heard her cough and I realized all four of them were living in this one room, with one small window. I

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looked at the kids; this was the perfect setting to spread TB to all three. I thought of the rules about TB: Do not sleep with a person with TB; if living with them, make sure it is in well-ventilated rooms. This family could not afford this room; I hardly could suggest separate rooms for the kids. I left feeling helpless.

I could not fall asleep thinking about those kids. What are they going to do when she dies? Right now the center is feeding all three kids breakfast and lunch and picking up the school fees, but when she dies (which I am sure will be before I leave) what will they do? It will be a child-run household and the 14-year-old girl will be in charge. Without an education she cannot get a job and the unemployment is rampant. She has no land to farm, and even marriage is not a possibility with two siblings to care for. . . .

March 15, 2001

Heavens and hells

My alarm goes off at 7. I sit up and peer out the window and see Sekuru raising the flag. I look at the logo, *Tsungirirai*—translated, it means "To Persevere and Have Courage"—and I think about the kids that are helped here and I think the motto is perfect. I open my window. Kerina sees me, waves, and calls, "*Manguanani, Arden.*" "*Manguanani,*" I call as I open the window and smell the fresh air. The sun is high in the sky and I can see the steady stream of people walking on the road—a man in a suit and a tie, a woman in a brightly colored skirt who is carrying a large sack of maize on her head, multiple groups of children in red-and-blue-checkered school uniforms.

Today is the day we were going to visit the first group of people living in the community. I am scared and was glad we agreed on only four houses.

The first woman we visited was Mary, the woman I'd met earlier. The center had given her food, and she was looking better. I was relieved. We sat and talked for a little while and then it was time to go. The home-based care worker looked at me and I had no idea what she wanted. "They need a prayer," she said. I was stunned. Luckily, Alison picked up the ball and began to pray. I just kept thinking, Of course she needs a prayer, it is the only medicine she has.

The other two houses both had sick people of varying stages, none of whom we could offer any medicine, but luckily Alison was able to provide nutritional counseling. In the last home, we were talking to the woman who said it was painful to breastfeed because she had an infection in her breast. She was so wasted; I knew before I even saw her child, he had to be HIV positive. She brought the child to me and set him in my arms. He was one year old but couldn't have weighed more than 10 pounds; his lymph nodes were so swollen, his face looked disproportionately large. I held the child for awhile; his eyes were still bright but I could tell he was in pain. I just held him, trying to comfort him and wishing I could do something. If we were in the States there would be medication; if we were in the States most likely this child would have never been positive.



Hanging around after school.

We left the house and headed back to the center, no one saying a word. As we walked in the gate, three kids came rushing toward us with huge smiles on their faces, each wearing a sun hat. Some donors had sent money to buy hats for the kids and they were ecstatic. I was swept away to the cement court to play ball, then to help with homework. As I was helping one child with math, a little boy about four crawled into my lap. I hugged him and rubbed his back; soon his sunhat had slipped off and he was asleep. This one was one of the lucky ones—poor and parentless, but HIV negative. "This job has heavens and hells," the director had said one of the first days. She never told me they could be in the same day.



Lunchtime: This may be the only meal of the day for some of these kids.

I knew before I even saw her child, he had to be HIV positive. I just held him, trying to comfort him and wishing I could do something.

March 31, 2001

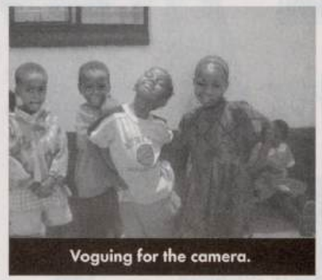
The work

We have decided to establish an orphan profile on each child. The agency has been helping the children but has very few individual statistics or any way to "prove" the impact on the children. On our assessment we check for toilets, electricity, food in the home, if there is a garden or radio (to determine wealth).

The first house we went to was that of Dennis. I know the child and he is a happy kid that seems well-adjusted. They had electricity, a radio, there was food, and Dennis shared a bed with three kids. Dennis is being cared for by his mother's sister. His mother died two years ago, but he does not remember her; he thinks his aunt is his mother. We filled out the forms and left; it was not hard and I was relieved. But after we had walked about a block, Vitalis, our interpreter and the one in charge of the center program, said, "I am not sure we can keep helping that family, he is very well off." This statement should have prepared me for the rest of the day, but it didn't.

We left the first neighborhood and went into Kitanga. As we walked down the back streets, the houses got worse and worse; instead of concrete walls, they were shacks thrown together with sheet-metal pieces.

We walked to one of these houses and Vitalis said, "This is where Gilbert lives." He is the one who showed up with ringworm the other day. We were introduced to his mother who invited us to sit outside under the tree. Everyone else had invited us in, but in this case, there was no real inside. The dirt area that had been made a yard was swept clean, and I made a note that it seemed that the less a family had, the more clean they kept the yard. I sat down on the ground and began to assess the "house"—there was no electricity, the cooking area was just a piece of wood under a metal frame with one pot, no garden, no food in sight. There was no point in asking about a bed; I knew it was lucky if the four living in the shack had a blanket to share. The father had died and they were forced out of their house and into this shack; they were



Voguing for the camera.

squatters on this land. I looked at his mother and she was apparently sick. I thought about Gilbert and how he is always hanging around after lunch. Now I understood: What we feed him at the center is the only meal he gets all day. If they had had extended family, they would be living with them. I thought back on a few other houses we had visited, and in many cases someone would take the orphan . . . in this one, there was no one.


On the way to school.

For the next three days we visited house after house; they ranged from people who did have food, to those, like Gilbert, with absolutely nothing. The children who still had one parent alive and were living with a grandparent were the ones who were surviving the best. The feeling in each house was different—some seemed to be coping and others just seemed to be living in desperation. Many times these were the kids we see sticking around long after school is over.

I made mental notes about the families in the worst condition, and the next day I returned to two houses with some food for them. I know this was not the best thing to do—I am not sustainable, it was a band-aid on the problem—but I also know the agency is doing everything they can; they are paying school fees and giving the kids two meals a day. I just wanted to do more.

We talked to Vitalis and he agreed that it was good to try to start a sponsorship program for these kids, or get donations that could be used for food for some of the worst families. He calculated out what it would cost to help the kids and support the family in small ways—he said it would be about $200 U.S. dollars a year. This amazed me. Less than $20 a month. I kept thinking, I know so many people that could pay $20 a month! Then I stopped myself because I felt like I was turning into one of those "Save the Children" commercials. I remember seeing on TV the commercials, "For the cost of one cup of coffee a day you can save a child." As I was watching that commercial I would usually sip my coffee, flip the channel, and think, "Oh yeah, sure. How much can that little really help, and how much do those kids really get?"

It is so hard to look at these kids and want to help and not know how to do it. What they need is a parent to love them and to have someone to pay attention to them. Most of them don't have this. If they have lost one parent, most times the other is sick. And if they have lost both, they are just a child being cared for by a grandmother or aunt.

The other day a little boy came up to me and tapped me on the shoulder. I looked down and he pulled the collar of his shirt down to reveal a small scrape. I looked at it and began to just brush it off—he was a little boy, of course he had a scrape. But then I looked at him and thought, "What does he really want?" I smiled and took his hand and took him into my room. I talked to him a little, put a little Neosporin on his scrape and a band-aid. I gave him a hug and sent him off. The smile on his face was priceless.

I walked back to the office and just felt so sad. That is the most attention that child will get all day. It breaks my heart—I know that giving them food and school fees is not enough—I think I want to sponsor that kid. I think about how many kids I can really dedicate myself to write every few months. In some ways it does not seem like enough, but in some ways I think it is everything to the kid: a meal, food, and a friend to write.

It is so hard because although AIDS is the root of the problem over here, the needs are so much more basic for these kids. Where do I start to help? Do I help these kids by paying for school fees and keeping them in school and give them some food and security so they do not go to the streets? Or do I try to help keep their parents alive by fighting for basic drugs in this country?

April 25, 2001

Time off with hippos and alligators

We were fortunate enough to be able to take two weeks off to travel throughout Zimbabwe. We had initially intended to go white-water rafting, but the falls were too full, so we settled for what we thought was going to be a relaxing canoe safari.

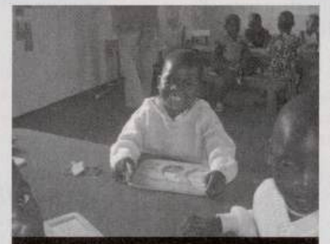
I never had any respect for hippos before. Now, I not only have respect but fear. I found out (when I was already in the water) that hippos are one of the most dangerous animals. They have a reputation of coming up under the canoes and knocking them over, and if they can catch you they will kill you. GREAT. Also (unknown to me before we entered the water), there are alligators on the bank which also have the ability to jump and can jump into a boat. (These will kill you also.) There was one time that I really thought I was going to be eaten. The guide just kept saying, "Paddle faster, be strong, be strong."

Why school shoes are more important than food

As our time is coming to an end, we have been frantically trying to set up some projects for the kids that will continue after we have gone. One day I was sitting outside and this kid came up to me with a bike made out of wire. It was really well done and even included brake lines from the handle bar and moving pedals. I asked him where he got it and he told me he made it. I thought, "I could sell these!" So I sent out an e-mail with a picture and have been getting orders—all the money is going toward school supplies, a field trip, and a kids' activity fund.

Four boys have become leaders and are making the major parts of the bikes. We wanted to do something special for them, so I asked them what they would like. The answer was "school shoes." I went and priced them and they cost about 850 Zim, which is about $15.

After we got shoes I went to one kid's house. There were five staying in a room and they had one blanket for the bed. There were no windows and no toilet. I could see the shelf where food could be stored and it was empty except for a bottle of cooking oil. The grandmother thanked me profusely for the shoes, but as I looked around, I thought, "Why didn't I buy food?" The next day I began asking kids about food issues and about what it is like to be an orphan, and I think that the biggest thing the kids are missing is the support and attention you get from a parent. They can survive on the two meals a day given to them by the center, but what they are really lacking is a sense of worth.


Mauleen working a puzzle.

Shoes mean you have a possession, and on some level it is an outward sign of worth. I think the hardest thing for most of these kids is not having anyone who really believes in them. It is very hard to receive individual attention when you are one of five kids your grandmother is caring for. It is amazing to see the changes in these kids when I just begin to show an interest in them. In the same way, the bike project is doing so much for these children. First, it is giving them something to work for. We asked them what they wanted and they all talked about a field trip. Again, food was not a priority, it was the trip; they wanted to be able to be a normal kid and go on the field trip. Second, it has given them something to be proud of—they all walk around with their bikes and all the staff asks to see the bike and praises the kids. I know that sounds basic, but just one minute of individual attention really can affect these kids. ■

IF YOU WANT TO HELP

If you would like to help the children in the Tsungirirai center, you can mail checks made out to Friends of Tsungirirai, 802 Centre Street #1, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130, or you can mail checks directly to Tsungirirai, P.O. Box 107, Norton, Zimbabwe. For more information, you can visit their website at www.tsungirirai.org.

"I can promise anyone that sends money that it is going directly to the kids," Arden O'Donnell says.

You can sponsor a child for $225 a year (multiple installments are fine)—this will cover schooling, food, and a few basic necessities. You will receive a sponsorship packet, a picture of the child, and can write letters or e-mail each other. The children can write English well.

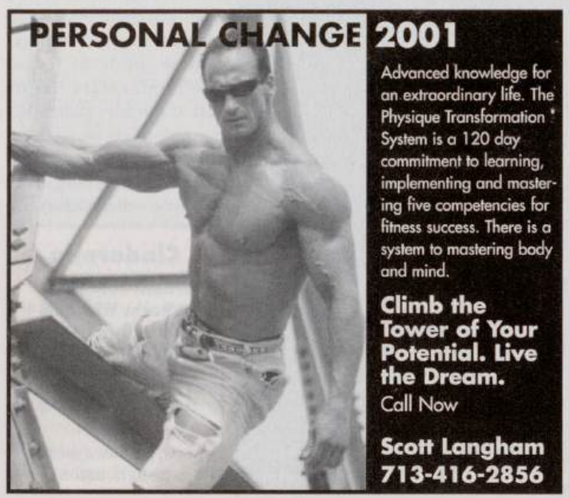
Any amount of money can help. $25 can send a child to school for the year. $15 can pay for their uniform or a pair of shoes. $20 can buy food for a month. $10 can buy a blanket.

You can also buy the miniature bikes made by the children—all money goes to their school activity funds. The bikes are $6, and can be ordered by sending an e-mail to bikes_for_orphans@hotmail.com.

Although Arden O'Donnell returned to the United States in June, she would be happy to answer any questions or facilitate any help to the center. She can be e-mailed at AEO@BU.edu.









Calendar of Events

Deadline for *OutSmart*'s August issue is 5 p.m., Wednesday, July 11.

JULY

4, 11, 18, 25 (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 11th & 25th in Conroe at Northwoods AIDS Coalition, 1414 South Frazier, Ste. 106. More info: 936/441-1614.*

7 (Sat.)
Linda Eder. If you weren't one of the lucky people to see her at New York's Carnegie Hall in February 2000 (she received six standing ovations at the sold-out performance), or if you missed her September 2000 concert in Houston, you've got yet another chance to hear her incredible voice. 8 pm @ Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, 2005 Lake Robbins Drive in the Woodlands. Tickets ($15–$75) are available at all Ticketmaster outlets, or charge by phone at 713/629-3700. Info: 281/363-3300.

8 (Sun.)
Blendorama. DIFFA/Houston, Houston's largest source of private dollars for HIV/AIDS care, presents Blendorama, an afternoon of icy concoctions & groovy music guaranteed to give Houstonians some reprieve from the punishing summer temperatures. The festive frozen drink party, benefiting DIFFA/Houston, will be held from 3–7 pm @ Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan St. Ticket price is $25. For more info: 713/840-0555.

11 (Wed.)
Free Lunchtime Concert. The Montrose Branch Library & K-Arts Classical Radio present the Horace Grigsby Duo (jazz vocals & piano). Business employees, students, & families can bring their lunches to the library anytime between noon & 1 pm in the large meeting room on the 1st floor of the library. Liquid refreshments will be provided. Suitable for adults and children aged 12 & older (children must be accompanied by an adult). More info: 713/284-1958 or www.hpl.lib.tx.us/hpl/branches/mon_home.html.

12 (Thu.)
Adopting a Child. Family to Family Adoption, a nonprofit licensed agency, will offer a *free* seminar on adopting a child in less than a year. Currently they have programs in the U.S., China, Vietnam, Russia, Bulgaria, Guatemala, & 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. For more info: 713/249-5941.

At press time, because of Allison, many events may have to have been rescheduled or moved to other locations, possibly even cancelled. Please call venue to confirm all information.

12 (Thu.)
Art Garfunkel. The "59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy)," "The Boxer," "Bridge Over Troubled Water"—any of these songs sound familiar? Garfunkel blends his trademark vocals with the strains of the Houston Symphony. 8 pm @ Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, 2005 Lake Robbins Drive in the Woodlands. Tickets ($10–$40) are available at all Ticketmaster outlets, or charge by phone at 713/629-3700. Info: 281/363-3300.

14 (Sat.)
ArtHouston. The Summer Event of ArtHouston 2001, encompassing exhibitions at some 30 galleries introducing new artists and celebrating established ones, is a day-long event. A wide range of work will be on display, from realist to abstract paintings, sculpture to mixed media constructions, drawings & works on paper, collage & photography. Featured artists will include emerging regional talents & established artists from around the world. For more info or to receive a copy of the brochure: Rebecca O'Brien at 713/522-9116 or 713/520-7767, or visit www.arthouston.com.

14 (Sat.)
Grassroots Women. Meg McKain Grier, author of *Grassroots Women: A Memoir of the Texas Republican Party*, will be signing her book at 4 pm @ Borders Books and Music, 9633 Westheimer. For more info: 713/

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—WED., JULY 11.

THE WICKED STEPMOTHER IS A MAN

Actor Everett Quinton dons drag for Cinderella

Everett Quinton, who won the Drama Desk and Obie awards for his starring role in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, puts on dresses again, this time for his portrayal of the wicked stepmother in *Cinderella*. The openly gay actor, who was a member of New York's Ridiculous Theatrical Company and its artistic director from 1987 to 1997, told Alex Saville of the *Princeton Packet*, "I grew up frightened. But then I got into this company where everything was being thrown upside down. Men could play women. Women could play men. You could play whatever you wanted to play." And so he does. • *Cinderella* also stars Eartha Kitt as the fairy godmother (see interview on page 44) and Deborah (no longer little Debbie) Gibson in the title role. *—Blase DiStefano*



L-r: NaTasha Yvette Williams, Everett Quinton, and Alexandra Kolb. *Inset: Quinton out of drag.*

CAROL ROSEGG

Cinderella

When: July 24–29
Where: Wortham Center's Brown Theater
Cost: $33.25–$56.25 (tickets available at all Ticketmaster locations or by calling 713/629-3700)
Info: www.broadwayseries.com/houston

14 & 15 (Sat. & Sun.)
ComedySportz, an improvisational comedy troupe, presents a weekend at the Woodlands Resort and Conference Center. 4 & 8 pm on Saturday, 3 pm on Sunday. Admission is $20 for adults, $15 for students. Reservations/more info: www.woodsac.org or 281/363-7919.

14 & 28 (Sat.)
Rock This House. The Texas Association for Transsexual Support (TATS) hosts GenderJam, an acoustic instrumental performance session twice a month. Sessions either precede or follow TATS meetings and are open to everyone ("We all have gender," quips TATS president Melanie Black). 6 pm the 2nd Saturday and 4 pm the 4th Saturday @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Interested musicians should first contact Melanie at thanatos@cityscope.net.

16 (Mon.)
United Front. The Unity Committee, the group made up of the leaders of transgender and transgender-inclusive organizations in the area, meets on the third Monday of the month. 7:30 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. More info: 281/424-6080 (Judy), 713/727-1475 (Sara), or e-mail triess@prodigy.net.

21 (Sat.)
Soccer Skills Clinic for Women is hosted by the Houston Women's Soccer Association. All abilities welcome. $5/person includes balls & refreshments. 9:30–11 am @ Alief Soccer Complex in George Bush Park. More info: 713/523-2089 or www.hwsa.org.

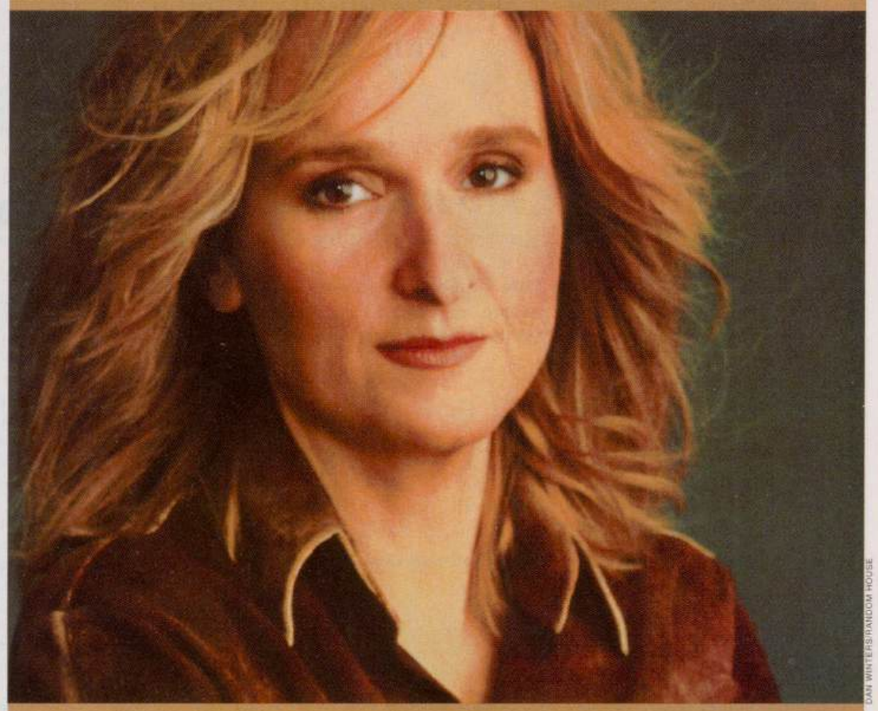
21 (Sat.)
Hot Summer Verse. Well, it is July in Houston after all. The GLBT Interest Group of the Texas Library Association host this poetry night, featuring original work by local writers as well as readers performing their favorite poems. 7:30 pm @ the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Individual donations encouraged to help support the center. More info: 713/524-3818 or www.hlgcc.org.

21 (Sat.)
Confidence Class. "Develop Confidence & Self-Esteem Through Personal Boundaries & Effective Confrontation" takes place from 10 am–noon. $25. Registration: 713/529-4414. Info: Denise O'Doherty at 713/524-9525.

