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MARCH 2002

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### About the cover

Our Young & Queer cover models (clockwise starting with upper left):

**Tara-marie Martinez, Sparkles, Rebecca Mahaffey, Yvonne Feece, Lee Longoria, Shelly Harvy, and David Norstrom.**

Martinez, Sparkles, & Longoria are on the steering committee of H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals), and Norstrom is a long-time member. Photograph/Design: BJ Smith

**CORRECTION:** In the February article "Recipe for Love" about Carlos Reyes & Steven Christenberry and their DC in the Heights restaurant, we neglected to print the address/phone number: 605 W. 19th, 713/880-4499. We regret the error.

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

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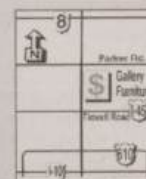
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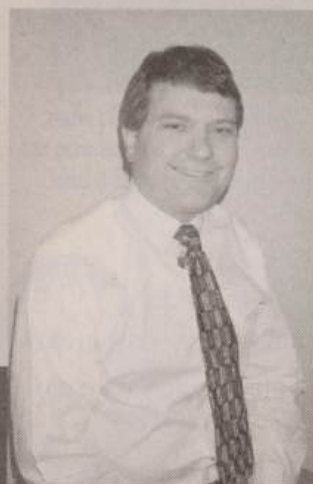
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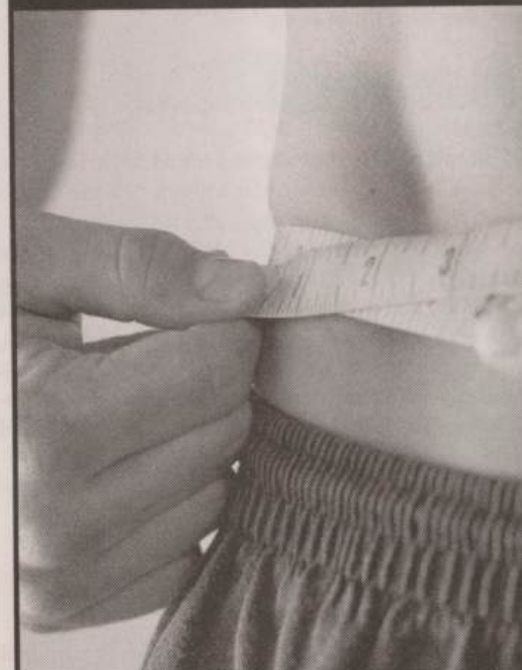
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## Janeane Garofalo

(actress/comic)  
(Out, 3/02, Michael Musto)  
Janeane Garofalo: ... [Craig Bierko is] so not concerned with being the macho guy. He refers to himself in the female all the time. "This little lady's got to go home. She's exhausted."

Michael Musto: When you dated her, I mean him, a lot of people thought he was gay and you were his beard.  
Who wouldn't think I would be the beard to Craig Bierko? If you think he's gay, well, everyone thinks I'm gay. But we're both straight, though we read very gay.

## David Waggoner

(publisher, A&U, an AIDS magazine)  
(A&U, 1/02, David Waggoner)  
... As a patriotic American, I'm glad we're kicking the shit out of the Taliban. But I am also aware of how many Americans are struggling with a different kind of terrorism: HIV. While Osama bin Laden may be on the run, the virus isn't. In fact, it's declared war on our youth. By year's end, more teenagers than ever before (many of them younger than Britney Spears) will get infected, get sick, and get hospitalized before their twenties. AIDS shouldn't be a punishment for one's impetuous teenage years.

Unfortunately, an end to AIDS isn't even on the minds of the leaders of the Western world. Ever since September 11, AIDS has fallen off the radar screens of everyone from Tony Blair to George W. Bush. But that shouldn't be surprising. President Bush didn't even speak the word "AIDS" at his inauguration. Son like father? ...

## Jean Paul Gaultier

(fashion designer)  
(Out, 3/02, Brendan Lemon)  
"My grandmother," Gaultier says, "helped me understand that there was nothing shameful about being gay. One day she mentioned a certain man who liked men. 'That's not the usual way,' she said, 'but you must be sure to be nice to guys like that.' Little did she know just how nice I was going to be!"

## Gale Harold

(actor, Queer as Folk)  
(The Advocate, 2/5/02, Michael Rowe)  
"I started to lose all interest [in religion] at around 15, around the time I got my driver's license," Harold remembers. "I knew it was bulls--t, you know? The choir director was gay. The assistant choir director was gay. Most of the men in the choir were gay. It was obvious. And these were people I talked to and grew up knowing. These were my friends, and my parents' friends, and members of the church. And they're up there singing and clapping their hands, then they sit down and some ogre walks up and starts saying something that is basically potentially fatal under the right circumstances. And we know how fast those circumstances can shift and become dangerous. ..."

## Gaby Boomer

(Dictionary of the Future: The Words, Terms, and Trends That Define the Way We'll Live, Work, and Talk by Faith Popcorn & Adam Hanft, 2/02, Hyperion Books)  
Ga-by boom-er \gā-bē 'bō-mer\  
A gay baby boomer. Used especially by real estate developers and others involved in planning and constructing retirement communities for affluent gay retirees.

## Queer Profiles

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

## Richard Chamberlain

(Entertainment Weekly, 2/02)



On doing drag:  
"Don't wear your lipstick too red. Don't cover up all your fancy eyebrows and things with your bangs. And move with animal élan."

Richard Chamberlain dons drag in a recent episode of *The Drew Carey Show* on ABC. Inset: Chamberlain as he appeared in the '60s hit series *Dr. Kildare*.



## Benjamin Bratt

(The Advocate, 3/5/02, Alonso Duralde)

Alonso Duralde: [H]ave you ever been hit on by a man?

Benjamin Bratt: [Laughs] Are you f--king kidding? Hell, yes! I live in the City [San Francisco], man! Usually it happens in Gold's Gym: "Do you need a spot?" And usually my voice drops an octave: "No, man, I got it."

Benjamin Bratt is pictured here in 2000's *Miss Congeniality*



## Sean Hayes & Rosie O'Donnell



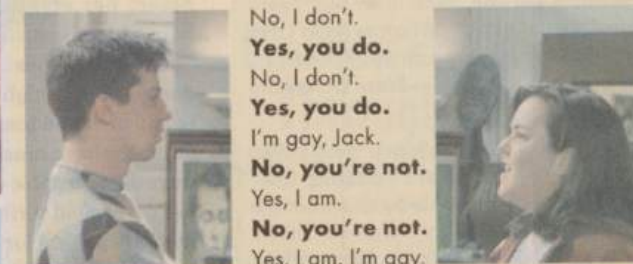
(Will & Grace, 1/02, NBC)

On Will & Grace, Jack (Sean Hayes)—after spending the day with his son and letting him get a "gay" haircut—takes him home to his mom (Rosie O'Donnell).



Jack: I'm just gonna take my gay self back to my gay apartment and live my gay life and have a gay old time.

Rosie: What are you doing? What is that? Oh, come on ... the whole thing about the gay haircut. I know what's going on here. The reason you reacted so strongly about the hair is because you have a problem with gay people.



No, I don't.  
Yes, you do.  
No, I don't.  
Yes, you do.  
I'm gay, Jack.  
No, you're not.  
Yes, I am.  
No, you're not.  
Yes, I am. I'm gay.



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## ADORABLE DIVAS

### Houston's True Diva



Houstonian Yvonne Washington—who has been likened to Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, and Erykah Badu—has released her latest CD, *Holiday*, featuring her performance of "Autumn in New York"

for the soundtrack to the Richard Gere and Wynona Ryder film. Whether it's slow ballads, jazz standards, or her own lyrics, Washington puts heart into her music as one of the top female vocalists in Texas. Washington started singing solo at the age of 5. She was the opening act for Stevie Wonder on his 1970 European tour as well as for Martha and the Vandellas. This is a must-have for jazz lovers. You will find Washington performing at Brennan's for Sunday brunch. *Holiday with Yvonne Washington* is now available at Cactus and Soundwaves. For more on Washington, visit [www.yvonnnewashington.com](http://www.yvonnnewashington.com).

—Debbie Ratliff

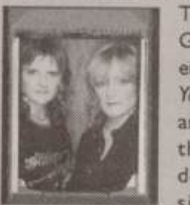
### Another True Diva



Bernadette Peters lends her powerful pipes to the songs of one of the greatest collaborations in history, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. She breathes life into such songs as "If I Loved You" from *Carousel*, "It's a Grand Night for Singing" from *State Fair*, and "There Is Nothin' Like a Dame" from *South Pacific*. As music historian and radio personality Jonathan Schwartz says, "Her both wicked and wrenching singing, honest and therefore penetrating, tough and therefore vulnerable, wry and therefore hilarious, is brutal, sexy, disorienting, nurturing, heartbreaking, and kind." "What do we say? 'There is nothin' like this dame!'" *Bernadette Peters Loves Rodgers & Hammerstein* is from Angel Records.

