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DECEMBER 2001 • COMPLIMENTARY

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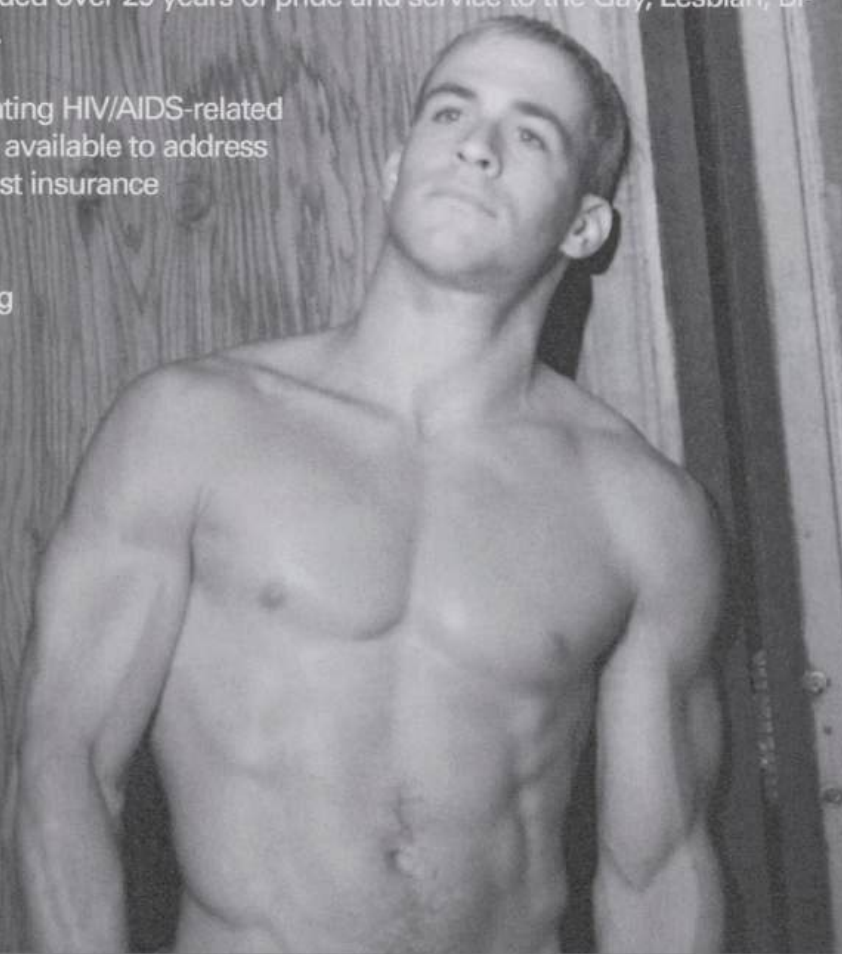


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Publisher Greg Jeu

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Editor Ann Walton Sieber

Creative Director/Entertainment Editor
Blase DiStefano

Graphic Artist/Staff Photographer B.J. Smith

Contributing Writers

Alan Davidson, D.L. Groover, Sally A. Huffer, Lauren Johnson, Rev. Ralph Lasher, Sally Sheklow

Columnists Dale Carpenter, Daryl Moore, Lilly Roddy, Chris Sill

Photographers Dalton DeHart, B.J. Smith
Proofreader Mary Gilbert Sieber

Office Manager Debbie Ratliff

Account Executives Thomas Chelena, Greg Jeu, John Nagy, Debbie Ratliff

National Advertising Representative
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About the cover: **Queer Cheer...** Photo designed by B.J. Smith
A very special thank you to Cher Castro of Vintage Oasis for the costumes.

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DECEMBER 2001

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1/2 ACRE ON HEIGHTS BOULEVARD - designated historic, these beautiful grounds are fully fenced with wrought iron. 3000 s.f. house with carriage house. Currently law offices but this could be your dream home. Huge kitchen with sub-zero. \$680,000 Call Karen Derr 713-862-1600.



WONDERFUL HEIGHTS HOME - renovated and expanded in 1998, wood floors, huge den with high ceilings, traditional formals, tasteful but modern kitchen. Sun room is beautiful and includes a spa. All baths are sparkling and fresh. Tropical yard with deck is fully fenced with auto gate, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,188 s.f., 6,000 s.f. lot. \$340,000 Call Karen Derr 713-862-1600. See a Flash movie of this house at KarenDerr.com



HISTORIC BRICK HOME was a Baptist rectory. Exquisitely updated, it features 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus a study. Open style kitchen has slab granite counter-tops with stainless appliances. Wrought iron fenced and much more. \$375,000. Call Karen Derr to see this beautiful home! 713-875-7050.



HAVE YOUR CAKE & EAT IT TOO - built in Sept. 1996 by Sterling Victorian Homes, this newer two story home was built to look old. Heights 3 bedroom 2 bath just minutes from downtown is the perfect blend of old & new, two living areas, wet bar, hardwoods throughout, beautiful modern kitchen, plenty of closet space, four porches, large master has it's own porch, porch off living room overlooks downtown, nice back yard & lots more! \$285,000 Call Bob Derr for more information at 713-875-7049. See a Flash movie of this house at KarenDerr.com



WONDERFUL HEIGHTS TREASURE was probably a farm house. High ceilings, exposed beams, wood floors, lots of windows - not your typical bungalow! Master bedroom has sitting area. Living room has raised area for a piano, etc. Little room on back was old second bath & could be restored. Huge fully-fenced lot also features koi pond. Call Bob Derr to see the great home! \$164,900 713-875-7049

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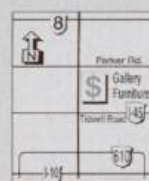


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Letters

PROP 2 REFLECTIONS

I am a volunteer at Progressive Voters in Action. Our efforts to defeat City Charter Amendment Proposition 2, which denied same-sex domestic partner benefits to city employees, failed by a 51-percent to 49-percent margin.

This latest rejection of homosexual rights touches me personally, because I have a gay child. Some of these affirmative voters may think that I love [my] gay son less because of his sexual orientation. On the contrary, perhaps [I and my family] love him more, because we understand that he lives under a stigma, often with threats attached. We know that he is open for verbal and physical abuse that leave psychic wounds on him and his family.

The passage of Proposition 2 adds one more scar to the enduring layers that are the result of attacks on the humanity of homosexuals. This tells them that their lives and commitments and hopes are worthless. Once again, they find themselves cut off from civic respect, invalidated as citizens and human beings.

For the consideration of the voters who said yes to Proposition 2 and for future voters who face similar legislation, I quote the following decision of the justices of the Supreme Court of Vermont: "The extension of the common benefits clause of the Vermont Constitution to acknowledge the plaintiffs as Vermonters who seek nothing more, nothing less, than legal protection and security for their avowed commitment to an intimate and lasting relationship is simply, when all is said and done, a recognition of our common humanity."

It would seem necessary and proper that the citizens in a city the size and importance of Houston, a

city that prides itself on the diversity of its population, present this Vermont-like enlightenment to the rest of the nation.

Elizabeth Behrens
Houston

If the wording "Same Gender" was used in place of "Same Sex," the voters would have been more tolerant to the gay community and probably voted in their favor. No mature person wants to talk or hear about sex (doing it is something else). It's up to periodicals like yourself to start the trend. Others would follow.

Guy William
Houston

PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

In response to Pokey Anderson's column "Searching For Signs" (October LeftOut), I want to let her know that I am a flag-waving American. The U.S., throughout its history, has promoted freedom and goodwill like no other country on earth.

Anderson claims that many around the globe do not love us. She asserts that the Sept. 11 attacks are "the fruits of our calloused arrogant affluence flaunted before helpless people for decades and decades of their sufferings." First of all, our affluence does not fall from the sky. Americans earn it!

Over 500,000 Americans died in the Civil War; the bloodiest battle on our land to end slavery. Cousins were killing cousins and our country was nearly torn in half in the process. The Civil War provides a huge statement of America's moral character. In 1973, Gordon Sinclair, a Canadian television commentator, responded to such

deriding of America: "This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for America as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on earth."

Anderson references the recent U.S. rejection of the Kyoto Protocol, but fails to mention the disastrous economic consequences to the U.S. Even Clinton advisors opposed it and the Senate rejected it 99-0.

Our military response to the attacks will rely on high-tech systems that would make our heads spin. That's why Saddam Hussein builds his shelters beneath civilian hospitals in Iraq! The purpose for building up our military, Ms. Anderson, is so that we never have to use it—a tremendous means of influencing human behavior.

America is a giving nation. The American Red Cross and Salvation Army do not operate only in the U.S. As Sinclair aptly argued, "I can name for you 5,000 times the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name for me even one time someone else raced to the Americans in trouble?"

If the recent baseball playoffs and the singing of "God Bless America" at the Seventh Inning Stretch did not inspire you to be thankful to be an American and to display your flag, it's time to check for your pulse. In spite of life's obstacles, where else would you rather be?

Mike Crowe
Houston

LOVE LETTERS? HATE MAIL? We want it all! Tell us what you think about OutSmart. What got you thinking? What got on your nerves? Send to Letters, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston 77006 or e-mail to letters@outsmartmagazine.com.

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Jamie Lee Curtis

(A&U, 10/01, Dann Dulin)

On Rick Frank, her friend and costar in her TV sitcom *Anything But Love*: [Before a show, Rick Frank] was in the makeup room getting ready, and it was clear he had lesions. Instead of attending to him, the makeup and hair person merely handed Rick all the utensils in a zip-lock bag. "That was a horrible experience for him," Jamie remarks. "And yet, I understand the naiveté of people. They are just afraid. You have to be compassionate toward them because they are coming from a place of fear."

... Rick's condition deteriorated over time. One summer, Jamie [had to leave L.A. for England to do a film]. She called him every day and he did manage to hold on until she returned before he died. "It was the biggest loss I've ever had in my life, without question," she says.

Not long after Rick's death, Jamie and [husband Chris Guest] adopted their second child, Tom. "My son is a gift from Rick Frank," she says. "Wherever Rick went, he sent us back Tom."

Phyllis Diller

(A&U, 11/01, Dann Dulin)

On condom distribution in schools:

"They've got guns, they've got sex, give them condoms, too! Anything to stop AIDS."

Ellen-related quote from David Letterman [Late Show, 10/01, CBS]
"Ellen [DeGeneres] has another brand-new show right here on CBS, and in the first episode, Ellen plays a lesbian in a small town. CBS has not had a character like that since, well, Aunt Bee."

Jerry Springer

(Politically Incorrect, 11/2/01, ABC)

Jerry Springer: ... I say we go get bin Laden and put him on my show. That'll show him.

Joel Mowbray (columnist): How would he get on the show? It's not like he's a bisexual midget with an Oedipus complex.

Springer: You don't know what he's wearing under his smock, do you?

New Year's Eve Queer Quotes

(Us Weekly, 12/31/00, Carrie Bell, Matthew Graham, Jenny Rubinfeld)

Ellen DeGeneres Every New Year's Eve seems as though it's just horrible for me. But on the worst one ever, I was at this huge, crowded party, and I was waiting in line for the bathroom forever. I finally got in there, and while I was sitting on the toilet, I heard, "10, 9, 8..." etc. It figured. I thought, *This is so perfect for me. All by myself, listening to everybody count down, and, woo, here I am on the toilet seat.*

Camryn Manheim Last year [1999], I was partying at Danny DeVito's house. I was dancing with Paul Reubens when, at midnight, someone came up from behind and turned me around. It was Courtney Love, and she French-kissed me. It was hot. Do you know how many people wished they were in my place? Better yet, do you know how many people wished they were in her place? It's the title of my next book: *Courtney Love French-kissed Me at Midnight... and Other Tales with Celebrities.*



Ellen DeGeneres

(The 53rd Emmy Awards, 11/4/01, CBS)

On a personal level, I felt that it was important for me to be here tonight because, number one, our leaders have asked us to get back to our jobs; number two, there is no number two, but things are funnier in threes; and number three, I feel I'm in a unique position as host, because—think about it—what would bug the Taliban more than seeing a gay woman in a suit surrounded by Jews?



Agnes Moorehead is pictured above with *Bewitched* costar Elizabeth Montgomery in 1968; she is pictured at right in the 1950 lesbian cult classic *Caged*, of which she said, "My character was the film's conscience—she had nothing to do with sex, one way or the other..."



Agnes Moorehead

(Hollywood Lesbians, 1994, Boze Hadleigh)

This interview took place in 1973; Agnes Moorehead, whose birthdate is December 6, 1906, died in 1974.

Boze Hadleigh: Numerous Hollywood actresses—Garbo, Gish, Dietrich, Jean Arthur, um, Kay Francis, Stanwyck, Bankhead, Del Rio, Janet Gaynor, etc., etc.—have enjoyed lesbian or bi relationships.

Have you ever...?

Agnes Moorehead: Yes, you'd love to put me in their excellent company! Even if I don't belong in the same category...

Off the record? I can turn off the tape recorder.

Leave it on, leave it on. [Sighs.] You apparently have your own informants [half smiles]. I don't know what you've heard, and I don't want to hear, and some of it may even be true.

The truth gets around.

... Somehow.

Would the truth hurt you professionally, now?

Now? Probably not. But I don't want anyone misinterpreting what was beautiful and even spiritual...

Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano



Todd Holland

(The 53rd Emmy Awards, 11/4/01, CBS)

Todd Holland, after being announced as the winner for Best Director for *Malcolm in the Middle*, kissed his boyfriend on the mouth, walked to the podium, and after thanking numerous people, said, "I would like to thank... my partner Scott, my heart and soul, I love you." He signed "I love you" to Scott, who returned the sign.



Joan Rivers

(Emmy Pre-show on E!, 11/4/01)

Joan Rivers (said directly to Downey): Say "We're going to a break..."

Robert Downey Jr.: We are so going to a break, and I'm Robert Downey Jr., and [pointing to Rivers] you know who she is, she's...
Joan Rivers: Robert Downey Sr. [I had] a sex-change.

Another Rivers Quote, this time describing her wardrobe preparations for the on-again, off-again Emmy Awards

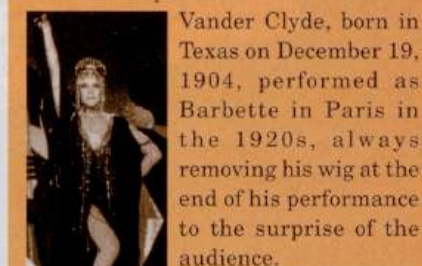
(Politically Incorrect [via TV Guide], 10/01, ABC)

"I went back and forth in that closet more times than Anne Heche."

Barbette

(1997, Today's Out Look Calendar)

Julie Andrews's gender-bending character in the 1982 film *Victor, Victoria* was loosely based on real-life female impersonator Barbette.



Julie Andrews as Victor/Victoria

Television

by Blase DiStefano

GAILY SUNDANCING

The Sundance Channel dons some gay apparel in December

Conversations in World Cinema: Christine Vachon

This conversation with the diva producer premiered last month on Sundance, and if you missed it, you're being given one chance during December to make up for it. Richard Peña of the Film Society of Lincoln Center talks to Vachon about exactly what a producer does, and she does not shy away from the gay angle. Keep in mind that she has been involved with *Poison*, *Swoon*, *Postcards from America*, *Go Fish*, *Safe*, *Kids*, *I Shot Andy Warhol*, *Stonewall*, *Kiss Me*, *Guido*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *Happiness*, and *Boys Don't Cry*, among others! Hey, even if you've already seen it, it's worth a repeat viewing at 6 p.m., Saturday, December 29, on the Sundance Channel. For more information on Sundance, check out their website at www.sundancechannel.com.



Happy Together

Unhappy Together might be a more apt title to describe the relationship between these two codependent characters (Tony Leung Chiu Wai and Leslie Cheung). This gay couple keeps starting over, but they continue to find themselves falling into the same destructive routine that threatens to tear them apart for good. With cinematographer Christopher Doyle's visual flair and intense performances from both leads and Chen Chang (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*), this is a well-produced film. Directed by Kar-wai Wong. (1997, 1:37, letterbox/subtitles) Dec. 6: 10 p.m.; Dec. 11: 1:05 a.m.; Dec. 20: 2:30 a.m.

Left: Producer Christine Vachon in "Conversations in World Cinema." Above: Leslie Cheung (l) and Tony Leung Chiu Wai in *Happy Together*.

Also on Sundance in December

Ruth Ellis @ 100

Feisty, independent, and honest, Ruth Ellis lived a century of history. The life of the oldest African-American lesbian unfolds in this inspiring documentary by award-winning filmmaker Yvonne Welton. This invaluable look at part of our neglected past won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 1999 San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Ellis died after the film's release, on October 5, 2000. (1999, 0:59) Dec. 1: 8:45 a.m.; 2:30 p.m.; 7th: 6:35 a.m.; 7 p.m.; 13th: noon, 8 p.m.; 16th: 10:30 a.m.; 25th: 12:30 p.m.; 31st: 2:30 p.m.

Chuck & Buck

Described by one critic as no less than "the *Citizen Kane* of twisted-geek movies," Miguel Arteta's (*Star Maps*) creepy comedy follows the bizarre reunion of two junior-high school buddies, Charlie, a California music executive, and Buck, a unsettling case of arrested development who appears never to have matured beyond age 11. A moving film about friendship, unrequited love, and loss. (2000, 1:36, CCAP) Dec. 3: 9:30 a.m.; 4:05 p.m.; 6th: noon, 8 p.m.; 15th: 10:05 a.m.; 10 p.m.; 25th: 8 p.m.; 26th: 3:15 a.m.; 30th: 7 a.m.; 5 p.m.