21 & 22 (Sat. & Sun.)
Old Notes, New Notes, Borrowed Notes, Blue Notes. The seven twisted guys of On Q begin with songs that are or should have been from the early 1900s ("Saint Louis Leatherman Blues," "Mary's a Grand Old Name," "Pour Me a Man"), then stoop to "Charlie Manson's Angels" and "The ABCs of Your Rejectees," with a few

JULY IS MELISSA'S MONTH

New album, new book, new profiles



DANIEL ERIS/RANDOM HOUSE

Need a Melissa Etheridge fix? Don't let anybody tell you it's downhill after 40. Etheridge, who turned 40 on May 29, is one busy lesbian, and July is her month. She continues to host Lifetime Television's series *Beyond Chance*, a show devoted to the supernatural & spiritual moments of everyday life. On **July 10**, Etheridge's new album *Skin* will be released. (For more on *Skin*, see *OutSmart*'s GrooveOut column on page 40.) Also on **July 10**, a new book (written with Laura Morton), *The Truth Is . . . My Life in Love and Music*, will debut! Exactly one week later, she is the subject of *Oxygen Custom Concert: Melissa Etheridge*, which will simulcast on Oxygen TV and oxygen.com on **July 17** at 7 p.m. *And* the next evening on **July 18** at 9 p.m. brings *Melissa Etheridge: Celebrity Profile* on E! Entertainment Television; the one-hour show features a new interview with Etheridge as well as interviews with Elton John, David & Jan Crosby, Laura Dern, and Kathy Najimy. Whew! *—BD*



Melissa Etheridge

What: *Skin*, her new album
When: Tuesday, July 10
Where: Record stores everywhere
Info: www.islandrecords.com

What: *The Truth Is*, her new book
When: Tuesday, July 10
Where: Bookstores everywhere
Info: www.villard.com

What: *Oxygen Custom Concert*
When: Tuesday, July 17
Where: Oxygen TV & oxygen.com
Info: www.oxygen.com

What: *Celebrity Profile*
When: Wednesday, July 18
Where: E! Entertainment Television
Info: www.eonline.com



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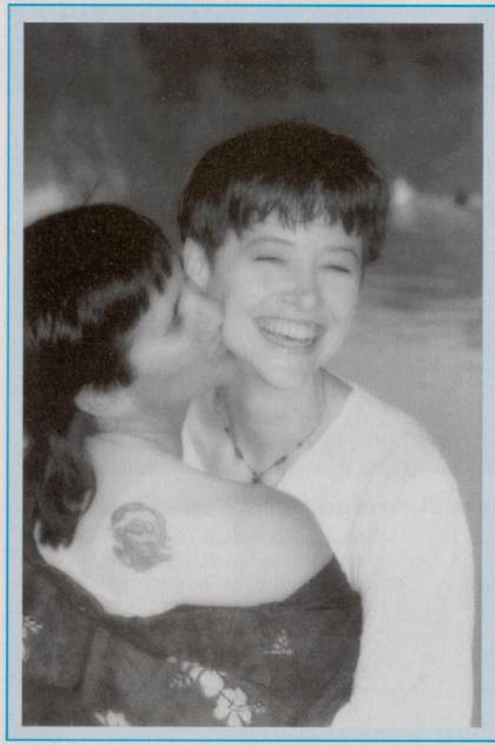
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nice songs as well. Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 7 pm @ Ashland Street Theatre, 2610 Ashland. $15. Reservations/info: 713-426-3019.

28 (Sat.)

Good News. The Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center and the Pride Committee of Houston co-host this free media-training session presented by professionals from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination. Any GLBT individuals or organizations that need advice or guidance on media issues are invited. Topics will include developing a media message, setting publicity goals, contacting the press and pitching stories, writing media releases, and refining interview skills. 1-4 pm @ the center, 803 Hawthorne. For more info: 713/524-3818 or www.hlgcc.org.

PLANNING AHEAD

AUGUST

August 7–12 (Tue.–Sun.)

Michigan Womyn's Festival. Enjoy a women-loving extravaganza of 40 performances, hundreds of workshops, a film festival, & crafts fair. The festival attracts over 6,000 women of every preference & persuasion to 650 lushly wooded acres each August. A complex system of services rises from the ferns: children's programs, delicious meals, hot showers, disability access. This year's performer lineup includes the Indigo Girls' Amy Ray returning "stag" with the Butchies, along with indie faves Jill Sobule, Dar Williams, Melissa Ferrick, & Laura Love. Also: Evelyn Harris, Nedra Johnson, Stefone & Rites of Passage, Kathleen Hanna, Half Looking, Bitch & Animal, Lucie Blue Tremblay, Chris Williamson, Zrazy, Velvet Janes, Topp Twins, Ubaka Hill, Ibu Ayan, Isle of Klesbos, Alix Olson, Sister Spit, Urban Bush Women, LAVA, and a full afternoon of comedy. A complete list of artists & intensive workshops, along with registration info: www.michfest.org. No access to web or need more info? Call 231/757-4766.

August 11 (Sat.)

John Leguizamo. Remember Miss Chi-Chi Rodriguez in *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar*? Well, the guy who got all dolled up as Miss Chi-Chi and acted the other guys off the map is gonna be in Houston for one night only with his one-man show, *Live*. Leguizamo, pictured right in his 1993 HBO special *Spic-o-rama*, comes to Houston for an 8 pm show @ Aerial Theatre, 520 Texas Ave. For more info: 713/230-1600. *(See next month's* OutSmart *for an interview with Leguizamo, who talks about being short, fat, and ugly, and what it's like to work long hours wearing a pair of pumps.)*



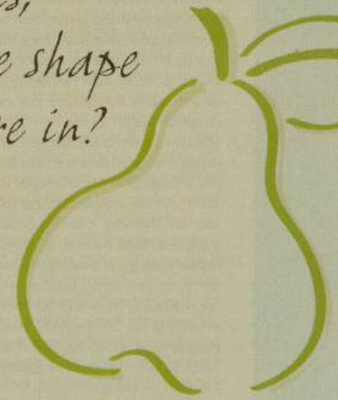
August 14–18 (Tue.–Sat.)

Gay Softball World Series 25th Anniversary. The games will be played at Twin Creeks Sports Complex in Sunnyvale, California (approximately 20 miles outside of San Francisco). There will be approximately 150 teams (men & women) from across the U.S. & Canada. Opening ceremonies on Tuesday will take place at Yerba Buena Gardens (corner of Mission & 4th streets) in San Francisco. More info: www.sfgsl.org/worldseries.

August 23–26 (Thu.–Sun.)

Gay Men's Health Summit in Georgia. The Southeast Regional Gay Men's Health Summit will draw together gay & bisexual men of all backgrounds who

Is this, ...the shape you're in?



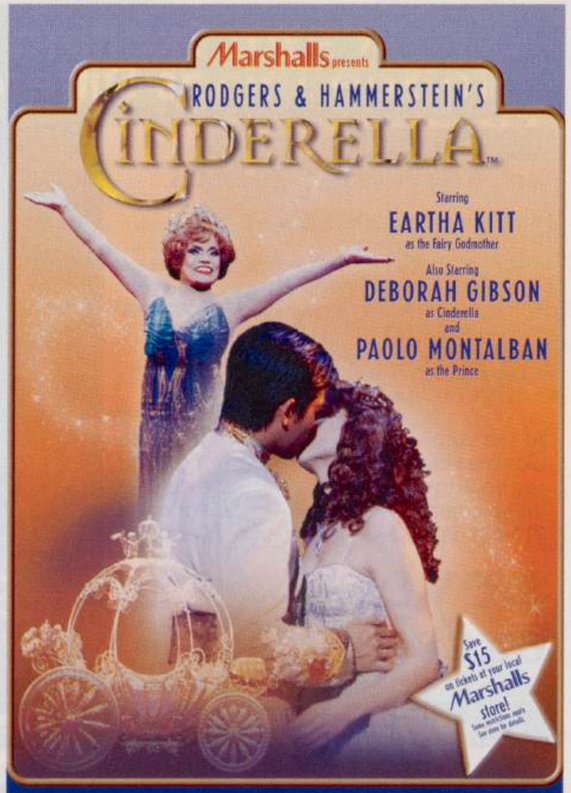
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share a common interest in promoting better physical, spiritual, & mental health, wellness, celebration, nurturing, & community-building of gay men living in the southeast United States. The four-day summit will invite frank & creative dialogue between gay men working in health promotion/disease prevention and men who have a personal interest in advancing the health of their community. The summit will include plenary sessions, workshops, & social activities designed to increase health awareness & a greater sense of community. A wide range of health issues will be addressed: HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, nutrition, spirituality, homophobia, substance use, mental health, political activism, & physical fitness. The registration fee of $115 ($150 after July 23) includes access to all sessions, a reception on Thursday evening, & Saturday evening banquet. A limited number of scholarships are available. Persons living on disability, social security, public assistance, and/or other fixed means are encouraged to apply. Inquire via e-mail to summit@aidatlanta.org or in writing to: Summit/AID Atlanta, Inc., 1438 West Peachtree St., NW, Ste. 100, Atlanta, GA 30309-2955. Takes place on Jekyll Island, Georgia, just over the Florida border. For more summit info, including abstract submission, registration, & sponsorship opportunities, visit www.aidatlanta.org/summit, e-mail to summit@aidatlanta.org, or call 404/870-7822.

SEPTEMBER

September 29–October 1 (Sat.–Mon.)
Medical Conference in New Orleans. The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) will hold its 19th annual conference for GLBT physicians, medical students, researchers, & allied health-care professionals. The conference is a blend of social interaction & continuing medical education on health issues relevant to the GLBT community. "Commitment, Caring, and Advocacy: 20 Years of GLMA" will provide a mix of plenary sessions & lectures as well as panel & group discussions. Lesbian health, mental health, primary care, HIV/AIDS—seen in the varied perspectives of age, ethnicity, race, & culture—will play pivotal roles in a comprehensive program devoted to quality health-care for everyone. It will take place at the Sheraton New Orleans. More info: www.glma.org or 415/255-4547.

PERFORMING ARTS

♦ **The Carpetbagger's Children**, by Horton Foote, is a lyrically woven tapestry of one family's rich past. As told by the three daughters of a Union soldier who came to Texas during the Civil War, liked what he saw, and moved there after the war, *The Carpetbagger's Children* is a powerful story about family loyalty, rivalry, & unity. The playwright's daughter Hallie Foote plays Sissie, the youngest daughter; Roberta Maxwell, who has two Obie Awards to her credit, plays the practical Cornelia; and Jean Stapleton, who has won numerous awards (including three Emmys & three Golden Globes for her role as the indomitable Edith Bunker on *All in the Family*), plays the rebellious Grace Anne. Through July 8 @ Stages Arena Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets range from $37–$42. Tickets can be purchased at the Stages box office or by calling 713/527-0220.

♦ **Death on the Nile** by Agatha Christie. As a cruise boat travels up the Nile, the eccentric passengers find themselves embroiled in the mystery of a young bride who turns up dead. Classic Christie, this suspenseful story keeps you guessing from start to finish. Through July 15 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets are $17 and can be purchased at any Ticketmaster outlet, at the Alley box office, or by phone at 713/228-8421 or 713/629-3700.

♦ **Elizabeth I.** This Punch-&-Judy-style comedy celebrates the reign of the Virgin Queen. Tickets $14 (students/seniors $10); tickets for the opening on July 13 are $25 and include a champagne toast & reception following the show. July 13–Aug. 18 @ Actors Theatre of Houston, 2506 South Blvd., 713/529-6606.

♦ **Fear of Ducks.** Houston's most planned "planned community" is about to be changed forever when hip hop artist A.C. Adapter comes to town to perform at the Margaret Mueller Mitchell Pavilion. A first amendment battle ensues, led by local televangelist Jiffy Dillard, and this once-peaceful suburb suddenly becomes the focus of the national media. Champagnes, wines, beers, cappuccino, & munchies are available throughout the show. Admission is $16. Thursdays–Saturdays, through September 1 @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt, 713/522-7722.

♦ **Funny Girl.** "Hello, Gorgeous!" Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS) presents *Funny Girl*, which chronicles the life & loves of stage & screen's ultimate comedienne, Fanny Brice, and features such songs as "People," "Don't Rain on My Parade," and "I'm the Greatest Star." July 10–22 @ the Wortham Center, 500 Texas Ave. Tickets ($19–$76) can be purchased by calling 800-678-5440. Tickets are also available at TUTS Tix, 2600 Southwest Frwy, at the Wortham box office, or at any Ticketmaster outlet. Tickets can also be bought and printed online using TUTS' E-Ticket System at www.tuts.com.

♦ **Heart of a Woman.** A determined west-Texas nail technician sets out in search of the man who received her dead husband Duane's transplanted heart in this quirky comedy that runs the gamut from trailer parks to true love. Jerry, the heart's recipient, soon begins to bear an uncanny resemblance to dear departed Duane. July 11–Aug. 5 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh. Tickets to previews (July 11 & 12) are $19–$23; tickets from July 13–Aug. 5 are $32–$42. More info: 713/527-8243 or www.stagestheatre.com.

♦ **Higher Ground** is set in 1964 and takes place on "Sweet Auburn Avenue," a mecca for black entrepreneurship, entertainment, & social life. Against the backdrop of actual events of the Civil Rights Movement, it portrays a family with two generations of dreamers, Jesse Hartman, a Sweet Auburn small-business owner and former manager for entertainer Sam Cooke, and his two daughters. The plot revolves around his plan to produce a desegregated concert in order to raise money to save his bar on Sweet Auburn. July 13–Aug. 14 @ The Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main Street. Ticket prices/more info: 713/520-0055.

♦ **The Kathy & Mo Show: Parallel Lives.** Written by Mo Gaffney & Kathy Najimy, this off-Broadway hit returns for a summer getaway to laughter & fun. This hilarious & biting comedy explores the plight of women & men and the pandemonium that ensues when the two sexes try to get together for more than a drink. The return cast of Michelle Britton & Leslie Maness will play women & men struggling through the common rituals of modern life. Tickets $18. Fridays & Saturdays, July 13–Aug. 4 @ Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo, 713/868-7516.

♦ **No Mother to Guide Her** is a comic "melleredrammer" in three acts. Cheer the manly hero, console the downtrodden heroine, boo & hiss the dastardly villain as you pelt him with popcorn! Tickets $9 adults, $8 students/seniors, $7 matinees (all seats). July 20–Aug. 25 @ Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd. For more info: 713/682-3525.

♦ **The Pirates of Penzance** (or *The Slave of Duty*) is presented by The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston. *Penzance* is the classic English comic opera from the clever pens of W.S. Gilbert & Sir Arthur Sullivan, who brought us *The Mikado* and *H.M.S. Pinafore*. July 20–29 @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 500 Prairie at Texas. Tickets: $16, $31, & $36. For more info: 713/627-3570 or visit www.gilbertandsullivan.net.

♦ **Pump Boys and Dinettes**, a Tony-nominated musical which spent two years on Broadway, is virtually all music with outstanding musicians posing as service station attendants & waitresses. This Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS) production is TUTS' free summer show playing July 18–21 and July 23–28 @ the Miller Outdoor Theatre, 100 Concert Dr. For more info: www.tuts.com.

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.

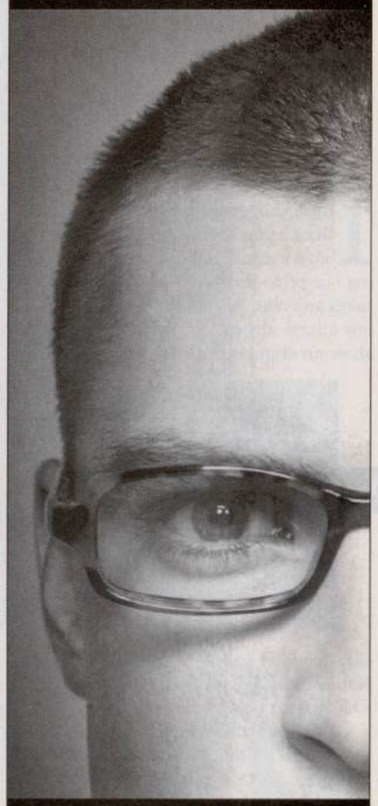
ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

♦ **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.

♦ **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.

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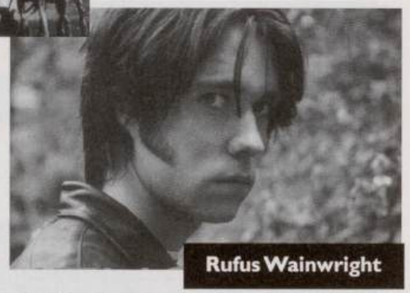
ENDLESSLY QUEER SUMMER

From the gay Lollapalooza to the gospel according to drag queens

If you thought Gay Pride ended in June, think again. While we as a community are often reminded of the importance of showing our pride on a daily basis, sometimes it takes an event, hopefully a positive one, to allow a large showing of pride to unite us and show our strength. Such an event is coming to Houston next month. To quote the fabulous Karen from *Will and Grace*, "Honey, what, what's, what's going on here?"



The Pet Shop Boys



Rufus Wainwright

Honey, Wotapalava is what's going on!

What is Wotapalava? Take two Pet Shop Boys, one Soft Cell, add Rufus Wainwright and the Magnetic Fields, and you've got the basic recipe for a queer music festival called Wotapalava. The 17-city North American tour begins July in Miami and ends August 11 in Houston. Wotapalava (pronounced "wat-a-pa-*la*-va"), an English slang phrase generally meaning what a fuss about nothing, is the brainchild of Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe of the Pet Shop Boys. The duo decided it was time to put together a tour of musicians with nothing else in common except that they were all out. Says Tennant, "Wotapalava is a celebration of the freedom to be what you want to be and about having the power to live as you want without fear or discrimination."

Some confusion over the artist roster was aroused earlier this summer when recently proclaimed lesbian Sinead O'Connor withdrew her name. The controversial singer cited family commitments as the reason. Unfortunately, this leaves the main lineup without a real woman, but concert promoters say plenty of surprise guests will make appearances throughout the tour. Supporting the main stage area is a separate dance stage featuring national and local DJs from each city (including yours truly). Another area will house booths from local and national vendors, giving the event a festival-like atmosphere.

Summer is certainly shaping up to be one of the queerest, so if you're looking for new music from gay and lesbian artists, there's plenty to be found. Besides planning Wotapalava and opening their first musical *Closer to Heaven* in London's West End, the Pet Shop Boys have re-released their first five studio albums, each with a bonus disc with never-before-released tracks and remixes from each album. This seems to be a trend lately as Madonna has recently done the same with her first three albums.

Rufus Wainwright's latest release *Poses* (DreamWorks) hit stores last month. If you are unfamiliar with his work, now would be a smart time to investigate the gay man *Rolling Stone* magazine named Best New Artist in 1998. The new album finds Wainwright's impeccable crafting of melodies unchanged and his unmistakable voice softer on the ear. Wainwright also shows up on the *Moulin Rouge* and *Shrek* soundtracks.



After last year's much-publicized split, Melissa Etheridge returns with one of the summer's most anticipated albums. *Skin* (Island Music) debuts on July 10, re-opening the wounds of her personal life for public consumption. It's a deeply personal album that moves from pain to hope with unending emotion. Anyone who has weathered a relationship breakup will hold *Skin* close to her or his heart.

Avalon (Pleiades Records) marks the eighth album for lesbian singer/songwriter Margie Adam. Known as the founder of the women's music movement, Adam brings her graceful voice and elegant arrangements to this collection of vocal and instrumental pieces. Dusty Springfield's 1974 cover of Adam's song "Beautiful Soul" appears on a new collection of long-lost Springfield songs that were never released. *Dusty Springfield: Beautiful Soul – The ABC / Dunhill Sessions* (Hip-O/UME) is out now.

And speaking of divas, *Dancing Queens* (Medalist Entertainment) is a must for all drag queens in training. The double disc plays like the gospel according to drag, with classic camp from Shirley Bassey and Aretha Franklin to Ce Ce Penniston and RuPaul. The CD set is available in record stores and available online at www.dancingqueenscd.com.



For tickets and the latest information on Wotapalava, visit www.wotapalava.com or call Ticketmaster at 713/629-3700. ■



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

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: ERIC WATSON/SIRE RECORDS GROUP; PLEIADES RECORDS; MEDALIST ENTERTAINMENT; SKG MUSIC L.L.C.



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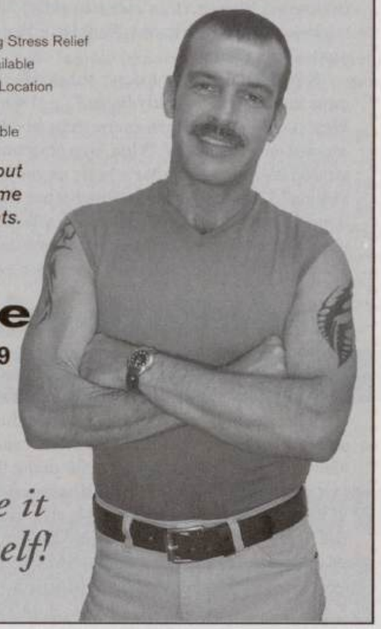


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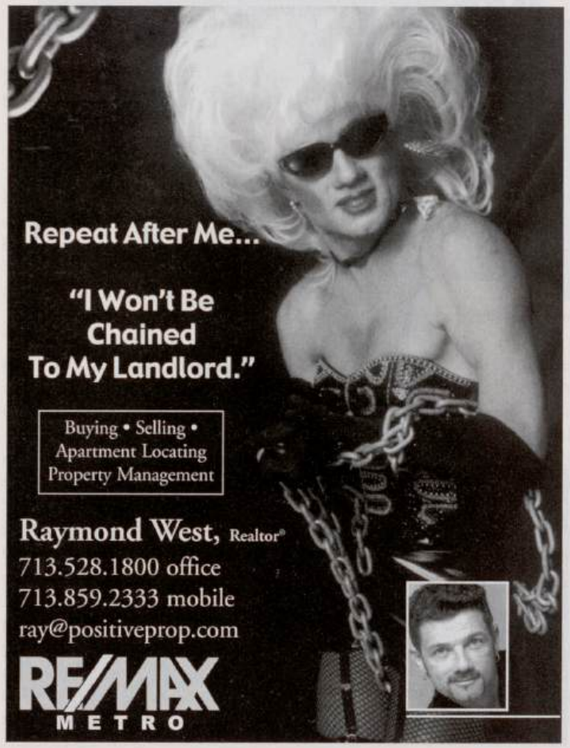
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Rachel Weisz (actress, *The Mummy*)

(*Us Weekly*, 5/21/01, Carrie Bell)

Carrie Bell: Don't lesbian rumors fly about you and Susan Lynch, your costar in the British thriller *Beautiful Creatures*?