—Blase DiStefano

### Becoming True Divas



The folk-pop duo, Indigo Girls, are releasing their eighth studio album, *Become You*, on March 12. This is arguably the best work of their remarkable two-decade career. The first single, "Moment of Forgiveness," is a simple, open-hearted melodic song of reconciliation. The album, which was recorded in their hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, blends 12 beautifully constructed songs that show off the Indigo Girls' contrasting but complementary songwriting styles which are reminiscent of the simplicity of their earlier work. From Sony Music Entertainment. For more on the Indigo Girls, visit [www.indigogirls.com](http://www.indigogirls.com).

—DR

## TAKE THE K TRAIN

### Koo-Koo for Kylie and Koop

**KYLIE MINOGUE *Fever*** (Capitol Records)

Call it a gift. Call it a curse. If there's one thing the majority of gay men exceed at, it's obsessing over female performers. We just can't help it. We're born with it. This inherent love affair with female vocalists is what led some gay men to Kylie Minogue in the first place.

Let's face it—except for club DJs and train-spotting club queens who dedicate their social lives to discovering the next diva, not many people really know who Kylie is in this country. Okay, there was that questionable remake Minogue did of Little Eva's "Locomotion" in the late '80s, but seven albums and countless worldwide hits later, nothing else has hit for Minogue in the States.

But despite the void of American attention, Kylie is one glowing sweetheart phenomenon. Her long list of accomplishments includes being the only act in the history of British pop music to have its first 13 releases all make England's top 10 chart. Not bad. Her current single "Can't Get You Out of My Head?" peaked at #1 in 17 countries and recently topped the Billboard Dance Chart, an encouraging sign that this sexy siren is on course to melt American audiences. With *Fever*, her eighth studio album, Minogue hopes to do just that.

*Fever's* upbeat set of sugary-sweet pop dance tunes is highly contagious, and not just to gay men and teenage girls (who frequently seem to share musical tastes). We're talking huge demographic crossover here. When both eight-year-old girls and 60-year-old straight men are asking for Kylie at Soundwaves, it's a good bet that a hit is in the making.

Is it that good? Well, it won't be winning album of the year, but I'll bet it will take up residence in your disc changer for months. Why? How does "tastes great, less filling" sound? A recipe queens love to live by and one that's kept Kylie in our corner for 13 years.

**KOOP *Waltz for Koop*** (Jazzanova Compost Records)

For a slightly more filling dish (albeit a bit of an acquired taste), add a dash of Koop to your musical palette. Although

compact—clocking in at a mere 35 minutes—it's teeming with the flavor of 1960s-esque jazz. From swinging Latin rhythms to hard-bop soloing, Swedish composers/producers

Oscar Simonsson and Magnus Zingmark brilliantly recreate the lush and breezy world of lounge-jazz on Koop's *Waltz for Koop*.

"Koop" means "cooperation," and that tells the story of this beautifully constructed set.

While scores of similarly styled CDs rely wholly on electronically manufactured beats, Koop's fresh, summery sound belongs to live bass, bongos, and vibes. At times it's impossible to detect where the sampler ends and the live instrumentation begins. These Swedes steer clear of the traditional view of jazz as improvisation; instead,

they interpret jazz as rhythm and form. This theory creates an ideal backdrop for vocals to take center stage, and they do so quite effectively. On "Modal Mile," acclaimed London beat-poet Earl Zinger portrays a cold and lonely walk down 10th Street in New York City; Cecilia Stalin takes the CD's title track "Waltz for Koop" to seventh heaven with her buoyant voice. Singing the praises of "Summer Sun" is teenage sensation Yukimi Nagano. The Koop boys spotted her at a jazz talent contest and quickly scooped her up for two songs on the album. Legendary jazz vocalist Terry Callier lends his soulful pipes to the emotionally charged yet dark and brooding "In a Heartbeat." The results are spellbinding.

Koop has managed to accomplish something rare in today's world of electronic music, an album that sounds refreshingly *real* with just the right amount of electronics. *Waltz for Koop* is as much for purists as it is for today's computer composers. If you love St. Germain, you'll be waltzing for Koop. As for the cover photo displaying the boys' love for wearing dresses? Who knew cross-dressing was so stylish?

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](mailto:csill@infohwy.com) or [www.djchrisill.com](http://www.djchrisill.com).



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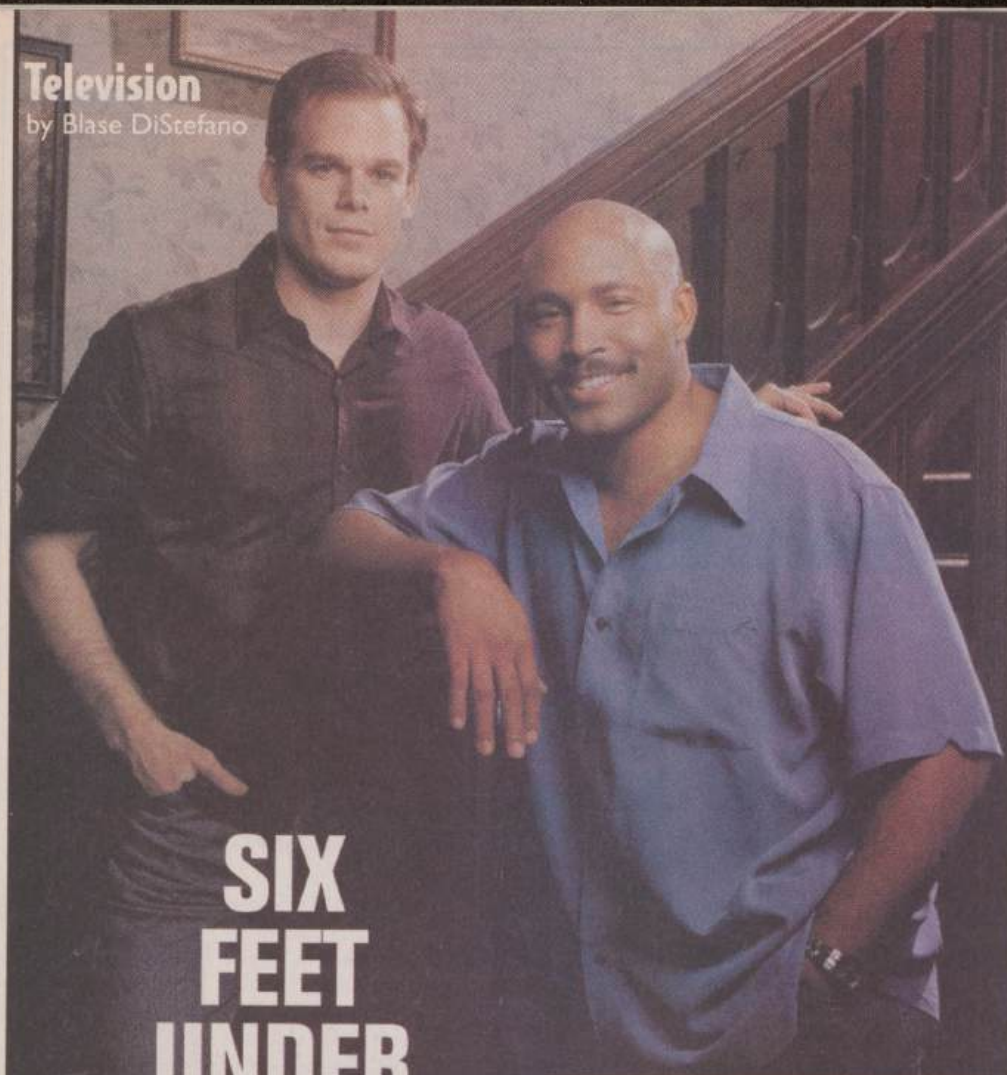
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## Television

by Blase DiStefano



# SIX FEET UNDER

The over-the-top series returns to knock us off our feet

For those of you who missed the first season of this deliciously dark dramedy series, *Six Feet Under* addresses the subject of death through the eyes of the Fisher family, who own and operate Fisher & Sons Funeral Home in Los Angeles. The dialogue is delectable, the humor . . . to die for.

The family includes: Nathaniel, the now-deceased father, who appears to his family members at opportune times; Ruth, the sometimes-weird-but-always-endearing mother; Claire, the vulnerable-but-doesn't-wanna-show-it daughter; Nate, the straight-but-far-from-narrow son; and David, the gay-but-really-rigid son.

Created by openly gay Alan Ball (winner of the Best Original Screenplay Oscar in 2000 for *American Beauty*), *Six Feet Under* was recently awarded a Golden Globe for Best Drama Series. Second-season directors include Rose Troche (*Go Fish*), Alan Taylor (*The Sopranos*, *Sex and the City*), and Dan Attias (*The Sopranos*). Returning directors include Kathy Bates (*Oz*), Miquel



David Fisher (Michael C. Hall, left) and Keith Charles (Mathew St. Patrick), the gay guys on *Six Feet Under*.

INSET The fabulously dysfunctional Fishers gather for a group photo (l-r): Nathaniel (Richard Jenkins); Ruth (Frances Conroy); Claire (Lauren Ambrose); Nate (Peter Krause); and David (Hall).

Arteta (*Chuck & Buck*), and Michael Engler (*Sex and the City*).