Mädchen in Uniform

This story about a sensitive new arrival at a strict Prussian boarding school who develops a crush on one of the more compassionate teachers was hailed when it was released during the final years of Germany's permissive Weimar Republic for its moving indictment of regimental authority. In more recent years, its fame rests on its sympathetic subtle allusions to lesbian desire. All-female cast. (1931, 1:26, BW/subtitles) Dec. 5: 7:30 a.m.; 6th: 4:30 a.m.; 8th: 6 a.m.; 12:30 p.m.; 11th: 1 p.m.; 23rd: 4 a.m.; 27th: 5:30 a.m.; 2:30 p.m.; 31st: 9 a.m.

Dear Jesse

At the beginning of Tim Kirkman's witty documentary, the filmmaker lists all the things he has in common with North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms: Both were born in the same town, raised Southern Baptists, attended the same college, and worked in journalism. And, Kirkman concludes, "You've been obsessed with homosexual men; for most of my adult life, so have I." (1997, 1:23) Dec. 1: 5:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; 5th: 6:30 p.m.; 9th: 9:30 a.m.; 10th: 4:15 a.m.; 14th: 6:30 a.m.; 15th: 2:30 a.m.; 18th: 3 p.m.; 24th: 5:30 a.m.

Benjamin Smoke

Dubbed the Southern Oscar Wilde, Benjamin (born Robert Dickerson), Atlanta's underground rock legend who once belted out songs as Miss Opal Foxx, receives a moving posthumous tribute. Ravaged and mortally ill from HIV, hepatitis, and too many cigarettes, Benjamin's humor and lack of self-pity shine in conversations filmed shortly before his death. A legend in the musical world of Southern punk, Benjamin's work served as inspiration for R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe and Patti Smith. (2000, 1:13) Dec. 1: 6:30 p.m.; 2nd: 1:45 a.m.; 17th: 4:30 p.m.; 28th: 6:30 p.m.

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

ALERT: Find out about medicines 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 methylexgonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others.
Halcion® (triazolam)
Hismanal® (astemizole)
Orap® (pimozide)
Propulsid® (cisapride)
Rythmo® (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 (Tegreto® 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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THE 12 GAYS OF CHRISTMAS

All the music you'll need for your queer holiday cheer

This holiday season, the spirit of giving takes on new meaning after the events of September 11. Benefit CDs are popping up left and right with great intentions (but, unfortunately, with little substance).

Not true for *Broadway Cares: Home for the Holidays*. The fine (and gay) folks at Centaur Entertainment in conjunction with BC/EFA (Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS) succeed in giving us a benefit CD fit for, well, a queen. Proceeds go directly to BC/EFA and disaster relief organizations involved with the World Trade Center tragedy. Topping the bill of Broadway and pop stars to contribute tunes is none other

than **Liza Minnelli**. Her spirited rendition of "Baby, It's Cold Outside" with *Cabaret* star **Alan Cumming** is reason enough to add this to your collection. Add to that lesbian lounge sensation **Lea Delaria**, **Sam Harris**, and *Ally McBeal*'s sizzling **Jane Krakowski** doing none other than "Santa Baby," and you've got the cream of this year's holiday music crop.

Coming in a very close second place is **Barbra Streisand's Christmas Memories**. Thirty-four years ago she gave us *A Christmas Album*. Now the legend graces us again with another sterling set of traditional and contemporary songs. Included are traditional favorites "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?" and "I'll Be Home For Christmas" along with Schubert's "Ave Maria," which is the first time Streisand has sung this version. Need we say more?

With a sleigh full of other holiday releases, too many to mention, here are some highlights worthy of attention. Houston's own **Destiny's Child** comes home for the holidays with *8 Days of Christmas*—a mix of classics and original songs that should make the season even brighter for fans of the trio. *One Family: A*

Christmas Album is another holiday first from R&B diva **Kelly Price**, joined by **Winona Judd**, **Mary Mary**, and **BeBe Winans**. While on the gospel trip, search out *Christmas in My Heart* by the one and only **Candi Staton**. Got the blues this season? If so, look to the king—**B.B. King**, that is—for *A Christmas Celebration of Hope*, the King of the Blues' first-ever Christmas CD, recorded in New Orleans this year. Motown keeps the spirit alive with *A Motown Christmas 2*. Highlights are a previously unreleased version of "O Holy Night" by **The Supremes** with lead by **Flo Ballard**, and "The Christmas Song"



performed by **Marvin Gaye** live at the Apollo Theater. Last, but certainly not least, **Olivia Newton-John** brings *The Christmas Collection* to us from down under.

Checking That List

For the music lovers on your list, here are some helpful hints for gift ideas.

As if you didn't already know, **Madonna** has just released her second greatest-hits CD, *GHV2*, but if that's not enough of the material girl, throw in *The Drowned World Tour* video or DVD. Also out on DVD/VHS is *From Toni With Love: The Video Collection* from the sultry **Toni Braxton**, an expansive set that

includes remixes of many of her hits plus unreleased versions. *One Night Only* from **Elton John** contains over two hours of Sir Elton live from last year's concert in Madison Square Garden. The DVD version boasts material not available on CD or VHS.

For theater or opera fans, look for *Andrew Lloyd Webber: Now And Forever*. This five-CD set marks the first authorized collection of his music compiled and produced by **Andrew Lloyd Webber** himself. Never-before-available performances come from **Julie Covington**, **Elvis Presley**, **Petula Clark**, and a host of others. Definitely one for the collection. It would be

almost impossible to mention Mr. Lloyd Webber without a nod to **Sarah Brightman**. Her latest CD *Classics* is loaded with new and unreleased recordings. Opera diva **Kiri Te Kanawa** gives us *Kiri*, a complete collection of her best material from multiple record labels.

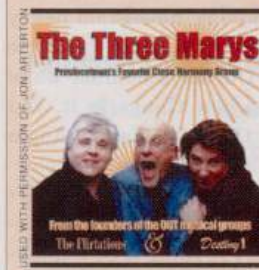
If electronic landscapes and textures sound more your speed, check out **Delerium's Odyssey: The Remix Collection**, a superb set of the best remixes of Delerium's hits. And finally, the dedicated people at the

Red Hot Organization offer another winning compilation in their AIDS awareness series. *Red Hot + Riot* pays tribute to **Fela Kuti**, the father of Afro-Beat who died of AIDS. With the help of U2's **Bono**, the organization plans AIDS initiatives in Africa after the release of the CD. Making appearances are Destiny's Child, **Macy Gray**, **Nile Rodgers** (Chic), and Kuti's son, **Femi Kuti**, among others.

By day, **Chris Sill** works as a buyer at *Soundwaves*; by night, he spins tunes at *Rich's*. He can be reached at csill@infohwy.com or www.djchrissill.com.



MORE QUEER CHEER? YOU DECIDE ABOUT THREE MARYS AND ONE ROSEMARIE.



The Three Marys. Jon Arterton, founder of The Flirtations, and partners Mary Jo Paranzino and Mary Abt are The Three Marys. "Totally out, totally political, and totally family, their first CD is part of their goal to hit the road and spread their upbeat, tender, and exquisitely musical (everyone involved has been seriously classically trained) brand of 'new century' music" (*Bay Windows*). If you can't find the CD locally, you can order it at www.thethreemarys.com, www.ladyslipper.org, or www.goldenrod.com. —**Blase DiStefano**



Spotty Sprinkles of Love. Formerly a Houston resident and now living in Austin, singer/songwriter Rosemarie Croll chose songs for this CD "which reflect my plethora of interests that represent my unique style," she says. Those musical interests include an eclectic mix of jazz, swing, folk, and country. Available at Cactus Music & Video. For more Croll, visit www.rosemariecroll.com. —**BD**

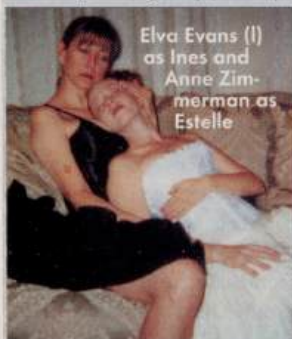
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: UNIVERSAL RECORDS; HIP-O RECORDS; EMI RECORDS; MCA RECORDS; ANGEL RECORDS; MOTOWN; COLUMBIA; DEF SOUL; ARISTA

Theater

by D.L. Groover

Abandon Hope, All You Dos Chicas

Jean-Paul Sartre, father-of-all existentialists, wrote his mother-of-all existential plays in 1944 while teaching in Paris by day and working for the French resistance by night. His nihilistic one-act *No Exit* is his most popular work for the stage: accessible and bleakly comic, while providing tasty philosophic food for thought. Three characters trapped in a bourgeois hell of their own making repeat their stories and lies forever, each the tormentor of the others. The intellectual left



Elva Evans (l) as Ines and Anne Zimmerman as Estelle

ist Garcin wants Ines. Ines, the "damned woman" (read "lesbian") wants Estelle. Estelle, legally blind, wants a couch with fabric to match her dress. They spin their tales to purge their human guilt, but there's no escape, even when the

door suddenly opens to free them. Petrified to finally face themselves, they stay where they are. As Sartre says, "Hell is other people." Dos chicas productions, infamous for their slick grunge take on such theater classics as *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, *Snake in the Vein*, and *Oedipus Rex*, lands this French beauty in the former Mausoleum on Westheimer. A perfect space for this perfect play. • *No Exit*, weekends through Dec. 15; 8:30 p.m. Upstairs at Heliotope, 411 Westheimer, 713/201-0193. \$10; \$6 seniors/students.

Unhinged Gay Romancers

Ah, the ups and downs of gay love receive quality treatment in a twin bill from Unhinged Productions. The men get theirs in David Alan Morrison's comedy *So, I Met This Guy*. Unbeknownst to the new boyfriends, they both have a mutual friend in common, their girlfriend who's writing a romance novel. Research can be fun, just handle it with care. The distaff side is represented by Patti Aldredge's SW premiere *Fly Away*. Big-city lesbian Belinda is being buried. Urban liberality (lovers of the deceased) meets the tightly wound country folk of west Texas (the clueless relatives) in this irreverent free-wielding portrait of love without boundaries. • *So, I Met This Guy* and *Fly Away*, Thurs.-Sat., through Dec. 15, Unhinged Productions, 3304 LaBranch, 713/524-8707. \$15, \$12 seniors/students.



Morrison



Aldredge

Baby, Take a Bow

One of the most comprehensive theater websites, www.theatermania.com, has added a new feature to its extensive listings of reviews, interviews, and out-of-town listings (and in-town—yes, Houston's rich offerings are easily available with a click of your mouse). If you're not afraid to fly to the Big Apple and don't want to stand in line at the TKTS booth for half-price tickets, then go online and get your discounts for same-day performances. Print out the receipt and hie to the box office to pay for your tickets. Curtain up!



L-r: Steve Bullitt, Adam Clarke, Natalie Maisel, Jenny Yau

MOST FABULOUS, INDEED

Gay writer Paul Rudnick has been on a lucrative roll ever since the winsome *I Hate Hamlet* hit Broadway in 1990 with an irascible (and usually drunk) Nicol Williamson playing ghostly John Barrymore. Rudnick's hits have included the bitchy *Jeffrey*, the wild black comedy of *Addams Family Values*, and the easy charm of *In & Out*. His only bomb (and it was a big one) was the ghastly and inept one-act *On the Fence*, a comedy (comedy!) about Matthew Shepard's last hours, which had Eleanor Roosevelt and Paul Lynde battling for his soul.

Rudnick likes to prick the conventions of middle-class society, be they gay or straight, and his rapier wit can oft be on a par with Wilde's. His work is neither politically active like Tony Kushner, nor sentimental like Terence McNally. He's sort of a gay Neil Simon, in the best sense, and his plays are screamingly funny.

One of his nuttiest is Theatre New West's latest foray, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*. Taking off from the right wing's mantra—if God had wanted us to be gay, he would have created Adam and Steve—Rudnick irreverently romps through a very gay reading of biblical history, starting naturally enough with Adam

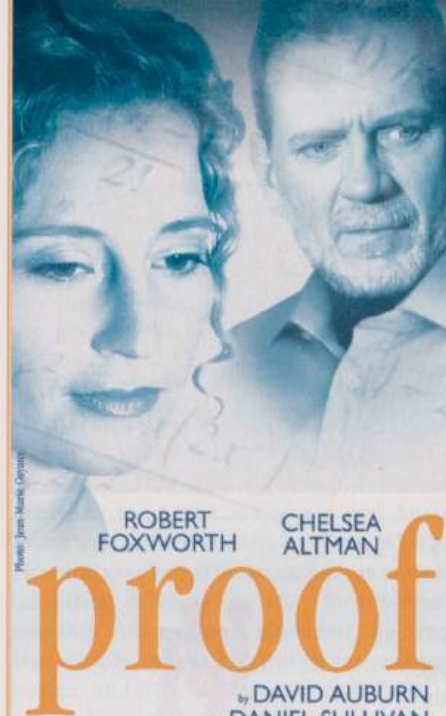
and Steve who share the Garden of Eden with lesbians Jane and Mabel. In his skewed view, the practical women invent the wheel and the notion of God, while the gay men are responsible for rejection, canapés, and "shampoo and conditioner in one." Act II brings the foursome to contemporary Manhattan on Christmas Eve where the women's commitment ceremony, presided over by a wheelchair-bound Jewish lesbian rabbi, is interrupted by the birth of butch Jane's baby.

Most Fabulous Story is so perceptive, trenchant, and stuffed with laughs that Theatre New West's impresario Joe Watts has wanted this comedy for two years. When the Southwestern rights suddenly opened up, he bumped the campy spoof *Christmas With the Crawfords* off his schedule to make room.

"It's been a play I've had a real heavy passion for," Watts says. "I think the whole play is brilliant. During rehearsal we're constantly finding new things in it. You know, it's spooky; the actor playing Adam is named Adam [Clarke] and the actor playing Steve is named Steve [Bullitt]. I didn't cast them because of their names, but because hopefully they're going to be wonderful in their roles." →

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Little Room Downstairs' powerhouse portrayal of Brandon Teena, Natalie Maisel, plays bull-dyke Jane, and newcomer Jenny Yau is bubble-headed Mabel.

There's also nudity, to be sure. We're in pre-shame Garden of Eden for Act I, don't forget, and then taken on a quick trek through wicked old Sodom, as well as pharaonic Egypt and Christmas Eve in ancient Judea.

Watts, a tireless promoter of the community, holds special benefit performances for each show he's producing, and *Most Fabulous Story* is no exception. Thursday, December 6, benefits Projects Inc., brainchild of Michael Peranteau, co-founder of the Center for AIDS and former executive director of DiverseWorks. Since its founding in April 2000, Projects Inc. provides all manner of services to small community-based nonprofit organizations that can't afford such counseling and assistance. His organization offers advice on board development, staffing, and fundraising, as well as initiating community programs such as *State of Emergency*, last year's acclaimed installation at Project Row Houses detailing the rise of HIV in Houston's black neighborhoods.

Peranteau's unsung, behind-the-scenes philanthropic work cuts across the community, here in Houston with Aurora Picture Show, Houston Buyers Club, and Abled Women; in L.A. with a hip-hop youth drug program; to groups in El Paso and Austin. Peranteau's greatest coup, however, is getting Houston's major AIDS organizations and clinics sitting down in one room for a series of monthly retreats and breakfast meetings. Historically, the diverse groups have not been bosom buddies, so just getting them assembled and talking to each other is a positive step. They've just met for the third session, and Peranteau's justifiably pleased.

"I've always wanted to have some sort of a vehicle where the executive directors can talk among themselves, organize, and figure out who's doing what and where they can go for funding. That's gone really well."

When Watts approached Projects Inc. to be the beneficiary of the pre-opening show, Peranteau readily agreed, happy to have the exposure. "I know Paul Rudnick's work, and I also know one of the actors in the play. From what I remember reading about the NY production, it's pretty sacrilegious in terms of organized religion, and it sounds like a fun play. And I like Joe's productions."

A worthy cause coupled with a Rudnick comedy. And nudity, too. Who could ask for anything more?

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told: Dec. 7-Feb. 2; Fridays & Saturdays only, Theatre New West, 1415 California, 713/394-0464, \$20. Projects, Inc. benefit performance: Thurs., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. \$20 & \$50, 713/426-5314. ■

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News & Comment

Holiday Cards from the Community

The Lesbian and Gay Community Center is offering a set of beautiful engraved gift cards for the holidays (and beyond), drawn linotypes created by members of Patrick Palmer's Positive Art Workshops. Palmer has been offering his free art classes to the HIV-positive community for 10 years, first at the Art League of Houston, and then at the Museum of Fine Arts. Even though Palmer will not be teach-

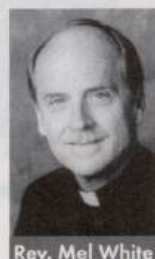


ing the Positive Art Workshops, they will continue at the community center. The money from the sale of the cards will go to the community center, with a portion going back to the Positive Art Workshops. The set of 12 is \$10, and you can find them at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. The center hours are: weekdays, 6-9 p.m.; Sat., noon-4 p.m.; and Sun., 2-5 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars

How better could you celebrate Pride month this year than by practicing a little nonviolent protest against some Southern Baptists?

For the third year in a row, Soulforce plans to protest the antigay policies of the Southern Baptist Convention, which will be held June 8-12 in St. Louis this year. Founded by Rev. Mel White using the principles of Gandhi, Soulforce is an interfaith movement committed to ending spiritual violence perpetuated by religious policies and teachings against GLBT people. This year, Gandhi's grandson, Arun Gandhi, will lead the training in civil disobedience. Civil rights leaders from the 1960s will also participate, as will other experts in the field of nonviolent resistance. For more information, see www.soulforce.org.



Rev. Mel White

GLBT Youth Hotline

Since there still aren't many places for queer youth to turn around the country—in small towns everywhere, not to mention Houston—a Boston GLBT community health center has opened a nationwide hotline. The Peer Line is a nationwide toll free number (800/399-7337) staffed by GLBT youth for other gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. The hotline is staffed Mon.-Fri., 5-10 p.m. They also have a hotline (888/340-4528) available to people of all ages which is staffed Mon.-Fri., 6-11 p.m., and weekends from 5-10 p.m.