Rachel Weisz: Everyone thought we were having an affair. Even my close friends started assuming we were dating secretly, even though I have a boyfriend [*American Beauty* director Sam Mendes]. I made a friend for life on the set. We fell in love with each other and now talk almost every day on the phone—but there's no secret girl-on-girl action.

George Segal (actor, *Just Shoot Me*)

(*The Globe*, 5/29/01, Patricia Nolan)

George first embraced his feminine side 16 years ago, when he had to doll himself up as a woman for his lead role as Robin Hood in the TV movie *The Zany Adventures of Robin Hood*.

"I wore a bra and plucked my eyebrows," he confides. "God, that was painful! There was makeup plastered on my face and I had to wear a dress that wasn't comfortable. All of a sudden I felt myself turning into a woman. I began to understand how they feel about the constant bull they have to endure from men. It made me more sympathetic."

Blink 182

(rock band)

(*Access Hollywood*, 6/3/01)

"You can change your mind about anything. We're actually thinking of becoming women."

Kerr Smith (actor, *Dawson's Creek*)

(*Entertainment Weekly*, 6/1/01, Doug M. Thorsen)

[Editor's note: Kerr Smith is a straight actor who plays a gay role on Dawson's Creek. *He was quoted in the March issue of* Out *magazine as saying that he realizes "the amount of responsibility coming along with a role like this." The following is a letter written to* Entertainment Weekly *in response to a more recent quote from Smith.]*

Kerr Smith said, "I don't think teenagers need to see two guys kissing on a weekly basis." . . . I would pose the question: Why not? We see much more than kissing from heterosexual couples on network TV. What is so objectionable about seeing two guys kissing on as regular a basis as you see a man and a woman kissing? I can't think of anything other than positive effects that it would have on an audience to see affection being shared by two men, especially on a primarily teenage audience, many of whom are probably struggling with their own sexual identities.

Linda Kozlowski (actress, *Crocodile Dundee*)

(*Movieline*, 6/01, Stephen Rebello)

Kozlowski laughs at the memory of being interviewed for a possible role by a household-name moviemaker. "There was a coffee table between us and he had on baggy shorts. He put his legs up and he was wearing no underwear. He conducted the whole interview like that. He's well-known for doing this to women and men.

". . . I was in Sydney with a couple of gay friends who said, 'Notice that the guys here have great bodies from surfing, bike riding, riding a horse, or manual labor? That's so much sexier than a Hollywood gym body.' That's the difference between a woman having real breasts vs. plastic boobs."

Kate Beckinsale

(actress, *The Last Days of Disco*)

(*Interview*, 6/01, David A. Keeps)

David A. Keeps: How do you feel about your husband [Welsh actor Michael Sheen] doing love scenes?

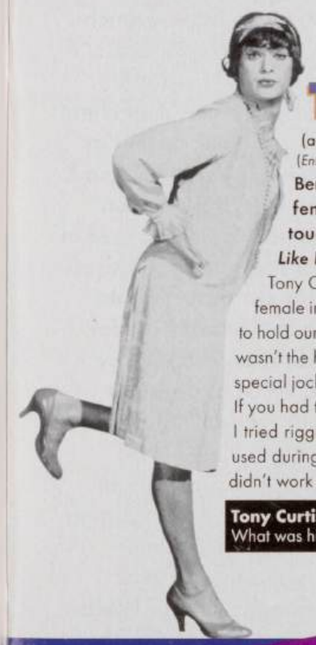
Kate Beckinsale: Well, he played Robbie Ross, the first lover of Oscar Wilde, in *Wilde* [1997], so he did hump Stephen Fry. But I've been very lucky, actually—I've not had too many leading ladies other than Stephen to worry about. I was slightly worried when he was in the desert shooting *Four Feathers* with Heath Ledger because I thought, Well, Heath is younger and prettier than I am.



Kate Beckinsale (shown here in 1998's *The Last Days of Disco*): Why did her husband hump actor Stephen Fry.

Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano



Tony Curtis

(actor, *Some Like It Hot*)

(*Entertainment Weekly*, 5/25/01, Benjamin Svetkey)

Benjamin Svetkey: Didn't the studio hire a female impersonator to help you get in touch with your feminine side [for *Some Like It Hot*]?

Tony Curtis: Billy Wilder [the director] brought a female impersonator to the set to help us learn how to hold our arms so you can't see the muscles. But that wasn't the hard part. The hard part was wearing these special jocks so our genitalia wouldn't be noticeable. If you had to pee, it was like a 15-minute experience. I tried rigging myself with one of those things pilots used during the war—a little funnel and tube—but that didn't work either.

Tony Curtis (pictured here in 1959's *Some Like It Hot*): What was his 15-minute experience?

Valarie Rae Miller (actress, *Dark Angel*)

(*TV Guide*, 3/17/01, Janice Rhoshalle Littlejohn)

Playing the first African-American lesbian on a network series isn't a role that *Dark Angel*'s Valarie Rae Miller takes lightly. "There's a responsibility to show this character without turning her into a stereotype," Miller, 25, says of Original Cindy, the sharp-tongued best friend of Jessica Alba's Max in the post-apocalyptic Fox series.

. . . [S]he would have no problem kissing a woman. "How many brothas did I have to kiss that I wasn't particular on trying to kiss? The problem is a lot of times they want to practice on the side, and all this extra stuff," she says, laughing. "Chances are a girl is going to be fine." The Fort Worth, Texas, native won't discuss her own life, but she adds: "My personal life is pretty boring to me. Besides, Cindy is far more interesting than I am."



Valarie Rae Miller (shown here in Fox's *Dark Angel*): Any problems kissing a woman?

Dame Edna

(*Dame Edna: The Royal Tour* in Houston, 6/5/01)

Dame Edna, whose son Kenny is gay, reworded her "Friends of Kenny" song just for Houston:

Kenny's got a funny taste in
clothes—he's always wearing leather.
And the other night, my son and I,
we watched the news together.
And he really brightened up
when Chuck George did the weather.
And any friend of Kenny's
is a friend of mine.





Dame Edna and Chuck George: Dame Edna's opening night in Houston brought the beginnings of Allison; Channel 2's weatherman Chuck George (inset) reported on it . . . Allison, that is. What did the Dame's son do when he saw George on TV?

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BARRY WETCHER/CASTLE ROCK; FOX BROADCASTING COMPANY; BLASE DISTEFANO; JOAN MARCUS, UNITED ARTISTS CORP.

5 Years Ago This Month

Elton John (singer) (*Rolling Stone*, 7/10/97, Edmund White)

"I love promiscuity—but why should I sabotage my life?" he asks. "Every performer has that self-destruct element somewhere inside. I'd love to have a glass of red wine, but why should I destroy my whole life just for that? My career is still there; I have a great art collection, a fabulous relationship. But if I were to go and f--k one boy and take one line of coke or one drink, my whole life would be in ruins." He gives a little smile. "I know I sound like Thoroughly Modern Millie."

Eartha Kitt

Purr-severes

The feline feminist talks about her two lives as the child and the woman

by Blase DiStefano

Eartha Mae Kitt was born almost 75 years ago in the small town of North in South Carolina. She is the child of a white father, whom she never knew, and a black mother, who gave her away at a very early age. This has colored her life forever, yet it has made her stronger and more open to life's opportunities.

And open she is. Our conversation took place while Kitt was performing in *Cinderella* in Costa Mesa, California. "I love this production of *Cinderella*," she says. "It's very integrated: The stepmother is played by a man; and we have Asians, we have blacks, we have whites, we have gay boys, we have straight boys. It's all wonderful."

And so is Kitt, who has been nominated for an Emmy Award and two Grammy Awards. The singer/actress also has three Tony nominations to her credit. When I tell her that the Tony Awards website lists her nominations for *The Wild Party* and *Timbuktu*, but not *Mrs. Patterson*, the voice that can cause this gay man to question his sexual identity purrs, "I have been nominated three times. I have the little pieces of paper to prove it."

The sultry singer had a hit single, "Uska Dara," in the early 1950s; the song was from her debut album, *RCA Victor Presents Eartha Kitt*, which also included the song "C'est Si Bon," which had been recently recorded by Danny Kaye and Johnny Desmond. But it is Kitt's version that has become the classic. The follow-up to the French song was "I Want to Be Evil": "I wanna be evil/I wanna spit tacks/I wanna be evil/And cheat at jacks. . . ./In the theatuh I'm gonna change my seat/Just so I can step on ev'rybody's feet." The song was actually banned in some areas for being too risqué.

Speaking of risqué, "Santa Baby," which became a hit for Kitt in 1953, was recorded by Madonna. So what does Kitt think of that version? You'll have to read the interview.

With all of her successes in music and theater, the engaging entertainer added television to the list when she played Catwoman in the campy 1960s TV series *Batman*. As an author, her fourth book, *Rejuvenate: It's Never Too Late*, was recently released. →



Eartha Kitt plays the fairy godmother in the recent production of *Cinderella*, coming to Houston's Wortham Center, July 24–29.

CAROL ROSEGG

OutSmart: So, you're playing a fairy. Now you're just like us.
Eartha Kitt: I'm playing a fairy godmother. [*Laughs*] Thank God you've got a sense of humor or you'd be in trouble.
Well , you're Eartha Kitt—you can do anything you want.
Within reason.
[*Laughs*] Well, yeah. Okay, can we go way back? What are some of the differences between Eartha Kitt and Eartha Mae?
Eartha Mae is afraid of being rejected and she is always in hiding. She never goes around with a lot of makeup on because that means she is attracting attention and somebody might recognize her as Eartha Kitt. But since she feels very private, very personal, and is always in hiding, so to speak, she never wants to attract attention to herself.

Eartha Kitt, she's open 99-and-nine-tenths of the time and is very happy she has become Eartha Kitt because the public has made her who she is. The public has become my fairy godmother and that's the only way I was adopted. Because, as you know, I was given away.
Yes.
And when you are given away, you never know who your mother really was. You never know who is going to give you away again, because if your mother gives you away, you think everybody who comes into your life is going to give you away. You live in constant fear of rejection.
And so this has been with you forever.
Yes, it will always be, I'm sure. It probably is that way with everybody who has been given away, even though now I am 74 years old and I'm still with that feeling that I am afraid of doing the wrong thing, because somebody is going to punish me. And I punish myself more than anybody else does if I am stupid about my actions in public or whatever, and therefore I suffer, really suffer.

I am not saying this in a bad way, because I learn from these things. And I analyze myself and I have to exorcise that feeling out of me. So, my exercise and being outdoors will exorcise me from doing that to a great extent. Also, having my animals with me or my children with me exorcises that feeling of not being wanted.



Eartha Kitt earned one of three Tony nominations for her role in *Timbuktu*.

Eartha Kitt is, in some ways, also afraid because when she walks out on the stage, she never knows whether the public is going to give her the kind of applause that says, "We're glad you are here. We appreciate you as a person, we appreciate you as a talent. We are here to see you do your thing." You never know that. You are always walking on tenterhooks.
You don't think or know that when you walk out on stage, we will really appreciate you?
No, I never take anything for granted. Because I may slip any minute, forget my lyrics. And then you'll look at me and say, "Uh, oh, she forgot her words."
[*Both laugh*]
Am I correct that you took dancing lessons with James Dean?
I used to teach him dance lessons.

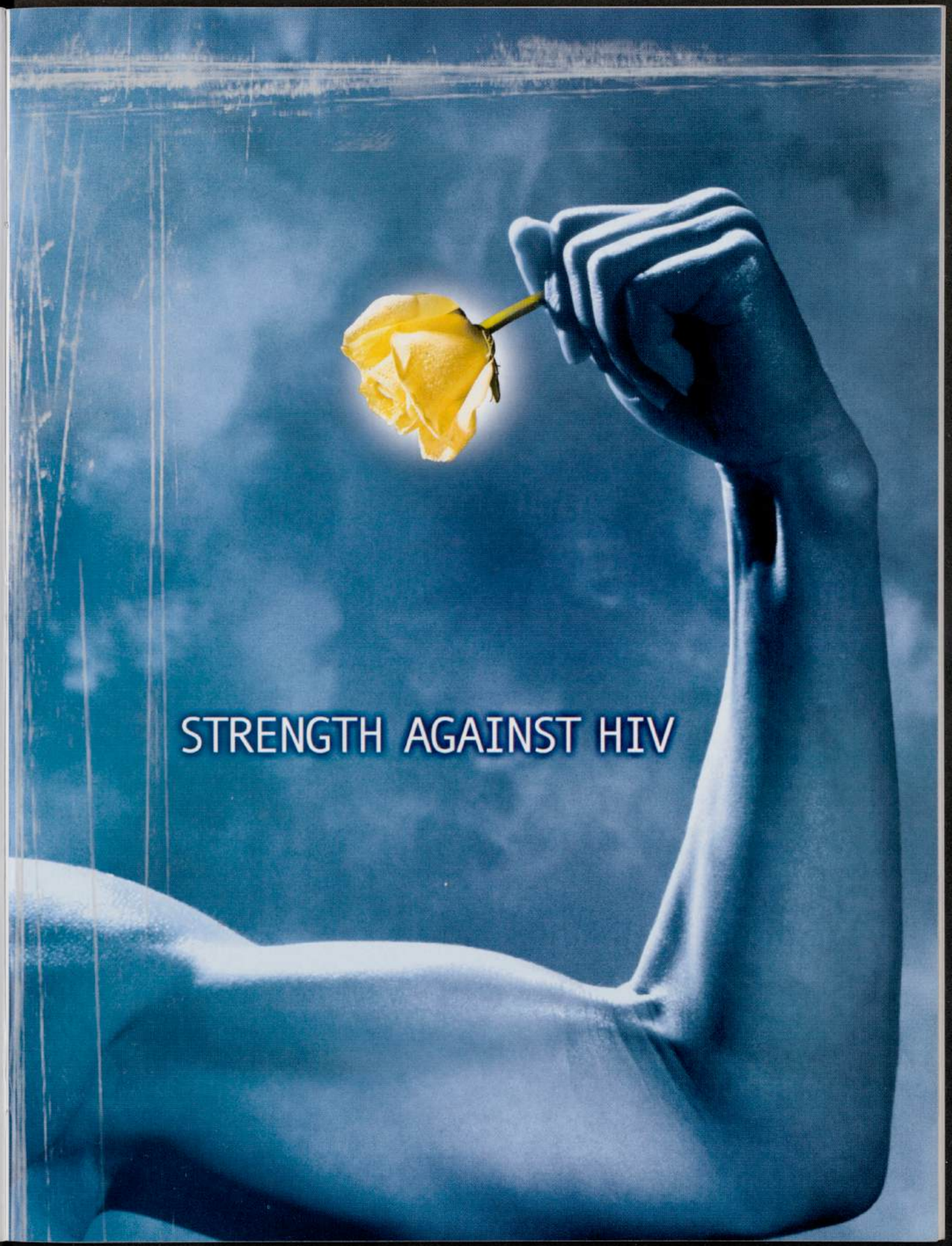
Eartha Kitt: She didn't have a birth certificate, no proof of where she was born or how old she was until only a few years ago. She was living under the impression that she was born January 26, 1926.

You taught him?
Yes, I taught him. Because Jamie came to me and told me that he wanted to move like I do. So I was teaching him, not dancing like he wanted to be a dancer, but to be more conscious of body movement. Because I am always trying to show that you don't move just because you want to go from this point to that point—the body [has got] to be using the words as well as you vocally use the words.
I see. Now, you went to Paris in 1951 and became a hit.
Well, no. I was already in Paris; I went there with a ballet company in 1947.
Oh, I am messed up here.
Well, that's okay. Let's fix you.
[*Both laugh*]
Thank you. Do you still travel there occasionally?
Well, I love being in America. And I love being home. I used to love traveling and I am glad that I was able to go around the world and take my daughter with me from the time she was 3 months old until she decided she wanted to stay home with her peers when she was about 15 or 16. I still love to go to Europe, but I always want to come home.
How do you feel, though, about North, South Carolina?
Well, I thought I was born in North, South Carolina, because that is what I was told. I didn't have a birth certificate, no proof of where I was born or how old I was until a few years ago. I was living under the impression that I was born January 26, 1926.

I was doing a benefit for Benedict College in South Carolina and I jokingly, but meaningfully, said, "Well, I am coming down there to do a benefit for you kids. Since I was born in that area, why don't you do some research on Eartha Kitt to find a birth certificate?" I didn't think that they would do it seriously, but they did it. They found a birth certificate. So it's Eartha Keith, which was pronounced "Kitt." And it's January 17, 1927, so I am a Capricorn.

But I was also trying to find out who my father was. And all of the writing on the birth certificate is in the same handwriting, so I still don't know who my father is. But they say that at that time—and it is still on the books obviously, because this is only a few years ago—that if you are an illegitimate →

UNCREDITED



kaletra™
(lopinavir/ritonavir)
Formerly known as ABT-378/r

DESIGNED FOR HIV

KALETRA™ is for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral (ARV) agents. This is based on analyses of plasma HIV RNA levels and CD_4 T-cell counts in a controlled study of KALETRA of 24 weeks' duration and in smaller, uncontrolled, dose-ranging studies of KALETRA of 72 weeks' duration.

At present, there are no results from controlled trials evaluating the effect of KALETRA on the clinical progression of HIV.

KALETRA helps fight HIV

KALETRA, when taken with other HIV medicines, has been shown to reduce the amount of HIV in the blood and increase the number of CD_4 T-cells. However, KALETRA is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time either. Individuals taking KALETRA may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection.

Over 24 weeks, most patients found that they could stay with a KALETRA-based regimen. Only 2% of 326 patients stopped taking KALETRA because of drug-related side effects (12% stopped for other reasons).

KALETRA is taken twice daily—in the morning and evening. Your healthcare professional will tell you how much KALETRA to take. KALETRA is to be taken with your choice of food, but there are no rules on what you eat or how much liquid you drink. KALETRA is also available as a liquid.

Safety considerations

KALETRA should not be used with ergotamine, ergonovine, dihydroergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine® and others, Halcion® (triazolam), Hismanal® (astemizole), Orap® (pimozide), Propulsid® (cisapride), Rythmol® (propafenone), Seldane® (terfenadine), Tambocor™ (flecainide), Versed® (midazolam).

Taking certain drugs with KALETRA could create the potential for life-threatening side effects. Always talk to your doctor or pharmacist before starting new medications.

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA (lopinavir/ritonavir) or any of its ingredients.

Pancreatitis and liver problems have been reported in patients receiving KALETRA. In some patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving ARV therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol, which should be monitored before and during therapy.

The most commonly reported KALETRA-related side effects of moderate severity are: abnormal stools, diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea.

For more information about KALETRA: **Call 1-800-441-4987 toll free.**
Ask your doctor or other healthcare professional.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

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North Chicago, IL 60064

KALETRA™
(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about drugs that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information
KALETRA™
(kuh-LEE-tra)
Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

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 methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, 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.

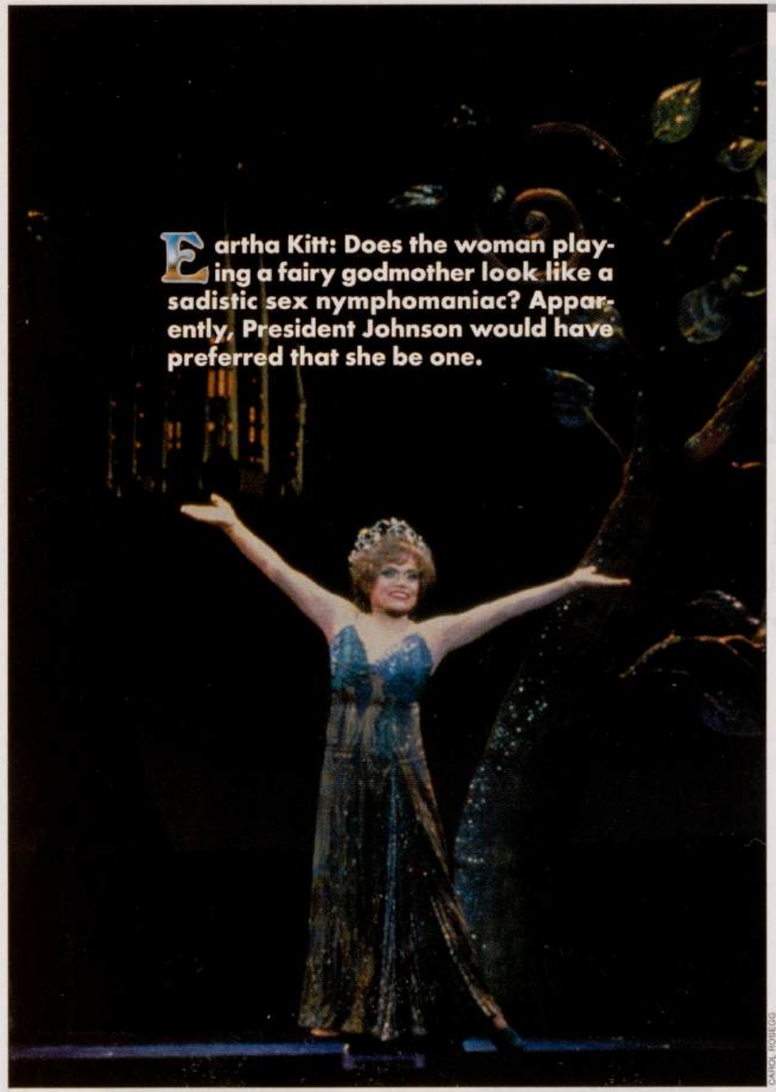
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CAROL ROSEGG

child , the father doesn't have to put his name down on the certificate. So the nurse put all the information in her handwriting. In many ways, they say, it might be because she is protecting the father because I am supposed to be, according to what I am told, one of the children of the cotton plantation owner's sons. If I could prove that this is the case, I'd own the whole goddamn everything. [*Both laugh.*]

That's great. So that was January 17, but then on January 18, *many* years later in 1968, you were at the White House.