On the first episode, we find Ruth struggling to accept her son David's homosexuality. She throws him a dinner party that goes awry. Premieres on HBO, **Sunday, March 3**, at 8 p.m., with repeat airings during the month.



## THE AMERICAN EMBASSY

Film and Broadway actress Arija Bareikis (*Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*) plays Emma Brody in this new series. *The American Embassy* reveals the inner workings of the U.S. Embassy in London as seen through Brody's eyes. Also seen through her eyes are her co-workers and—our main reason for tuning in—her next-door neighbor, Gary Forbush (Michael Cerveris), a London native and cross-dresser. Premieres **Monday, March 11**, at 8 p.m. on Fox. (*Ally McBeal* will be pre-empted for six weeks during the run of *The American Embassy*.)

ABOVE Jonathan Adams (left) as Elque Polk and Arija Bareikis as Emma Brody. BELOW Michael Cerveris as Gary Forbush.



SIX FEET UNDER: TBO; THE AMERICAN EMBASSY: STEPHEN MURLEY/FOX



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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 methylegonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others  
Halcion® (triazolam)  
Hismanal® (astemizole)  
Orap® (pimozide)  
Propulsid® (cisapride)  
Rythmol® (propafenone)  
Seldane® (terfenadine)  
Tambocor™ (flecainide)  
Versed® (midazolam)

- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

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

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

### Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

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

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

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.

- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:  
Phenobarbital  
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)  
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)  
These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- Other Special Considerations:**  
KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA: Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

### What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.

- Changes in body fat happen in some patients getting anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and abdomen (stomach area). Loss of fat from the face, legs, and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

### What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.

- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.

- If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.

- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.

- If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

### How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.

- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.

- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

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

### General advice about prescription medicines:

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

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## THE MATTHEW SHEPARD STORY

We don't know the exact year Stockard Channing began her "gay-friendly" roles, but we are aware that in 1988 she starred in *Tidy Endings* with Harvey Fierstein. We know, too, that she won us over in 1995's *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar*, again in 2000 with *The Truth About Jane*, and in 2001 with *A Girl Thing*. Now she tops them off by playing Judy Shepard

in *The Matthew Shepard Story*.

The TV movie, directed by Roger Spottiswoode (And

Stockard Channing as Judy Shepard in *The Matthew Shepard Story*. Right: Shane Meier in the title role.

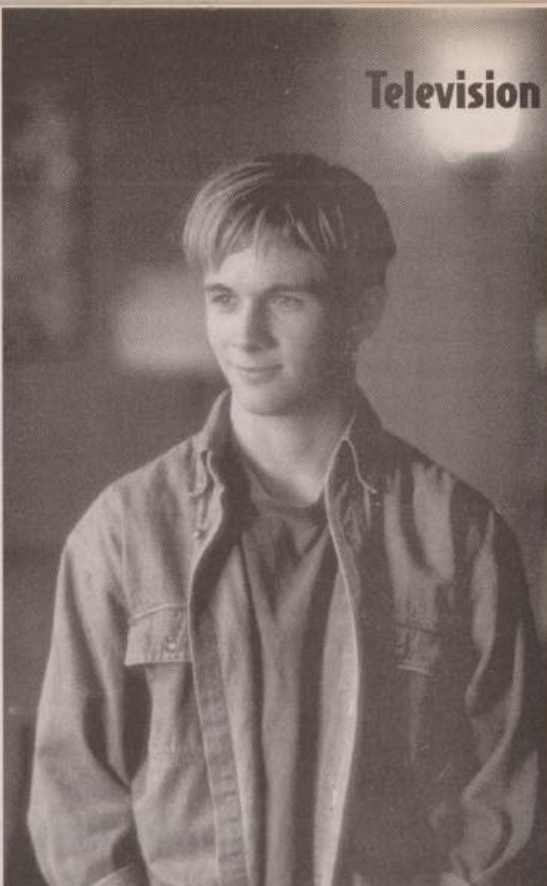
the Band Played On), recounts the story, as Judy Shepard becomes a very public person in October 1998 when her eldest son, Matthew (played by Shane Meier),

is brutally beaten and left to suffer for 18 hours. Meier admits that the beating scene, both mentally and morally, was the toughest to shoot. "We shot it at midnight and went until 5 or 6 in the morning," the straight actor tells *The Advocate*. "The rehearsing of all the hits—all the blows to the face, the blows to the stomach—it was difficult."

Matthew lay unconscious for five days in the hospital before dying. The two men who are arrested for his murder admit they beat him because he was gay.

Judy Shepard becomes an activist and forms a foundation in her son's name to reach out to the youth of America. But her efforts are interrupted as she and her husband (played by Sam Waterston) have to re-live the nightmare of their son's death while enduring the trial of those accused of his murder.

*The Matthew Shepard Story* airs Saturday, March 16, at 8 p.m. on NBC.



## THE LARAMIE PROJECT

Scheduled to air on the same night as NBC's *The Matthew Shepard Story* (see above), HBO opted to premiere *The Laramie Project* a week earlier "to broaden the audience for both projects," said Chris Albrecht, the president of HBO original programming. The ratings will surely broaden, and it will probably become another sure-fire hit for HBO.

Some background: To create the stage version of *The Laramie Project*, members of the New York-based Tectonic Theatre Project traveled to Laramie in the wake of the murder of Matthew Shepard, recording over 400 hours of interviews with the townspeople over a two-year period. This film adaptation dramatizes the troupe's visit, using the words from the transcripts to create a portrait of a town forced to confront itself in the aftermath of this tragic event.

The ensemble cast includes, among many others, Steve Buscemi, Peter Fonda, Janeane Garofalo, Joshua Jackson, Laura Linney, Amy Madigan, Camryn Manheim, Christina Ricci, and Frances Sternhagen.

*The Laramie Project* premieres Saturday, March 9, at 7 p.m. on HBO, with repeat airings throughout March.



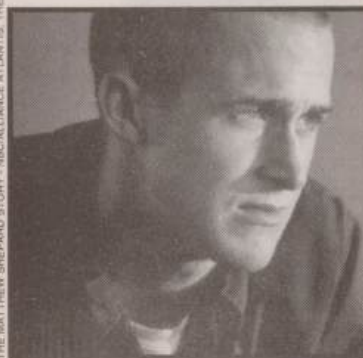
A few of the cast members of *The Laramie Project* (l-r): Grant James Varjas, Kelli Simpkins, Andy Paris, Clea Duvall, and Nestor Carbonell.

## THE BELIEVER

There's really nothing gay about this engrossing film, unless of course you see the correlation between the main character and what he does. This young Jewish

man, Danny Balint, becomes a neo-Nazi skinhead who becomes a Jew-basher. Does that sound anything like the self-hating heterosexual who bashes gays? • All that aside, the film explores the inner turmoil of this "Jewish neo-Nazi" and his struggles to keep his conflicting identities a secret from those around

him. • Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival, *The Believer* has been given six Independent Spirit Award nominations. • Trivia: One of the nominees, Ryan Gosling, the actor who plays Danny Balint, starred on *The Mickey Mouse Club* at the age of 12. • Premieres Sunday, March 17, at 7 p.m. on Showtime.



Ryan Gosling as Danny Balint.



# Equal Opportunity



**Valarie Rae Miller talks about why we're not seeing much of her lesbian character on *Dark Angel* and if she has any trouble kissing another woman**

by Blase DiStefano

**V**alarie Rae Miller is now in her second season on the Fox series *Dark Angel*. "The show is set 20 years in the future when a major computer breakdown occurs and sends the nation into a depression," says Miller, who portrays Original Cindy, a sexually charged lesbian who is the roommate of Max, the title character. Original Cindy "sports a big afro and rhinestones on her face," she says. "She's a tough chick, but she's fine." And so is Miller. Born in Fort Worth, she is no stranger to Houston. Read on.



ABOVE: Miller rides to stardom in her new film *All About the Benjamins*.  
RIGHT: Sexy Miller in a publicity shot for *Dark Angel*.

**OutSmart: Have you ever been to Houston?**

Valarie Rae Miller: Oh, yeah. I've spent time in Houston, and I know all about Westheimer. Do you live inside or outside the Loop?

**Inside.**

See. I know all about that. And Pappadeaux—my favorite [Houston] restaurant—every time I'm in Houston, I go there.

**So, what's going on with *Dark Angel*? They're not using you very much.**

They're going through changes, man.

**Not only did they use you more last year, the rest of**

**the cast was used, and it was a lot more interesting.**

That's why I tell people they should write in, because the network takes the letters seriously. I was told that one letter is the equivalent of 500 people who would never write. Last season, the show did really well, even with preemptions. That was because the creators [James Cameron (*Titanic*) and Charles Eglee] were running the show. The network didn't think the show was reaching the targeted demographic audience that they perceived the show should have. And I don't think they really got that it had a much wider audience than what they gave people credit for. Since it's so different than what they're used to having, I think they're trying to make it into something that's more like they're used to dealing with.

**The storyline is getting...**

It's crazy, right? They brought in a gang of new regulars. In order to do that, they had to make space for them, so they've kind of spaced out the stuff that they use us for. At first, they were just gonna introduce the new people, and now I think they've gotten so far down that road, they don't know *what* they're gonna do.