Out to Your Doc?

Need to find an LGBT-friendly doctor? The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association operates a physician referral program which can help you find a gay or gay-friendly doctor, dentist, psychologist, optometrist, chiropractor, or other licensed health professional.

"The LGBT public is beginning to realize how important it is to be out to their doctors and other healthcare providers," said GLMA president Christopher E. Harris. "To do that, patients must feel they are in a safe, caring place. They need to be able to find physicians who easily accept a person's sexual orientation or gender identity."

In addition, Houston health practitioners should consider listing their services with the GLMA referral line.

"The referral program has been a remarkable benefit to everyone," Harris said. "Our physician members and now our allied professional members gain new patients and clients; and LGBT patients can now seek a fuller range of healthcare options from professionals who are able to provide friendly, appropriate, and nonjudgmental treatment."

There is no charge either to get a referral from the service, or to list your practice. You can access the referral service at www.glma.org. The largest organization of its kind, GLMA was founded in 1981 to combat homophobia in medicine and promote quality healthcare for all LGBT people.

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Morua Takes Break After Prop 2 Battle

After leading a diligent and strategic fight against Proposition 2, Alejandro Morua has announced that he's going to step down from his position as executive director of the Progressive Voters Alliance to re-energize and refocus. Although Prop 2 passed 52 to 48 percent, many see this close margin as evidence of a sea-change in Houstonians' attitudes toward GLBT rights, brought about in significant measure by the community's coordinated efforts through PVA and its sister organization People for a Fair Houston. Morua will remain on the PVA board.

As leader of PVA, Morua galvanized a group of more than 1,500 volunteers in block walks, phone banks, and election-day campaigning; he appeared at numerous house parties held around the community, and coordinated a national team of professional activists in the final weeks before the election.

"It has been inspiring to see hundreds of new LGBT and straight-allied volunteers take action," said Morua. "But after two years of 50-to-60-hour weeks, I'm ready for a break." After the Dec. runoff election, PVA will hold a strategic planning retreat, close down for the holidays, and be up and running in January. For more info, contact 713/521-7161.



Alejandro Morua

Web Exclusive

Sue Null (pictured) has added another installment to her "Reminiscences of a Streetwalker," about her door-to-



door campaigning in her neighborhood for GLBT rights. See the OutSmart website at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

1,000 Gay-Straight Student Alliances

The number of gay-straight alliances (GSAs) has been growing rapidly, with over 1,000 having been formed across the country, announced GLSEN (the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network). This marks an increase of 400 in just the past two years, since the time that California students won a lawsuit against their school district allowing them to form a GSA under the federal Equal Access Act.

"In the near absence of support from school administration and teachers, students are taking the lead to educate their peers and make schools safe places for all," said GLSEN executive director Kevin Jennings. "The challenge now is for schools to do their part to ensure that these groups are treated with fairness and equality."

However, GSAs exist only in approximately 1 of 15 high schools, and there are still no GSAs in Houston.

Any students, teachers, or administration considering starting a GSA can find all the information you need in the GLSEN Jump-Start guide, available free at www.glsen.org.

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PATRIOTS ABROAD, PROSTITUTES AT HOME

How politicians are using the war on terrorism to reward special interests

Immediately after September 11, Republicans and Democrats joined hands, stood patriotically on the steps of the United States Congress, and in a united voice warbled *God Bless America*. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle hugged Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott. New York Senator Hillary Clinton and her former foe Rudy Giuliani toured Ground Zero hand in hand. And one by one, members of both parties in Congress proclaimed that in these trying times, there is simply no place for partisan politics in America. (Hell, the president even reprimanded Jerry Falwell for blaming fags and feminists for the World Trade Center attacks.)

Three months later, Washington politicians have returned to doing what Washington politicians do, rewarding special interests. But now they are doing so in the shadows of the war on terrorism, hoping that no one will notice that while they talk about patriotism, they engage in pure partisanship. A patriot,

after all, is someone who is devoted to and stands ready to defend his or her country. Recent acts by congressional and cabinet members, however, indicate that they are devoted to and stand ready to defend only the special interests they cater to.

Let's start with Attorney General John Ashcroft and his recent attack on Oregon's physician-assisted suicide law. During his confirmation hearings, Ashcroft promised to put his personal right-to-life views aside. And, before September 11, Ashcroft did nothing to indicate he would independently attempt to override a physician-assisted suicide law (twice passed by Oregonians) to appease fellow pro-lifers.

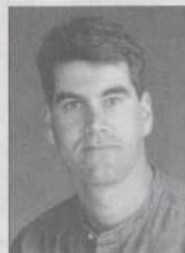
Earlier this year—at Ashcroft's urging—his staff recommended issuing a directive that physician-assisted suicide is not a legitimate medical purpose, and therefore violates the Federal Controlled Substances Act. (This position is contrary to an earlier interpretation

by Janet Reno, Clinton's attorney general.) Ashcroft did nothing with this directive initially. Instead, he waited until after September 11, when the press and public became preoccupied with the war on terrorism, to issue a directive that any Oregon doctor who prescribes drugs to those who are terminally ill will be pursued by the federal government.

Ashcroft has taken other frightening positions in the name of freedom that reflect his personal views. Specifically, he sought expanded federal wiretapping ability, asked to detain individuals suspected of terrorism

continued on page 24

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



FOLLIES OF THE ANTIWAR GAY LEFT

Can someone explain to me what's so terrifying about the American flag?

The follies of the antiwar gay left continue. Though eclectic, antiwar commentators seem to share three things: (1) the idea that bombs won't solve anything, (2) a fixation on the "root cause" of terrorism, understood to be the United States itself, and (3) patriophobia, the irrational fear of people who love their country.

Don't get me wrong. The right to dissent is fundamental and must be protected even in times of great national peril. But we have the right to dissent from the dissenters.

The first antiwar fallacy is that old tired nostrum of bombs-won't-solve-anything.

Consider the words of Surina Khan, the executive director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC). In an interview for the *Boston Phoenix*, Khan maintains that "waging war on Afghanistan is [not] a solution."

Tommi Avicelli Mecca, in a guest editorial for the *San Francisco Bay Times*, rhetorically

asks, "What has bombing accomplished?" To which he replies: "We haven't found [Osama] bin Laden [and] the Taliban is still in power." This after only four weeks!

Bombs certainly won't cure all the world's ills, but they can be a necessary start when you're dealing with madmen. To take just two recent examples, American military force ended Saddam Hussein's designs on neighboring countries and thwarted Slobodan Milosevic's genocide in Bosnia. Both efforts took more than a few weeks.

But suppose bombs won't solve anything. What's the alternative? Khan offers this: "At IGLHRC, we feel that the response to the murder and terror that we saw on September 11 has to be a response of solidarity and understanding."

"Understanding" for bin Laden and the serial killers he trains? "What we are practicing is good terror," bin Laden recently said on videotape, justifying the murder of Ameri-

cans on September 11. "We will not stop killing them and whoever supports them."

Khan may want to "understand" people like bin Laden, but there is no substitute for eliminating them. Bin Laden has made it clear: It's either kill or be killed. How many Americans have to die before these antiwar leftists get it?

Their second delusion is to insist we address the root causes of September 11. For Khan, herself born to privilege, the "core, root problem" is the "resentment against the U.S. throughout the world" generated by America's selfish failure to "look be-

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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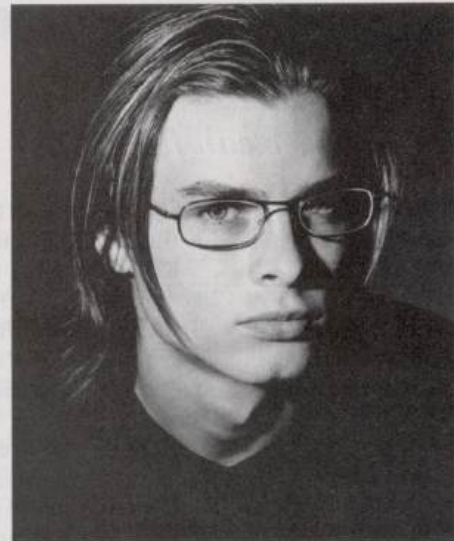
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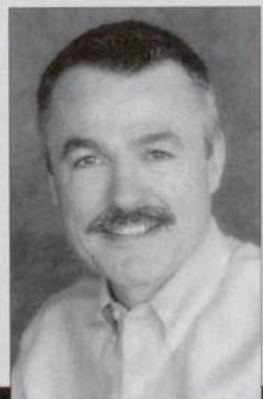
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LeftOut continued from page 22

indefinitely without charging them, and has begun eavesdropping on conversations between detainees and their lawyers. While each of these acts might chill civil libertarians, at least Ashcroft can assert that these measures affect only a few and are necessary to protect the masses. By attacking physician-assisted suicide at a time when he thinks no one will notice, Ashcroft is taking extreme measures to override the will of the many (the Oregon law passed 60 to 40 percent) to reward the support of a few.

Enough about Ashcroft. Let's talk about the Republican Congress. Immediately after September 11, the U.S. Senate voted 100-0 (50 Democrats, 49 Republicans, and 1 Independent) to make air travel a matter of federal concern and regulation. A few right-wing nuts, Dick Armey and Tom DeLay, became apoplectic with the prospect of nationalizing air safety, refused to pass a Congressional bill that mirrored the Senate bill, and shut down the legislation altogether. As a result, in the wake of the September 11 attacks, Congress has left Americans with an airport security system that is auctioned off to the lowest bidder—a bidder that has a history of hiring those with criminal histories to provide airport security.

But perhaps the most repugnant act the "patriots" will commit is their recent attempt to stimulate a war-depressed economy. Specifically, within the past few weeks, Republicans in Congress have begun promoting an economic stimulus package that is purportedly intended to kick-start the economy out of recession. It is filled with paybacks for the largest Republican contributors—including a retroactive tax cut (i.e. refunds) for big corporations—and has a price tag of \$100 billion in its first year. (Senate Democrats have countered by loading down their package with their own pork-barrel spending projects.) In defense of this bill, Armey argued that it would create 170,000 jobs. That means for every \$588,000 refunded to large corporations, one new job will be created. Such a deal.

Before September 11, even John Ashcroft and Dick Armey would not have pandered so shamelessly to their right-wing and corporate special interests. Since September 11, they've discovered that the war on terrorism has provided them great cover to pimp for their favorite causes. How unpatriotic. ■

OutRight continued from previous page
yond its own economic interests."

This about a country that rebuilt Europe and Japan after World War II, that intervened to save countless Muslims from Hussein and Milosevic, that has donated billions of dollars in financial aid to help poor nations feed their people and build infrastructure and acquire medicine, and on and on.

If some people around the world don't grasp those facts, it's not because we've been selfish. It's because we haven't been touting our generosity.

For Avicoli Mecca, the real problem is world poverty. Yet there are lots of poor people in the world and very few of them become mass murderers. Bin Laden, himself a Saudi millionaire, is exploiting not poverty but the distrust of modernity long smoldering among religious fundamentalists.

Barbarism doesn't have "root causes"; it is humanity's default condition in the absence of civilization.

But even if poverty and resentment explained the existence of worldwide terrorism, that wouldn't disqualify us from punishing terrorists. There's a good historical case to be made that Anglo-American economic strangulation of Germany and Japan contributed to the rise of fascism and led to World War II. Should we apologize to the ghost of Hitler? Should we have responded to Pearl Harbor with "solidarity and understanding"?

The third antiwar *cri de coeur* bemoans the fact that some gay people actually kind of like the U.S. This patriophobia sees something sinister in the sudden visibility of national pride.

Khan—a Pakistani now living in the safety and comfort of San Francisco—links American patriotism to homophobia. "In the U.S.," she warns darkly, "people who are most active in promoting nationalism are essentially right-wing organizations." Barney Frank, war-supporter and proud American, call your office.

Perhaps the most paranoid patriophobe is *Bay Times* columnist Kirk Read. Read, who prides himself on "asking hard questions," announces he's "given up on queer folks having radical politics collectively." But, he reports, "It's been truly spooky to walk through the Castro and see American flags in nearly every business window." Viewing the words "United We Stand" on the outside wall of a Castro gym, Read wants to "spray-paint 'Wake Up' on top of it."

My God! Patriotism on unashamed display in the heart of the Castro! What horror is next? Standing for the national anthem?

Read says he's been "clench-jaw pissed off for the past month"—not because 5,000 of his fellow citizens are dead, mind you—but because he dislikes the calls for national unity, because he's been asked to donate to the Red Cross, and because he continually hears the song "God Bless America." All this threatens to ensnare us in "the mainstream lockstep of jingoism and war mongering."

Now, I'm not much of a flag-waver myself, but I don't sniff a Nuremberg rally in every breeze rustling Old Glory. I'm glad the men who fought our wars to preserve Read's right to dissent weren't so easily spooked.

To most gay Americans the U.S. is basically a good country that sometimes does bad things. To the antiwar gay left, however, this is basically a bad country that sometimes does good things. The war has exposed the fundamental cleavage between them and the rest of us as never before. ■

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*With a new director,
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vibrant and exciting choral music*

by Sally A. Huffer
Photos by B.J. Smith

For James Knapp, becoming the artistic director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston completes a circuit of healing for both spirit and career. Although Knapp brings years and years of conducting and performing experience, this is his first time to conduct an openly gay cho-

rus. About three years ago, Knapp went through a defining period in his life in which his sexual orientation became the centerpiece of a career change—and not by choice. Knapp left a job he loved when he was offered a prestigious position elsewhere as a church musical director. Just to be sure that the position was right for him, he was open about his orientation during the interview process. A miscommunication with his direct supervisor resulted in his being released from the position shortly after he accepted it, for no other reason than that he is gay.

Knapp gets a little misty-eyed as he talks about how joining the Gay Men's Chorus fills a void left by that experience—even though he is busy traveling the world for Intropa, an agency which handles international concert tours. He wonders if the chorus knows how important they are to him.

It's quickly becoming clear how important Knapp is to the chorus. All who talk about the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston are barely able to control their enthusiasm. Chorus members, board members, all are excited about the chorus's 2001-2002 season—with a new location, new accompaniment, and new leadership—appropriately titled "Jubilant/Sophistication/Celebration."

Choral music is the heart of any chorus, and Knapp is excited about getting back to the basics: "We're

not abandoning the lighthearted programming," he says, "but we are going to focus on choral music."

Knapp's goals with GMCH are to strive for excellence in choral music and to reach out to the diverse communities and become a civic voice in Houston—adding that he has a great deal of gratitude and respect for his predecessor, David Faber, who left the chorus in June after four years. "I'm honored to carry the torch David Faber lit. He kept the flame going in the hearts of the chorus and its supporters, and we're getting ready to turn it up even brighter."

Fans were given a teaser of the chorus's new season (its 23rd) at the Houston Black Tie Dinner in November, but the chorus will give their first full concert under their new director this month. The GMCH December concert has many bright spots. It will open with Randol Bass's "Gloria," featuring special guest Annalee Jefferies of the Alley Theatre (remember her as Harper, the Valium-dazed wife of the gay Mormon man in *Angels in America*, wandering around in her own private Alaska?). The eight-minute piece sets the tone for the rest of the concert season. On the lighter side, the concert will feature the hilarious "What-If Carols" as well as traditional secular/sacred holiday carols (with some audience sing-along opportunities).

Rehearsal is an interesting sight for someone who's only seen GMCH perform in concert. Members stream in wearing khakis, shorts, T-shirts, and jeans—a far cry from the tuxedos they wear in concert. But despite the

About three years ago, Knapp went through a defining period in his life in which his sexual orientation became the centerpiece of a career change—and not by choice.

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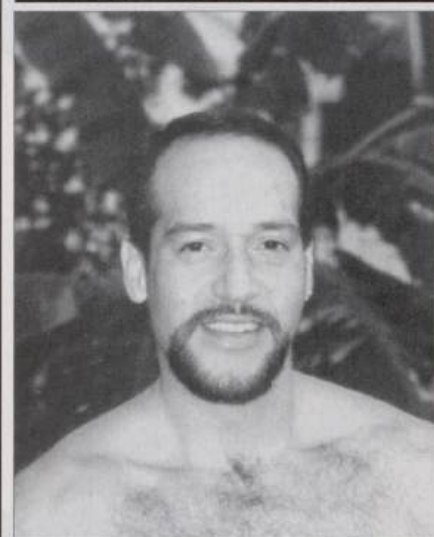


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casual clothing and joking atmosphere, the chorus gets serious when it comes to the music. Goosebumps appear when they belt out with the full force of 51 male voices the stirring lyric: "We will keep on singing until we're heard."

For those who might be considering joining the chorus, auditions are not required, but you will be asked to perform a simple vocal exercise to determine voice placement and range. Also, to help those who are a little rusty or feel they need the extra voice work, Knapp has instituted voice training for a full hour before rehearsals, which are held every Monday night at Bering Church.

There are other volunteer opportunities with the GMCH for people to get involved in the arts even if they aren't musically gifted, says board member and volunteer coordinator Jane Smith. Knapp also is excited about the volunteer potential. "People who donate

their time and talent make up a huge part of any organization," he says. "Those who support GLBT-affirming organizations honor all of us, and we need to turn around and applaud them."

Previously, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston had its own following of dedicated fans, but organizers are anticipating even bigger crowds. Already the chorus has nearly doubled in size since the spring concert. Smith says, "I think we're going to have the best year we've ever had, and I think we're really going to grow," adding, "All the big cities have these

huge choirs that fill up stadiums, and I'm hoping Houston will have that, too."