Is that the date? For that luncheon, I was not there to sing songs. I was invited to a luncheon with 49 other women to give my opinions about the problematic situation among the young people at the time. And my invitation said that they wanted me to talk about why is there so much juvenile delinquency in the streets of America.

Now the boys that were running away from America, because they didn't want to get involved with the Vietnam War, had come to me in various areas of the country—and also in Canada and England and several other areas of the world—and we would sit on my dressing room floor, or my hotel room floor, and we would talk and they would tell me how they felt. Their reason was that it was a dishonorable war and this is the way that I felt. Dishonorable war, unwinnable war, and they are killing the innocent for no reason. And therefore this is what I told Mrs. Johnson.

President Johnson decided to get rid of me and, according to what I was told, he called the media and said, "I don't want to see that woman's face anywhere." So you're out of work and you don't know why. Because nobody bothers to tell you, because maybe they don't know.

And you found out you were bugged, right?

Oh, yes. My house was bugged and it's only recently that [investigative journalist] Jack Anderson was giving an interview with somebody and it was on the news. He said, "Yes, her house was bugged and the CIA was following her." [President Johnson] sent out the FBI, but they couldn't find any information on me being a subversive because I happen to love America; I just don't like some of the things that maybe the government is doing. If you ask me a question, I am going to give my opinion. And in a case like that when the people who are responsible for our country ask you a direct question, I expect them to accept a direct answer. Not to be blackballed because you are telling the truth.

So Jack Anderson said, "Yes, when they came back with the fact that she loves her country, [President Johnson] didn't like that because that was not bad news. So then he sends out the other group, the CIA, and they came back with backyard gossip—it is rumored she is a sadistic sex nymphomaniac."

Are you serious?

That's what it says on the dossier. And they interview anybody you have been working with, like the theater owners or the hotel owners, the nightclub owners, and it's not that they didn't want me to be working for them—because they love my work—they didn't want the CIA or the FBI on their doorsteps. So you are out of work.

And that went on for close to 10 years?

Yes, until I came back to Broadway because I was asked to be in *Timbuktu*.

So it was the late '70s.

Yes, the end of the '70s, when the American audience gave me a standing ovation before I opened my mouth.

That must have been a nice feeling.

God, you have no idea. I could hardly say what I was . . . I think I forgot the words in the play. [*Laughs*] I was so elated by the way the audience accepted me. It was wonderful. As far as I am concerned, it is the public that has become my fairy godmother. So the fact that I am doing the fairy godmother in the *Cinderella* production is me looking at myself as Deborah Gibson playing Cinderella. Because that was really me, being given

continued on page 62



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STUNNING HEIGHTS NEW CONSTRUCTION BY ALLEGRO - 3 bedrooms plus upstairs game room with balcony, 2 fireplaces - one in master, gorgeous granite, stainless, nice size yard with lots of decking and wrought iron. $499,000. Call Karen Derr - 713/862-1600.



RENOVATION IN PROCESS NOW! Hurry to select colors, etc. All new wiring, new plumbing, new walls, new hardwood floors, granite counter tops, custom cabinetry, open floor plan, large living & dining rooms, lots of windows, historic preservation in fact - $259,900. Call Margot Perez 281-932-7764



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HISTORIC MID-RISE - Beautifully renovated 1 and 2 bedroom units, pool, hardwood floors, granite counters, media room/study. Still time to choose paint colors. Private patios and terraces. Two parking spaces. $130's to $249,900. Call Bill Baldwin 281/850-6862.



LARGE BRICK MONTROSE HOME - this beautiful 2 story 3 bedroom 2 bath has hardwoods in the living areas, tile in the kitchen & baths. Great room is HUGE with very high ceilings. Quiet street with new construction all around. New 2 car garage, beautiful leaded front doorway, slab granite counter tops & lotz more! $250,000. Call Bruce Hutmacher 832/647-6750.



CLASSIC HEIGHTS HOME - first time on market, +/- 8000 s.f. lot, over 2100 s.f., 3 bed, study, 2 living areas, large dining, garage aparment, heart of pine floors, zoned centrals $289,900. Call Karen Derr 713/862-1600.



UPDATED WEST U BUNGALOW — fabulous kitchen with Sub-Zero fridge, Bosch, Asko, vaulted ceilings, granite countertops, oasis backyard with a pool, lots of built-ins, wired for sound, slate floors, beautiful hardwood floors in living area & much, much more! Call Danny Pleason 713/419-1942.



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STUNNING NEW CONSTRUCTION - on an oversized lot, both formals with dual sided marble trimmed fireplace, high ceilings, nice breakfast area, two porches in the front, large deck in the back but still room for a pool. Third floor is game room/office. Unfinished apt/office above alley access garage. $459,900 Call Bill Baldwin 281/850-6862.



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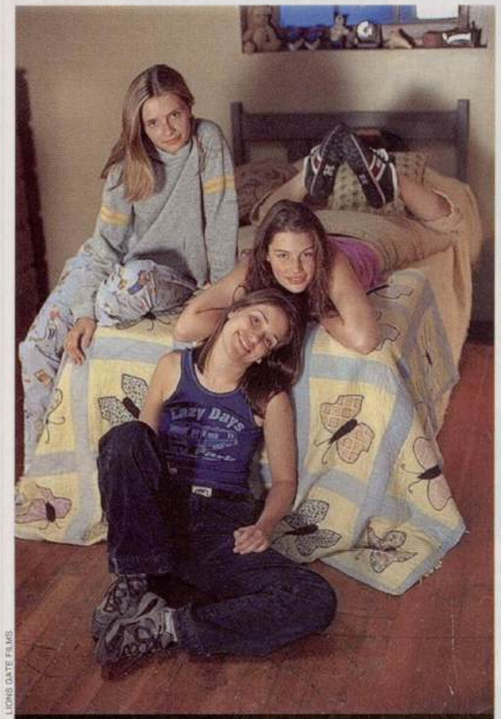
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HOT MOVIES IN THE MONTH OF JULY

Landmark Theatres and Rice Media Center heat up the summer with fabulous film fare



LIONS GATE FILMS

Mischa Barton (sitting on bed), Piper Perabo (sitting on floor), and Jessica Paré in *Lost and Delirious*.

Girls Just Wanna Be Lesbians in *Lost and Delirious*

Mouse Bradford (**Mischa Barton**) has just arrived at Perkins Girls' College and is quickly adopted by her two senior roommates, the striking, sharp-witted Paulie (**Piper Perabo**) and the charming and beautiful Tory (**Jessica Paré**). These three bond over loss. Mouse has lost her mother, Paulie lost the parents who gave her up for adoption, and Tory is losing herself to fit her parents' expectations. They become inseparable. Mouse, however, is confused by the depth of the relationship between Paulie and Tory. This world comes crashing down when Tory and Paulie are inadvertently caught in a compromising situation. ***Lost and Delirious*** is about the friendship of three teenagers and how they experience it in a private school. Throughout this film directed by **Léa Pool**, the lost threesome question their relationships with one another and the authority of others while desperately attempting to seek out true love. *Lost and Delirious* is scheduled to start **July 20** at Landmark's Greenway Theatre.

Boys Just Wanna Be Free in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*

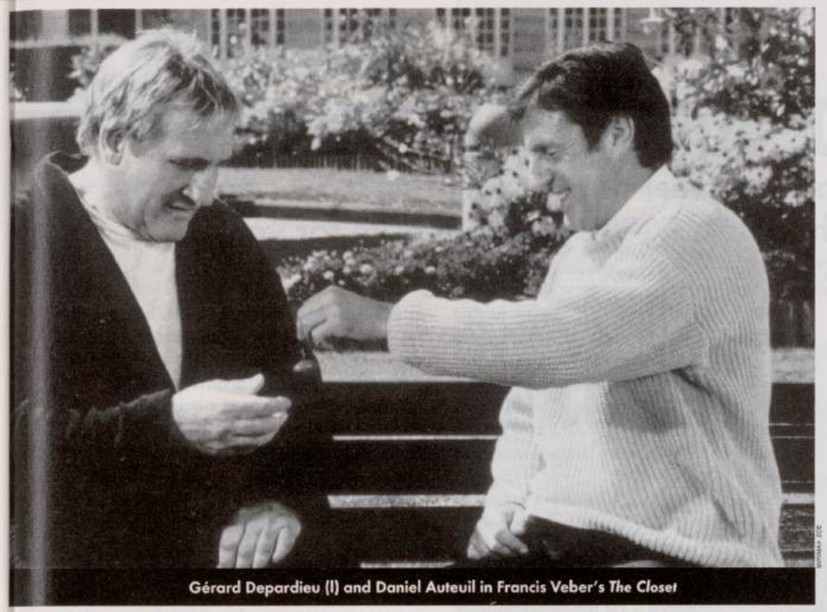
Luis Molina (**William Hurt**) and Valentin Arregui (**Raul Julia**) are cellmates in a South American prison. Luis, a homosexual, was found guilty of immoral behavior, and Valentin is a political prisoner. To escape reality Luis invents romantic movies, while Valentin tries to keep his mind on the situation he's in. During the time they spend together, they come to understand and respect each other.



ISLAND ALIVE, INC.

Raul Julia (l) and William Hurt bond.

Hurt won the Oscar for Best Actor in this 1985 film. Also stars **Sonia Braga**. *Kiss of the Spider Woman* is scheduled to start **July 20** at Landmark's Greenway Theatre.



MIRAMAX FILMS

Gérard Depardieu (l) and Daniel Auteuil in Francis Veber's *The Closet*

Boys Just Wanna Be Gay in *The Closet*

In a summer filled with digital Japanese fighters shooting digital American soldiers and '80s pop paeans masquerading as movie musicals, Francis Veber, author of *La Cage aux Folles*, delivers ***The Closet***, an intelligent, funny, and touching look at the power of perception. Where *La Cage* had gays pretending to be hetero, *The Closet* has a hetero, Francois Pignon (**Daniel Auteuil**), pretending to be gay. Oddly, he doesn't change a thing to create this entirely different persona. Some faked gay photos arrive at his office and his co-workers can't line up fast enough to share their "I knew it all alongs" with each other. Francois' boring world flips upside down as this previously meek and insignificant accountant becomes the talk (and toast) of the town. Veber presents profound and telling truths about living gay in a hetero world. Also stars **Gérard Depardieu**. Don't miss it. *The Closet* starts **July 6** at Landmark's River Oaks Theatre.

—John W. Stiles

Wait, there's more! *Check out John Stiles' surprising and interesting interview with writer/director Francis Veber on* OutSmart*'s website at www.outsmartmagazine.com.*

COMING OUT ON DVD

Coming Out

First Run Films has released *Coming Out* on DVD. Hailed as the first and only feature film about gay life ever produced in communist East Germany, *Coming Out* premiered on the very night the Berlin Wall came down. It was awarded the Silver Bear Prize at the Berlin Film Festival as well as the gay Teddy Award.

Coming Out is about a young married high school teacher who finds he can no longer repress his desire for men. East German director **Heiner Carow**, a gay man himself, says he wanted *Coming Out* to be a film about love and honesty.

One of the special features of the *Coming Out* DVD is the PC-friendly guide, "The Best of Queer Berlin," which offers an innovative and informative trip to Berlin. This extensive guide features insider information on Berlin's best gay and lesbian bars, pubs, cafés, clubs, and parties, as well as cultural destinations such as Europe's only gay museum, the **Marlene Dietrich** Collection, and **Christopher Isherwood**'s former residence. There's also a list of Berlin's gay/lesbian events which happen throughout the year.

For a preview of "The Best of Queer Berlin," visit www.bizzcomm.de/ComingOut/mainmenu.htm. For more information, call toll-free 1-800-488-6652 or visit First Run Features' website at www.firstrunfeatures.com.



MARK LIPSON/LIONS GATE FILMS

Philipp (Matthias Freihof, right) experiments.

RICE REELS







L-r: *The Weekend* stars David Conrad and D.B. Sweeney; Ryuhei Matsuda (bottom) defends himself in *Taboo*; and *Fellini Satyricon* stars Martin Potter.

L-R: STRAND RELEASING; UNCREDITED; UNCREDITED

The Weekend

Marian and John (**Deborah Kara Unger** and **Jared Harris**) plan a weekend get-together coinciding with the anniversary of John's brother Tony's death. Lyle (**David Conrad**), lover of John's late brother unexpectedly arrives with new love-interest Robert (**James Duval**), who immediately senses that he is not welcome. Meanwhile, neighbor Laura Ponti (**Gena Rowlands**) is confronted by her estranged daughter Nina (**Brooke Shields**), a B-movie star who arrives with her latest lover, Thierry (**Gary Dourdan**), a married man. This 1999 film was directed by **Brian Skeet** and based on the highly acclaimed novel of the same name by **Peter Cameron**. • Plays at 7 and 9 p.m., Friday–Sunday, **July 6–8**, and Wednesday, **July 11**. *—Kristian Salinas*

Taboo

At the temple Nishi-Honganji, the Shinsengumi militia is selecting new recruits to become samurai warriors. Out of all the men present, the commander (**Yoichi Sai**) and lieutenant (**Beat Takeshi**) select Hyozo Tashiro (**Tadanobu Asano**), a low-level samurai from the Kurume clan, and Sozaburo Kano (**Ryuhei Matsuda**), a handsome young man whose looks are bewitching. Tashiro's immediate attraction to Kano soon causes the militia to fall victim to jealousies as each member's fascination for the young Kano creates chaos within the clan. This 1999 film was directed by **Nagisa Oshima**. With English subtitles. • Plays at 7 and 9 p.m., Friday–Sunday, **July 13–15**, and Wednesday, **July 18**. *—KS*

Fellini Satyricon

Set during Nero's reign, this restored version of the 1970 film is director **Frederico Fellini**'s colorful adaptation of **Petronius**' *Satyricon* and stars **Martin Potter** as Encolpius, a handsome, naive young man who begins an epic quest to reclaim his "property," the young and beautiful Giton, stolen away by the duplicitous Ascyltus. In sword-and-sandal fashion, our three heroes become entangled in an inventive assortment of adventures involving a lusty Minotaur, a hermaphroditic goddess, and an incurable nymphomaniac. With English subtitles. • Plays at 7 and 9:45 p.m., Friday–Sunday, **July 20–22**, and Wednesday, **July 25**. *—KS*

All films are screened at Rice University Media Center, entrance #8, University Blvd. @ Stockton. General admission is $5 ($4 for students with valid ID and seniors over 65). For more information, call the film information line at 713/348-4853 or visit www.ruf.rice.edu/~cinema.

Television
by Larry Collins Jr.

OH, NO! SUMMER RERUNS!

What's a *Queer as Folk* fan to do?!
Don't worry, honey, have we got a website for you

The sitcom days of campy gay sidekicks and Jack Tripper of *Three's Company* pretending to be gay so that he can have two female roommates have gone the way of the Macerena. Clichéd gay television is quickly becoming a distant memory. Leading this new age of fresh and groundbreaking gay-themed television is *Queer as Folk*, its brutal realism and family of characters making it *Sex and the City* for the gay community.

Houston abounds with Sunday night *QAF*-watching parties. When *OutSmart* asked the community what it thought about *QAF*, people told us, "It's my childhood," "There's finally a show that tells the truth," "Gets better every week," and "Who put my life on tape?"

Bringing this show to its ever-growing group of enthusiastic fans and becoming a household name is not a simple task. Most especially, as *QAF* heads into summer reruns, how will it keep the buzz going?

The answer, hope *QAF* producers, is the Internet. With the *Queer as Folk* website, fans still have a place to go for their weekly fix of Justin, Michael, and Brian as they await the start of the next batch of shows. In what has become Showtime's most visited Internet location, new viewers are finding their way down the online equivalent of Liberty Avenue every day.

Online writers have created diaries and faux e-mail from the characters. They even offer such mundane salacious details as the contents of characters' refrigerators. Michael must have milk for his Captain Crunch every morning, and the ever-glamorous Emmett would die without his purple and clear nail polish chilling in the refrigerator.

The man masterminding the *QAF* website is Showtime executive Gene Falk.

He says that the site is simply a way to let fans feel as if they are living on Liberty Avenue with their favorite characters. The website comes into play "when an hour a week just isn't enough."

He toils for countless hours to ensure that regular viewers of the series will have a place where they can follow the show and its characters in an atmosphere that makes them feel as if they were a part of the action.


Gene Falk

Falk is no stranger to gay issues, having served as chair of the board of directors of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). A gay man himself, he has found a way to use his profession to foster understanding of aspects of his personal life. Falk explains that the series is important to the gay population because it is realistic and issue-oriented. He and like-minded producers were ready to take gay issues to the forefront and out of the broadcasting closet.

"Where I love and admire *Will and Grace*, they are not going to talk about police entrapment," he says.

> "Where I love and admire *Will and Grace*, they are not going to talk about police entrapment," Falk says.

Aimed at *QAF* faithful viewers, the website does not so much promote or explain the show, as provide a continuation of the series for the audience. Creativity is the key to keeping viewers returning to the site. Surfers are able to travel down a virtual Liberty Avenue and stop in at landmarks from the show to chat or buy music. It offers producer and actor commentary on episodes in the same manner that is common on DVDs.

In the spirit of daytime soap operas, fans are able to write "fan-fiction" stories in which they can take a character's life in any direction that imagination leads. They create their own couples and love stories. Fans who aren't happy with a Justin/Brian pairing are able to rock the boat a bit and send Justin *straight* into the arms of Lindsay if they felt the urge.

The most popular feature of the site are the chat sessions with the actors, with upwards of 5,000 fans participating at times. Everything is fair game. One participant asked series regular Hal Sparks (Michael) about a rumor involving the actor and his dog. He wrote, "Someone told me that you kissed your dog to practice for the show. . . . Who kisses better, Chris Potter [David] or Spot?"

You may want to start wedding shopping now, because Sparks answered that he and the pooch are an official item.

The message boards of the site also see a great deal of traffic. Falk says that this is where the fans are able to truly discuss the show and all of its components with other members of the dedicated audience. Many a young man has posted messages about finding someone he can relate to in the teen character of Justin. Or the dysfunctional household of Lindsay, Melanie, and Baby Gus gives rise to discussions about the ever-pressing issue of having children.

Message boards are also a fertile ground for criticism, for example, from older viewers who feel a bit disenfranchised by the youthful emphasis of the show.

In answer to this, Falk says the show *is* dedicated to a younger demographic. Although there are characters that all parts of the gay community can relate to, the majority of the storylines have a group of core characters that are of a certain age.


L-r: Michael (Hal Sparks), Brian (Gale Harold), Justin (Randy Harrison)

"In the same way that *Friends* is about a certain age bracket . . . so are we."

The site also takes a responsible stance by offering gay resources and links. "We are a television network and are not equipped to provide a lot of information, but we can send


L-r: Melanie (Michelle Clunie), Lindsay (Thea Gill) and Baby Gus

[viewers] to places that can help," Falk says.

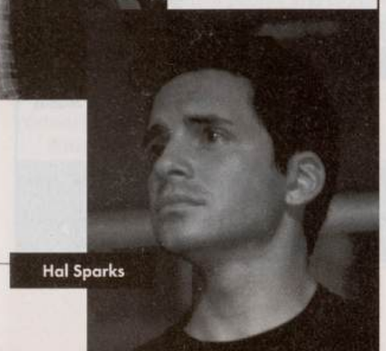
Many of the issues that characters face on the show are presented on the website with further information for viewers, with articles on drug addiction and coming-out resources, as well as links to organizations such as PFLAG and the Gay Law Net.

Due to the nature of the program, it is important that age restrictions be in place and practiced. Because of the language and strong sexual content, the actual television show is intended for an audience that is over the age of 18. For the website, Falk and site developers tried to reign in the explicit content; web surfers should not expect to find the completely frank and graphic material that makes the show such a landmark production.

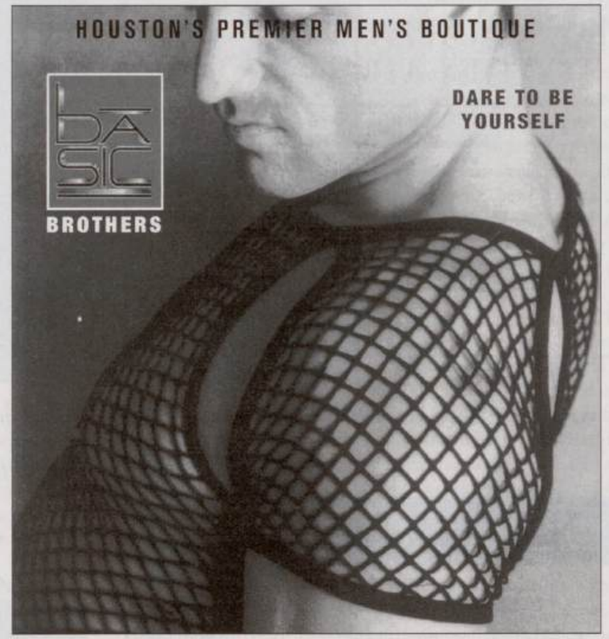
"Showtime has the advantage of being invited into people's homes . . . online it is open to anyone," he adds.