**What I loved about the show was that they did something so new by allowing you to be a lesbian without it being a big deal. You'd walk in on Max taking a bath, and there wasn't some kind of weird thing going on where you had to say something about the fact that she was nude.**

Right. Because she's my friend. A lot of that can be credited to Charles Eglee.

**What part do you play in your new movie, *All About the Benjamins*?**

My character's name is Pam, a bail bondsman assistant. Ice Cube is a bounty hunter for the same office, so I'm always trying to talk Ice Cube into letting me go with him for excitement.

**Does he ever let you?**

That's like the big thing in the movie for me... I get to go and do some exciting stuff. [In the film, Miller's character uses her considerable crime-fighting skills to help Ice Cube's bounty hunter-turned private detective pursue a gang of diamond thieves.]

**Did you enjoy making the movie?**

It was so much fun. I got to spend a month in South Beach. It makes Montrose look like everybody's sleeping. Seriously. It's so out of control, and nobody wears any clothing, and there are the most beautiful women and men's bodies you've ever seen in your whole life. It's incredible. Everybody is like these beautiful bronze-colored people, and everybody has a tan.

**Speaking of "tans," do you ever feel discriminated against?**

Oh, come on. You know this industry is notorious for that. People are really small-minded. I don't want to say anything that sounds too bad, but you have to ask yourself how my character was such a large part of the show last year and such a well-received character, and suddenly you don't see her very much.

**I remember reading a quote from actress Suzanne Pleshette, a quote about women's roles that has stuck in my mind for 20 or 30 years. She was one of the stars of the movie *Youngblood Hawke*, and she said, "I have a good role as female roles go, a sharp and sensitive book editor named Jeanne. But it's Jeanne I play, not *Youngblood*." That was sort of how it was.**

Basically, that's still how it is. This show has been so educational for me. Though I got to do so much last year that you never see, especially for black women. Then the fact that

**"I got the job after the part had already been offered to two other actresses before me. Both of them passed on it because they weren't comfortable with playing a gay character."**

the character is lesbian as well. Just the fact somebody even took the chance and did something like that is good, because it did open doors for people in general. But people still don't realize how warped their perception is. And the people who are [scaling down Original Cindy's part] are doing it because they don't have a lot of interaction with people other than their little small sphere of daily interaction. It's not like they're doing it to be nasty—because they don't see themselves as prejudiced—they just don't get anything outside of that little ball that they live in.

**How do you feel about playing a lesbian?**

I think she's a cool character. That's just part of who she is.

**I've had this thing about you since *Dark Angel* started. But don't get the wrong impression, I'm gay, so I'm not...**

[Laughs] That's okay, baby, I'm equal opportunity.

**So you didn't flinch when offered the role. I got the job after the part had already been**

offered to two other actresses before me. Both of them passed on it because they weren't comfortable with playing a gay character. One of the first questions I got before I went to test for the network was like, *This is the next-to-last step before we give you the job. We just want to make sure you feel comfortable playing a lesbian because we've already had some weird reactions. It's very clearly stated in the material that she's a lesbian. We just want to be sure you don't have trouble kissing a girl.* Hey, as long as she's hot, I really don't care.

**That means that these women who would not take the part were... well, you have no way of knowing, but I guess they were concerned that people would think they were lesbians?**

Oh, yeah, and I do have a way of knowing, because one of the girls actually got to come on the show and do a small part, and poor thing, I know she was kicking herself. But things work out how they're supposed to. I was told that everybody was so happy that it turned out the way it did, because I brought a lot of my own stuff to the character that was not there, that they never would have gotten.

**How do you feel about gay marriage?**

If you love somebody, you love somebody. I don't get what the problem is. Marriages have a hard-enough problem working anyway. I would think that gay marriages would work better because you've been through stuff together. So why not? And does that mean that everybody still gets half? On that I really wouldn't care.

**I have this personal feeling about sexuality... that everybody is really bisexual. Even though I'm not, I still feel I should be. I just feel like that would be the most normal thing in the world, because then you're relating to the person, to the individual.**

I think sexuality is more on a continuum, like on a gray scale, like you can be on one side or the other, or you can be in the middle. I know a lot of people both ways.

**I just feel like I should be bisexual, that maybe something went wrong in my life.**

[Both laugh] There's nothing wrong with you. How you are is how you are.

*All About the Benjamins* is scheduled for a March 8 release. *Dark Angel* can be seen Fridays at 8 p.m. on Fox. If you feel as we do, that Miller's character Original Cindy is being underused or that the show has become a bit too sappy, you can write and let them know: Fox Broadcasting, P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90213-0900. E-mails are supposedly not nearly as effective.



## WOMEN & KISSES, MEN & PHOTOS & DRAG

Kissing Jessica Stein, Chop Suey, & Sorority Boys



Heather Juergensen (l) and Jennifer Westfeldt get personal

### Kissing Jessica Stein

**W**hen we first meet Jessica (Jennifer Westfeldt)—a sensitive but neurotic New York journalist—she is at the end of her emotional rope. Her brother is engaged, her best friend is pregnant, she hasn't dated in a year, and she can't sleep. • After an optimistic but nightmarish dating spree, she happens upon an intriguing personal ad, whose only drawback is that it's in the "women seeking women" section. On a daring whim, she decides to answer it. She meets funky downtown hipster Helen Cooper (Heather Juergensen) for drinks, and to her surprise, they click instantly. Their evening of banter, connection, and heated debate culminates in a kiss that confounds and intrigues even the reluctant Jessica. • With conventional gender roles absent, the two women proceed to muddle through an earnest but hilarious courtship, making up the rules as they go. *Kissing Jessica Stein* is a modern romantic comedy that breaks all the rules—it blurs lines between friendship and romantic love, and finds the funny, surprising, and ultimately poignant overlap between the two. • At press time, the film was scheduled to start at Landmark's River Oaks Theatre on March 27. Check local listings for wider release.

Movies continued on page 23

### Movies on Video and DVD

#### Salmonberries

A 20-year-old foundling, in search of father and mother, in search of the self, finds, for the first time, a person whose love is worth fighting for: Roswitha (Rosel Zech—*Aimée and Jaguar*, *Veronika Voss*), a librarian from East Berlin, cast away at the end of the world. • Kotzebue is the name of the little town in Northwest Alaska where the story of these two people takes place. And Kotzebue is the name of the foundling, too, who looks like a young man, but in fact is a woman (k.d. lang). Following some inner compulsion, she pursues a path to Roswitha's heart, finally declaring her love in a hotel room in Berlin. • Wolfe Video is celebrating the 10th anniversary of k.d. lang's debut in this lesbian classic by premiering the film on DVD. This new edition includes a new 45-minute interview with lang, conducted at her Los Angeles home by director Percy Adlon as the two revisit the film and reminisce about the making of the film. The disc also includes the video for lang's hit song "Barefoot" (also directed by Adlon) and a photo diary of the film's making. • DVD \$24.95, VHS \$19.95. Available March 19 from Wolfe Video, 1-800-GET-WOLFE or [www.wolfevideo.com](http://www.wolfevideo.com).



#### Johnny Greyeyes

**T**he eyes of Johnny (Gail Maurice) have seen more of the world than most. A resilient and brave woman, Johnny tells her fellow inmates of her childhood dream to be a storyteller. She has spent most of her life in one form of prison or another. But her responsibilities to the outside world weigh on her as she continues to hold together her family. With a release date near, she valiantly strives to keep her two worlds together. • A journey through her own history and pain lead Johnny to love, a sense of spiritual purpose, and peace with her past. Within the walls of Prison for Women, she finds her being, womanhood, and Lana—her lover and companion in spirit. • Made by an almost entirely Native American cast and crew, this acclaimed drama had its world premiere at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival and won the Freedom Award at Los Angeles' Outfest, going on to be nominated for Best Picture at the 2000 American Indian Motion Picture Awards. • Available March 19. DVD \$24.95, VHS \$39.95. From Wolfe Video, 1-800-GET-WOLFE or [www.wolfevideo.com](http://www.wolfevideo.com).

Videos continued on page 23

KISSING - FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES; SALMONBERRIES & GREYEVES - WOLFE VIDEO

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## Movies continued from page 20

### Chop Suey



Bruce's boys?

Famed fashion photographer and filmmaker Bruce Weber (best known for his portrait of Chet Baker in the award-winning documentary *Let's Get Lost*) returns with another documentary, which, just like the film's title, *Chop Suey*, is a delicious mix of ingredients, both amusing and flavorful. Weber introduces gorgeous teenage wrestling star, Peter Johnson, to his personal universe. • Whether recreating the music and life of cabaret star Frances Faye, appreciating the wily wit of Diana Vreeland, or considering his own world-class collection of still photographs, Weber imparts a deeply felt humanity. He is a man for whom love, loyalty, friendship, humor, and beauty—be it a superb torso or sensitive jaw-line, a bounding, golden-haired retriever, or a pristine waterscape—are all important. • *Chop Suey* brilliantly encompasses Weber's myriad passions and fantasies, his almost Peter Pan-like relationship to those objects of desire the rest of us experience in the glossy magazines or on towering billboards. • March 8–14 @ Angelika Film Center, 510 Texas Ave., 713-Call-AFC (for recorded info), 713/225-1470 (for questions).