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston's "December Jubilation" concert will be Sat., Dec. 8, 8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 9, 3 p.m.; and Tues., Dec. 11, 8 p.m., at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. Individual or season tickets may be ordered online at www.gmch.org, or by calling 1-800/494-8497.

"I'm honored to carry the torch David Faber lit. He kept the flame going in the hearts of the chorus and its supporters, and we're getting ready to turn it up even brighter."

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Dr. Schrader is on the clinical faculty at Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas School of Medicine where he serves as a preceptor for medical students during their training. HIV disease is of special interest to Dr. Schrader and he conducts clinical trials on an ongoing basis. Dr. Schrader's commitment to HIV education and treatment is evidenced through his involvement in community outreach programs. Both Dr. Schrader and Pennye believe the focus of medicine should be on people, and they treat each patient with special care.

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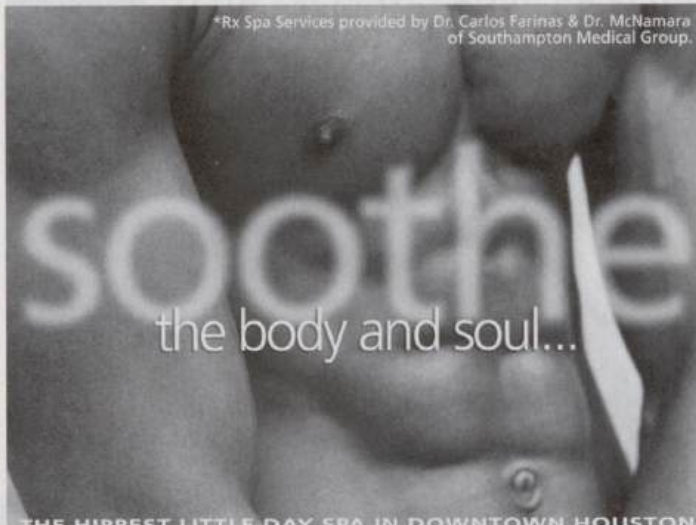
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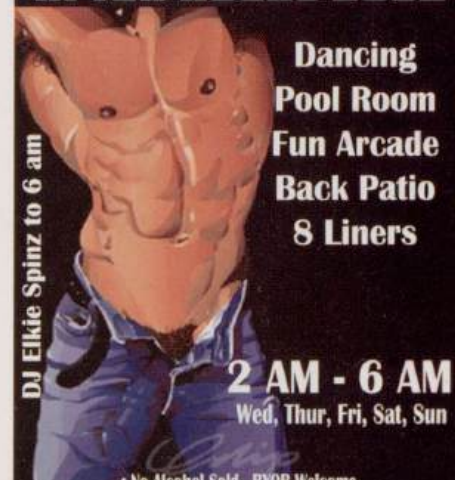
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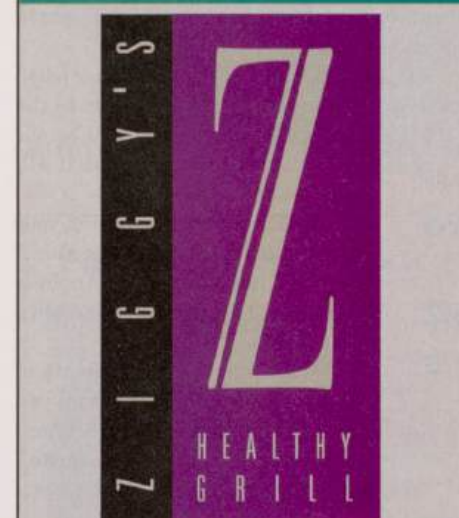
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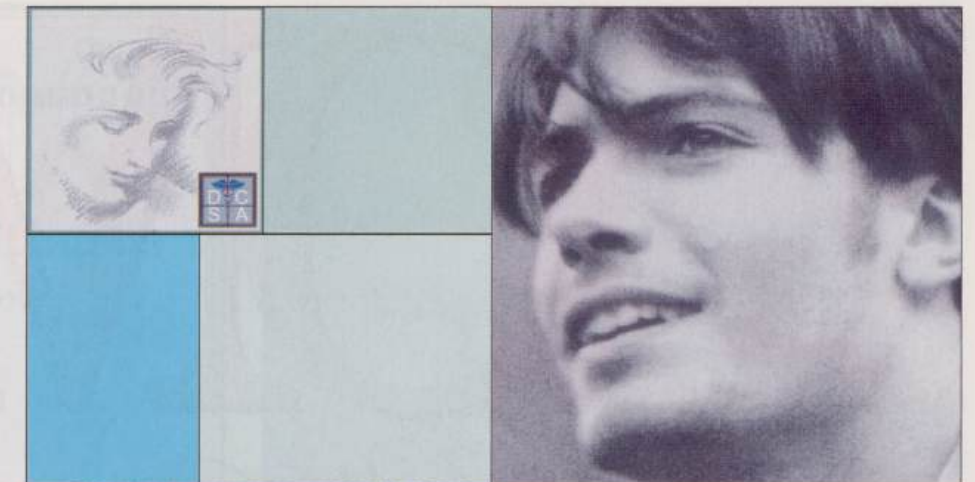
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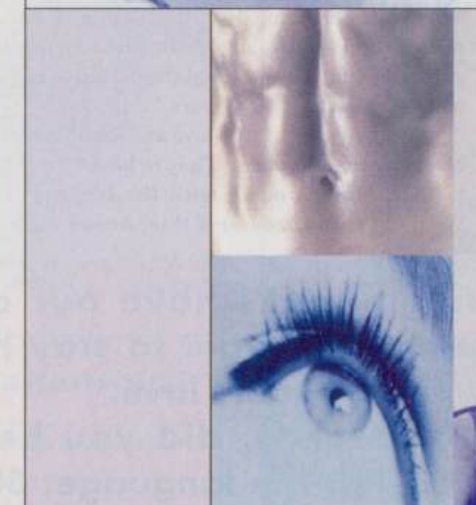
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HOMO

for the Holidays

by Sally Sheklow

I'm staying home this year with my lover." "My God, Sara, must you use such obscene language? Your father's on the extension for chrissake!"

"I'm just saying that Angie and I want to be together this year."

"You're always together. Would it kill you to pry yourself away from your friend long enough to let your poor mother have a look at you?"

"She's more than a friend, Mom, you know that. We're life partners. When we finish school we're going to start a family of our own."

"Your father and I worked hard all our lives so you could have an education at that fancy schmancy college. You can't do this one little thing for us?"

"I appreciate all you've done, Mom. But Angie and I have our own home now. I want to stay here with the woman I love."

"Oy, Morris, did you hear? Again with the language. She's trying to kill me. Listen, Sara-leh, everyone's expecting you. Grandma Ida's coming in all the way from Miami. I put fresh linens on your day bed. I even took Martina to the groomer's for you."

"Aw, thanks. How's my old girl doing?"

"Don't ask! With that walker, who thought she'd ever meet anyone? But, there's a nice man in the condo next door. Single. A widower 10 years already. A big shot from the appliance business. He brought over fresh-baked bran muffins. Is that a sign or is that a sign?"

"No, Mommie, I meant Martina. Have you

been taking her to the park? The vet said she needs a walk every day."

"That nice young man down the street takes her. He already has two poodles of his own, so one more is no problem, he says. Why such a handsome boy would still be a bachelor I'll never know. Both of them, so good looking. It's a shame. But what is it my business if they want to dig in the dirt like beggars, planting flowers when they could be out meeting nice girls? Go figure."

"Mother, get a clue. Steve and Adam have been together 15 years. They're lovers."

"Oy, Morris, again with the language. What did we do to deserve this? Are we such

"Angie and I have our own home now. I want to stay here with the woman I love."

"Oy, Morris, did you hear? Again with the language. She's trying to kill me."

terrible parents? Where did we go wrong?"

"What do you mean? I turned out fine. Angie and I love each other and we're happy together. Can't you be happy for me? Besides, I don't feel safe flying this year."

"Safe? A coward suddenly she wants to be? Riding that crazy motorcycle, this doesn't scare you? What are you so afraid all of a sudden, Miss Don't-worry-about-me-camping-in-the-wilderness? You're lucky you didn't get eaten by a bear! Millions of people are flying home for the holidays, no problem."

"You didn't ask David to leave his wife at home."

"Davey's a different story. Your brother is married and she's pregnant. A normal family. They'll visit her parents this year, next year they'll bring the baby here. It's no comparison."

"Mother, Angie and I are not married because it's illegal for us to get married."

"Already with the political statements. If I want a lecture I'll turn on Fox. From my daughter I want only she should visit once in a while."

"Oh, Mama. I'll see you this summer when Angie and I come through on our way to the Music Festival. School will be out and we'll all be more relaxed. It will be fun."

"You'll have maybe room in your knapsack to bring a dress? And a bra?"

"Very funny. Anyway, Angie is making a turkey this year with your recipe."

"Make sure she puts plenty of olive oil and garlic, the way you like. And tell her to save a drumstick for you. That's your favorite."

"Yes, Mom, I will. Thanks. Talk to you soon. Love you both. Bye."

"We love you, too, sweetheart. Bye-bye. Morris? Are you still on? Did you hear? She's not coming. Oy, such a relief."

Sally Sheklow lives and writes in the Pacific Northwest. She is one of the four funny lesbians who founded and perform in WYMPROV!, Oregon's award-winning improv troupe. Contact her at sally@wymprov.com.



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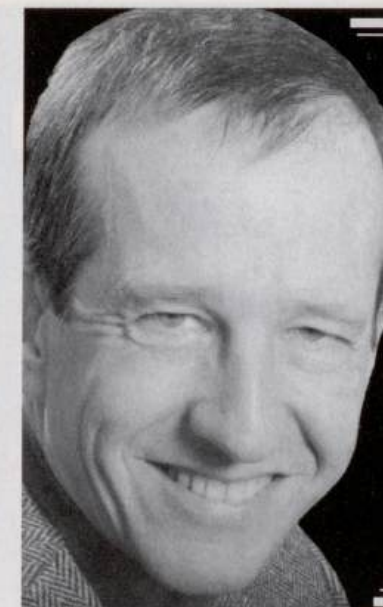
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Books

by D.L. Groover

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

*Behind the Screen: How Gays and Lesbians
Shaped Hollywood, 1910-1969*

By William J. Mann, Viking Press

For anyone who thinks Hollywood's gay history started with Rock Hudson, William J. Mann's delicious tinseltown tell-all *Behind the Screen* will open your eyes and drop your jaw. And even for those of you who know more gay movie trivia than a *Celluloid Closet* edition of *Jeopardy*, this non-fiction shocker will put a sprightly step into those ruby-sequined pumps. In your dreams, *Oz* on the Pacific was never like this... and won't be forever after, either.

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HOW GAYS AND LESBIANS SHAPED HOLLYWOOD

1910-1969

WILLIAM J. MANN

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I mean, who knew? Okay, we've all heard about bisexual screen goddesses Garbo and Dietrich and their on-again/off-again affairs with that scary lesbian Svengali Mercedes de Acosta. We assumed top MGM designer Adrian was gay. Just look at those wacky costumes for *The Women* and the fact that he was married to little gay Janet Gaynor, who palled around the Brazilian jungle with her longtime honey, none other than Peter Pan herself, Mary Martin. We've known for years that Cary Grant and Randolph Scott played house in seaside Malibu; and that "women's director" George Cukor used his casting couch exclusively for his pool boys; and that RKO director Dorothy Arzner was more butch than any of her studio colleagues. We've read all about sad director James Whale, who gave an outsider's view and very gay reading to *Bride of Frankenstein* and *Invisible Man* and was himself the subject of Bill Condon's Academy Award-winning 1998 *Gods and Monsters*. But it's Mann who surprisingly documents Whale's longtime loving partnership with MGM producer David Lewis.

Some Hollywood tales have been well-known and twice-told, but Mann unspools some real goodies. Employing exhaustive research into private correspondence, newspaper obits and death certificates (that tell-tale "never married"), police blotters, census

records (who lived with whom), and interviews with friends and associates, Mann unearths a gay history of Hollywood that asks not who was, but... was there anybody who *wasn't*?

From its very beginnings, Hollywood was a bastion for the outsider seeking acceptance and a refuge from small-town small-mindedness. It was wide-open territory and mostly forgiving of one's sexual tastes, even those who flaunted them wildly, like Billy Haines, superstar deluxe at MGM in the late '20s and subject of Mann's fabulously detailed biography *Wisecracker*. The studios promoted image above all. So although stars who didn't marry under a mogul's edict had a rough time of it, as long as they were willing to date their supposed heterosexual honeys for the publicity shots, they could (and did) do as they wished out of the camera's watchful eye. And aside from the stars, countless others in all areas of film production lived fulfilling lives together, out in the open clear California air. This is the amazing story Mann spins to his great credit.

We might snicker, knowing that of course some costumers and set decorators would emerge in the lavender ranks—but *all* of them? Adrian at MGM; Howard Greer and radiant Travis Banton at Paramount; Charles LeMaire at Fox; Orry-Kelly and Milo Anderson at Warners; Ernst Dryden at Selznick;

Robert Kalloch at Columbia; Walter Plunkett at RKO. Although the movies' golden-age set designers were mostly straight (Mann's rather feeble explanation is that they came from technical schools, which tended to squash artistic impulse), the set decorators such as Howard Grace, Mitchell Leisen, Edwin Willis, Jack Moore, Sam Comer, et al., were family.

Producers were gay. Directors were gay. Writers were gay. Costumers and set decorators were gay. Film editors were gay. Publicists and fan magazine writers were gay. Agents were gay. All the supporting actors who portrayed onscreen sissies (Eric Blore, Edward Everett Horton, Franklin Pangborn) were real-life sissies. Even when historic social forces whipped up antigay whirlwinds (the late '20s were especially virulent, leading directly to the damnable Production Code), for the most part gays in Hollywood withstood the stench of bigotry and kept working. Hollywood, USA, like Broadway, was very gay friendly. Blame it on talent.

Mann teases us with other tantalizing tidbits so that we can only hope there's a sequel. I want to know more about Gable's early hustling, Jean Arthur's true story, and the very macho Henry Wilcoxon (Cecil B. DeMille's discovery and star of *Cleopatra* and *The Crusades*) cruising Hollywood Blvd. picking up tricks. There's no business like show business. ■

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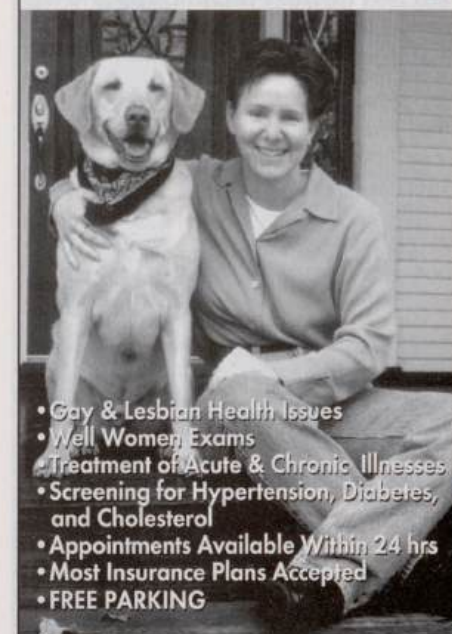
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Actor, model, musician, and author Taro Gold has a message for you: "True happiness comes from within us; we have only to reveal it." The good-looking Versace underwear model is so sure of it he's written the best-selling gift book *Open Your Mind, Open Your Life*. This little gift book is filled with short and yet wise quotations distilled from timeless Eastern thought.

I was intrigued by this charismatic young gay man—on first blush he certainly sounds like an unlikely candidate for best-selling Buddhahood.

and Italian Occhiali. He's currently working on his first solo album, intended for the Japanese market.

So this man knows about worldly. But there is substance underneath that disarming smile. Gold has been meditating twice a day for 15 years, which is half of his life. He speaks Japanese fluently and earned his degree in Tokyo, where he studied economics with minors in psychology and Eastern philosophy. He also studied Spanish culture in Salamanca, Spain. Gold served several years as staff writer for *World Tribune Press*, an international Bud-

The Tao of Versace

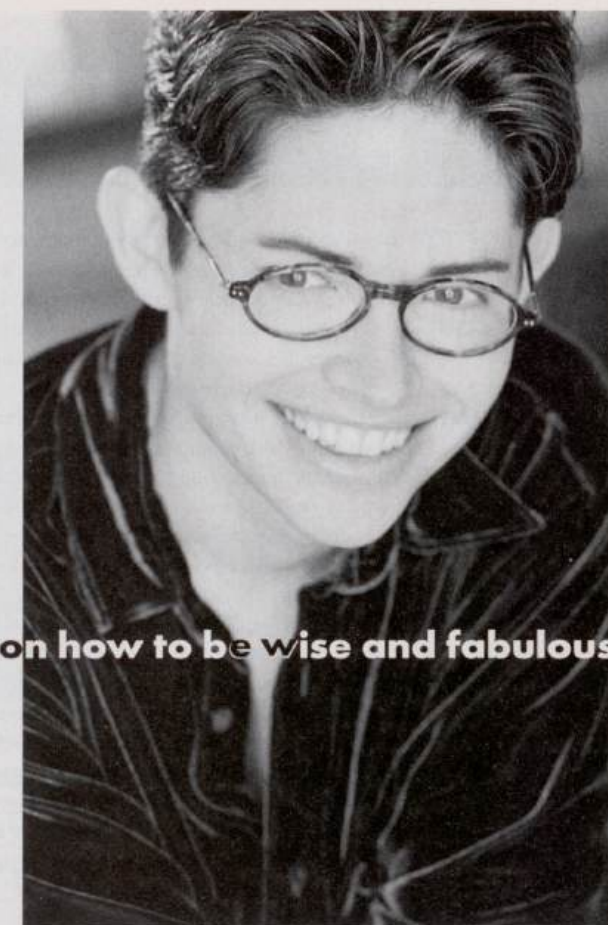
Young gay author and Buddhist Taro Gold on how to be wise and fabulous

by Alan Davidson

Gold grew up in the flash and fashion world of Southern California, and starred in such stage shows as *Peter Pan* and *March of the Falsettos*—and toured with the first cast of *Evita*. He's been an actor in TV commercials and a model worldwide for Versace Intimo

dhist newspaper, and two years as associate editor for *Living Buddhism*, America's preeminent journal of Eastern philosophy.