Although characters of the show seem to use the Internet only for cruising and watching live strip shows, producers hope that fans can find a virtual home on the *Queer as Folk* website. Pull up a seat at the Liberty Diner and feast your eyes on what makes your favorite characters tick or trick. ■

> One participant asked series regular Hal Sparks (Michael) about a rumor involving the actor and his dog: "Someone told me that you kissed your dog to practice for the show . . . who kisses better, Chris Potter [David] or Spot?"


Hal Sparks

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OF RED ONIONS AND AVOCADO CHEESECAKE

The Latina fusion of Café Red Onion excels when it's at its oddest



No one can accuse Red Onion of playing it safe: experience food as art with their Chicken Brazil, empanadas, and avocado cheesecake.

One of the greatest aspects to doing this monthly column is meeting the chefs and hearing their stories. I love to ask what inspired them to create their signature food. The owner of Café Red Onion, Rafel Gallindo, is such a generous man that I don't think he will mind if I share some of his stories with you.

He was raised in Honduras in a family where both parents cooked. His father, Rafel, liked to use exotic ingredients—iguana, turtle, conch—and was always creating wonderful sauces. His mother, Leonor, made a salad with red onions that was famed for increasing her husband's virility. These and many other kitchen experiences stayed with Gallindo and were a catalyst for his success.

After spending 16 years working in hotel kitchens in Chicago, Gallindo moved to Houston and opened a catering business that serviced mostly business lunches. Regular customers started asking for a full-time restaurant. In 1995, Gallindo catered for the entire film crew of the Paramount movie *The Evening Star*, with Shirley MacLaine. For a year, Gallindo supplied food to this particularly discriminating group of people and changed many of his recipes to suit their "California mentality," making them healthier and more varied. Building on the love of cooking instilled by his parents, the positive experience with the film crew gave Gallindo the confidence, inspiration, and many new recipes to open the restaurant on Kirby.

With fond memories of his mother's salad, Gallindo chose the name Café Red Onion. Hanging in the front windows are two gorgeous stained-glass red onions; during the day the light from outside shines through them and at night the restaurant's glow illuminates the purple and red works of art.

Gallindo uses ingredients mostly found in South American and Mexican cuisines—but his presentation is North American. All the food is pretty. He is a master at combining textures, colors, and ingredients; the beautiful dishes aspire to food art (and can be a trifle challenging to eat gracefully).

You can order the familiar Mexican quesadillas, tacos, and enchiladas, but you'd do better to adventure into the unknown with Red Onion's *House Specialties*. This is where the goods lie. I highly recommend the medallion de beef Colombia, a filet mignon first coated in ground coffee and then grilled and served with mango BBQ sauce, grilled yellow and green zucchini, fried plantains, lightly battered onion rings, sour cream, and a sprinkle of fresh cilantro. The combination of all these flavors is fantastic. The sweetness of the plantains works well alongside the richly flavored beef, and the onion rings are an added bonus.

A popular dish, which I call the castle of food, is the Chicken Brazil, a gorgeous stack of eggplant, chicken, tomato, and cheese topped by a rolled salad (speared with a knife) and scattered red tortilla strips. The grilled chicken breast is first marinated in beer, jalapeno, and honey. A cool tomato basil sauce encircles the castle of food like a moat. The cheese on the top and bottom layers bakes to a crunchy crisp. In this South American version of moussaka, thank goodness for the fresh baby greens wrapped with a cucumber slice, because it is deadly rich.

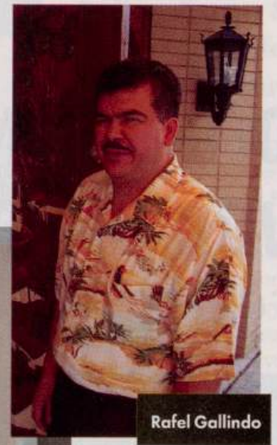
Also within the category of *House Specialties* is the Southwest snapper. Hidden under a pile of red tortilla strips is a lightly floured pan-fried fillet that sits on the in-house queso, and is served with a delicious combination of white rice, black beans, corn, red pepper, and cilantro. This dish looks beautiful and is

tasty and healthy, but difficult to eat. It's a search-and-destroy mission worthy of the effort.

Gallindo excels at creation, and his weekly specials and the above-mentioned section of *House Specialties* are examples of his far-reaching imagination in culinary art. If any of the following dishes are available when you visit, do try them: seafood enchiladas, Cuban pork tenderloin, salmon bonifacio, and chicken triple quesadillas. Otherwise, go for what sounds good to you and I'm confident that it will be. The complimentary tortilla chips that come with tomato and pineapple salsas are plenty to start with, but you may find it hard to resist ordering an appetizer anyway.



The shrimp ceviché is a great way to begin a meal. Unlike your typical Peruvian ceviché, it is presented more like an Italian antipasti plate with cubes of Mexican feta cheese, black olives, slices of avocado, greens, and lime-marinated shrimp. With all of these ingredients, you can have a lot of fun building different taste combinations.



Rafel Gallindo

A bowl of gazpacho makes for another cool beginning, and the temperature allows you time to admire the presentation of the food art. Shrimp, cheese, and olives are skewered and laid across the tomato concoction along with a wedge of ripe avocado. Sweet plum tomatoes are infused with vinegar and combined with crispy tortilla strips that add texture as they fall into the soup and soften as you eat.

The hot soups are also great, and the empanadas are a fun starter, although the yucca frita with pork tenderloin was a bit disappointing. (I hasten to add that the yucca and pork was the only item I found I didn't like.)

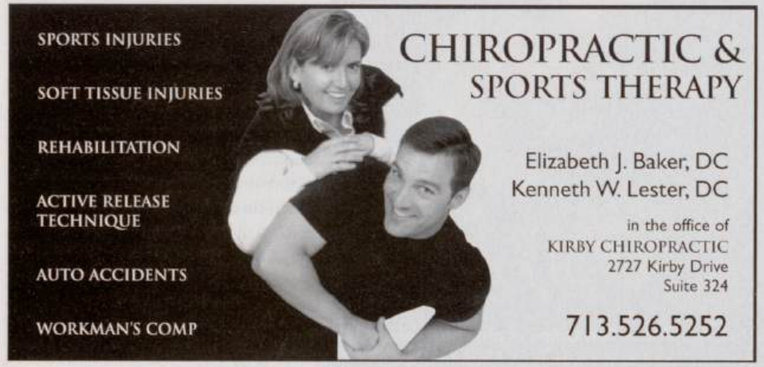
As for the desserts, they are a pleasant surprise. The trés leche Centro America is less sweet than most and is a fine offering, but my favorites are the baked cheesecakes. It may sound odd but the avocado cheesecake is amazing. Perhaps I'm amazed mostly by the fact that someone had the inclination to put this fruit into a dessert; but, probably because of the natural richness of an avocado, it works. If you're not feeling that brave, then stick with the banana Oreo cookie cheesecake, which tastes just like it sounds.

The portions are large and, despite the fact that fresh and healthy ingredients are used in most dishes, they are still very rich. I like to order an appetizer and eat it before deciding on my main course – it helps to properly gauge my hunger level, but also I spy on neighbors and determine what looks good. Inevitably, I end up with something to pack in my lunch sack. ■

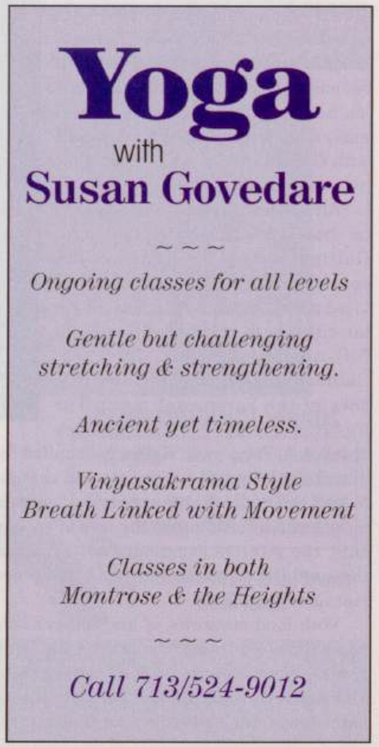
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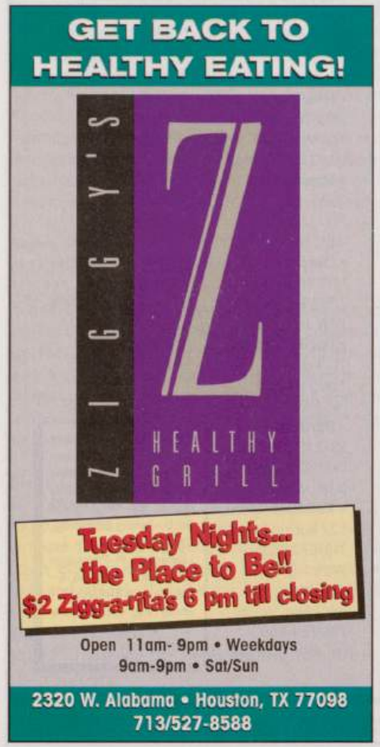
HEY READERS!

Are you holding onto a secret but are willing to share? Write to me at *OutSmart* if you have any restaurant suggestions for the column, old or new —I want to hear from you! Just write Todinefor@outsmartmagazine.com or mail to 3406 Audubon, Houston 77006. —E.J. Arnell









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.

Cabo
2187 Portsmouth (@ Greenbriar)
713/527-8226
419 Travis (@ Prairie)
713/225-2060
It's loud, it's boisterous, it's almost always standing-room-only (unless you're there for a late lunch), and it's crawling with twentysomethings most weekend nights. But their killer margaritas, cilantro-infused fish tacos, whopping sandwiches with crispy plantain chips, and mouth-burning shrimp habanero tacos and quesadillas guarantee good eats along with its yuppie reputation. $

Cheesecake Factory
5015 Westheimer (in the Galleria)
713/840-0600
Get over the two-hour wait. With portions this big, you'll need the time to wander the Galleria and work up an appetite. The spiral-bound menu boasts 22 pages of eclectic eats, but you may as well stop at the appetizers and save the rest for another trip. Make an entire meal out of the avocado eggrolls, brie and avocado melt, corn cakes, or Thai lettuce wraps, and top it off with their signature White Chocolate Raspberry Truffle cheesecake. Then head to the nearest heart center. $$

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 Argentinean 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. $$

Fabio's Italian Bar & Grill
212 Westheimer
713/528-4212
New on the Montrose scene, Fabio's is the quintessential romantic Italian restaurant, from the insalate to the dolce (such as the chocolate mousse cake, which is rich, fresh, and deliciously decadent). Chef Pepe Viliz, a native of Colombia, brings his fresh herbs and homemade pasta to enliven classic fare such as capelli di angeli primavera and costoletta paillard. $$

Farrago World Cuisine
318 Gray (at Bagby)
713/523-6404
Farrago is nestled in the corner of a townhouse complex in the Midtown area with free parking in the building, accessible from Bagby. The name, translated from several Latin-based languages, means an "unusual mixture." They serve interesting versions of familiar foods, like curried mussels, barley risotto, and Cajun benedict. Check out especially their Sunday brunch with bottomless mimosas and write-home-about pancakes. $$

Hobbit Cafe
2243 Richmond (@ Portsmouth)
713/526-5460
It's open again and we're happy: because this locale actually provides parking. Enter Houston's beloved Tolkien sanctuary and revel in its prolific menu, featuring Fatty Lumpkin and Bilbo the Magnificent (they're sandwiches, but unlike any you've ever experienced). While it tends to cater to vegetarian tastes, even the Birkenstock-deprived will appreciate the sprawling deck and heaping servings. And contrary to its herbivorous reputation, it offers meat beyond the token veggie burgers–such as real bacon cheeseburgers, tuna salad, and jerk chicken. Both the "classic" and regular sandwiches are huge, so you may as well have them doggy bag half before they serve it. The owner actually waits tables, so you know your voice counts. $

JAGS
5120 Woodway (@ Sage)
713/621-4765
Like most of us, you've probably only experienced Jackson Hicks cuisine at holiday parties or other high-scale galas—or you've only dreamed about it. Don't fret. For a mere jaunt to the Decorative Center, you too can eat the food of the gods (for a price, that is). It's worth it at least once, just to say you did. Count on Hicks-style tortilla soup to be exactly what a good tortilla soup should be. Quirky salads, sandwiches, and entrees make choosing an effort, but nothing disappoints, especially the service (how could it, with such attentive waiters?). $$

continued on page 59



Thank You OutSmart Readers!

#1 Italian 1999 & 2000

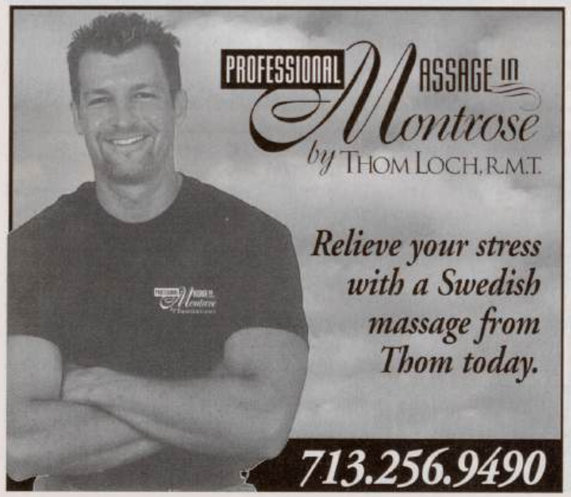
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  (Wed. nights), (W, NH)
- **Brazos River Bottom**
  2400 Brazos
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- **Briar Patch**
  2294 W. Holcombe
  713/665-9678
  (M, NH,E, Piano Bar)
- **Bricks II**
  617 Fairview
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  (MW, D)
- **Inergy**
  750 Chimney Rock
  713/666-7310
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- **J.R.'s/Santa Fe**
  808/804 Pacific
  713/521-2519
  (★, MW, S, V, K)
- **Mary's**
  1022 Westheimer
  713/527-9669
  (M, L, S,NH)
- **Melas**
  302 Tuam
  713/523-0747
  (M, CW, NH)
- **Meteor**
  2306 Genesee
  713/521-0123
  (★, MW, P, V)
- **Mo Mong**
  1201 Westheimer
  713/524-5664
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- **Purgatory**
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- **Robert's Lafitte**
  2501 Avenue Q.
  409/765-9092
  (MW, S, D)

THE CODES: ★—Very Popular, **M**—Mostly Men, **MO**—Men Only, **GF**—Gay-Friendly, **MW**—Men and Women, **W**—Mostly Women, **NH**—Neighborhood Bar, **D**—Dancing (DJ spinning), **CW**—Country Western, **L**—Leather/Levi, **P**—Professional or Upscale, **F**—Hot Food, **E**—Entertainment, **K**—Karoke, **S**—Shows (drag, strippers, cabaret), **V**—Video's Shown, **BYOB**—Bring your own Bottle

OutSmart reminds you to always drink responsibly.

For advertising opportunities on this page, contact John Nagy at 713/520-7237 ext. 14.

A Taste of Houston

Tapas-style reviews

(continued from page 57)

Java Java
911 11th Street
713/880-5282
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 sandwichs, 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." $

Mings
2703 Montrose
713/529-7888
The friendly fast-food Chinese eatery in the heart of the Montrose. Serving up stir-fries, crispy green beans, and killer egg rolls, Ming's has taken on landmark status in only four years as a late-night chopstick feast on their patio under the stars has become an essential part of the Montrose repertoire. Their staff always cheerful and welcoming, Ming's has endeared itself to the community—and many a GLBT organization has benefited from their donations. $

Mo Mong
1201 Westheimer (behind Hollywood Video)
713/524-5664
Sleek and urban, Mo Mong presents Vietnamese fusion in the heart of the Montrose—and you don't get closer to Montrose's heart than the former backstage quarters of the Tower Theatre. Smoothly managed and decorated by Viet Hoang, whose father is the owner, the narrow space has a dream-like sophistication, and often doubles as art gallery for local artists. And the food is intriguingly delicious. We love the wasabi crab cakes, the humongous spring rolls, the banh xeo Vietnamese crepe, and the worlds of wonderful noodles. And to their famous Wednesday half-price martini night, Mo Mong has now added Sake Monday, with 25 brands of sake available, from $1 sake shots, to $3.75 sake cocktails. $$

Riva's
1117 Missouri St. (Montrose)
713-529-3450
In one of the most verdant and restful eatery atmospheres we know of, the brothers Silboyeh bring you Italian cuisine so unusually well seasoned you'll notice the pasta as well as the sauce. The simple dinner salad is alive with fresh vegetables and a tangy vinaigrette and a pleasant forecast of things to come. These men know herbs, and their fish dishes will make seafood converts out of diehard carnivores. And pastry chef Pierre kneads up some tasty little numbers. $$

River Café
3615 Montrose
713/529-0088
Intimate weekend hangout with great patio dining. You'll spot every car down Montrose. Broad menu serving nouveau American dishes. Accessible and friendly. If you're not hungry, try the bar. $$

Sabroso Grill
5510 Morningside (@ Times Blvd.)
713/942-9900
Price-wise it falls between Cabo and Churrascos, but in taste scores equal to both. The absolute best cilantro dressing in town, and you can order it

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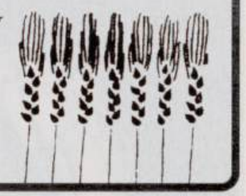


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A Taste of Houston

Tapas-style reviews

on everything from the giant salads to the overstuffed tortas and tacos. Considering it's one of the few places you can walk in without a reservation or wait, this South American winner is clearly one of Rice Village's (and Houston's) best-kept secrets. $$

Star Pizza
2111 Norfolk (b/w Greenbriar & Shepherd)
713/523-0800
140 S. Heights Blvd. (@ Washington)
713/869-1241
Who needs Chicago? Like everything else, Texas can out-top and out-dough the country's most famous deep-dish pizzerias. Star's whole-wheat crust is light and chewy enough to lure even the un-health conscious, and Sugarbuster devotees can devour it with uninhibited gluttony. Thankfully, the salads are not an afterthought. So before inhaling a sausage, meatball, pepperoni, and extra cheese pizza, you can clear your conscience with the cauliflower, tomato, broccoli, carrot, and sprout-infused garden salad.$

Taco Milagro
2555 Kirby Dr. (@ Westheimer)
713/522-1999
Café Express' answer to upscale Mexican fast food enjoyed at a slow, savory pace. Chalupas come stacked with almost every ingredient in the house; salads and enchiladas are exotic versions of their brethren Tex-Mex fare. A salsa bar spanning an entire wall satisfies tastes from mild to muy caliente. Sip a cool one (with salt) to the trickle of two flowing patio fountains. $

Thai Spice
5117 Kelvin (behind & above Antone's)
713/522-5100
Starve yourself for a day, then gorge on their expansive lunch buffet (only $7.95). Even for buffet skeptics, the four variations on egg rolls and spicy Pad Thai will make a believer out of you. If you're still in doubt, sample the beef curry and satays. You may have a wait, but the place is teeming with locals and natives vouching for its authenticity, so you know it'll be worth it. $$

Treebeards
315 Travis (@ Preston)
713/228-2622
1100 Louisiana (tunnel level @ Lamar)
713/752-2602
1117 Texas (in Christ Church Cathedral @ San Jacinto)
713/229-8248
But for the lack of Hurricanes, you may as well be whooping it up in New Orleans, so authentic is this Cajun-Creole favorite. The lunch-hour lines move remarkably fast, but we wouldn't even mind waiting for platters of red beans and rice (with sausage, cheese, and green onions), jambalaya, crawfish etouffee, and green beans coated with lemon vinaigrette. In case you didn't know, the bottomless French bread basket is there to soak up the excess sauce. $

Urbana
3407 Montrose (@ Hawthorne)
713/521-1086
Sleek minimalist decor, and a classy menu that offers everything Texan and beyond, with barbecue-grilled shrimp, Comal-seared tuna, richly marinated steaks, light pastas, ingenious salads, and interesting deviations on popular '90s sides like mashed potatoes and portobello mushrooms. $$

Vincent's
2701 W. Dallas
713/528-4313
Rotisserie me a chicken, baby. Next door to its brother restaurant, Nino's, Vincent's gets you great Italian/American food and wine so reasonable you'll want to shout (and you'll have to if you want to be heard). Cozier in decor than Nino's, and the green beans are like Café Chino Italian style. $$

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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Eartha Kitt

continued from page 47

away, and all of that not knowing who I am.

As a matter of fact, I am still confused because I still don't know who my father is. People told me that the person who gave me away was my real mother, but when I went up north, I was sent for by this lady in New York who said she had taken me out of the South because she got a letter. It said if I wasn't taken away from that family, I would either be abused to death, starved to death, or worked to death. Out of her Christian duty, she took me away from that family and she told me she was my mother; so who is my mother? The feeling is still there.

Do you at least get to a point where you can live with it?

Well, you do live with it, but at the same time you use it with everything that you do. Because every character I play, all of these rejection feelings are still there.

Do you still experience obvious discrimination?

I don't think so—but I see it as their problem, not mine.

What about in the past?