### Sorority Boys



L-r, above & below: Harland Williams, Barry Watson, and Michael Rosenbaum go in and out of drag.

In this comedy, Dave (Barry Watson), Adam (Michael Rosenbaum), and Doofer (Harland Williams) are about to go where very few fraternity boys have gone before. Our heroes are three playboy chauvinists who, strapped for cash, find themselves drawn to one last, desperate hope for free housing: one of their campus's sororities, Delta Omicron Gamma (DOG). With a little makeup, a little pantyhose, and lots of "pluck," Dave, Adam, and Doofer go undercover in the sorority house as Daisy, Adina, and Roberta. Everything goes according to plan until Dave falls for Leah (Melissa Sagemiller), the alpha DOG. Life's a drag as the boys see firsthand how the other half lives—their history of treating women badly comes back to haunt them when they walk a mile in another's (high-heeled) shoes. Meanwhile, Dave wants to tell Leah about who he really is, but without destroying "Daisy's" relationship with the girl of his dreams. What's a boy (pretending to be a girl) to do? • Scheduled for wide release March 8. ■

## Movies on Video and DVD continued from page 20

### Sophie B. Hawkins: The Cream Will Rise

With its premiere at Outfest in 1997, *Sophie B. Hawkins: The Cream Will Rise* proves that Sophie B. Hawkins is much more than a multi-platinum pop star. Both musical genius and enchanting performer, she combines imaginative musicianship and rangy vocals with a captivating energy and seductiveness that have made her one of the most exciting musicians of the last decade. Ultimately, *Sophie B. Hawkins: The Cream Will Rise* becomes a turbulent journey of transformation and self-exploration when a visit with her mother in New York City forces her to confront the dark and murky demons of her childhood. Brilliantly weaving Sophie's powerful and insightful music together with rare concert footage and intimate moments about her haunted past, filmmaker Gigi Gaston delivers what Mark Woods of *Variety* has called "... a dark, surprisingly inspiring film which shines as an example of the magic and force of cinéma vérité in the right hands." • VHS \$19.95, DVD \$24.95. Now available from Docurama, 1-800-314-8822, www.docurama.com.



Sophie B. Hawkins (above) and Kelly McGillis



### The Monkey's Mask

In a rare on-screen appearance, Kelly McGillis (*The Accused*, *Witness*, and Tom Cruise's lover in *Top Gun*) stars in this provocative role as a bisexual married woman drawn into a torrid lesbian love affair with a private investigator searching for the murderer of a young woman. Susie Porter (*Better Than Sex*) plays the private eye who willingly, at first, dives into a world of murder and manipulation, only to be consumed by the ever-enthralling power of sex. Suspenseful, hard-edged, and lustful, *The Monkey's Mask* is a smoldering story of two star-crossed lovers whose lives will never be the same. • DVD \$29.99, VHS \$59.99. Available March 15 from Strand Releasing, www.strandreleasing.com. ■



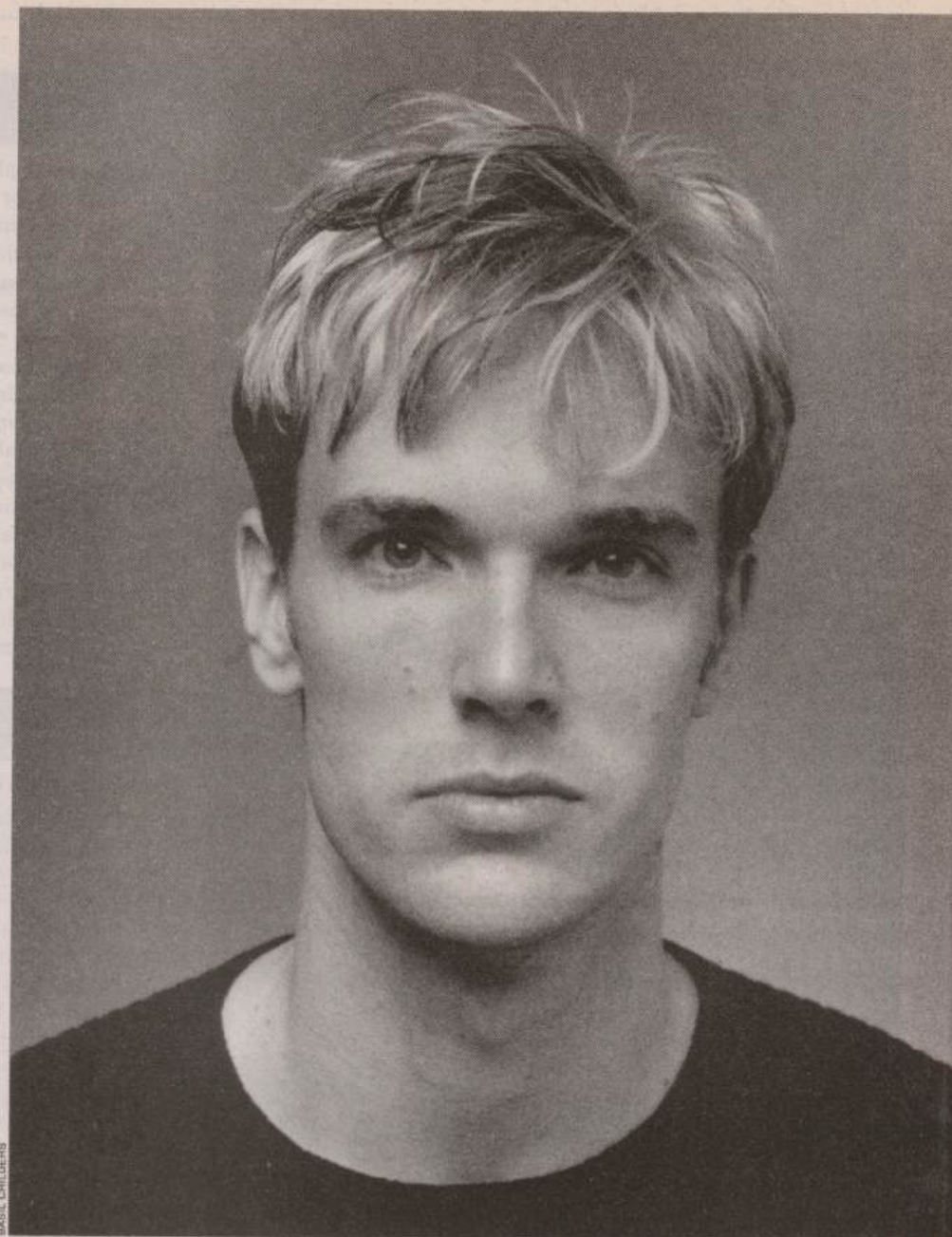
**G**ay choreographer Trey McIntyre is soaring. Zooming, actually. Since his January arrival in Houston, he's been going nonstop creating his world premiere three-act *Peter Pan* for Houston Ballet. Although he's single, he hasn't even partaken of Montrose nightlife, wanting to stay focused and not be distracted from his work. Even Monday, the dancer's day off, finds him across town at Houston Ballet's new high-tech design production warehouse checking out set designer Tom Boyd's prototype for the lost boys' little ship. With wheels and pivots on their skateboard-like vessel, *Peter Pan*'s band of wild preteens will be able to careen around the stage like marauding mosquitoes, infuriating the nasty pirates on board Captain Hook's lumbering galleon, which Boyd has crafted from bones.

"The ships are so cool," McIntyre later said laughing. "The lost boys have a miniature jet ski. I rode on it back and forth, spinning and sliding—I had so much fun."

You'd think McIntyre would be stressed: a world premiere, his first full-length production, and the opening less than a month away, March 14. But McIntyre takes it all in stride. Big ones, since he's 6'5". He's stoked, in his words.

"I thought it would be like the equivalent of three one-act ballets, but it's really not. It's more the equivalent of 10 one-act ballets. There's so much that goes into it. Especially during the rehearsal process. Because I can't work straight through, I have to work in sections, so I'm constantly trying to keep what section works with this section, how does that relate to the first act, how does it all work together? There are so many things to balance at once. All those elements, keeping them all wrangled.

"My biggest goal, more than anything,



BASIL CHILDERS

# The High-Flying

is to be a fine storyteller. I really want people to be able to sit through it and not have to struggle with what's going on. And that really takes keeping a sense of the entire project—almost two hours' worth of choreography—all the time, always, constantly keeping that in my head. And that requires 10 times more preparation before going in the studio."

Three years ago, when McIntyre was resident choreographer at Oregon Ballet Theatre, the idea of a full-length *Peter Pan* was

**Houston Ballet's boy wonder grows up and creates his first full-length ballet: *Peter Pan***

by D.L. Groover

suggested, and the young choreographer immediately saw all the inherent dance and visual possibilities. He began work, collaborating with Broadway costume designer Jeanne Button, set designer Boyd (Houston Ballet's production designer responsible for Ben Stevenson's atmospheric *Dracula* and *Cleopatra*), and musical arranger Neil DePonte on a score comprised from the works of Sir Edward Elgar. But then Oregon downsized its company to less than 20, and McIntyre's proposed libretto already called for 14 Indians. That wasn't even counting pirates, mermaids, fairies, lost boys, the Darling family, flying fish puppets, and a crocodile. He realized *Pan* would never premiere in Portland. He kept working on it, experimenting with the Flying by Foy rigs by adding a bungee cord to the wire, and refining his libretto—but *Pan* was a ballet without a company.