The inspiration for *Open Your Mind, Open Your Life* came from friends who suggested he write a book



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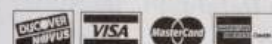
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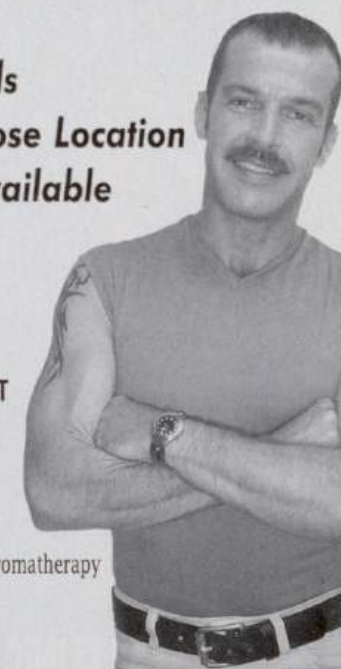
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Taro Gold writes in the introduction of *Open Your Mind, Open Your Life*:



Thought creates reality: Everything humanity has ever created began with a thought. The place where you live, the clothes that you wear, and the paper on which these words are written were once only thoughts in someone's mind. Your decision to read this, too, began with a thought.

Happiness shapes thought: Everything we think is colored by our happiness, or lack thereof. Although individual definitions of happiness vary greatly, we all want to be happy. Early in life, we look for happiness among family, friends, even toys. Later in life, we may look for happiness in religion, money, sex, alcohol, education, marriage. . . . We all know where we have looked. But did we find what we were searching for?

Openness manifests happiness: Genuine happiness, or enlightenment, is already within us; we have only to reveal it. As spring water rushes through open earth, so does happiness flow through open lives. The question is how to open our lives to this inherent joy. The following pages hold answers to that question, thought by thought, from an Eastern perspective. Most of them may be new to you, some may seem like common sense (which is not so common), and others are universal truths not unique to the East. May each of them promote lasting happiness and ways of thinking that truly open your life.

about the Eastern view of happiness. They all agreed that everybody has at least one wish in common—to be happy. Unfortunately, “true happiness” always seems slightly out of reach for many of us.

“I started creating a list of thoughts about ‘creating happiness’ using concepts from my life and studies abroad,” Gold said. After writing 200 or so distinct thoughts, he shared them for feedback. “Everyone was so inspired by my list that, instead of diluting each thought into a narrative, I published the thoughts themselves.”

I asked Gold how these principles can help in the face of global terrorism and war. “We must be the change we wish to see,” he said, using Gandhi’s famous quote. He explained that we must find the seeds of ignorance and hatred within ourselves. By recognizing and loving those seeds of ignorance we begin to educate ourselves in the ways of love and compassion. When we work within our own hearts and

minds we cultivate compassion for our neighbors and the world at large. The challenge of this critical time is to not be resigned to violence in the world. We must work extra hard to find the roots of violence within ourselves. I was reminded of Gandhi’s response to the violence and riots in India. For all his teachings on nonviolence he would fast and pray for forgiveness, often for months, for his own contribution to the riots.

Gold also added a particular insight for the gay and lesbian community. We must stop seeking our happiness in the external pleasures of life. “The greatest body, the greatest clothes, the greatest car, or the greatest house can make us happy only temporarily,” he said. We must all eventually turn inward and develop the peace of mind that creates “true happiness.” When gays and lesbians, as people and as a community, establish our own happiness, then we can truly join the world community. ■



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10 Places

to Share Your Wealth

Where to turn when you're seized by the holiday spirit

by Ann Walton Sieber

The holidays can be such a rich time—we really get to create for ourselves what we want as a family and home in our lives. As we invent our own perfect holidays, the richness of spirit often calls us to give of ourselves and our relative wealth to those around us who are in needier times. Here are some ways in which you can

take that generous spirit and extend it out to your wider community. We've focused on local grassroots groups (with one exception) who have few or no paid staff, and who we know do good and important work. Of course, picking only 10 causes is difficult, and there are many many worthy organizations that we have not listed.



AIDS Housing Coalition of Houston

After being diagnosed HIV positive, many people find themselves caught up in a downward spiral that can result in homelessness and addiction. Spearheaded by community personality Matt Locklin, the AIDS Housing Coalition of Houston provides a much-needed place for people to get back on their feet and put their lives back together. "We're not a giveaway program here," Locklin says. "This group is about self-empowerment." The all-volunteer organization takes no government grants and supports itself through the after-hours Club Insomnia. A \$25 donation will buy such needed items as gasoline vouchers, toothbrushes and razors, supplementary food. A \$100 donation will underwrite utilities on one of the 10 units.

202 Tuam Ave., Houston 77006, 713/521-1613



AssistHers

Realizing that lesbians "have behavioral risk factors that put us at greater risk for late diagnosis and therefore greater mortality from certain diseases like cancer," 25 Houston lesbian leaders founded AssistHers to provide health education and assistance to Houston women whose "emotional, social, or sexual relationships are primarily with other women." AssistHers coordinates care teams, plus organizes health education for its members and outreach education to area physicians to provide them with information on the health needs of lesbians. Founded five years ago, AssistHers has trained more than 350 volunteers (including several men) and donated thousands of hours of care to 56 critically ill lesbian women. According to the *Washington Blade*, women in other parts of the country are starting similar programs "based on the success of AssistHers." In addition to donating money, if you're looking for a rewarding

way to get involved in women helping other women, consider volunteering.

P.O. Box 541095, Houston 77254-1095
713/521-4628



Gulf Coast Archives and Museum of GLBT History (GCAM)

"The Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History is a place for all people to read and learn and see firsthand what it has been like for those who have gone before us in this battle for equality," says GCAM's Judy Reeves. "Without them, we would all be suffering mightily. And without GCAM, those coming now or in the future would not know of the heroic battles fought and won... one slogan or chant at a time." Located at 1609 West Main #4, GCAM needs money for rent and for preserving its ever-mounting collection of precious artifacts. "Most people have no clue as to why we need money," says Reeves. "They don't realize that every single T-shirt needs to be cleaned and kept in plastic, dresses and costumes need bags and chips to repel varmints, paper has to be handled carefully, and cotton or plastic gloves should be worn to handle [especially] older paper."

P.O. Box 130192, Houston 77219
713/227-5973, info@gcam.org, www.gcam.org



James Byrd Jr. Foundation for Racial Healing

After the horrific murder of James Byrd Jr., his family responded with one of the best examples in memory of transforming hate into love—for all people. In their stand against hate crimes, the Byrd family has insisted that sexual orientation be included, culminating triumphantly in the May passage of Texas's James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act. Byrd's mother, Stella Byrd, was a moving speaker at the HRC gala. As part of their response to hate, the Byrd family operates a foundation whose goal is educating the public in tolerance and respect for our diverse

society. "We are focused more on changing hearts than any other aspect," says Darrell Varrett, Byrd's cousin. "Since education is one of the keys to racial harmony, we travel around the states giving speeches to young and old, and we also give out at least two scholarships a year." In addition, they operate an oral history project in which victims can tell their stories on tape.

James Byrd Jr. Foundation for Racial Healing
PMB #244, 12180 Greenspoint Drive
Houston 77060



Lesbian and Gay Community Center

Home is where the heart is, and the Lesbian and Gay Community Center seeks to provide a safe (and fun) home for Houston's queer community. Run by a network of dedicated volunteers, the center is such a lean and mean operation that most donations go to rent, utilities, and basic supplies. A \$25 contribution will cover approximately half of the Time-Warner cable bill for one month. Having cable allows the center to open the house for television events, including the Matthew Shepherd film on MTV and, of course, Comets games. A \$100 contribution will underwrite the center's insurance bill for one month.

P.O. Box 2304, Houston 77252-2304
713/524-3818



Q-Patrol

Q-Patrol was formed 10 years ago following the gay-bashing murder of Paul Broussard in the Pacific Street area. Since then, the Q-Patrol volunteers have dedicated themselves to making sure the Montrose streets are safe on weekends. "We saw in the last election that we have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go," says Q-Patrol chairman Chris Arasin. "As long as there still is the opportunity for trouble in the Montrose community, we will do the best that we can to stand in and stand up for

Fred Haas

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7 PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Foundation

Because HISD and other area school districts do not yet have any policies against harassment of GLBT students, our youth often end up isolated and not knowing where to turn. With this in mind PFLAG and H.A.T.C.H. combined forces to create a separate nonprofit foundation that offers a scholarship fund to GLBT youth, ages 17-26. In just the four short years it has been in existence, the foundation has become the largest local scholarship fund for GLBT youth in the country. "Our next leaders are going to be these young people," says Kevin Davidson, who started the H.A.T.C.H. component of the scholarship, along with Gary Van Ootegham. "We have to have some educated people to work on these civil rights issues. Ignorance breeds contempt and contempt breeds ignorance."

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To apply: www.pflaghouston.org,
or call 713/942-7002

8 Pride Committee of Houston
When confronting fear and hate, the most empowering response is to show one's pride in all our human fabulousness. The Pride Committee may well be the most upbeat and effective group working in Houston's GLBT community. Although June Pride Month is their time to shine, they work year-round to put on events that "showcase our GLBT community in all of its diversity." This energized cadre of volunteers makes pride a living presence in our town. "Surveys show that when we come out to the people around us, and when people are educated about real GLBT lives, bigotry diminishes," says Pride executive director Jack Valenski. "The mission of Pride—celebrating individual pride, commemorating our community's history, and educating society—can change the world."

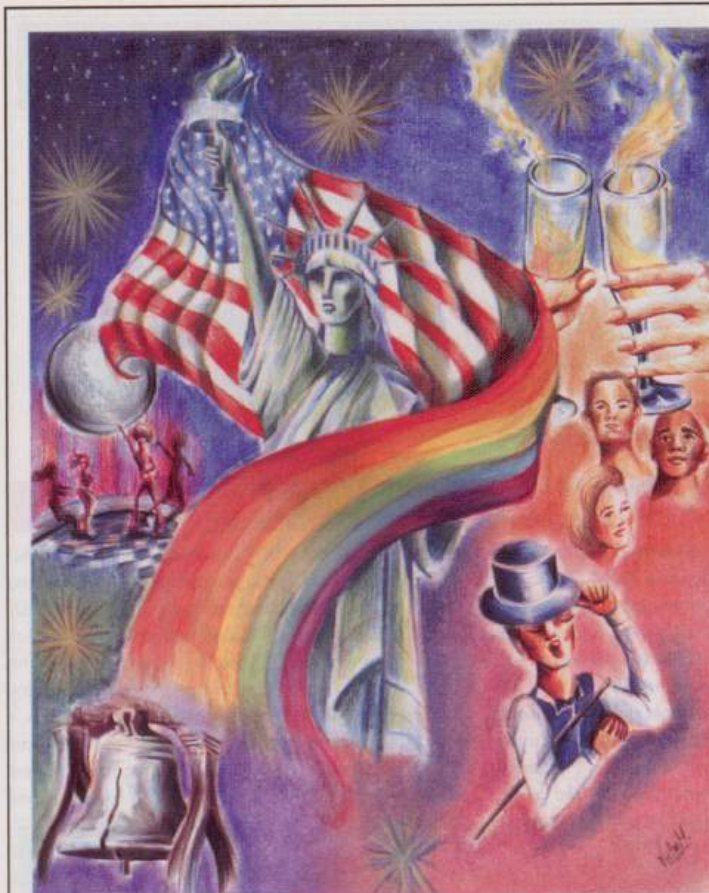
P.O. Box 66071, Houston 77266
713/529-6979

9 Transgender Halfway House
When transgender people find themselves caught in the bleak cycle of homelessness, they often have nowhere to go, since regular homeless shelters aren't safe. This dearth of services became starkly apparent last year when community activists tried and couldn't find so-

cial service help for a young transgender woman who had been kicked out by her family. The transgender community of Houston (led by the group C.A.T.S., Community Awareness for Transgender Support) decided to take action, and in January they opened a four-bed halfway house in Galveston for transgender people, the first in the country. Operating on a shoestring, the shelter needs money for basically everything.

C.A.T.S. 52nd St. House Fund
c/o Capital Bank
3007 S. Shepherd Dr., Houston 77098
409/621-1004, tghelp@tghelp.org

10 Tsungirirai Community
Former Houstonian and GLBT activist Arden O'Donnell has created a Houston-Africa link with her work at Tsungirirai, a grass-roots agency that provides care for AIDS orphans living in the high-density suburbs of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. They provide meals, school funds, psycho-social support, and basic medication to 87 orphans. Our money goes so far over there: \$10 provides breakfast and lunch for one child for one month, while \$100 provides school supplies for all agency orphans for one trimester. Friends of Tsungirirai
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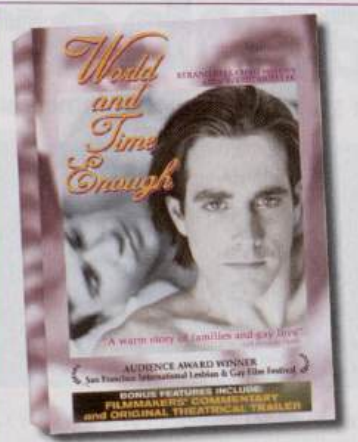
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Pink Flamingos/Female Trouble

Babs Johnson and Dawn Davenport—in a word, Divine. In *Pink Flamingos*, she's Babs, "The Filthiest Person Alive," a title she earns by eating s-t... literally. In *Female Trouble*, she's Dawn, a mean teen who turns to a life of crime when her parents fail to give her cha-cha heels for Christmas! Either way, Divine is divine, and it doesn't hurt that our "family" friend John Waters directed both "classics." Together for the first time on DVD (\$29.95) from New Line Home Entertainment. It includes a theatrical trailer and audio commentary by Waters. *Female Trouble* is also available on VHS at \$19.98. Waters' 2-DVD sets, including *Hairspray*/Pecker and *Polyester*/*Desperate Living*, have been previously released.



Hedwig and the Angry Inch

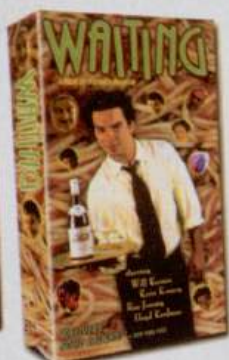
Winner of the 2001 Sundance Film Festival Audience and Best Director awards, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* is all dressed up for the holidays. Director John Cameron Mitchell stars as Hedwig, born a boy named Hansel whose life's dream is to find his "other half." In order to marry an American G.I. and get over the Berlin Wall to freedom, Hedwig has a sex-change operation, which leaves her with an "angry inch." Great directorial debut, great music, great movie. The Platinum Edition DVD from New Line Home Entertainment, to be released on December 11 at \$24.98, features filmmaker commentary, an original feature-length documentary, deleted scenes, and much more. Get more Hedwig at www.get-hed.com.

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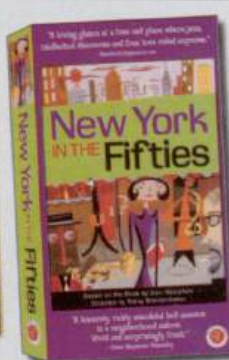
24 Nights

This comedy, which covers a period from Dec. 1 to Christmas, doesn't get interesting until mid month. One of the best exchanges is between the lead character's sister (The Sopranos' Aida Turturro) and a potential beau for her brother: He says he works with manic depressives; she says, "What a coincidence. [My brother] is a huge Patty Duke fan."



Waiting

All the characters in this politically incorrect comedy are stereotypical to the hilt, and most of them are pretty bad actors to boot. The straight lead character (Will Keenan) is a natural, however; but the S&M lesbian (Kerri Kenney) gives him a close run for the money... and that ain't all she gives him. Besides, *Waiting* has garnered three festival audience awards.



New York...

Interesting facts about the New York scene in the '50s from writers and filmmakers (Joan Didion, Robert Redford, among many others); clips from the '50s are interspersed with the interviews. It was hip to smoke and drink excessively during that period, and the consensus is that the assassination of John Kennedy changed the scene.

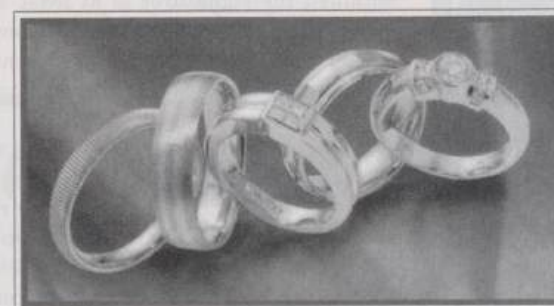


First Love...

One of *Them* is a sweet story set in the '60s about two gay teens seriously in the closet, not even out to each other... yet their talk is about fashion design! *First Love and Other Pains* is a love story between a Hong Kong college student and his tres unhappy alcoholic English instructor... talk about opposites attracting. A watchable film, however.

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On Tuesday, September 11, I was just finishing my morning coffee and watching the news when "Breaking News" suddenly appeared on the TV screen. I stared in disbelief as I saw the horror of the jet colliding into the first tower at the World Trade Center in New York City. In a few minutes, I watched as the same thing happened to the second tower and then later to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. I spent most of the rest of that day listening to the news and praying. I have continued to listen to the news and pray every day since then, but more and more I have found myself wondering, as a gay man and a Christian, why it happened and how to react.