In my last book, I told about being prevented from going into a bar with a boyfriend of mine. The maitre d' looked down at me and I was all dressed up like I just stepped out of *Vogue* with my coiffure well done, and my makeup was on, and I had on a beautiful cocktail dress, and sandals on . . . and no stockings. He looked down at my feet and said, "You can't come in. You don't have any stockings on." It's the dumbest law in the world. He said, "I am sorry but that's the law." Well, maybe it was a law, but I don't know anything about it. So I went across the lobby to the novelty shop. In those days, it was single stockings. I bought a pair of stockings and put them on, but I never pulled them up. I went back to the door and he had to let me in because now, what kind of excuse did he have?

[*Both laugh*]

And then another time, in Canada in the middle of winter, my girlfriend came to get me for lunch. I had a mink coat, a three-quarter length, and I had on slacks. It's cold!! I'm wearing slacks and I get to the door and the man says, "You can't come in because you have slacks on." So I went outside and right outside the entrance to the restaurant is a cloak room. I went to the bathroom, took off my slacks, kept my mink coat on—three quarters, mind you. All I have on underneath are panties, my little bikini panties. I checked my pants and I went back. What kind of excuse do you think he had?

[*Laughs*] I have a copy of an ad in a gay paper that shows you appearing at a gay club in California in 1986. Why do you think there is such a strong connection between you and gays?

Darling, we have the same problem—rejection. And I think that when we are individuals and we want to have our own style of living, it is nobody's business but ours. And what we do in private is our private business. And just because you are different does not mean that you have to be rejected.

Now I am not saying that is the reason why you guys and I get along so well, but because we understand each other. We are different, but I'll tell you a phrase we have in French: *Je suis comme je suis.* "I am as I am"—I was born this way, but it's nothing for me to explain. As long as we are not trying to change somebody else to be like me, or like you, or like him, or like her, what's your problem?



Eartha Kitt routinely sang at gay clubs.

That's really nice. Have you heard Madonna's "Santa Baby"?

Yes.

What do you think?

[*Very long silence*]

[*Laughs*] Oh, okay, I've got it. Could you say in a couple of sentences what your new book *Rejuvenate* is about?

Don't depend on other people to be responsible for you and don't make yourself stressed out over nonsensical things like material things. Jewelry, for instance, to me, is a pain in the derriere, because you have to be watching it all the time. You are worried somebody is going to be taking it. I've always said to my men friends, "If you really care for me, darling, you will give me territory. Give me land, give me land."

[*Both laugh*]

Okay, last two questions. If you were stranded on a desert island and you could have only one person with you, not a friend, lover, or family member; who would that be?

I think it would be Orson Welles. Because he was one of these people who was defying everything that the doctors told him he wasn't supposed to be doing. Now he was really enjoying himself when he was eating what he wanted to eat and doing what he wanted to do. I used to be with him [and his friends] at a restaurant in Dublin—I was the only woman they would ask to have lunch or dinner with them. And of course I was really excited because these guys were so interesting. There's no sense in trying to get in on the conversation because you don't know what the hell they are talking about, so the best thing to do is be like a sponge and listen and absorb.

These guys were so wonderful, and I learned so much from them that it gave me a feeling of being mentally alert. It was like, "Read the book, get the education, then you can get into a conversation." That makes sense.

So it would be Orson Welles, or Dr. Einstein, whom I absolutely love. He was not very successful in school, but he found something in the air from his own imagination and his own brain power and look what he did.

So I would like to be with both of those guys. They would feed each other through brain power, and I would be there as a listener to be learning how to use my own brain power.

Okay, you are still stranded on that island and you can have only one record. What would that be?

I think it would be my own version of "Moon River." The river is constantly turning and bending and you never know where it's going to go and where you'll wind up . . . in some ocean or lake somewhere. But following the bend in the river and staying on your own path means that you are on the right track. And don't let anyone deter you from that. ■

Eartha Kitt stars in Cinderella *July 24–29 at the Wortham Center's Brown Theater in downtown Houston. Tickets are $33.25–$56.25 and are available at all Ticketmaster locations or by calling 713/629-3700. For updates, you can also check out www.broadwayseries.com/houston.*

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FROM A MOTHER

by Nancy Rodriguez

Paul grew up in Warner Robins, Georgia, a small town 100 miles south of Atlanta where we still live. He was an Eagle Scout and played the clarinet in the school band and the church choir. He graduated with honors, 15th in a class of 469. He paid his own way through college by working two jobs. He graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in finance. Before he was brutally murdered, Paul was working with Nations Bank–Bank of America, specializing in retirement accounts. Paul was a cheerful and outgoing young man with hopes and dreams. Everyone who knew him liked and respected him. He was a very good son and I was very proud of him. We all miss him terribly.

I am saddened at the thought of a family/school atmosphere that might ignore or condone gay bashing, whether it be verbal or physical. We have to start somewhere teaching our children to value people and life. That it is not acceptable to use language like fag, queer, fairy. If Paul's story has touched the life of even one young person and made them stop and think about their actions, then maybe his death will not have been in vain. We should all accept people for who they are and be more open to diversity. I encourage everyone to get in touch with PFLAG [Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays]. This organization educates others about gay and lesbian issues, and all of us need to learn and grow.

The 10 young men who murdered Paul received sentences ranging from probation to 45 years in prison. I, like the rest of my family, received a life sentence. I am a firm believer in "truth in sentencing" and will continue to be involved in all parole hearings. I will always cherish my memories of Paul, and no one can change or take that away.

DEAN MILLS



Ten Years Later

Paul is gone. Matthew is gone.
Hundreds of others have been attacked, hurt, killed.
What can we do?
Stop the language.

In Memoriam: Paul Broussard 1964-1991

by John Aston, Ph.D.

On the night of July 4, 1991, Paul Broussard, a 27-year-old gay banker in Houston, and two of his friends, Cary Anderson and Richard Delaunay, were assaulted as they traversed a parking lot in the Montrose area. Their assailants were 10 youths from the Woodlands, an upscale suburb north of Houston. The boys (all but three were only 17; the eldest was 22) had been cruising the Montrose area earlier that evening, harassing those they presumed gay by throwing rocks at them. With their "queer rocks" as they called them, they had already smashed the windshield of a car and hit a passing man in the mouth. When the attackers encountered the three men, they began by asking for the directions to Heaven, a nearby gay nightclub. Upon being told the directions, the boys leapt out of their two cars and assaulted Broussard and his friends with fists, steel-toed boots, two-by-fours studded with nails, and at least one knife. Broussard's two friends, Delaunay and Anderson, although injured, managed to escape. Broussard, however, was trapped and subjected to a vicious beating.

As they assaulted Broussard, according to Delaunay, the boys were cheering and yell-

This10th anniversary memorial article is dedicated to Paul Broussard's mother, Nancy Rodriguez, in honor of her continuing activism in the cause of Parents of Murdered Children, and for the passage of hate-crimes legislation (hats off to Senator Rodney Ellis and the Texas legislature of 2001), and in heartfelt sympathy with a mother's grief over the loss of her child. It is also dedicated to all the victims and families and friends of victims of anti-GLBTH crimes, and to the courageous activists who have kept up the fight for the cause of complete civil rights and liberties for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, the transgendered, and HIV-positive at great personal risk to themselves. –*John Aston*

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ing wildly, roaring like the crowd in a football game. "We were the football," as Delaunay later said. In the end Paul Broussard suffered multiple cuts and abrasions, a puncture by a nail driven through a board, a broken rib, bruised testicles, three stab wounds—and death. As he lay almost unconscious on the ground with his hand raised as if pleading for mercy or for help, two of the assailants rifled his pockets and robbed him. Then the boys drove off, still yelling and cheering. As they returned to the Woodlands going north up I-45, the two carloads of assailants drove side-by-side down the highway, leaning out of the windows and slapping palms together in noisy "high-fives." They capped off the evening with a pre-dawn breakfast at a Denny's restaurant. According to later depositions, it was at the Denny's that Jon Buice showed a knife to some of the others, and bragged that with it he had "stuck the queer."

After being treated by EMS on the spot, Paul Broussard was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital. Although medical and hospital staff did all they could to save his life, in the end the bleeding from the wounds could not be stemmed. Broussard died in the hospital an agonizing eight-and-a-half hours later. Nancy Rodriguez, Broussard's mother, flew into Houston the next day from Atlanta. She met with the Houston police, along with Richard Delaunay and Carey Anderson. The newspapers originally carried the story as just another murder, an all-too-common occurrence in Houston. However, the gay community was alerted by local activists. Large-scale public protests followed, some in front of the home of the mayor, with Nancy Rodriguez and Queer Nation participating. Due to the resulting media attention, a girl who dated one of the assailants, reacting to a story on Crime-Stoppers, called the police and turned the boys in. Within days, all were arrested.

Although the wheels of justice ground slowly, all were eventually convicted, some with pleas of guilty, others in criminal trial. Jon Buice, who confessed to having wielded the knife that apparently made the fatal wound, received the longest sentence—45 years for murder. Another of the assailants, Paul Chance Dillion, was convicted on one count of attempted murder served concurrently with one count of aggravated murder and was released March 2000.

Five of the boys received probation or deferred adjudication. Nancy Rodriguez and her family, aided by Andy Kahan, of the Houston Crime Victim's Office, worked with the D.A. on setting the terms—the first time this had been done in Harris County. Sentences included boot camp in summer, 500 hours of community service to the gay and lesbian community in Houston, and attending a Parents of Murdered Children meeting. The court also ordered them to pay for Anderson's hospital bill and Broussard's funeral.

The three other primary assailants received 15-year (and one-day) prison sentences for their admitted participation in the beatings. At the time of the sentencing, Nancy Rodriguez protested that the sentences for the three were too light. "Nothing is enough," she said. "They've been walking around now for 18 months while my son's been lying in the ground." Brian Bradley of Queer Nation said, "Fifteen years and one day with the possibility of parole in 15 months is not right." Those three with 15-year sentences might serve as little as three years in prison. Jon Buice himself is currently up for parole consideration in 2003 after serving only eight years of his 45-year sentence.

"Remorse could not adequately describe the feeling of horror, anguish and disbelief I now carry with me every day of my life. . . . If it were possible, I would sacrifice my own life to bring Paul back."
—John Buice



I first became aware of the Paul Broussard murder case in early May 1999, when I was searching for a suitable topic for my doctoral research and dissertation. At that time I came upon an article in the *Houston Chronicle* summarizing an April article in the *Houston Voice* in which Jon Buice expressed his remorse for the crime he had committed eight years previously. He expressed "repentance for an act of atrocity." "Remorse," he wrote in a letter from his prison cell, "could not adequately describe the feeling of horror, anguish and disbelief I now carry with me every day of my life. . . . If it were possible, I would sacrifice my own life to bring Paul back." He recognized the prejudice and oppression inherent in his murderous assault. He ended with an apology to the gay and lesbian community, and an offer to make amends: "It would please me to be allowed to offer myself for the service of the gay and lesbian community, and to tell my story to prevent others from making the same mistake I have." I decided to take Buice up on his offer. →

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As a long-time educator, the assault on Paul Broussard and the nature of his assailants had already engaged me. I had heard that, in their criminal depositions and testimony in civil trials, the Woodlands Ten (as they came to be known) had asserted that, for most of them, gay-bashing was not a new thing. They had engaged in it before, coming repeatedly down to the Montrose area to harass gays. It had become a weekend "sport." In addition, they said, others at their school, McCullough High School, had known about what they were doing. Not just classmates and friends, but also other school personnel, such as teachers and coaches, had likely heard them talking and bragging about their gay-bashing activities, they said. They had even taken to wearing identifying markings to school, such as black bandanas, to signify that they were members of the "gay-bashing gang." Yet no one, they said, had done anything to stop them.



UNPHOTOED

Buice, in spite of his crime, did not consider himself homophobic. He had, he told me, close relatives and friends who were gay. He liked them. Why, then, I asked him, did he do what he did?

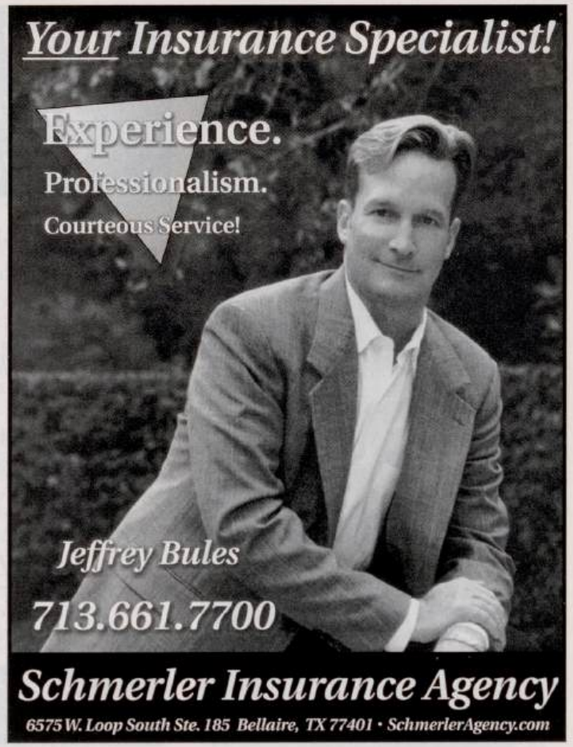
At the time of reading Buice's letter, I lived in the Woodlands. I had also previously taught in secondary schools for several years in the same school district the assailants attended, Conroe I.S.D. I had heard for myself the almost daily expression of antigay remarks by students in classrooms and hallways and lunchrooms and common areas in the school. I had also overheard homophobic remarks in the teachers' lounges and other presumably "private" spaces at school—sometimes even when students were present. As an educator, then, I was concerned. In addition, I am the parent of two young boys, both of whom, if our family had remained in the Woodlands, would have ended up going to the same school that Buice and his fellow assailants had attended—what was then McCullough High School. Therefore, as a parent, I was also deeply concerned. When I read Buice's letter, I knew in my gut I had found the topic for my research. I would approach Buice if I could and take him up on his expressed offer to make amends to the gay community. I wanted to find out what made young men like Buice and his schoolmates act as they did. More importantly, I wished to ferret out in what ways schooling itself might be complicit, wittingly or unwittingly, in such crimes. In the course of my research I discovered that an important question to ask was: "In what ways do schools and school personnel contribute to the *societal sense of permission* to harass and assault gays?"

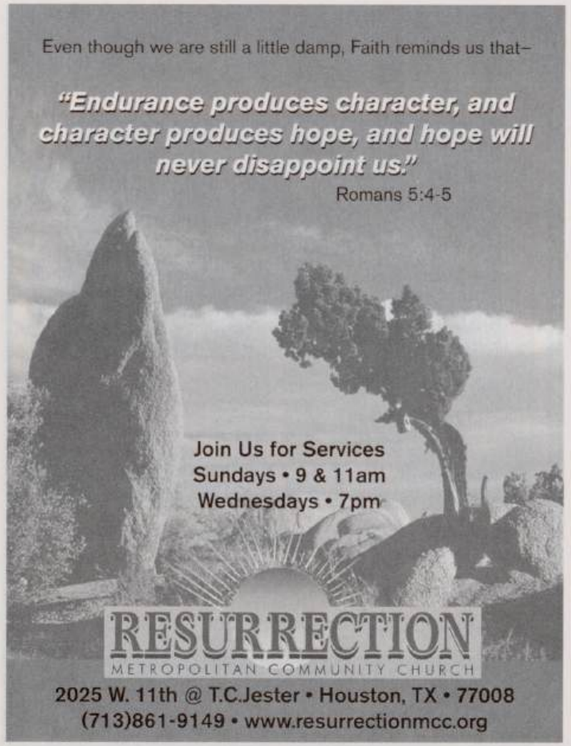
I contacted Jon Buice and told him about my project. Buice, after assuring himself that I was not just a curiosity seeker or a sensation-monger that might further hurt his already devastated family, was very willing to help. He agreed to correspond with me and to let me interview him in prison. Eventually he also corresponded with my education students at Texas A&M University, accepting all their questions and answering with apparent openness. I have interviewed and corresponded with Buice for the past two years. Although the dissertation has now been completed, I continue to communicate with him, hoping to learn even more.

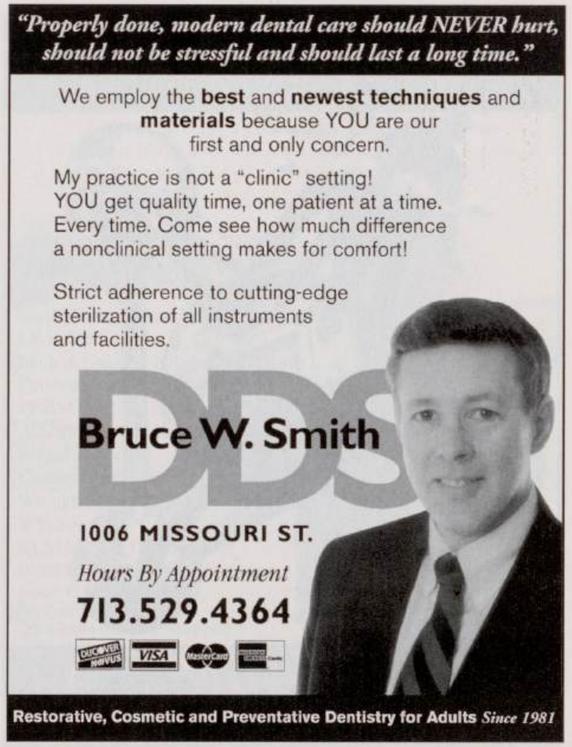
I have found out some startling things in the course of the research. First of all, I found out that Buice, in spite of his crime, did not consider himself homophobic. He had, he told me, close relatives and friends who were gay. He liked them. Why, then, I asked him, did he do what he did? His reply was that, primarily, it was thrill-seeking, peer-pressure, and the influence of drugs and alcohol. Nearly all the assailants that night had been terribly drunk. Some, like Buice, were also high on marijuana and hopped up on LSD.

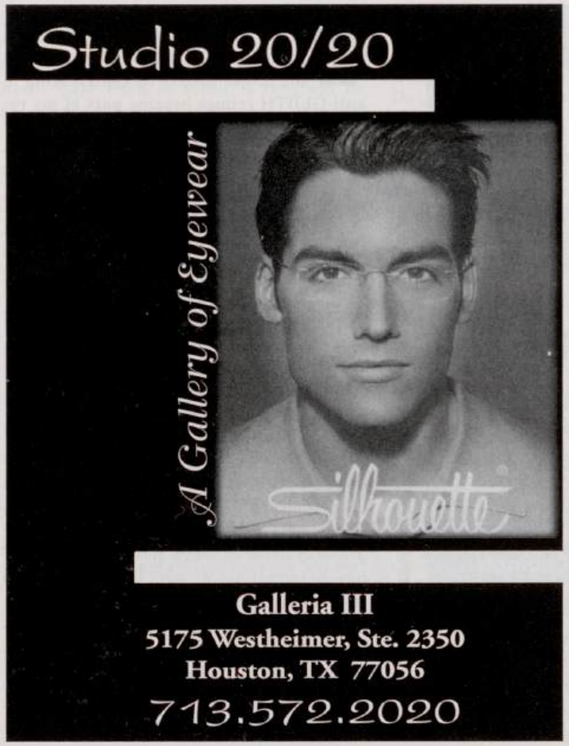
When I asked Buice about the "societal sense of permission," he immediately agreed this was very much in the air. He said he and his friends had picked up on the reigning wisdom that gays are weak and won't fight back. Also, the victims probably won't report attacks, due to fear of being outed. Furthermore, the police probably won't pursue the offenders. Therefore, gays are likely targets for assault. I discovered in the research literature (much of it from the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network and other activist organizations) that all this was borne out by public health studies. Schools, too, I found out, were generally heterosexist and homophobic institutions, very conservative, unlikely to intervene to stop heterosexist or homophobic remarks or actions. The very frequency of antigay verbal and physical assaults in schools nationwide is astounding. (See sidebar "Basic Facts about Heterosexism in Our Schools.")