As choreographic associate for Houston Ballet since 1995, he asked artistic director Ben Stevenson for his help.

"Look at the libretto and let me know what you think. He said, 'Why don't you do it for us?'"

*Peter Pan* found a home. This is McIntyre's sixth piece for Houston, following extraordinary successes with the one-acts *Touched* (1994), *Second Before the Ground* (1996), and *Bound* (2000). His tenure with Houston Ballet spans his entire career—both as dancer and choreographer. McIntyre moved to Houston in 1987 to study at the Houston Ballet Academy after graduating from the prestigious North Carolina School of the Arts. His musicality and dramatic instincts drew him to choreography; his talents caught Stevenson's attention, and in 1989, at the tender age of 19, McIntyre was named choreographic apprentice. He joined the company a year later as a corps member. Although extraordinarily tall for a classical

dancer, his theatrical flair made for striking appearances in Houston Ballet productions, such as the title role in *Don Quixote* (his favorite part because of all the stunt work) and the phosphorescent-eyed Inquisitor in Christopher Bruce's *Cruel Garden*. Although he moved to Portland in 1998, his alliance with Houston Ballet continues strong.

estly, I've learned so much from him. I see that more and more as time goes on."

At 32, McIntyre has joined that rarefied club of hot young international choreographers who include Stanton Welch, Christopher Wheeldon, and Natalie Weir, who in turn follow in the choreographic footprints of Jiri Kilian, William Forsythe, and Nacho Duato.

After *Peter Pan* opens, McIntyre, who never seems to stay put in his Portland home longer than a variation, creates a new work for Philadanco, Philadelphia's modern dance company. For next year, his schedule includes world premieres at the National Ballet of Cuba and another at Washington Ballet using music from the independent neo-rock band the Shins.



DREW DONOVAN  
Mauricio Canete (l) and Timothy O'Keefe

**Forget Disney. McIntyre's version of *Peter Pan* is heavily influenced by Sir James Barrie's original with its sinister overtones of *Neverland* and an untamed Pan with leaves in his hair and dirt on his face.**

# Trey McIntyre

"There's no other company like it in the U.S.," he says with a wide smile. "It's all in the details. It's really pure, clean placement and not affectation. It's all from Ben. Hon-

dancer, his theatrical flair made for striking appearances in Houston Ballet productions, such as the title role in *Don Quixote* (his favorite part because of all the stunt work) and the phosphorescent-eyed Inquisitor in Christopher Bruce's *Cruel Garden*. Although he moved to Portland in 1998, his alliance with Houston Ballet continues strong.

McIntyre works in the studio just as fast as his upward career trajectory and, except for some complicated corps dancing, creates the actual steps on the dancers only after he enters the rehearsal room. That innate ability to create on his feet, to convey what he wants without wasting anyone's time, to know just the right dance gesture to convey thought, is evidence of his maturity as a choreographer.

"I just always go fast," McIntyre says. "Slow is boring to me. You get more out of

the dancers that way if they stay engaged and stay challenged. Stylistically, it's certainly a collaboration. Just getting to know them, how they move, what looks best on them, will affect what I'll come up with later."

And forget Disney. McIntyre's version of *Peter Pan* is heavily influenced by Sir James Barrie's original with its sinister overtones of *Neverland* and an untamed Pan with leaves in his hair and dirt on his face. "If you put your ear to the ground now, you would hear the whole island seething with life—all wanted blood. . . . Thus sharply did the terrified three learn the difference between an island of make-believe and the same island come true."

"I love his writing," McIntyre says. "When I approach a brand-new scene, I go back and read that section, and it'll affect the details. Tomorrow, I'm working on the battle scene with the two ships. Talk about a beautiful phrase. It's Pan's first fight with Captain Hook and Hook bites him. And Barrie talks about how there's a moment in every child's life where something that's not fair happens for the first time. And if you're the adult that inflicts that, they'll forgive you and go on, but really the child will never be the same again. And Peter, who's eternally a child, has forgotten everything that's happened before except for the moment right then. So it's little details like that I will at least keep in my toy box to work with in the studio."

With unabashed theatricality and full of imaginative quicksilver movement, McIntyre's works always surprise. Now he's working on Wendy's solo from Act III with Houston Ballet soloist Sara Webb. The scene occurs before the final *pas de deux* between Wendy and Peter, where Wendy, firmly on the ground, dances with Peter flying above her. The Darling family has been reunited. A large frame will descend from the flies to enclose

the family, but Wendy steps out of the picture to observe them. She is leaving childhood behind. It's a rapturous solo replete with movement and pointe work that sighs of budding adulthood. At one point, McIntyre softly directs her—he never raises his voice in rehearsals, or outside, either—"Do something they won't expect."

*The Houston Ballet presents Peter Pan, March 14-24, at the Wortham Theater, 500 Texas, 713-227-ARTS. Tickets from \$11.50.*



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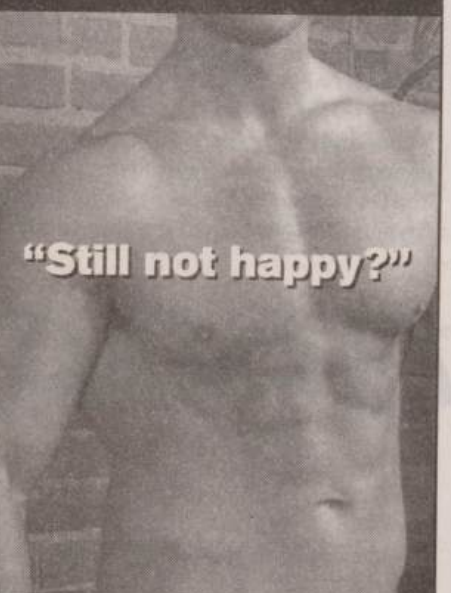
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## FotoFest Hot Picks

by Anne H. Roberts

**F**otoFest is an amazing phenomenon that has happened in Houston once every two years since 1986, as some of the most famous and interesting photographers working today come from all over the world to show their work and view one another's work. FotoFest itself has curated 32 exhibitions on this year's theme, *The Classical Eye and Beyond*, and more than 125 arts organizations and other venues are sponsoring their own FotoFest exhibits. Most of the openings are March 1, and run throughout March. Find a complete list of exhibits at [www.fotofest.org](http://www.fotofest.org), or visit FotoFest headquarters in the Vine Street Studios, 1113 Vine Street, just east of downtown, 713/223-5522.

We present two of FotoFest's featured photographers who are openly gay and whose work explores questions of gender.

### Was Krazy Kat a girl or a boy?

**N**ew York artist Martha Burgess has described her work as "somewhere between the archive and the kitchen sink." *Gumshoe*, the work to be shown at FotoFest, includes references to art history, Chinese history (in particular, the history of lesbian women), linguistics, feminist and queer studies, and popular culture.

Burgess's primary interest is gender and sexuality: what is so-called "appropriate" for each gender, and whether the mind is without gender. For example, Burgess did an installation last year at Rice University exploring the constantly changing gender of George Herriman's early-

20th-century comic strip *Krazy Kat*.

In *Gumshoe*, Burgess creates an installation with graphics, furniture, prints, and a series of interactive computer stations—with a click of the mouse, one luscious, color-laden image dissolves into another, or into an animated sequence, or a sound track, or video clip, poem, joke, or interactive story—all diffused with Burgess's wry sense of humor.

*Martha Burgess's Gumshoe*, Opus 23, "moonlighting," will run March 1-April 1 at Blumenthal Sheet Metal, 1720 Burnett, 713/223-5522. Opening and street party Sun., March 3, 8-11 p.m.



Martha Burgess' Gumshoe

### If we could change history...

**L**os Angeles artist Ken Gonzales-Day recreates history in his imagination and camera lens. In his lush beautiful work *The Bone-Grass Boy: The Secret Banks of the Conijos River*, he creates a novel/historical document that never existed about a Native American man and Latino man who were

heroes during the Mexican/American war.

Using digital manipulation, Gonzales-Day portrays the fictional tale of Ramoncita, a Native/Latina *berdache*—"a term which is no longer used, but which acknowledged a kind of third, or alternative, gender model among many native cultures, and the Zuni in particular," according to the catalog essay—and Nepomuceno, a New Mexican soldier fighting for Mexico, but sneaking back into his homeland.



Ken Gonzales-Day's *The Bone-Grass Boy: The Secret Banks of the Conijos River*

But of course this is fiction, Gonzales-Day says in his catalog essay, because during the actual conquest of the West, there would never have been a novel that contained Native and Latino characters as heroes instead of ridiculous extras.

*Ken Gonzales-Day: The Bone-Grass Boy: The Secret Banks of the Conejos River* at FotoFest Headquarters, Vine Street Studios, 1113 Vine Street, 713/223-5522. Opening Sat., March 9, 8-11 p.m. Runs March 1-April 1. ■

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Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit [www.viracept.com](http://www.viracept.com).