I remember the invasion of Poland; the Holocaust; the bombing of cities in Europe; Pearl Harbor Day; Iwo Jima; Inchon; Beirut; the bombings of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Tokyo; the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City; and so many, many other horrible events. However, few have hit quite as close to me as what happened on September 11, 2001.

I lived in New York City for three years while going to seminary there. It was in New York City that I met another gay man, Harry Gibson, and it was there that we began our 45-year relationship of love and oneness. Because I'm a student of American history, Washington, D.C., has been one of my favorite places to spend a vacation, including one of the happiest vacations I ever spent with my parents. It was in Washington on April 29, 2000 (our 45th anniversary), that Harry and I stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial and were introduced as a long-term gay couple to thousands of people during the Millennium March on Washington. That was almost the last time Harry was able to be out in public before he died three months later.

It isn't just because of these personal associations that I'm numbed by the events of September 11; it's because of what I as a gay man and a Christian perceive is their cause. I've heard them described as acts of "terrorism" and been told that we are now at war against "terror." To me these acts were much more than "terror"—they were acts of hate. Unfortunately, it seems more politically correct to speak about "crimes of terror" than to speak about "crimes of hate." Just consider how difficult it's been to get "hate crime laws" enacted.

The lives of countless men and women have been ended by crimes of hate, including at least five gay men to whom I feel connected: Houstonians Paul Broussard, Fred Mangione (a one-time housemate of fellow Resurrection MCC pastor Rev. Carolyn Mobley), Fred Paez, and Jose Campos Torres—as well as Matthew Shepherd (whose murder probably occurred on ranchland in



on September 11

Jesus taught love, not hate,
and he requires his faithful
followers to love others.

I try to be one of
his faithful followers,
but sometimes
it is very difficult.

by Rev. Ralph Lasher

my native state of Wyoming once owned by members of my family). I believe that was also what ended the lives of thousands of persons in New York and Washington. The magnitude of the crimes of hate on September 11 was greater, but all of these killings and many others have been crimes of hate. To me both as a gay man and a Christian, they aren't terror, they're hate.

I believe that our nation has no alternative but to respond strongly to the September 11 crimes. But at the same time that we are seeking justice, I believe as a Christian that as individuals and as a nation we should not ourselves strike out in blind hate. Regrettably, that's being done in the U.S. by attacks on adults and children of Middle Eastern origin, as well as on businesses and houses of worship. Especially shocking and offensive to me were the statements of two Christian ministers, Rev. Jerry Falwell and Rev. Pat Robertson. A day or two after the attacks in New York and Washington, Falwell said that what happened had been brought about by the actions of non-Christians, the federal courts, gays and lesbians, and pro-abortion advocates whose behavior had caused God to remove a protective veil from the United States of America. Robertson said that he

agreed. That is hate! Since then, both of these men have been trying without much success to explain away their words of hate. What about Mr. Wilson here in Houston who obtained the signatures of at least 20,000 voters to force a vote designed to deny the same rights to gay and lesbian citizens that are given to heterosexual citizens? That, too, is hate!

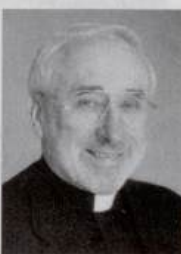
How should I as a gay man and a Christian respond to hate? How do I as a gay man and a Christian believe that our nation should respond to the events of September 11? Because those of us who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered are frequent victims of hate, I feel that we should be especially sensitive to these questions.

I don't believe that hate will ever be overcome by hate. I know that Jesus never preached hate; he preached love, and he requires that his followers love others as he loves us. Does this mean that I believe that we ought to stop military action against bin Laden and his al-Qaeda? As a follower of Jesus Christ, do I think that we ought to be trying to overcome our adversary, hate, with love?

Discussing this issue the other day with a woman friend, I said: "I'm afraid that it's too late for love." She responded: "I hope it's never too late for love." Wow! That got me thinking, and I'm still thinking. I recall that in South Africa, Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu responded with Christian love to the people who had brutally oppressed their people for so many years. They required only that they acknowledge their offenses and express regret for them. In return, forgiveness was given. That certainly was love and appears to have worked. I also recall that Pope John Paul II visited the man in prison who had tried to kill him and forgave him. That was also love.

Would this approach work with bin Laden and his followers? I don't have an answer to that question, except that I don't have a clue. I honestly don't know. There certainly doesn't seem to be any overwhelming sentiment in America to try to "win" by love, while judging from the polls there seems to be a huge majority supporting what is being done. Not many persons have signed on to the suggestions of an activist in our Houston GLBT community that we consider forgiving the killers of Paul Broussard.

It isn't easy to be gay, and it isn't easy to be a Christian. Being both gay and a Christian is often doubly difficult. This is certainly one of those times.



Ralph Lasher is assistant pastor at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church.

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT FEVER

by Lauren Johnson

Four years later, Bocados quietly becomes a Montrose institution with fresh food... and that Wednesday night phenomenon

It's a balmy winter evening in Montrose, and you are sitting out on the deck of a local restaurant in stylish metal patio chairs. Your server sets your plate in front of you: creamy seafood enchiladas stuffed with seafood you actually recognize, like shrimp and fresh crabmeat. The cheese melted on top of them is generously rich, and the accompanying refried beans are free of that greasy red stuff that makes you want to clean your tongue with a Brillo pad. Or



Lily Hernandez (left) and Terry Flores

perhaps on this day you have ordered snapper relleno, real red snapper (not some imitation fish like drum) stuffed with shrimp and spinach. Or perhaps the carnivore that you are has gotten the best of you, and you are hungrily devouring the last juicy bites of your carne guisada, beef tips slow-cooked in a heady tomato-based sauce studded with bay leaves and meltingly soft red peppers.

Quick now: Where are you?

What if I told you that it's Wednesday night, and as you finish your tres leches, crowds of lesbians begin to descend upon the place? Tables are pushed back, speakers are pulled into place, and a dance floor is formed. More and more women arrive until they line the pastel walls, spill out onto the patio, and jam the bar three-bodies deep. The co-owner, a diminutive, attractive Hispanic woman with wavy brown hair, spins everything from salsa to house to good old '70s disco music, and everybody dances like mad until the owners kick them all out around 1:30 in the morning.

Okay, you guessed it. Where else but Bocados?

Bocados has been an intricate part of our community almost since the moment it opened in December of 1997. In a town known for great Mexican food, Bocados has carved out its own niche by focusing its menu around the absolutely freshest seafood its owners can get their hands on. Guess what, folks: This ain't Tex-Mex.

"I used to watch my mom working in her kitchen when I was a kid in North Houston," says Terry Flores, one of Bocados' two lesbian owners, perched on a barstool early on a recent Wednesday night. "I remember everything she used to do. Although I never helped her as a kid—it's only now that I'm grown up that I've become helpful!" Flores had always known that she would open her own restaurant someday. When Flores described her vision to college friend Lily Hernandez, the two became a restaurant team. "I'm the bean counter," cracks Hernandez, who is a CPA. "Every business needs one." More seriously, she adds, "The back office suits me; I'm the shy one of the two of us. Terry's the one out there talking to the customers and doing the socializing."

With Flores watching over the front of the house and Hernandez keeping tabs on the books, Bocados had a strong start in its first year. "That was our biggest surprise," laughs Flores. "We expected the first year to be much harder."

And what about this Wednesday night phenomenon? Flores and Hernandez have to laugh when I ask how it all started. "It was just all our lesbian buddies, coming over to hang out. It started with about 10 or 15 women," Flores recalls. "Suddenly, before we knew it, it was 25, then 35, and the next thing I knew I was saying, 'Hey, let's get a DJ!'"

But DJs for hire were notoriously unreliable. So in her particular "let's get it done" style, Flores parlayed her lifelong passion for music (she has a record collection of between 300 and 400 albums) into a new role for herself: Bocados's staff disc jockey. "I told Lily, let's just buy the equipment and I'll do the work. It paid

for itself in the first year. Easily."

As a DJ, Flores calmly works the soundboard on Wednesday nights while flashing disco balls and colored lights transform the serene homey restaurant space into a high-energy dance club. Local celebs like Sheryl Swopes and Annise Parker periodically show up to enjoy the scene. "What I like about Wednesdays is that we seem to get a good mix of people week to week," Terry says, and Lily nods agreement. "You'll see one group in here one week, then not the next, but then back the week after that. It changes all the time."

Despite the buzz of Wednesday nights, Bocados is, first and foremost, an excellent place to eat. "It's important to us to be very hands on, to keep our food simple, but to also keep things constantly changing so our customers will have something to look forward to. We like to be here, saying hi to people, calling them by name. And people like that, I think."

Help Bocados celebrate their fourth anniversary on Sunday, December 9, 2 p.m., with complimentary appetizers, and live entertainment by Tropi Crew.

Carne Guisada

Serves 4-6

This is a recipe Terry learned from her mother, longtime Houston resident Rachel Flores.

5 lbs. beef tips
1 tsp. cumin
About 15 bay leaves
1 can whole peeled tomatoes (14 oz.)
8 oz. tomato sauce
Salt and pepper to taste

Brown the beef tips in a large stew pot. Add the cumin and salt and pepper. Add tomatoes and tomato sauce and stir, scraping up the brown bits on the bottom of the pan. Add the bay leaves and turn the heat to low. Cover and simmer for 25-30 minutes, or until meat is tender. If your sauce is too thick, you can add small amounts of beef stock or water to thin it, but use sparingly. Serve with rice and beans.

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Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

3, 10, 17 (Mon.)

Ab Fab. At press time, the last three of the six new episodes of *Absolutely Fabulous* were scheduled to air on the first three Mondays of this month at 8 pm on Comedy Central. Repeats were scheduled to air on Saturdays at 2 pm (the 8th, 15th, & 22nd). For more info: www.comedycentral.com.

5 (Wed.)

Free Pap Tests. Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas is giving free pap tests for cervical cancer at its 10 clinics. All women are welcome and encouraged to make an appointment by calling 713/831-6540.

5, 12, 19, 26 (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 2-5 pm on the 12th in Conroe at Northwoods AIDS Coalition, 1414 South Frazier, Ste. 106. Info: 936/441-1614.

9 (Sun.)

Anniversary Party. Bocados Restaurant is gearing up with a fresh new look for its 4-year anniversary party & benefit for the Sept. 11 disaster fund. All are invited to attend this annual event held at Bocados, 1312 W. Alabama. For time/more info: 713/523-5230.

11 (Tue.)

Deadline. Today is the deadline for your *OutSmart* Calendar submissions for our January issue. You can fax them by dialing 713/522-3275 or e-mail them to calendar@outsmartmagazine.com.

13 (Thu.)

Family to Family Adoption. A nonprofit licensed agency, is offering free seminars on adopting a child in less than a year. They currently have programs in the U.S., China, Vietnam, Russia, Bulgaria, Guatemala, & other countries. They work with single men, women, & couples 25-65 years of age. Everyone will be given a free info package. 6:30-8:30 pm @ Bellaire Medical Center (boardroom), 5314 Dashwood. Info: 281/342-4042.

Deadline for *OutSmart's* January issue is 5 p.m., Tuesday, December 11.

PLANNING AHEAD

JANUARY

January 11 (Fri.)

Margaret Cho. This past fall, the one and only Cho hit the road with her new comedy concert tour, "The Notorious C.H.O." She describes the material in this show as raw and raunchy. Is that somehow different from her previous show, "I'm the One That I Want"? No matter, we're gonna be there. The proud recipient of a Lambda Liberty Award, Margaret Cho won the first-ever GLAAD Golden Gate Award for being "an entertainment pioneer who has made a significant difference in promoting equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity." Call Aerial Theater box office or Ticketmaster for tickets (\$29-\$46.50) or visit www.cc.com. Need more Cho? Visit www.margaretcho.com.



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—TUE., DEC. 11.**

NEXT YEAR

November 2-9, 2002 (Sat.-Sat.)

2002 Sydney Gay Games. The Houston Montrose Athletic Association with Mark Hoyer of American Express Travel will be the resource contact for the Houston contingent that will be going to the games. Hoyer has worked out a travel package that includes discounted hotel & flight rates. Visit the 2002 Sydney Gay Games website at www.sydneystay2002.org.au for more info about the events & registration. For reservations: Mark at 713/365-6266 (reservation cost \$210).

PERFORMING ARTS

◆ **For Marrieds Only.** The historic Strand Theatre in downtown Galveston will return to innocent days of a 1930s honeymoon night, a time when sex was considered "for marrieds only." The comedy is set on a wedding night near the end of the Great Depression when a very proper young bride brings a doctor-prescribed marriage manual to her honeymoon and insists on doing her wedding night "by the book." Texas Theatrical Productions decided to bring the comedy to Galveston as a "Save Our Strand" benefit to help the theater through what has been a difficult financial year. 8 pm, Dec. 21 & 22. Tickets are \$20 (adults) & \$15 (seniors/students). Reservations/info: the Strand at 409/763-4591.

◆ **Into the Woods** is Theatre Under The Stars' premiere production that offers a fairy tale with a twist. Written by Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine, it intertwines familiar fairy tales with an original story about a baker & his wife. In the first act, the characters set out to achieve their "happily ever after" through familiar routes—Cinderella captures the Prince's heart at the ball; Jack encounters giants after climbing the beanstalk; Little Red Riding Hood escapes from the wolf; and Rapunzel lets down her hair & escapes with a prince. The baker & his wife move through their stories while pursuing their own goal—ingredients for a magic potion that will remove the curse put on them by the witch next door. Those ingredients are a slipper as pure as gold, which the baker's wife gets from Cinderella; a cow as white as milk, which is gotten from Jack in exchange for the magic beans; a cape as red as blood, which is gotten from Little Red Riding Hood; and hair as yellow as corn, which they get from Rapunzel. The ingredients are



around the world. See it on its first national tour following its recent record-breaking Broadway run. Dec. 25-30 @ Jones Hall. Tickets (\$30-\$55) are available at Ticketmaster locations, online at www.ticketmaster.com, or charge by phone at 713/629-3700.

◆ **Cats.** The original production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats* opened at the New London Theatre in the West End in 1981. Eight years later, it celebrated both its birthday & another important milestone: It had become the longest-running musical in the history of the British theater. It is also one of the most successful musicals the world has ever seen and has played to packed houses

gathered, and the spell works, stripping the witch of her power, but restoring her beauty. At the end of Act I, all characters are poised to live "happily ever after." Act II, however, explores what "happily ever after" really means! December 4-16 @ Arena Theatre, 7326 Southwest Frwy. Tickets (\$18-\$57), which can be purchased by calling 800-678-5440, are also available at TUTS box office, or at any Ticketmaster outlet. Tickets can also be bought & printed online using TUTS' E-Ticket System at www.tuts.com.

◆ **Lilies of the Field.** Homer Smith, an ex-GI, takes a drive through the American Southwest searching for purpose. Meanwhile, a group of German-speaking nuns hope to realize their dream of building a chapel. When their lives collide, they discover rewards far greater than they ever thought possible. Tickets are \$12 (students/seniors \$10). Through Jan. 12, Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1216. Reservations recommended.

◆ **Marriage Can Murder** takes place at the wedding of Stephanie & Phil. A scheming lawyer, a hallucinating best man, & a sister fresh from the psycho ward further complicate matters. To say nothing of the dead body on the floor. This Mystery Café production plays @ Prima Pasta restaurant, 2710 Richmond. Reservations are required. For more

info: 713/944-CLUE or www.mysterycafehouston.com.

◆ **Romance/Romance.** This sophisticated musical celebrates straight courtship, love, & fidelity in two different centuries as lovers discover the timeless truths of romantic relationships. Through Dec. 30 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets (\$32-\$42) are available at the Stages box office or by calling 713/527-0123 or at www.stageshouston.com.

◆ **Saint Nicholas.** Call the theater for info. Tickets are \$22 (Sundays \$20). Through Dec. 22 @ Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo (just off the 2100 block of Houston Ave.), 713/868-7516.

◆ **She Loves Me.** This unconventional love story tells the tale of a man & woman (coworkers) in a fragrance shop in the 1930s, who each fall in love by correspondence—without knowing that it is to each other. Tickets are \$19 (students/seniors \$17). Through Dec. 15 @ The Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury, 713/467-4497.

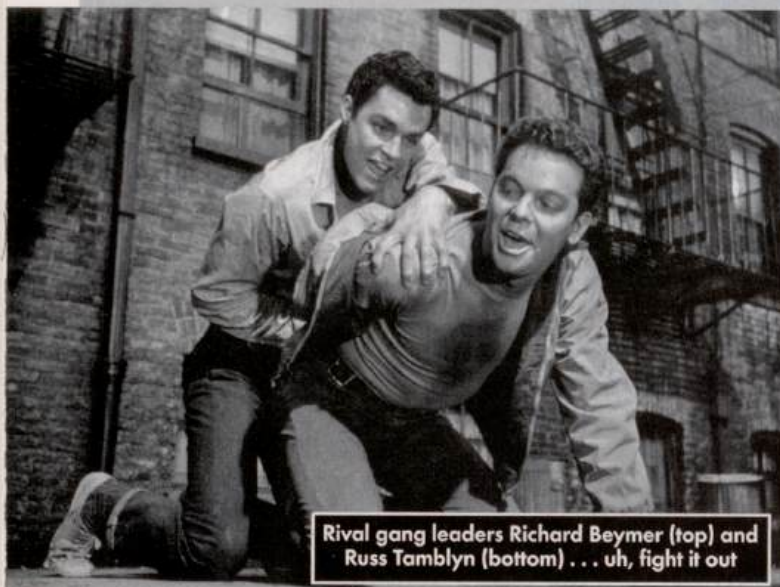
RADIO

◆ **After Hours.** Saturdays, midnight to 3 am. Featuring the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Carper. KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-5738.