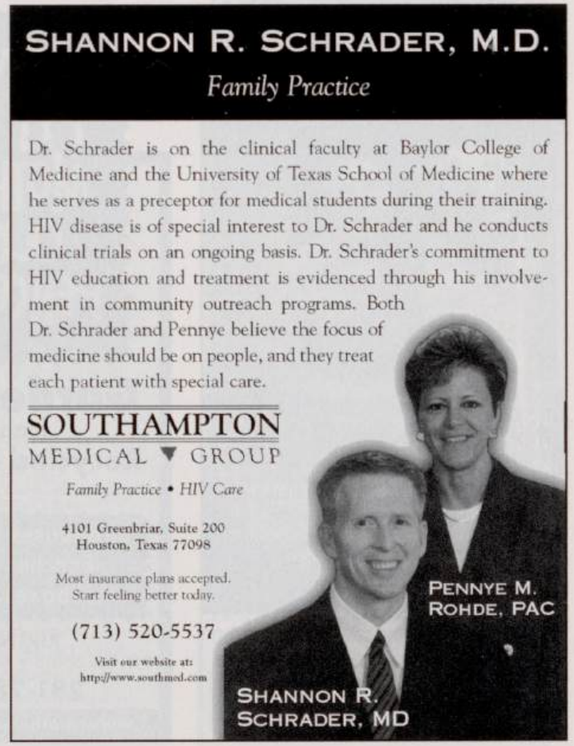
In addition to interviewing Buice, I also interviewed his father, his mother, some schoolmates of his, and teachers and

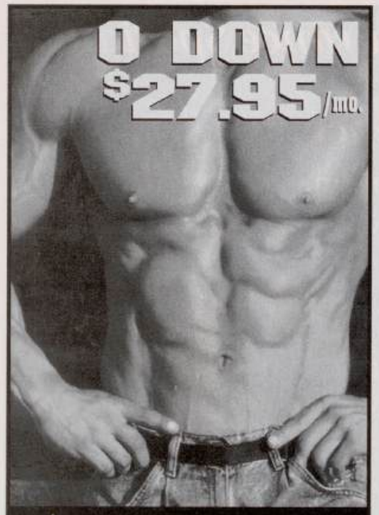












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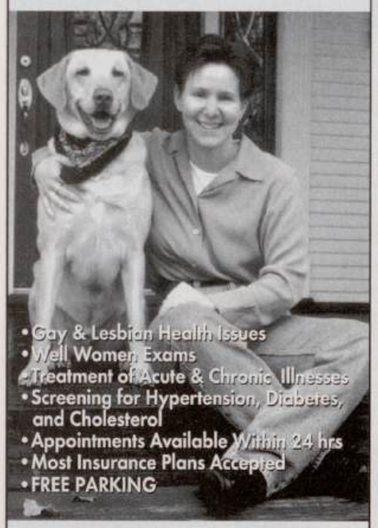
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school personnel who knew or had taught Buice and the other assailants. I found out that McCullough High had officially denied any probable connection to the case, and had labeled Buice and the others as troublemakers totally unrepresentative of the school. This in spite of the fact that one of the Woodlands Ten was the son of an assistant district superintendent at the time!

I also found out that, despite the official denials, most of those interviewed believed that there was indeed a homophobic and heterosexist atmosphere that pervaded McCullough, sometimes even expressed openly by some teachers and coaches. When several gay activists from the Montrose community visited the high school after the murder to offer their services for diversity awareness workshops, they were told by school representatives that there was no problem at the school—thanks but no thanks for the offer. However, the activists were later contacted privately by three different school representatives who had been at the meeting. Requesting anonymity, each one said that, although they didn't feel safe to say so at the meeting (there were only eight school personnel present), in their opinion there was indeed a problem with homophobia at the school. They had kept quiet at the meeting for fear of losing their jobs.

These and many other findings implicating schools, law enforcement, and the larger society as contributing to anti-GLBTH crimes became part of my research and dissertation. However, out of all the interviews and findings, one in particular stands out. I had also sought to include in my research the viewpoint of the victim. I could not locate either of the two survivors of the attack that night, although I tried. I contacted Nancy Rodriguez to get the mother's point of view. Although we were finally able to talk at length right before this article went to press, she was not initially available as a source. However, I was offered the opportunity to interview Judy Shepard, the mother of Matthew Shepard, the murdered gay Wyoming college student.

Judy Shepard was incredible. I came away from the interview profoundly struck by her demeanor. I sensed underneath everything she said a terrible sadness that will probably never go away. However, in spite of her personal pain, which I am sure is reawakened every time she must again talk about her son, she carries on with great love and courage the struggle for awareness to help right this great wrong. What Judy Shepard had to say in her interview was to me the most significant finding of all. As an educator, and as a message to all educators, parents, and the society as a whole, I wish to highlight and underline what she had to say.

Shepard felt that schools were absolutely essential places where heterosexism and homophobia had to be addressed and stopped. When I asked Shepard what schools could/should do to help stop the pervasiveness of this phenomenon, she replied that there were two things. One was to establish and maintain gay-straight alliances, where students and staff, whether gay or straight, could get together for mutual support and understanding without being branded or labeled as one or the other. Sadly, such allliances, I found, are frequently against school and/or district policy. Indeed, any mention of homosexuality, whether in sex ed, health, history, or any other subject, is frequently not allowed.

Most of all, however, she said: Stop the language. "The language is pervasive," she emphasized. "Even when kids say things like 'that's so gay'—they probably don't really mean it, but it is very hurtful."

This struck me right between the eyes. How many times had I heard not only my students at school say these types of things (at the university as well as in high school and junior high school), but even neighborhood children—beginning at a very young age. What had I done, I reflected, as an educator, or as a parent, to put an end to such expression? Not nearly enough, I had to admit. How could I, with all my liberal sentiment, have been so blind? I resolved to henceforward never keep the peace. My published research would be only just the beginning. I would continue to research and write on this topic. I would teach about this to all my university students, my wonderful and giving teachers-to-be. But even more importantly, I would never again let another bit of such "language," no matter how seemingly innocent, go unchallenged, so help me God. I would speak up, and out, and add my voice to all those who seek full civil rights and liberties for the GLBT community. I would no longer remain silent, or in any way equivocate. Please join me in this commitment, so that we can together say to Paul Broussard and to his grieving mother: Paul's death has not been in vain.

John Aston, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Education at Southwest Texas State University. He has been an educator since 1976, teaching and administrating in both public and private schools and junior colleges before beginning his collegiate teaching career at Texas A&M University in 1996 and the doctoral research on the Paul Broussard murder that resulted in "Deconstructing Heterosexism and Homophobia in Our Schools: Case Study of a Hate Crime by an Adolescent Offender" (available through Dissertation Abstracts International www.lib.umi.com); he is currently at work on a book on the subject. He is still seeking information from anybody who was present at or nearby the scene of Paul Broussard's murder or the aftermath. Readers may contact him at ja18@swt.edu.

To read John Aston's interview with Judy Shepard, "Visions of Peace: The mother of Matthew Shepard talks about her son's life," which ran in the December 2000 issue of *OutSmart* magazine, visit the *OutSmart* website at http://www.outsmartmagazine.com/issue/i12-00/shepard.html.

Basic Facts
About Heterosexism in Our Schools

- **97 percent** of high school youth report frequently hearing homophobic remarks at schools (Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth [MGCGLY], 1993).
- **Over one-third** of youth (36.7 percent) reported hearing homophobic remarks from faculty or school staff (National School Climate Survey [NSCS], 1999).
- **The typical high school student** hears antigay slurs 25.5 times a day (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays [PFLAG], 1997).
- **69 percent** of youths *perceived* to be either gay or lesbian reported experiencing some form of harassment or violence at school (NSCS, 1999).
- **Of those reporting verbal harassment**, almost half (45.9 percent) reported experiencing it daily (NSCS, 1999).
- **46.5 percent** of the same reported sexual harassment, such as suggestive comments, being touched inappropriately (NSCS, 1999).
- **27.6 percent** reported physical harassment, such as being pushed, shoved, kicked, etc. (NSCS, 1999).
- **13.7 percent** reported physical assault, such as being beaten, punched, kicked (NSCS, 1999).
- **Over one-third** of youth (39.2 percent) reported that no one ever intervened in these circumstances (NSCS, 1999).
- **When someone did intervene**, other students were more often reported to intervene than were faculty (82.4 percent compared to 66.5 percent by faculty) (NSCS, 1999).
- **Gay-lesbian youths** are two to three times more likely to commit suicide than heterosexual young people (PFLAG, 1997).
- **85 percent** of teachers oppose integrating gay/lesbian/bisexual themes within their curricula (MGCGLY, 1993).

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Angela

Starting a Gay Straight Alliance in a small-town high school

by Kirk Read

Smack dab in the middle of Lake Bygod County, California, Angela came out on the first day of her junior year.

She'd attended a queer youth leadership workshop in San Francisco over the summer and arrived at school wearing a rainbow necklace, a rainbow pin, and a rainbow patch. Nobody got it.

During English class, students were asked to stand up and say something about themselves. Already irritated by the inefficiency of symbols, Angela said she was a lesbian. She'd spent the better part of her summer in Internet chatrooms discussing *Xena, Warrior Princess*. She was sure.

In a matter of weeks, she approached teachers to sponsor the Gay Straight Alliance she was planning to found. One asked her, "You don't think I'm gay, do you?" The second teacher was a folk singer with posters of Bob Dylan and Jack Kerouac on his walls. Excitedly, he pulled out a GSA handbook, a souvenir from a flaming senior boy who'd attempted to start a GSA at the same high school.

In February, a local therapist did a faculty training with a panel featuring seven LGBT young people, including Angela. Despite her drama classes, Angela shook while she spoke. Her mother stood up and expressed her support for her daughter.

Afterward, several teachers told the principal that a GSA wasn't a good idea. A prominent religious official called the superintendent to complain. School officials tried to delay the group. Angela pushed.

During the first week of March, Angela and other students posted signs all over school announcing the first GSA meeting. Fifteen were ripped down. Anticipating this, they taped cards under each sign that read: "You've just committed a hate crime."

The meeting was announced every day that week, though some teachers skipped over that item while reading the daily bulletin.

The night before Friday's meeting, Angela barely slept at all. When she finally fell asleep, she had nightmares of someone crashing the meeting with a machine gun. She spent third and fourth periods in her guidance counselor's office, crying.

The night before Friday's meeting, Angela barely slept at all. When she finally fell asleep, she had nightmares of someone crashing the meeting with a machine gun.

During lunch, Angela led the first GSA meeting at Middletown High School. Sixty-two people attended, including five teachers and even a handful of kids from the Bible Club. "We don't condone the lifestyle," they told her, "but we love everybody."

All over school, students talked about the meeting. Two teachers put up signs that said "The Bill of Rights + Cultural diversity = The right to be different." In one class, a spontaneous chant erupted: "Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve." An athlete started a petition because he was scared of "fags making out." He wrote "GSA" at the top of the page and enlisted five others, three men and two women, who spent the next three weeks collecting signatures in the hallway.

The vice principal told the petitioners that if the school shut down the GSA, it would be forced to shut down every other club as well. In all, they collected over 100 signatures in a school of 500 students. When students refused to sign, they were called a "stupid lesbian" or a "stupid fag." School officials said there was nothing they could do unless the incidents were reported. None of the students came forward. It would all die down, they told Angela. She prepared a blurb for the announcement of the second meeting. "The theme," she wrote, "is harassment."

This time, 40 students showed up. In an attempt to legitimize the group, teachers and students suggested that the group broaden its focus to "tolerance." That was the week I met Angela, thanks to a gay teenager from her school who found me online. Angela said she was scared that people were trying to take the gay out of GSA. I asked her what she was going to do. "They're not going to f— up my GSA," she said.

I was the guest speaker at the third meeting. Walking into the school was eerie. The student body was nearly identical to my own high school in size and cultural makeup. It had been 10 years since I'd heard locker doors slamming. It felt like prison.

There had been all sorts of homophobic graffiti that week, sprinkled all over student council campaign posters. Some of the candidates told Angela that she could just take them down. But she didn't want the evidence erased. With a thick black marker, Angela and a boy from the GSA crossed through phrases like "No gays allowed."

Angela spotted me in the hallway. From the force of her voice, I'd expected a six-foot tomboy with bandaged knuckles. She was a tiny wisp of a thing, wearing a Supergirl T-shirt and baggy black pants. I had to wait in the office until lunch period, because visitors were not allowed at pep rallies. God, I really was back in high school.

I had only 20 minutes with them and I desperately wanted to say something profound that would make their lives easier. I read to them from my book, *How I Learned to Snap*, a memoir about being openly gay in a small-town high school. They were a loud audience and frequently interjected comments and questions as I read. Ten years later, the things I remembered about high school were still painfully resonant for them.

So many adults are under the impression that the Internet and mass media have completely changed the dynamics of homophobia in schools. "It's so much better now" is the operative mantra. It's what we say when we don't want to believe how much young people are still suffering in abusive school environments. For every Angela, there are countless boys being pushed down steps, countless girls whose lockers are vandalized, countless young people who don't click with the labels of boy and girl at all. Maybe the climate is better, compared to 20 or 30 years ago. But such comparisons are small comfort when you're being cornered in a locker room.

Several days later, Angela called me near tears.

"I just needed to talk to someone who would understand," she said. "I didn't know where to turn."

I prepared myself for the most dire of after-school special dilemmas. Was it a friend's suicide attempt? Was it a death threat because of the GSA?

"It's my hair," she said. "I want to cut my hair."

She reminded me that beneath her activist bravura, she was still, through and through, 17 years old.

Her new haircut is adorable. ■

A former Houstonian now living in northern California, Kirk Read is the author of How I Learned to Snap, *debuting in bookstores this month. His website is www.temenos.net/kirkread.*

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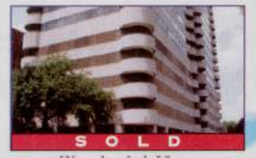
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Gaybashing in the Schools

A new report chronicles the terror and daily abuse of thousands of isolated high school students all across America

by Bill Berkowitz

In the parking lot outside his school, six students surrounded Dylan.

Throwing a lasso around his neck, they shouted, "Let's tie the faggot to the back of the truck." Escaping his tormentors, Dylan ran inside the school and found one of the vice principals. He tried to tell her what had just happened. "I was still hysterical," Dylan says. "I was trying to explain, but I was stumbling over my words. She laughed."

Every day, thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender teenagers are verbally, sexually, and physically harassed in America's public schools. Dominick gets to school as early as possible each morning so that he can avoid the ridicule. Derek switched high schools and wound up dropping out altogether because the harassment got so bad. Anika, a transgender youth, was subject to both physical and verbal abuse before she quit school.

"Hatred in the Hallways: Discrimination and Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Students in U.S. Public Schools," a recently released report by Human Rights Watch (HRW), documents the extreme difficulties gay teens experience every day, an abuse that is having a disastrous effect on their safety, health, and education. In many cases, these teens are facing the hatred and discrimination from their classmates alone, without any support or assistance from teachers, school administrators, and security officers. Some teens even say that school officials are more prone to look the other way than to lend them a hand.

The frank testimonies from gay teens who have courageously come forward to tell their stories make this Human Rights Watch study a compelling document (www.hrw.org/reports/2001/uslgbt).

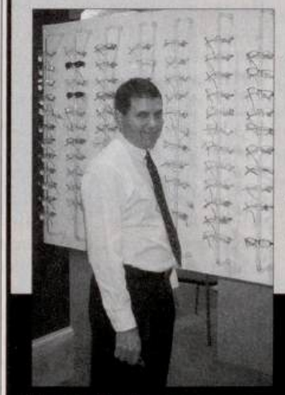
"The U.S. school system gets a failing grade when it comes to providing a safe place for gay students to get an education," said Michael Bochenek, counsel to the Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch and a co-author of the report. "Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender kids face a greater risk of bullying than any other students in American high schools. That has to stop."

Derek Henkle spoke out at the Los Angeles press conference unveiling the report. Henkle, describing an all-too-reoccurring scenario, said, "They'd push me up against the lockers and call me a fag. They'd chase me around campus in their cars, screaming and yelling 'fag' out the windows." Reuters news service reports that Henkle, who filed a suit against the Reno, Nevada, school district, said that "one day he was beaten bloody by classmates and called a 'bitch' while security officers stood by and did nothing." Henkle's dropping out is not an unusual solution for many gay teens.

Sixteen-year-old Dominick Halse told ABC News' Claire Shipman that at his school in Castleton on Hudson, New York, "There were boys that said they would like to kill me and drag me behind a car, or take me to an island with all the other gays and shoot me," he says. "You don't need death threats as a child . . . it's hard." Halse, an excellent student, plans to graduate a year early primarily because of the constant abuse. He's come up with different ways to protect himself from other students during the school day: "I cannot use the boys' restroom. I go to the bathroom in the nurse's office . . . or there's a single restroom in the cafeteria that I go to, because you live in fear."

Anika P. is a 17-year-old transgender youth who, according to the report, "has lived for the last seven years as a girl." A product of the Texas foster care system, Anika went to a small public school in South Texas through her first three years of high school. During that time she decided to dress as a girl and use the name she chose for herself. Harassed by her peers, she was unable to receive support from teachers or other officials who didn't understand her being transgender. "I had to quit [school] because the teachers were, like, 'You can't wear a dress, you can't wear your hair like that,'" she told Human Rights Watch. She was attacked physically once in gym class. "I'd skip [gym]. I had to use the boys' locker room; I'd have to shower in the boys' shower." Verbal threats were commonplace. "Mainly guys would be coming up to me, saying, 'What's your problem?'" she said. "They'd be, like, 'What are you going to do, faggot? You still a man? Going to kick your ass.'" Before she dropped out, school officials placed her in a special education class, supposedly for "her own safety."

The New York City–based Human Rights Watch is not the first group to report that gay teens are seriously at risk in the nation's schools. In 1999, the Gay Lesbian Straight

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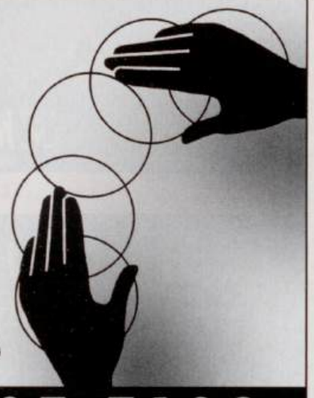
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Education Network (www.glsen.org), a Washington, D.C.–based gay advocacy organization, reported that out of 500 gay teens in 32 states, 69 percent reported some form of harassment or violence against them. So, while not ground-breaking in its findings, HRW's report is important because the organization is a highly respected nonpartisan international human rights advocacy group. The 203-page report—written by Bochenek, counsel to the Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch, and A. Widney Brown, advocacy director of the Women's Rights Division—is based on interviews with 140 youth and 130 school officials and parents in seven states: California, Georgia, Kansas, Massachusetts, New York, Texas, and Utah.

Although recent public opinion polls have found more tolerance toward gays and lesbians, there are still many who believe HRW's report either exaggerates its findings or is blatant propaganda for the so-called gay agenda. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reports that California is one of only five states in the nation (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Wisconsin) that "have enacted laws that explicitly prohibit harassment or discrimination against gay and lesbian students, and there is no federal law prohibiting antigay harassment at school." Yet despite legislation, the *Chronicle* notes that only a "few districts . . . have taken major steps to implement the law." The law's chief sponsor, Sen. Sheila Kuehl, said that there is no statewide monitoring mechanism in place to track how the districts are implementing the law. She expressed her appreciation for the HRW report and hoped that students and teachers would work to guarantee that the rights of gay students would be respected and upheld.

In California, as in the rest of the country, there are a number of religious-right organizations working to counter any anti-harassment efforts in the public schools. Abiding Truth Ministries (ATM), the Citrus Heights, California, group headed by Sacramento attorney Scott Lively, is one of the higher profile groups in the state. Lively is the author of the notoriously antigay book *The Pink Swastika*, which purports to "expose" the "roots of homosexuality in the [German] Nazi Party." He was recently named state director of the American Family Association of California, thus deriving more clout by being an independent affiliate of the Mississippi-based American Family Association headed by the ubiquitous Rev. Donald E. Wildmon. (You may remember the Rev. Wildmon from his 1999 failed campaign to keep the Women's Educational Media–produced film *It's Elementary* from being shown on public television stations across the country and from his current battle against WEM's *That's a Family!*) Lively's Pro-Family Law Center has become "the nation's only law-centered entity devoted exclusively to opposing the homosexual agenda."

ATM's main focus this year will be its "Take Back the Schools" campaign, which aims to "eject the 'gay' movement from California schools." ATM suggests that parents organize in every school district and "encourage and assist pro-family teens to form . . . student clubs in public schools"; "distribute the student exemption form . . . to parents to opt out their children from objectionable instruction"; "persuade every school board to adopt our equal time resolution which will require young people to be presented with our side of the issue whenever the other side is presented"; and "monitor the schools, collect documentation of anti-family abuses, identify pro-'gay' teachers, administrators, and school board members and educate parents about the issue." ■

Bill Berkowitz is an Oakland-based freelance writer covering the religious right and related conservative issues and movements.

All quilt images in the articles on Paul Broussard, Angela, and gaybashing come from the "tolerance quilt" made by Lanier Middle School students. See "Over and Out" on page 92.

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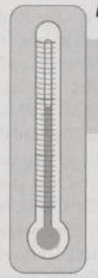
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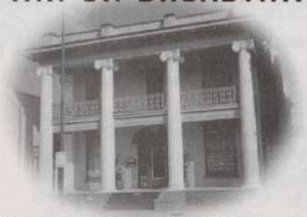
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Briefs *continued from page 20*



John Kellett Honored at MIT

MIT physics majors would understand the principle of action at a distance. Houstonian John Kellett has shown that it is possible to be an activist at a distance as well. Despite living 1900 miles away from MIT (in Cambridge, Massachusetts), his alma mater, Kellett has proved such an influence in furthering GLBT awareness and support at the university that the chancellor created a John S. W. Kellett Award for LBGT Service, bestowing the first year's award on Kellett in their May 14 awards convocation.

"I have been working since the early '90s to urge alumni and students to become more sensitive to GLBT issues," Kellett said. Although there has been various gay student and alumni groups on campus for many years, they were usually "below the horizon" of the university's more official outlets, according to Kellett. "That's what makes this award so exciting," he said. "This will push it above the horizon."

One sly tactic Kellett used to pushstart the university into supporting GLBT concerns was through his GLBT activism at his former prep school, Phillips Academy Andover, also in Massachusetts. "I was quite pleased with myself because I was able to play them off each other for the last 10 years . . . I'd tell the Andover folks what MIT is doing, then go over and tell the MIT folks what Andover is doing."

Kellett was in the undergraduate class of 1947 at MIT. Was anybody out then?

"No," he said definitively. "It wasn't even thought of—by me or anybody else. Nobody was out. Even the *concept* wasn't out."

Kellett is known in the Houston community for his work with PrimeTimers, PFLAG, and First Unitarian Church, as well as his John Kellett Foundation.