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

#### WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

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

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

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

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

#### DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

#### WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

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**If you are pregnant:** The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**If you are breast-feeding:** You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

**Children:** VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

**If you have liver disease:** VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**Other medical problems:** Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

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

#### CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

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Cardioquin®, Quindex®, and others  
Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)  
Halcion® (triazolam)  
Versed® (midazolam)  
Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)  
Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

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

#### Special considerations

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

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

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

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

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

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

Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT)  
Efavir® (efavirenz, 3TC)  
Zert® (stavudine, d4T)  
Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

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

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

#### Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

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

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

#### Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

#### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

#### HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

**Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor.** Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

#### Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

#### Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

| Pediatric Dose to be Administered Three Times Daily |               |               |                  |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Body Weight                                         | Number of     | Number of     |                  |                   |
| Kg                                                  | Lb            | Level Scoops* | Level Teaspoons† | Number of Tablets |
| 7 to <8.5                                           | 15.5 to <18.5 | 4             | 1                | —                 |
| 8.5 to <10.5                                        | 18.5 to <23   | 5             | 1 1/4            | —                 |
| 10.5 to <12                                         | 23 to <26.5   | 6             | 1 1/2            | —                 |
| 12 to <14                                           | 26.5 to <31   | 7             | 1 3/4            | —                 |
| 14 to <16                                           | 31 to <35     | 8             | 2                | —                 |
| 16 to <18                                           | 35 to <39.5   | 9             | 2 1/4            | —                 |
| 18 to <23                                           | 39.5 to <50.5 | 10            | 2 1/2            | 2                 |
| ≥23                                                 | ≥50.5         | 15            | 3 3/4            | 3                 |

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

\* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder.** Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

#### How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

**Do not** mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

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

**Do not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

#### Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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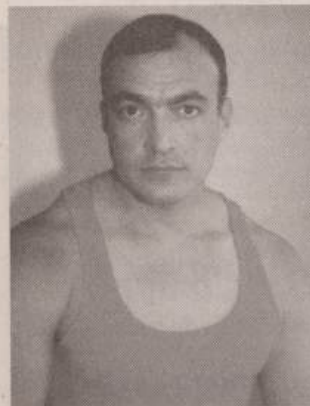
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# Private Eye & Gym Bunny

Talking with mystery writer Greg Herren

by Gregg Shapiro



CHUCK GAVES

**OutSmart:** Physical fitness figures prominently in the plot of *Murder in the Rue Dauphine*—the main character, Chanse McLeod, is a former cop who is now a private investigator, and he spends a lot of time in the gym. The gym is also where he meets his client Mike Hansen, who is subsequently murdered. Greg Herren: [laughs] I've been a personal trainer for seven years. I was heavily into working out and fitness for two years before I went into it as a career. The gym is really a big part of my life. You have a tendency, when you write, to write about things that you know about. A friend of mine, who is an editor, gets on my case because he says I always write about people at the gym. [laughs] **Fundraising, male escorts, blackmail—those are three themes that are central to your novel. I would like to address each one. Let's begin with "fundraising."** I think that the idea for [the fundraising subplot] came from a local scandal here in New Orleans involving a gay nonprofit that was a hospice for AIDS patients. They had a lot of funding from the national and local governments, and they raised a lot of money every year. Overnight, the executive director vanished with all the money. He had apparently been embezzling from the nonprofit for quite some time. It was quite a shock for me. In the community, we have a tendency to automatically confer trust, because if someone is gay, they can't be bad. That got me thinking that that's a very easy way for someone who has a criminal bent to take advantage of the community. After the book was finished and sold and I was waiting for it to come out and be published, the whole Millennium March

money-disappearing scandal happened. Maybe I was thinking along the right lines. We need to be a little more careful. **Male escorts are part and parcel of the gay community. What is your opinion of our brothers in the sex work industry?** To be perfectly honest with you, I don't have a problem with it. [laughs] I really don't. I think that prostitution, in our society, isn't nearly as evil and horrible as it is made out to be. Yes, there are a lot of people who are on the streets and homeless and drug addicted, who have to sell their bodies in order to keep their habits going. I think that if it was legalized and controlled and taxed . . . [laughs] We could probably pay off the national debt if we taxed prostitutes! It's a victimless crime, to me. I know a lot of people who have paid their way through college escorting. If you can make \$200 an hour, and only have to work two hours a week to make enough money to support yourself through college . . . Hey, why not? More power to you. **The blackmail aspect of the novel is closely related to straight, married men who become sexually and romantically involved with openly gay men.** I don't know how it is in the rest of the country, because I'm from the South and I've lived here pretty much my entire life. But, I've noticed that down here, there is a lot of pressure on people. It's not quite as open. Especially 20 years ago, when everybody was coming out in New York and San Francisco and everywhere else, it wasn't that way down here. It was still very backward, as far as being able to come out and be openly gay. A lot of people ended up giving into that and following that path of denying themselves and getting married. *continued on page 61*



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## Humor by Sally Sheklow

### RX FOR IT

*Directions for use: to be taken orally  
three times daily by homophobes or anyone  
suspecting they may have been infected  
by a person suffering from homophobia*

With the zillions of medicines crowding pharmacy shelves, why don't we have an antidote to homophobia? I'd like to hand this one over to the big pharmaceuticals. They've renamed and sold us a cure for every other unmentionable ailment. They turned "impotence" into "erectile dysfunction," took it out of the bedroom, and gave it those easy-to-pronounce initials—ED. To treat ED they brought us Viagra, along with its very own celebrity spokesperson—Mr. ED. Bob Dole's stiff little fountain pen and the Viagra racecar convinced men that talking to the doctor about ED is an act of courage. Turns out the market is chock full of courageous men.

If only drug companies saw homophobia as their new cash cow. As soon as they

recognize the profit potential, their marketing geniuses will be all over this one.

Focus groups will test new names for homophobia.

#### Which do you prefer? Check one:

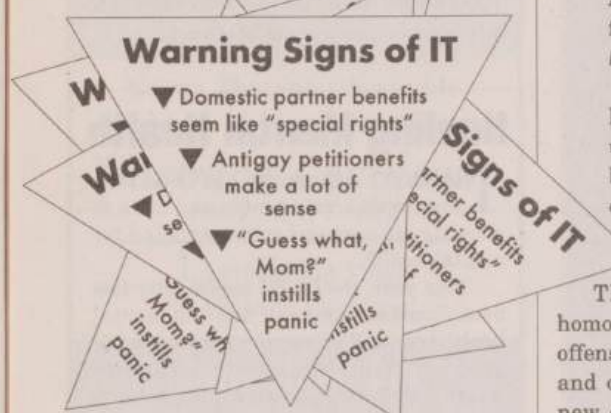
- ☐ Bias Anxiety Disorder (BAD)
- ☐ General Repetitive Rudeness (GRR)
- ☐ HQ (hate queers)
- ☐ GPDLMKTOTBO (God, please, don't let my kid turn out to be one.)

The execs will find something simple and catchy—a normal-sounding name homophobes won't be afraid to take a pill for. When the big day comes, the chief officers will gather in the board room and unveil the new disorder: Ladies and gentlemen, our

next golden egg. Inhibited Tolerance. IT.

Amidst cheers of greedy camaraderie, the bigwigs pop a magnum of Dom Perignon and start planning the IT awareness campaign. IT poses a super-tough advertising challenge because one symptom of Inhibited Tolerance is that nobody wants to admit they have IT. But this is the same industry that found Lauren Hutton to get America talking about menopausal bone loss. Surely they can tackle IT.

Let the mass marketing begin. Everyone will go around humming the new IT jingle, "Oops, I Did IT Again." Refrigerators in kitchens across the nation will bear the new pink triangle magnets:



Bring on the commercials. Give us a sincere-looking TV personality with a high approval rating.

#### LAURA BUSH

Do you dislike people of diverse orientations? Do you deride, devalue, or deny the rights of sexual minorities? Do you ever use the insult, "That's so gay!"?

You may suffer from Inhibited Tolerance. You're not alone. Millions of Americans like you have IT.

Now you can get H.E.L.P.—Happily Embrace Life's Plurality. Ask your doctor if HELP is right for you.

#### MANLY MAN (VOICEOVER)

Warning: HELP may cause loosening of rigidity, the uncontrollable urge to embrace banished family members, and a change in voting habits.

That ought to convince folks that homophobia is as shameful and personally offensive as dandruff, unsightly facial hair, and overactive bladder. HELP, the trendy new cure, will start selling like hotcakes.

Homophobic talk-show hosts and televangelists have to jump on the bandwagon to keep their audiences. Poor Dr. Laura and Jerry Falwell. Those hardcore homophobes are the toughest nuts to crack. What drug companies need is someone who can do for IT what Bob Dole did for ED. A trusted, persuasive voice of experience.

*(Zoom in on U.S. Capitol steps. Old Glory waves in the background. Violins play "God Bless America.")*

#### SPOKESPERSON

Hi, I'm Jesse Helms. I never even knew I had IT until my lesbian great-granddaughter here took me aside and told me.