◆ **Lesbian & Gay Voices.** Mondays, 8-10 pm. Features, news, music, interviews, reviews, and commentary. KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-4000. →

WEST SIDE STORY

I like to be in America at Houston's Museum of Fine Arts



Rival gang leaders Richard Beymer (top) and Russ Tamblyn (bottom) ... uh, fight it out

West Side Story could be titled *Gay Side Story* ... if you dig deep enough. First, Leonard Bernstein wrote the songs; though the now-deceased composer never yelled "I'M GAY," his homosexuality has been widely discussed. Second, choreographer Jerome Robbins died without ever discussing his homosexuality. Third, lyricist Stephen Sondheim doesn't really discuss his homosexuality, but it was made obvious in his biography. Fourth, writer Arthur Laurents is gay. Fifth, actress Rita Moreno was one of the first celebrities to do a benefit for AIDS, and she performed on the first RSVP gay cruise with a show (when asked in the February issue of *OutSmart* if she would kiss a woman for a role, she said, "Of course I would!"). Sixth, let's go ahead and mention that rumor about Natalie Wood's husband Robert Wagner (allegedly bisexual) and the fact that Wood seriously dated gay actor Raymond Burr. Seventh, just take a look at that photograph! • Now, forget about all the "gay" stuff ... *West Side Story* is just a damned good film. The 1961 musical stars Wood, Richard Beymer, Moreno, George Chakiris, and Russ Tamblyn, and it takes place in the late 1950s in the Upper West Side of New York City, with street gangs, racial strife, inner-city problems, juvenile delinquency ... sounds like 2001. Bernstein's songs are amazing, and Robbins's choreography is exceptional. *West Side Story* won 10 Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director (Robert Wise and Robbins), Best Supporting Actress (Moreno), and Best Supporting Actor (Chakiris). —Blase DiStefano

What: *West Side Story*

When: Sat. & Sun., Dec. 15 & 16 (7 p.m.)

Where: Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium (1001 Bissonnet)

Cost: \$5 (students/seniors/members \$4)

Info: 713/630-7515 or www.mfah.org

THE BLUE ANGEL

Marlene Dietrich can't help falling in love again at Rice Cinema

Marlene Dietrich ignites the silver screen with her sultry performance as Lola Lola, the star attraction at The Blue Angel, a seedy nightclub in a small German port town. Confiscating from his rowdy students a postcard featuring the famed cabaret singer, Professor Rath (Emil Jannings) visits The Blue Angel to scold Lola for debasing the morals of his young male students. However, the professor soon finds himself helplessly in love with the sadistic temptress, resulting in a scandal that leaves him unemployed. Marrying Lola and becoming a performer in her traveling troupe, Rath is forced to play the clown, a painful reminder of his relationship with Lola. When an opportunity arises for the troupe to return to The Blue Angel, the former professor is forced to go onstage with Lola where he is humiliated by his former students and townsmen. • Featuring Dietrich's famed German version of "Falling in Love Again," *The Blue Angel* single-handedly launched the careers of Dietrich and director Josef von Sternberg, resulting in a mutually productive partnership that would yield a total of six mesmerizing productions. • Rice Cinema presents this exclusive Houston engagement of the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Stiftung's newly remastered director's cut struck from the original negative material. Also included is Dietrich's screen test for the role that would make her a star. (*The Blue Angel* [Der Blaue Engel]: 1930; 106 min.; BW; Germany, in German with English subtitles.) —Kristian Salinas



Marlene Dietrich (with top hat) as Lola Lola and to her right is Rosa Valetti as Guste

What: *The Blue Angel*

When: Wed.-Sun., Dec. 12-16 (7 & 9:15 p.m.)

Where: Rice Cinema (University Blvd. @ Stockton)

Cost: \$5 (students/seniors \$4)

Info: 713/348-4853 or www.ruf.rice.edu/~cinema

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Calendar
continued from previous page

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

♦ **Curiously Strong.** Started in 1998, the Altoids Curiously Strong Collection of contemporary art is a showcase for some of the most talented, emerging visual artists working in America today. The collection, comprised of work in a variety of media including photography, video, mixed media, sculpture, painting, & digital art, represents innovation & risk-taking not often seen in corporate collecting strategies. DiverseWorks rounds out a national tour of this exhibition before the works become a part of the permanent collection of the New Museum of Contemporary Art (New York). Dec. 7-Jan. 5 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. Opening reception: Friday, Dec. 7, 6-8 pm. For more info: 713/335-3445.

♦ **Iggi Green: Dreams of Other Nightmares.** Seattle-based artist Iggi Green presents us with a dark collection of meticulously crafted fabric figures that are adorable, charming, & jarringly frightening. Green sculpts her cast of characters out of fur, beads, buttons, taxidermy or cast resin eyes, and antique scraps of fabric sewn tightly over wire armatures. Her figures include grotesque & misshapen human forms, menacing animals & monsters, and animated plants & vegetables which shimmy & shake to melodies provided by music boxes hidden in the work. The hand-sewn quality of Green's sculpture is intentionally evident, and the overarching social commentary is inescapable. Green's nightmares come to life in this exhibition that promises to engage, terrify, & ultimately delight. Dec. 7-Jan. 5 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. Opening reception: Friday, Dec. 7, 6-8 pm. More info: 713/335-3445.

♦ **Ikasu.** a new installation by Liga Pang, will transform the Rice Gallery with a room-sized sculptural form composed of a delicate mesh fashioned by hand from bamboo twigs. With the assistance of four of her Japanese students, Pang worked full-time over the course of an entire month to painstakingly assemble the fragile curtain of bamboo twigs. To obtain the twigs, Pang & her assistants carefully dismantled over 100 large brooms of the type traditionally used in Japan for sweeping outdoor gardens. Pang's transformation of dead, brittle bamboo twigs into things of exquisite beauty is embodied in the title of the exhibition, *Ikasu*, a Japanese word that means "to give life to." The exhibit will be on view through Dec. 9 @ Rice University Art Gallery (in the main academic quadrangle of the Rice campus). For more info: 713/348-6069 or www.rice.edu/ruag.

♦ **Master Drawings from the Cleveland Museum of Art.** The works range in date from the 15th century to 1965, and include especially important works by Italian artists of the 16th century and French artists of the 18th & 19th centuries. Raphael, Michelangelo, Picasso, Matisse... just to name a few. Through Jan. 6 in the Museum of Fine Arts' Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main St. More info: 713/639-7379. TDD/TTY for hearing impaired: 713/639-7390.

♦ **Raw Abstractions** are works on canvas from contemporary abstract painter Michelle Y. Williams. The exhibition will run through January @ La Strada Restaurant, 322 Westheimer. There will be an opening reception for Williams at La Strada from 7-11 pm on Wed., Dec. 5.

CALENDAR DEADLINE
for OutSmart's January issue is
Tuesday, Dec. 11, 5 p.m.

HOLIDAY EVENTS HOLIDAY EVENTS

Calendar

Theater

♦ **All About Christmas Eve.** Is Santa's new helper Yves a helpful North Pole groupie or a conniving upstart? Close-harmony ensemble Quoz presents the new one-act musical. Songs include "I Wish Your Inner Child Would Grow Up." 8 pm, **December 18-20**, @ Theatre New West, 1415 California. Tickets are \$15. Reservations: 713-394-0464.

♦ **Black Nativity** by Langston Hughes. The power of this holiday classic is two stories fueled by glorious gospel music and dance. The first story, set in Bethlehem, recreates the splendor of the first Nativity and birth of Christ. The second story is set today in Harlem, New York, where the congregation gathers for an eventful Christmas Eve service at the Harlem River Drive Full-Gospel Church. There deacons, elders, young professionals, the faithful and old, and young at heart drawn by the light of Christmas move audiences to laugh, shout, and make a joyful noise. Through December 30 @ The Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main St., 713/520-0055.

Holiday Humor



Jaston Williams (l) & Joe Sears

♦ **A Tuna Christmas.** Your holiday season couldn't possibly be complete without Tuna. Celebrating their 12th anniversary in Galveston, *A Tuna Christmas* returns this year for eight performances. This laugh-filled special is best described as "a longhorn version of The Night Before Christmas." It stars original cast members and Tony nominee, Joe Sears, and Jaston Williams, who portray all 24 denizens of Texas' third-smallest town "where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies." *Tuna* is no turkey! Tickets range from \$11-\$48 (and worth every penny). **December 11-16**, Tues.-Fri. evenings at 8 pm; Sat. at 2 & 8 pm; and Sun. at 2 & 7 pm, at Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 409/765-1894; www.thegrand.com.

♦ **A Christmas Carol.** This ambitious production incorporates projections & other contemporary techniques to create the nightmarish dream world that Dickens originally described in 1843. **Through December 30** @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets to preview performances before Dec. 11 are \$37-\$50; tickets to performances on or after Dec. 11 are \$39-\$54. Tickets can be purchased at the Alley Theatre box office or online at www.alleytheatre.org or by calling 713/228-8421.

♦ **A Christmas Memory** is Truman Capote's heartwarming tale of the love between a young boy and his elderly "Aunt Sook," played by Bettye Fitzpatrick (who graced OutSmart's September 1997 cover). Tickets are \$7. **December 7-22** (all performances are at 12:15 or 1:30 pm—there are no evening performances) @ Christ Church Cathedral's Latham Auditorium, 1117 Texas Ave. (parking available in the Alright lot across San Jacinto from the cathedral). Reservations: 713/222-2593, ext. 335.

♦ **A Fertile Holiday** chronicles the Fertile family's trouble-ridden reunion as they attempt to entertain their rich relatives from San Diego. It doesn't help that the Fertile family lives in Dumpster, Texas. Suitable for all ages. Thursdays & Fridays at 8:30 pm, Saturdays at 8 & 10:30 pm, **through January 12** @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt. Desserts, munchies, champagnes, wines, beers, cappuccino, & soft drinks are available for purchase throughout the show. Admission is \$16, reservations are required, & tickets must be purchased in advance at the theater or by calling the box office at 713/522-7722.

♦ **Merry Christmas, Stregna Nona.** It's Christmastime in Italy, and Stregna Nona wants to prepare her annual Christmas feast. But her young apprentice Bambalona needs to return to the village the help her father run the local bakery. Never fear, Big Anthony is available! As the weeks pass, Big Anthony's clumsiness threatens to ruin all the plans. If Stregna Nona refuses to use her magic pasta pot during Christmas, there will be not be food for the feast. Find out how Big Anthony saves the day in this poignant, musical holiday treat. Recommended for pre-kindergarten through 4th grade. Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. For more info on family performances (**December 1, 8, & 15**): 713/524-6706. Info on school bookings (**through December 20**): 713/524-7998. More info: www.mainstreettheater.com

♦ **Rudolph Rides Again.** Santa has left Mrs. Santa's favorite elf, Alvin, in Houston on Christmas Eve. Elvis, Santa's tallest elf, suggests that Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer come out (no, that kind of coming out) of retirement & make the trip to find his missing friend. Join Elvis & Rudolph as they search for Alvin and meet up with silly burglars. 11 am & 1:30 pm on Saturdays, **through January 5, 2002**, @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets are \$6. Reservations recommended: 713/726-1219.

♦ **The Toys That Take Over Christmas.** For the 5th season, EarlyStages presents this play that celebrates the joy of human kindness and the comfort of love & affection. It's the story of Sunny, a rag doll that is transformed into a walking, talking, life-sized doll after the toymaker sprinkles her with magic dust. She meets and becomes friends with the other toys in the shop: a fashion doll, a French clown, and two soldiers. Director Chesley Krohn says of Toys, "For years audiences have valued this play as a reminder that although intolerance & impatience sometimes challenge our capacity for kindness & understanding, love & compassion win in the end." **Through December 22** at Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway. The play has been so popular that Stages is offering evening performances for the first time. Tickets are \$8. More information/reservations: 713/527-0123; www.stagestheatre.com.

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HOLIDAY EVENTS HOLIDAY EVENTS HOLIDAY EVENTS

Calendar

Spiritual

Follow the Star is the Christmas musical at 9 and 11 am on Sunday, **December 9**, and at 4 pm on Sunday, **December 16** • Monday, **December 24**, brings the Christmas Eve services at 6:30 pm (directed to children and families), 8:30 pm, and 10:30 pm. • Resurrection MCC, 2025 W. 11th, 713/861-9149; www.resurrectionmcc.org.

Handel's Messiah is the concert for the Christmas portion of the service on Sunday, **December 9**, at 10:50 am. • Christmas Eve Candlelight Services are at 7 and 11 pm on Monday, **December 24** • Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold at Mulberry, 713/526-1017; www.beringumc.org.

Love Came Down at Christmas will be the special Christmas music on Sunday, **December 16**, at 9:30 am. • On Monday, **December 24**, the Christmas Eve service begins at 6 pm. • Covenant Church, 4949 Caroline, 713/668-8830; www.covenanthouston.org.

Seasonal Changes is an evening of Advent lessons and carols, which will be offered during an informal eucharist service on Sunday, **December 16**, at 6 pm. • "Considering Christmas" includes excerpts from "For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio" by W.H. Auden at an informal eucharist service on Sunday, **December 30**, at 6 pm. • St. Stephen's is an open, inclusive church welcoming doubters and folks who resonate with the Christian story but can't sign on to a checklist of traditional beliefs. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama, 713/528-6665; www.ststephenshouston.org.

Yule Celebrations begin on Sunday, **December 16**, at 6 pm with a Yule Feast, in which everyone shares potluck holiday food; 8 pm rings in the Yule Festival, welcoming winter with a revue of seasonal music (while the adults enjoy the Yule Fest, toddlers through teens will be treated to displays of African-American, Jewish, pagan, Buddhist, and Native American holiday traditions); then at 9:30 pm, everyone joins in the Yule Drumming. • On Monday, **December 24**, at 8 pm is the Christmas Eve Candlelighting. • And on Monday, **December 31**, at 6 am is the World Peace Meditation, which is an hour of ceremony, prayer, & meditation followed by a continental breakfast. • Creative Life Spiritual Center, 5326 Spring-Stuebner, #200, Spring, Texas, 281/350-5157; www.creativelife.org.

The Christmas Show. Described by the Houston Press as "the funniest punk performance-art band ever to emerge from the underground art scene's primordial gatherings." Slump (Keith Reynolds and Cathy Power) has created an outrageous new work—The Christmas Show—just in time for the holidays. DiverseWorks' stage will be transformed into a demented North Pole complete with elf monkey/sweat shop

Adults Only



L-r: Keith Reynolds as Frosty, Noel Bowers as Santa, and Cathy Power as Mrs. Claus.

& 8, at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. Tickets \$12 (members \$10, students/seniors \$8). 24-hour reservations: 713/335-3445.

Miscellaneous

Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, the American decorative arts wing of the Museum of Fine Arts, celebrates the yuletide with seasonal decorations. This year's theme is "A Nation and Its Traditions." Eight rooms on the first floor of Bayou Bend, the former home of Houston philanthropist Ima Hogg, will be decorated to reflect seasonal events. The scenes include Christmas in the 17th century as it was celebrated by French refugees in America, a family party disrupted by an unruly crowd in 18th-century Boston, a card party in 18th-century Virginia, and Thanksgiving as it was observed in George Washington's day. Philadelphia Hall will reflect the Colonial Revival style of 1930 to 1950 with a 12-foot Christmas tree decorated with 2,000 ornaments. Bayou Bend is located at One Westcott St. in central Houston. Throughout December. Dates, times, admission fees vary. Info: 713/639-7750, www.mfah.org.

Christmas Tree Show. After this holiday season, a pine tree decorated with colorful ornaments & strings of lights may not be your only idea of a Christmas tree. A group of local artists challenge that conventional image with the works they create from a variety of materials from women's shoes to plastic buckets to ceramics. They will line Sesquicentennial Park along Buffalo Bayou through New Year's Day. Info: Buffalo Bayou ArtPark at 713/520-0152.

Heights Holidays. The 19th Street merchants present their annual holiday bash, "At Home in the Heights for the Holidays." Enjoy food & refreshments, strolling carolers, live bands, horse-drawn carriages, & Santa Claus. 19th Street stores feature fashions for men & women, original works of art, fun & unique gifts, home & loft furnishings, imported elements, & a vast assortment of antiques. 6-10 pm on Friday, **December 7**. Shops are located on 19th Street between Shepherd & Yale, exit from I-10 or Loop 610.

Ice-skating Outdoors. Continuing the downtown Houston holiday tradition, the Dynege Ice Plaza has transformed the area in front of the Wortham Theater into a winter wonderland. The rink is open seven days a week, and hours vary through January 6, 2002. It's located in Houston's Theater District in the 500 block of Texas Ave., adjacent to the Wortham Center & Sesquicentennial Park, across from Bayou Place. Admission is \$7, and skate rental

laborers, colossal paintings of a drunk Frosty the Snowman, and perverted reindeer. This show will "bring joy into people's hearts. It is a celebration, a great work of art, and a therapy session all wrapped into one," says Slump. 9 pm, Fri. & Sat., **December 7**

is an additional \$2 (tax included). Skating sessions last two hours. More info: 1-800-4-HOUSTON.

Dance

Houston Ballet. Return to the magical state of wonder you experienced as a child with this production of The Nutcracker. Set in 19th-century Germany, the ballet opens at a Christmas party where the mysterious magician Dr. Drosselmeyer gives his niece a magical toy that takes her on an unforgettable journey. Tickets are \$11.50-\$76.50. Through **December 30** @ the Wortham Theater Center, Texas at Smith streets.

Music

Cowboy Christmas. Turn back the clock to the wild west days and enjoy an encore performance of Cowboy Christmas with Michael Martin Murphey ("Wildfire" and "Geronimo's Cadillac"), who will again perform cowboy poetry, western songs, & other holiday hoedown jams, all mixed with his cracker-barrel ideas & homespun humor. On Saturday, **December 8**, Murphey performs at 8 pm in Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Tickets range from \$10-\$35; charge by phone at 713/629-3700 or purchase tickets online at www.spahouston.org. Murphey also appears in Galveston on Saturday, **December 22**. Tickets range from \$14.50-\$55. 8 pm @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 409/765-1894. Info: www.thegrand.com.