Habitat Homes for AIDS Clients

In an exciting move, AIDS Foundation Houston is going to start building homes for some of their low-income clients, working with Habitat for Humanity. Right now AFH has transitional housing for clients, but this will allow them to actually own their own homes.

"AFH has made such significant contributions in the lives of people in need and we are so excited for this wonderful chance to help the HIV/AIDS community," said Houston Habitat executive director Milby Hart. "We hope that our working together will enhance the lives of God's people."

AFH will start building one home this fall, to be located in the northwest Cy-Fair area, and which they hope to complete by Thanksgiving. AFH will be responsible for recruiting both the volunteers and the funds for these houses, so if you'd like to volunteer or donate, call 713/623-6796.

No Rain Date for Pride Run

Among the victims in the Great Houston flood was the Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk. More than 100 runners had pre-registered for the race, which was scheduled for the morning of Saturday, June 9, along Memorial Drive. When Memorial proved better for swimming than running on the day of the run, the organizers made the sad decision not to reschedule.

"Having spent the past 10 months making preparations for the Pride Fun Run," said race director Mac Crone, "the four other guys and I who comprise the Houston Montrose Athletic Association were extremely disappointed that the race could not be run. Unfortunately, there is not enough time and we do not have the financial resources to reschedule the race."

Despite the devastating flood, Crone said, there was some good news. "We were able to give food that had been donated for the race party to the American Red Cross to help victims of the flood. And once we finish paying bills for the shirts, advertising, permits, mailing, and other expenses, we still hope to be able to make a donation to the race beneficiary, AssistHers, a volunteer organization that provides in-home support and care to lesbian women with chronic or disabling illnesses."

Queer Aggies Unite

COLLEGE STATION—Texas A&M University recently approved official recognition status to the GLBT Professional Network, an organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered faculty, staff, and graduate students at the university. "Everyone—gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, uncertain, intersexed, etc. (straight even) is welcome," says Dave Martin, president of the new organization.

Texas A&M University has a history of negative press regarding GLBT topics, according to Martin. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the university fought in court to prevent a gay student organization from being officially recognized on campus. Since the Supreme Court victory by Gay Student Services in 1985, the climate for GLBTs at Texas A&M has slowly improved, though it is still far behind other top institutions. In August last year, A&M played ping-pong with campus GLBT advocates, first adding new language in the student rules that included "sexual orientation" as a protected class, then revoking it 24 hours later, then later restoring it.

A&M's "Vision 2020" plan includes the goal: "Create an environment that respects and nurtures all members of the student, faculty, and staff community. Reduce to zero the number of students, faculty, or staff who leave because of a perception of a less-than-welcoming environment." However, in the university's "campus climate surveys," which prospective students use to compare institutions, they still don't include questions of safety, harassment, and discrimination toward GLBTs on the campus.

However, despite the climate, or perhaps due to it, there are three GLBT-related recognized student organizations, a gay/straight alliance committee, and now the GLBT Professional Network.

For additional information about the GLBT Professional Network at Texas A&M University, visit their website at glbt-pn.tamu.edu/ or e-mail to info@glbt-pn.tamu.edu.

Briefs continued on page 88

SOCIAL CALENDAR

• **Booksigning:** Marion Coleman has been included in a new book: Grassroots Women: A Memoir of the Texas Republican Party, by Meg Grier, purports to be a "selfless, uncynical model of the power of grassroots organization, volunteerism, and faith in democracy." Marion and other local grassroots women will join author Meg Grier for a booksigning Saturday, July 14, 4 p.m. at Borders Books and Music, 9633 Westheimer Road.

• **Big Bang:** Join the festive fireworks celebrants at the fourth annual "Big Bang Celebration" benefiting the Body Positive Wellness Center/Montrose Clinic. Scott Gertner's SkyBar offers panoramic views of citywide fireworks, and DJ Michael Tank will spin music till 2 a.m. 3400 Montrose, $25. Co-hosted by Pete Sharpe and Todd Ramos, festivities start 4 p.m. with karaoke, nickel beer, and 99-cents well drinks; continue with a complimentary buffet from Riva's, La Strada, and Sonoma from 6 to 8 p.m.

• **Bisexuality/transgender conference:** The First North American Conference on Bisexuality Gender and Sexual Diversity will be August 9–12 at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. For information, phone the BiLine at 604/875-6336, or e-mail binetbc@bi.org. The conference website is http://bi.org/~binetbc/2001/.



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Maria Minicucci

continued from page 8

Reagan, Maria expatriated herself, moving to Toronto in 1982, where she earned two master's degrees—in psychology and women's studies—from Goddard College, an institution known for its innovative and even eccentric approach to education. Next, she left for Los Angeles in the late '80s to earn a doctorate in psychology from Royokan University. Throughout this time, Maria had been dating many women, often simultaneously. Two of her lovers moved with her to California; once there, all three became addicted to heroin. At age 40, Maria wrote her dissertation on addiction, got clean, ditched the women, and returned to Toronto. She thrived there and became a central part of the gay community in Toronto, then in Buffalo, after she moved back to be close to her mother.

Throughout her many moves, Maria was always working with women, helping them empower themselves and overcome the oppressions and distresses of poverty, addiction, and abuse.

"She was looking for the underlying cause of addiction," Deb said. "She believed addiction is the result of spiritual and moral bankruptcy."

Never one to believe in the medical model, Maria started a collective of women notable for its openness and fluidity. Maria was a radical and an anarchist, applying these principles both to her dealings with government and authority, and to her interactions with those around her. She was a huge influence in many women's lives in Toronto and Buffalo.

"Numerous women will say how much Maria changed their life," Deb said. "What Maria did is make them understand that they weren't broken, they were okay. . . . When we tell people they're sick, you disempower them," Deb continued, "and Maria was about empowering them."

First and foremost, Maria believed that the key to helping women reclaim their power was through their sexuality. "Be erotic, not neurotic" was one of her gleeful mantras. "Maria would get women to talk about what they felt about sex . . . thought, liked, wanted," said Deb. "Maria believed people stuffed their creativity all the time because they stuffed their sexuality."

Despite the good work she was doing, Maria was never able to get her practice established financially in Buffalo, and took the plunge of moving to Houston in December 1997. Once again, she set about building community. Once again she set out to empower women through releasing their sexuality and creativity. But something new happened to Maria in Houston. She found her life's partner.

As Deb Murphy tells it, both of them had pretty much resigned themselves to the single life. "I had decided to stop dating," Deb says, "because no place in Texas was I going to find a working-class Italian femme who was intelligent and well-educated." As for Maria, "[she] was looking for a peer, an intellectual companion—someone who could put up with her s—, someone who could adore her as she expected to be adored."

Deb saw Maria's personal ad, "Radical Femme Seeks Bold Butch"—though a typo made it "old butch." Undaunted, Deb answered it. "I knew from talking to Maria on the phone answering her personal ad that I was going to marry her."

At the time, Deb was housemates with her longtime friend, Deb Chwalek. Chwalek tells how she went out of town on a business trip, and came home to have Deb rather sheepishly tell her that Maria had moved in. Deb and Maria had been seeing each other three weeks.

Both came from working-class backgrounds. Both were interested in intellectual pursuits. Both were devoted to community. Both exalted in their butch-femme identities. "If you had written some dream order for a perfect girlfriend, I don't know if you could have done any better," said Deb Chwalek of her friends' union.

Deb and Maria brought their love of community home with them, creating an "intentional community" in their Montrose duplex with Deb Chwalek and her partner, Stan, sharing resources, cooking, and even plans for possibly adopting children.

Encouraged by Maria to pursue her dreams, Deb left a lucrative but unhappy job to pursue more meaningful work. Supported by Deb both financially and emotionally, Maria made the decision to devote herself to the full-time volunteer job of being president of the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

Already active as the program coordinator, Maria became president of the community center in November 1999 at a time of real duress and uncertainty. Indeed, at the first meeting Maria presided over, the topic of discussion was whether or not the center needed to close its doors.

"When Maria became president, the community center was at a very tenuous point," said Tim Brookover, current president of the community center, and who served on the board with Maria, "to some degree financially, but even more importantly regarding its standing in the community. For whatever reason, there were many people who held the community center in low regard—*if* they thought about it at all, which is even worse.

"When Maria became president," Brookover continued, "through her effort and just the sheer force of her will, she turned that around. By getting out in the community and talking to people . . . and even more by listening to people."

Even though Maria had only been in Houston for two years when she became president, she really put herself at the center of the community. Under Maria's leadership, all the current programs at the center got started, from Lesbian Film Night, to Power Dating for Men, to the public forums on topics such as hate crimes and racism.

In addition to the expertise she brought in running an organization, Maria brought life to the center just by being there—attending the many center events, negotiating controversies and personality conflicts, coming over to open up when a volunteer didn't show up with a key, welcoming the tentative newcomer, or listening to a member's tale of duress or expectation.

By the time Maria stepped down, Deb said, "she was satisfied because the house was just rocking." At the time of handing over the reins, I asked Maria what was the high point of her year as president. "Just seeing and feeling all the community spirit," she told me, "which is why I volunteer there to begin with."

Maria was also going to make sure that the community center reached out to the community in all its diversity, and especially made sure the transgender community knew they were welcome. And, of all the programs she started, she described a standing-room-only forum on racism in the GLBT community and the subsequent ongoing discussion group as "my baby."

"What Maria taught people in our community is that there must be a place in our community for everyone," Deb Murphy said. "No one is beyond help, beyond redemption. She was all encompassing."

"From time to time the community center attracts a real cast of characters," said Brookover, ". . . which I treasure. But frankly that's not everybody's cup of tea. Maria's response to [naysayers] is that this is what a community center is for—it's for everybody. It's not just for people who have resources or have social connections. These people are looking for a place to form connections and be a part of something bigger than themselves. Maria had a big heart and a very embracing view of the world."

Maria's memorial was held at the community center, of course, to an overflowing house that stayed for a disco dance, a bounteous potluck, and stories and reminiscing into the evening. Tim told a story about a gay man showing up as a host of volunteers were getting the center ready the day before the memorial. The man had recently arrived from California to work in construction, but had just been dismissed from his job when his boss learned of his sexual orientation, and he had no place to go. In the midst of the chaos of preparation, everybody pitched in with ideas and effort, getting him something to eat and finding him a place at a youth hostel.

"I really feel like in some way Maria was responsible for that," Tim said. "Here's this guy down on his luck—he didn't have a place to stay, needed work—and everybody was very eager to try and help. Not just me, but Melanie and Rebecca and Stacey, and it was a real team effort. One of the great lessons that Maria gave me is that you accept people and welcome people where they are."

"Maria had a vision that nobody else had," said Deb Murphy. "A place at the table for everybody all the time."

Maria embraced the diversities of others, based on the real complexities and contradictions she encompassed in herself. She was an undaunted full-steam-ahead feminist who loved girly-girl clothes and shopping. She was an anarchist who eschewed details and bureaucracies, yet she was able to pull together organizations and run a meeting smoothly and gracefully. "She was very far over on the femme side of the gender continuum," said Deb Chwalek, "but at the same time a very formidable foe to anyone who crossed her. . . . You have to be very comfortable with yourself to be able to do that."

At the end that they didn't know was the end, both Maria and Deb were telling friends how happy they were with each other and their lives. A prolific contributor to the *Houston Voice*, in Maria's last published work there, she and Deb wrote companion pieces on the "Viewpoint" page, their photos mirroring each other as they discussed, each in her own way, their visions of a life they hoped to pursue down in Galveston, where they were restoring a Victorian cottage—together with each other and with their community. It seemed symbolic of how Maria resided in the centerfold of the community, both as an independent force, and in concert with her life partner. Maria took the community into her heart and, in turn, was taken into the heart of the community.

As Deb wrote in her eulogy, delivered at Maria's services both in Niagara Falls and Houston:

"Maria taught me that to give of myself to help build communities that include everyone was to build for myself a life rich in purpose, meaning, and friendship.

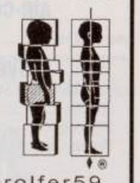
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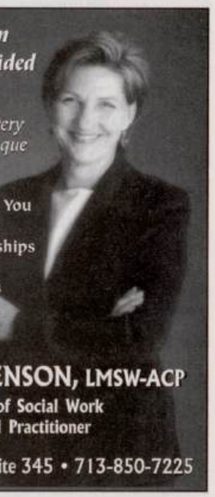
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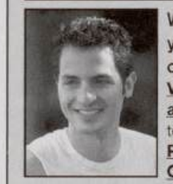
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SignOut
by Lilly Roddy

Look out for three significant events this month. First, Mars will go direct or forward on July 19—finishing his journey in September in Sagittarius, which will help relieve the incredible tension we have all been experiencing in our lives. Next, the July 5 lunar eclipse in Capricorn and the July 20 solar eclipse will activate our emotional and financial security issues. • Also, there is a big lineup of the planets during the first 15 days of this month. You should be ever vigilant about money in the stock market, fuels related to the energy markets, and more rolling blackouts. Tensions will be the highest for the mutable signs: Gemini, Sagittarius, Virgo, and Pisces. • Days of extra tension are July 4 and 5, 15–20, and 29–30. Days to relax and go to the Bahamas are July 6, 12, 26, and maybe the 30th.

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22)

You are in a period of seclusion now, enjoying your melancholy in your lion's den. A few friends could stop by and bring a few gifts, but you may not have the strength to open them. You are seeking a spiritual oneness with the great creative forces in the universe. More sensitive than usual, you may well take everything personally. You will take your first few tentative steps from your den after the 22nd, but may go back for a day or two on the 29th and 30th. After that, you are ready to roar.

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22)

You are so hyper career-motivated that everything must have a purpose, a plan, and a strong sense of return. Others say you're being selfish and stingy. That's because you're not doing what they want, but instead putting more value on *your* self and *your* services. You are especially focused on home stuff: family, repairs, redecorating, and emotional uncoverings. Get out the mops and brooms.

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 23)

Reading, writing, and traveling in your brain are what is best for you this summer month. You are *ready* to get out of town, but not just for frivolity—you want adventure, but with a sense of purpose. A bit more of a serious time for you than normal, even your relationships are being subjected to this saturnine scrutiny. Watch your tongue . . . you may say what you really mean but without your normal diplomacy. Career dynamics are stronger by midmonth.

Scorpio (Oct. 24–Nov. 21)

Shared resources are still on the menu—although you are not willing to share unless you get your share. Although you become more open-minded as the month progresses, the overall future of your relationships could be at stake during this month. You must hear the truth because the deceptions will tear you apart. Anger management or therapy could be very helpful. Life is much rosier after the 18th.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)

Relationships are on your *carte du jour* this month. Some are coming to an end and others are being re-evaluated for their real importance in your life. And some are just leaving without your consent. You are not really ready for this, but this time of change is coming whether you are ready or not. And mostly, you are finding the essential sense of relationship with yourself. This is a great time for any change of personal and health habits. Focus some of that energy inward.



Roberta Achtenberg

Cancer Roberta Achtenberg was born July 20, 1950. A politician, Achtenberg was the first openly gay person to be nominated by a president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19)

The solar and lunar eclipses this month come in your relationship axis, making this a fabulous time for all sorts of partnerships, both business and personal. You are ready to spend your life with someone; you are open and the universe is ready to send you someone. This is a repeat of an 18.6-year cycle. Were you in love then? You are about to be. You are still in an organizing mood with your office or work patterns, and will mostly likely stay in "beauty and order" mode until mid-September.

Aquarius (Jan. 20– Feb. 18)

Yes, you are ready to get your life in order, ready to use your time and energy efficiently and well. This is no brief spurt—you started this in February and will continue for the next couple of years. In the grand seesaw of balancing the parts of your life, you and your children (insert "inner child" here if you don't have any offspring) are coming to a place of equal importance. Suffice to say, the humdrum will not be the norm.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20)

Well, this month is the peak of the rock-and-roll party going on in your career sector since last March. You will arrive at some sort of solutions—even if they are not the absolute best, you are ready to move forward. You do get another shot, but not until March 2002. You are certainly separating from home and family. Fortunately, you are in a very creative place and can make a silk purse from a sow's ear. Next month: spinning gold from straw.

Aries (March 21–April 19)

Lots of activity in your daily life. You're just taking care of normal stuff, but it still seems like there's so much to do—especially as you try and get a handle on all those leftover projects and tie up loose ends. Communications may seem blocked, but you're not going to settle for static and phone tag. You want the best and your message to be appreciated. Watch for car and phone problems. Your focus shifts to your home by midmonth.

Taurus (April 20–May 20)

You are super focused on finances. Any old bills or lingering money problems, you're ready to get a grip on them and get them out of your life. You may find the going rough with any fiduciary partners. Relationship secrets are coming to light as well. Keep an open mind about what you are learning. It is not new but just new news to you.

Gemini (May 21–June 21)

Normally, you're known for your light-and-lively attitude—but not this month! The mood is serious serious, and especially in your relationships. If they are working, you want them to work better. If they aren't working, you'll be sidling out of there. Money takes over your consciousness as well, although you're likely to do better after mid-July. Until then, watch that spending!

Cancer (June 22–July 22)

Yes, it is your birthday month, and you are ready for fun and gaiety. Nonetheless, you might consider focusing some of that renewal energy on your health and work routines. Try doing it during the third week—you'll be most motivated then and it should be a little easier. Just be sure and address them. You are more optimistic about your relationships. Your partner should like that. Otherwise, you are ready for play.



Lilly Roddy is a Houston-based astrologer. She can be reached at lillycath@aol.com



Briefs *continued from page 79*

African-American Leaders Call for Stepped-up Action Against AIDS

ATLANTA—Hundreds of African-American leaders at a national conference called on the Bush administration to declared the AIDS epidemic a state of emergency in the U.S. and to dramatically increase prevention efforts in this country.

Health, business, political and entertainment leaders at the two-day gathering issued a five-point action plan that, among other things, calls for a $540 million annual federal effort supporting minority-based HIV/AIDS groups in the areas of care and services, and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in the treatment of chronic diseases such as AIDS and others.

The proposals come just a week after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a large-scale study that suggests a dramatic resurgence of new HIV infections, especially among younger black gay and bisexual men.

Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain civil rights leader, told the conference the African-American community must eliminate its own homophobia because it discourages black gay and bisexual men from being tested.

Dr. Eric Goosby, of the Health and Human Services Department, praised the conference's recommendations. "I hope this is the end of the meeting but also the beginning of the end of the epidemic in our community."

Lesbian Mom in Alabama Gets Custody of Kids

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—The Alabama state court of civil appeals has on a 4-1 ruling reversed a lower court decision and ruled that an unnamed lesbian mom would offer a better home environment for her three children than their father who has been accused of abusing them.

A lower court had given the father custody of the children in 1996. That lower court ruling was based partly on the fact that the mom was living with her female lover at the time, which the court thought was not appropriate.

But in 1999 the woman went back to court to regain custody of the children after they continued to complain about abuse by their father.

Among other things, the children said he hit them and refused to let them go to summer school after failing classes. The appeals court also ruled that the father's interference with the children communicating with their mother and calling her vulgar names in front of the youngsters were additional reasons to remove them from the man's custody.

In its ruling the appeals court said "the father's verbal, emotional, and physical abuse can be considered family violence, and that abuse constitutes a change of circumstances." ■

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1 The Rainbow Rangers Dance Club traveled to Ft. Lauderdale over Memorial Day to compete (and win!) in the International Association of Gay/Lesbian Country Western Dance Clubs: (back row) **Martin Schmidt, Tim Reed, Paul Ross, Junior**; (front row) **Rex Marzke, Joe Weaver, Debbie Storrs, Robert Boone**.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston held their "Silent Moon" gala at Sonoma Restaurant on May 16:
2 Gay Men's Chorus' new director, **David Faber**.
3 The "On Q" group.
4 **Janey Hall** (r) and **Charles Baker** performed.



5 On May 19, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church kicked off their "Sanctuary for All" campaign to raise $1.2 million.

6 The Black Tie Dinner planning committee met May 23 at the Hollyfield Center: (l-r) **Renee Scott, Chris Lewis, Mark Robertson, Carlos Reyes, Ben Whittle, Charles Armstrong, Frank Campisi, Janine Brunjes**, and **Parker Witt.**



The Bayou City Boys Club presented the money raised at Jungle IX in a reception May 17 at the Aquarium Design Group.
7 Jungle IX co-chairs (l-r) **Michael Anderson, Michael Collins,** and **Jonathan Young**.



8 The family of **Pete Martinez** recognized a special award presented in Pete's honor.

9 **Scott Kenyon** won the May Bare Chest of the Month at the Ripcord May 16, sponsored by Bulldawg Productions.

10 The South Beach dance floor and fancy lighting system.
11 Among the bartenders is Mr. Gay USA **Stephen Michael**.
12 South Beach had a fabulous jam-packed opening on June 8.



13 The staff of AVES at an educational reception held for AVES June 6 at the Center for AIDS.



14 (L-r) **Pete Sharpe** with Montrose Clinic's **Sonna Alton** and her partner **Stephanie Peacock**.
15 Sharpe and **Sam Khan** hosted the May 20 Big Bang kickoff party to benefit Montrose Clinic/Body Positive Wellness Center.

16 **Todd Ramos** (l) and friends at Meteor's grand opening.
17 Meteor owners **Andy Pathos** (l) and **Frank Luccia** on opening night of their club May 18.



18 Miss Camp America Foundation presented "The Bridal Farces" on June 3.







1. UNCREDITED; 2, 6, 11-15, 17, 18: DALTON DEHART; 3, 4, 16-17: JOHN NAGY; 10: DICK DACE

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