Early Christmas. This baroque music on period instruments includes Christmas carols by various composers from England, France, Germany, and Nouvelle France; Michel Corrette's *Symphonie de Noël* #4 in d minor; and Alessandro Scarlatti's *O di Betlemme altera*. Friday, **December 14**, at 8 pm @ Virginia Stuller Tatham Fine Arts Center, St. John's School, 2401 Claremont Lane. Tickets/info: 713/498-4853, e-mail Mercury@houston.rr.com; www.MercuryBaroqueEnsemble.org.

Jubilation. It's the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston's (GMCH) annual holiday concert with special guest Annalee Jefferies of the Alley Theatre. Soar with Randol Bass's *Gloria*, revel in the hilarious "What-If Carols," & indulge in a bit of nostalgia with "A Cup of Christmas Tea." This show shines with songs of light & traditional carols with an audience sing-along. Tickets at the door are \$18 (\$15 in advance from members; through Box Office Tickets at www.boxofficetickets.com or 800/494-8497; or at the GMCH website at www.gmch.org). **December 8, 9, & 11**. Sat. at 8 pm, Sun. at 3 pm, & Tue. at 8 pm @ Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. Info: 713/521-SING (7464), option 2; e-mail: tickets@gmch.org; website: www.gmch.org; mail: GMCH, P.O. Box 541004, Houston 77254-1004.

A Very Merry Pops. Now a Houston holiday tradition, Michael Krajewski (Houston Symphony principal pops conductor) celebrates the season with a new program filled with holiday fun, including the spirited holiday sing-along and the cheerful tale of The Night Before Christmas narrated by Houston's own Steve Smith. Thurs. & Sat., Dec. 13 & 15, at 8 pm, and Sunday, **December 16**, at 7:30 pm. Tickets (\$22-\$76) are available at all Ticketmaster outlets or by calling 713/224-7575. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.houstonsymphony.com.

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The law firm of **Baggett & Swaim, P.C.**, is conducting a free seminar on estate planning for the gay community, which explains the importance of financial planning and how an estate plan can benefit you and your loved ones. The dinner and seminar are free to any member of the Houston GLBT community. • During your lifetime, establishing a proper estate plan can be one of the most important things you can do for yourself, your domestic partner, and other loved ones. It will transfer your estate to your beneficiaries quickly upon your death. And it may very well save your loved ones thousands of dollars in probate, attorney fees, court costs, and, of course, publicity. The free seminar and dinner will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the Holiday Inn Select, Greenway Plaza, 7-9 p.m. For more information, call Amanda at 713/651-9990.

The American National Red Cross in Washington, D.C., has selected six cities across the country as sites for the new **HIV Prevention Network (HPN)**. Sites were selected based on

various factors including cumulative HIV and AIDS cases and the presence of disproportionately affected minority populations. • The HPN for the Southwest United States will be headed by **Michael C. Ruggerio**, a senior associate with the National American Red Cross Division of Disease Prevention Education. Ruggerio is a native Houstonian working with the Red Cross since 1983. Previously working as the HIV network coordinator for Texas and Arkansas, Ruggerio was appointed to this national position in September. He has dedicated his life to making a difference in the community. • "The Red Cross is the world's preeminent educator in the HIV/AIDS arena," says Ruggerio. "Our programs have been at the forefront since 1986, and have continued to evolve along with our understanding of the disease. The HPN will aggressively respond to community needs by reining and improving HIV prevention service delivery systems. I am very excited about the opportunities the HPN holds for communities. Unfortunately, 20 years later, HIV is still a sensitive topic. Parents are hesitant when it comes to allowing their children access to HIV education. • "This is

2001, and we need to see HIV for what it is—a public health issue, not a moral issue," Ruggerio says. "I am hopeful that under the trusted symbol of the Red Cross, we can continue reaching our young people with lifesaving education."

The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce announced the election results of their new board members: **Robin Robinett, Sheryl Parrish, Whit Sanders, and Jeff Wallace. Jani Lopez** will return to serve another two-year term, while **Gary Baumann, James Doyle, Joe Hlavak, Sara Rook, and Rick Taylor** will also be serving one more year of their two-year terms. • Also, the chamber will be hosting their New Year's Eve gala, "Let Freedom Ring," at the Warwick Hotel. Ticket prices are \$65-\$150. The gala will feature entertainment and dancing, champagne at midnight, party favors, and late-night breakfast. For more information, call 713/523-7576.

10% Productions, a leading gay and lesbian consumer products retailer and wholesaler, is proud

to announce the launch of their newly reinvigorated Skincare and Scents product category. 10% Productions products are available by mail and online at www.10percent.com/products/skin/index.cfm. Included are scents from Intense and Gendarme and skincare items from such recognized brands as Menaji, Faccia Domani, NDN, and Brazen.

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. (BFS), in a further expansion of its diversity marketing efforts, announced an extensive commitment to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. BFS's efforts to reach the community will include online, television, and print advertising, in addition to grassroots marketing support at various regional events. "We recognize the importance of diversity and are extremely pleased to include the gay and lesbian community in our marketing efforts. We are also proud to be the first tire company with a national marketing effort directed toward this important segment of the U.S. population," says Internet and diversity marketing manager **Michael Fluck**, of the company's U.S. Consumer Tire Group. ■

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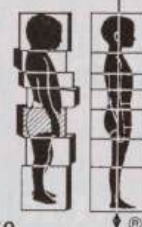
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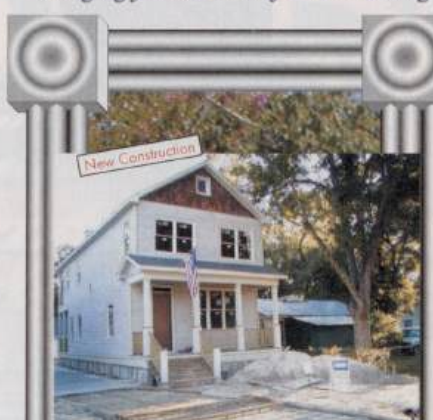
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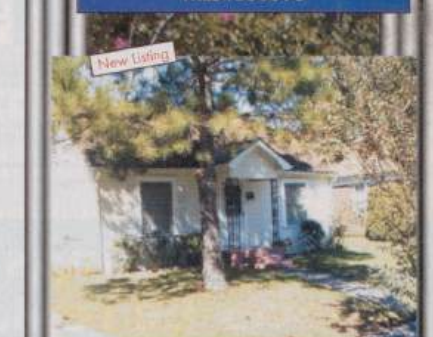
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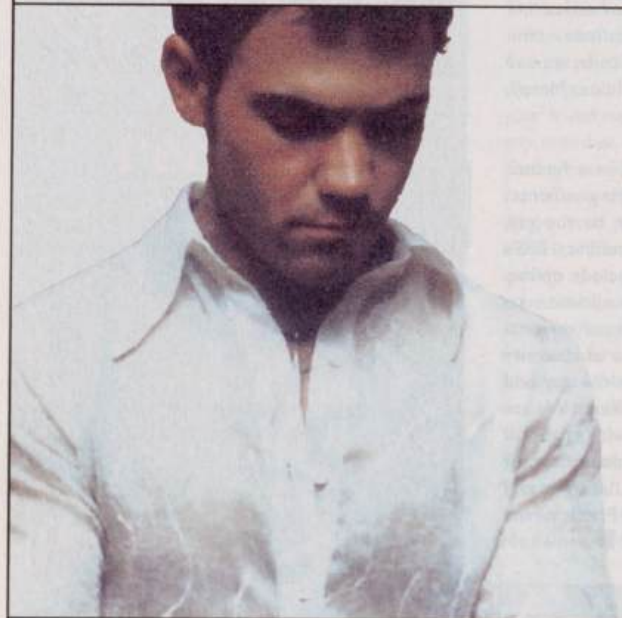


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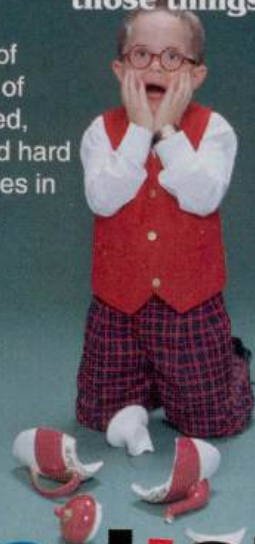
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Holy Union



James Anthony (Tony) Angel (right) and Luis Guachichulca declared their love for each other at a Holy Union ceremony on November 3, 2001. • Luis Roman Guachichulca, 32, was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador. A college graduate with a degree in mechanics, Luis came to the U.S. in 1994, and has lived in Galveston since 1996. • Tony Angel, 36, was born in Lexington, Kentucky. Tony is a college graduate and holds a degree as an RN. Luis and Tony met in Galveston, October 1996. • Luis and Tony participated in the 2001 Houston Pride Parade with the "Couples in Long-Term Relationships." After the parade, they decided not to wait any longer to express before their friends and family their desire to be recognized as a unified couple. • Before 75 guests gathered in the lush tropical gardens of Paradise Guest House on Galveston Island, Luis and Tony exchanged vows and rings in a special ceremony conducted by their dear friend Thomas Chelena. Close friends Chuck Stewart of Washington, D.C., and V.J. Tramotoe of Galveston served as witnesses. Following the candlelight service, the guests were invited to a reception on the patio and poolside of the beautiful resort. The guests were treated to food prepared by Tipton Catering and music by DJ Joe Rios. Photography courtesy of Susan Henry.

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SignOut by Lilly Roddy

Instability abounds this month—or at least an increase in paranoia—with a lot of the planets making contact with Pluto and Saturn, as they did in September. We should keep on our toes and be vigilant, especially on December 3, 6, 14, 21, 22, 28, and 30. • There is a solar eclipse on the 14th and a lunar eclipse on the 30th. The eclipses for this year and next year will occur in the signs of Sagittarius and Gemini, which rule things like lungs, mail, air travel, news media, and I am sure you can just guess the rest.

ARIES (March 21–April 19) You are ready for a festive and light holiday season. People may gravitate to your home as a gathering place for escape and respite. Just don't let your own rest and recreation get lost in the shuffle. Keep your guest list reasonable. Also, you may be feeling that itch to move again, and the urge is not going away... at least until next year. You may be looking for new or different work, and this is all tied up together. Relationships are more fun if you are not following a routine.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20) Your security issues show up this month in your relationships. You need definite proof that your partner and close friends are supporting you both economically and emotionally. Any cracks in the network will have you pointing out their weaknesses. Remember, that mirror goes both directions. Work is a lot more stable by mid-month, but you are still not happy and are looking for a career placement in Heaven/Nirvana/BaskinRobbins.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21) Personal and romantic relationships are on the grill this month. The eclipse, on the 14th, occurs in the relationship sector of your horoscope. This may upset those plans to go home to visit mom and dad and the apple pie. Work is really pulling on your time now and that could be part of it. It feels like you are making all the effort and not getting any help. It may well be true... even with some of your closest co-workers.

CANCER (June 22–July 22) You will find comfort in your routines this month. Just dig them out of that box you stashed in the attic four years ago. Remember? That was the last time you felt like life was safe. Get your work life in order. You're headed for the top of the mountain in your social climbing—just watch out for those loose rocks and possible fanvalanches. Time to organize your office, your closets, your chest of drawers, the kitchen cabinets, your garage... and

don't forget about the holiday decorations. We are looking to you for leadership and courage in these uncertain times. Remember... Home Defense is the call to action. Wouldn't you know that Bush guy was a Cancer, too?

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22) Creativity is surging through your veins this month. Time for fun, you say, and you don't mind if it involves some necessary risks. Those eyes following you at work would sure love to get in your file drawers and help you straighten out your priorities. But you don't have to work at pleasure and fun. Your inner child is at the controls and everything is flowing naturally. You will be able to sell yourself



**Happy Birthday to
Marlene Dietrich**
Born December 27,
1901, this is the
100th anniversary
of Dietrich's birth!

and your ideas much better than usual. Groups and associations can add discipline and structure to your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) Let's clean up the old home place and give it a touch of paint. You are ready to bring the family to your place for the holidays. You have been working on recreating a whole new you, and now you are ready to show her off. Just make sure you don your judgment suit of armor. You are seeking acceptance and can easily set yourself up to be hurt by those only too willing to give advice on how to be "better." Relationships can be very tense near the end of the month—don't take anything for granted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) You are obviously paying a lot more attention to the details and daily goings-on in your life this month. Nothing seems to escape your notice. You could really overcommit for the holidays, if you don't keep a handle on it. There is a lot to do and it won't slow down till summer 2002. If there is a thing as too much fun, you could discover it. Work opportunities are everywhere. Travel is good for you. You are a shining light attracting moths to the flame.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24–Nov. 21) Self-worth questions are uppermost in your mind this month. Others best not ignore, overlook, or discount you, or they will find themselves in line for a good tongue-lashing. You use the truth like a surgeon uses a scalpel—only your patients don't

get any anesthesia. Go ahead and push yourself into a new business or direction—that may be a good way to answer the longing you're feeling in your soul during this holiday period. Visiting your family will only show you how much you have changed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21) What a birthday month for you Sages this year. New points of the compass are offering their golden apples. What is the best choice? And what are the hidden consequences? You vacillate between the well-worn safe path and the chance to break free of your own illusory beliefs. You know in your heart that the choices you make now will direct your life path for many years. (38 to be exact, but who's counting?) This is a rebirth that you will remember for many years.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19) You are in for some rest and retreat before the holiday season begins. It has already been a very busy year with lots of good things going on. This is the time to reflect on all that—make sure that your spiritual side and your earth body are connected and on the same path, before you charge ahead into the ozone. Relationships continue to be better. If you are out there looking, chances are you will strike gold. And if you are already involved, love is growing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18) The holiday season is usually a time when you are ready to celebrate with your friends. But this year, you have been focused more on your own projects—you've grown rather tired of others' dependencies, especially those who haven't given much back. But you may find that some of your friends are not around and haven't made the effort that you do to stay in touch. A hard truth to swallow at this time of year. But there may be possibilities of closeness with some of your "new" friends. Your new life needs new traditions.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20) Career and family are certainly in turmoil this year. The WTC attacks seem to have touched you on a personal level of safety and security, testing your faith in yourself and your beliefs. This has made you more conscious of yourself and what roles you have played in the past for your family, lovers, and friends. You may want to spend the holidays alone. Or work may keep you busy, but the disconnections will still be ever-present.

Lilly Roddy is a Houston-based astrologer. She can be reached at lillycath@aol.com or <http://communities.msn.com/LillysAstrologicalPad>.



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OUT IN HOUSTON

1 Festari for Men held a fashion show at Meteor Oct. 25. Model **Michael Tank**.

2 The Montrose branch library sponsored a visit from photographer **Adam Mastoon** (l), shown here with **Ty Burns** (chairman of the Texas Library Association, district 8) at an Oct. 21 book signing at Lobo.

3 Bunnies on the Bayou fall preview Nov. 5 at Meteor. Co-chairs **Wade Wilson** and **Trevar Ross**.

4 **Misty Blue** (center, with check) and her "Blue-Crew" raised \$4,500 for the Center for AIDS at their fall garage sale.

5 Singer **Debbie Harry** was in Houston on Nov. 2 for her previously unreleased film *Downtown 81*. She is pictured here at the Museum of Fine Arts for their "Fine Arts Fridays."

6 (L-r) **Stephanie Peacock**, **Sonna Alton**, **Colleen Roach**, and **Beth Baker** at the Houston Women's Festival Oct. 27.

7 HRC held the kickoff for its premiere table selection on Oct. 24 at Gremillion and Co. Pictured: **Francisco Sanchez** (l) and **David Medford**.

8 **Annie Parker** makes her victory speech.

9 The Classic Chassis Car Club Awards were held Oct. 28 at Quasimodo's Restaurant. Inset: **Tom Martin** presenting an award to **John Painter**.

10 M2M held a grand opening of its new shoe store Nov. 4. L-r: **Charles Soloman**, **James Stevens**, **Raul**

Herrera, **Michael Malik**, **Edward Schwing**, **Scott Galecki**.

11 (L-r) **Rodrigo Zuniga** and **Bill Bridges** at Miss Angela's Country Dinner on Oct. 13 at the polo grounds.

12 Mayor **Lee Brown** with EPAH president **Rocky Atwood** at the Oct. 16 EPAH meeting at the Junior League.

13 Rev. **Brent Barbour** (seated, center) of Resurrection MCC spoke against Prop 2 at the Oct. 28 Clergy for a Fair Houston press conference at Interfaith Ministries.

14 PVA hosted a dinner Oct. 27 at Jalepeño's for all the out-of-town activists who came to help fight the passage of Prop 2.

15 The Black Tie Dinner was one of the recognized charities Oct. 29 at Saks Fifth Avenue. Standing, l-r: **Carlos Reyes**, Saks PR **Jeanne Ruberti**, **Lester Sorsby**, **Frank Campisi**, **Ralph Grau**. Seated: **Gail Swinney** and **Sandy Clough**.

16 C.A.T.S. held its annual awards dinner at La Strada Nov. 7. L-r: C.A.T.S. president **Cristan Williams** with honorees **Glen Holt** (for Q-Patrol), **Ray Hill**, and **Phyllis Frye**.

17 New board members on the GLBT Chamber of Commerce (l-r): **Jeff Wallace**, **Sheryl Parrish**, chamber executive director **Coy Tow**, Dr. **Robin Robinett**, **Whit Sanders**. Not pictured: **Janie Lopez**.

18 Halloween Magic presented "Dames at Sea" at the Montrose USO Oct. 20-21.



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Linotype by Sergio, 1996. For details, see page 18.

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