*(Jesse smiles, puts his arm around a strapping young dyke. Zoom in on closeup of pill bottle.)*

Then I found HELP.



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](mailto:sally@wymprov.com).

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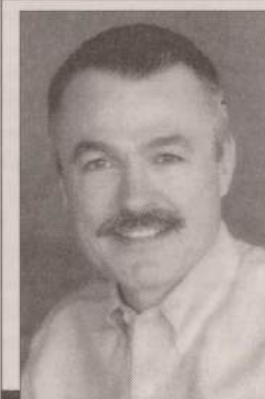
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## SHANNON R. SCHRADER, M.D.

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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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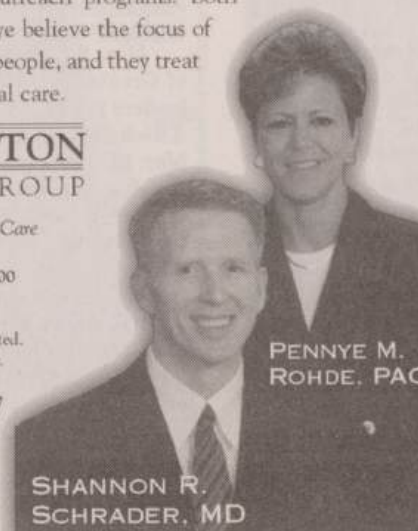
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March 24th, 9 am & 11 am

**Wednesday Worship,**

March 27th, 7 pm

**Maundy Thursday Service,**

March 28th, 7 pm

**Good Friday Service,**

March 29th, 7 pm

**Noche Espiritual,**

March 30th, 7 pm

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## Human Sexuality Expert Cheryl Weill



Scientist and human sexuality expert Cheryl Weill will be speaking at the April 2 GLBT Chamber of Commerce meeting on the "Biological Origins of Sexuality." In the ongoing debate of "were we born this way?" Weill is well known for her research on when sexuality and sexual preference is determined—and she's been speaking to university campuses and PFLAG meetings on this subject all over the country for the past nine years.

Both chamber members and non-members are welcome. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Select, 2712 Southwest Freeway near Greenway Plaza. Social/networking 6 p.m.; dinner and speaker 7 p.m. RSVP to 713/523-7576 by March 29. Guests \$25.

## AIDS Walk Houston

The 13th Annual AIDS Walk Houston will be held Sun., March 10. In partnership with JP Morgan Chase, the AIDS Walk Houston is a 3.5-mile walk event to increase awareness and education of HIV/AIDS. Last year's walk raised more than \$350,000 with the help of over 4,000 participants. Benefiting from this year's walk are the AIDS Foundation Houston and five local HIV/AIDS service organizations: Brentwood Community Foundation, PWA Coalition of Houston, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, the Assistance Fund, and the Center for AIDS. Registration is 8 a.m. at Sam Houston Park, 1000 Bagby Street, and the walk starts at 9 a.m. For info, see [www.aidshep.org](http://www.aidshep.org).

## Healing Mental Health

The GLBT community has been turning our awareness more and more to showing support and understanding for mental health.

This year, the GLBT community has been focusing more and more on mental health issues. While a pervasive and crippling set of diseases, mental health illnesses are often surrounded with misunderstanding and stigma. You can show your interest and support in two events this month:

The Montrose Counseling Center is throwing its annual St. Patrick's Day celebration/fundraiser, "Bringing in the Green," Friday, Mar. 15, 5:30-8 p.m., at the home of John Danielson, 502 Hawthorne. Entertainment by Jerry Atwood, featuring Kim Yvette, \$25.

The Montrose Counseling Center is a community-based organization providing services primarily for and about GLBT individuals. They offer individual and group therapy, chemical dependency programs, and HIV/AIDS counseling, support for crime survivors, and survivors of partner assault.

Also, the Mental Health Association of Greater Houston invites community leaders to a half-day symposium: "Call to Action: Stamp Out Stigma" on Friday, Mar. 15, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Omni Hotel, 4 Riverway. After brief presentations by mental health experts, the participants will work in small breakout groups to brainstorm innovative strategies for changing stigma with each respective sector. Cosponsored by the departments of psychiatry of Baylor College of Medicine and the UT Health Science Center, the symposium and luncheon are underwritten (by pharmaceutical companies) and are free of charge. For info, [mpatel@mhahouston.org](mailto:mpatel@mhahouston.org) or 713/523-8963.

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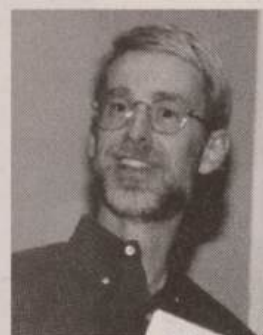
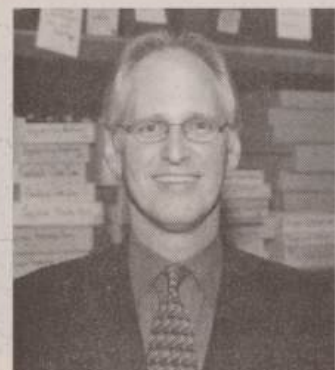
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## New Presidents



**Lucy Watson**  
Lesbian Health Initiative, pictured with her partner Pat Gandy (r), who is treasurer of LHI

↓ **Larry Baumann**  
Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce



↑ **Ken Jones**  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

## Lawyer Sought

The Montrose Counseling Center is looking for an attorney who wants to give back to the community by providing pro bono legal counsel to its endowment board. Please send a letter of inquiry with your résumé/CV to: Montrose Counseling Center Endowment, Attn: Executive Director, 701 Richmond Avenue, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713/526-4367. No phone calls.

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## News & Comment Travel

• **OutBoard, World's Largest Gay Snowboarding Event, April 4-7, Colorado**—With 2264 members, one third of them women, OutBoard is expected to draw 350 attendees, from first-time riders to sponsored professionals. Copper Mountain Resort, 75 miles west of Denver. Prices for three days including lodging, lift tickets, and most meals begin under \$400. [www.outboard.org](http://www.outboard.org).

• **PrideFest America Symposium and Festival, Philadelphia, April 29-May 5**—Aiming to be the "pre-eminent annual international forum for the GLBT international civil rights movement," PrideFest America's 10th-anniversary focus will be on South Africa. 215/732-FEST, [www.pridefestamerica.com](http://www.pridefestamerica.com).

• **Desert Hearts Women's Festival, May 3-5, Texas Hill Country**—"Camping, entertainment and good clean fun!" A women-only event on private property. Watch for the rainbow windsocks and family reunion signs—adult women only, no children or pets allowed. Tickets \$75 at the door (discounts up to \$30 for early registration). 830/796-7001, <http://members.aol.com/CowgirlJ/dhwhf>.

• **Paradise Ride; Hawaii's Ride to Stop AIDS, July 20-27**—Five days, 390 miles, four islands. Produced collaboratively by five AIDS nonprofits in Hawaii, no funds from the Paradise Ride are paid to professional event producers—net proceeds in 2002 are expected to be 70 percent. Registration \$300 (includes transport between islands), riders required to fundraise \$2,500. 888/285-9866, [www.paradiseridehawaii.org](http://www.paradiseridehawaii.org).

• **GLBT&I Health Summit, August 21-25, Boulder, Colorado**—"A major convergence of health providers, activists, policymakers, researchers, and organizers focused on the health and wellness of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender, and intersex people in the United States." [www.healthsummit2002.org](http://www.healthsummit2002.org), 303/444-6121 x 122. Early registration.

• **New Gay Travel Websites**—Two excellent websites have recently premiered for GLBT travel: [www.funmaps.com](http://www.funmaps.com) and [www.gayoutdoors.com](http://www.gayoutdoors.com).

## News & Comment

### SNAP in Trouble



We're distressed to report that SNAP (Spay-Neuter Assistance Program), the organization that helps homeless animals, may itself soon be homeless.

As reported by SNAP's executive director, Sean Hawkins, the news came in late January when executives from Enron notified SNAP that it would have to vacate

their downtown office space previously donated to the organization by the fallen energy giant. Although SNAP staff was told they could stay if they pay rent, Hawkins says they cannot possibly afford it, especially given the top-dollar downtown parking fees.

SNAP had received more than \$200,000 in cash and in-kind donations from Enron in the last two years—and had provided direct care to 39,092 animals through six clinic facilities last year. Like many Houston charities, SNAP was already doubly suffering from the June flooding and September 11, which had reduced charitable gifts to SNAP by more than a third.

"The events of the last six months have devastated SNAP financially. Our exhausted

staff and volunteers who have been working to keep the organization afloat are mentally and emotionally wasted," Hawkins says. SNAP has had to cut way back on services to the community, lay off employees, and reduce employee benefits. And now the cash-strapped nonprofit is being forced into an expensive move.

"We're now appealing to the general public for help to keep our doors open to provide critical public health services to the community," Hawkins says.

Spaying and neutering services provided by SNAP immediately impact the tragedy of dog and cat overpopulation by preventing homeless animals from being born, keeping strays off the streets, and preventing the spread of diseases such as rabies to the public. Also, SNAP provides free spay/neuter and animal wellness services to animals living with PWA and HIV families. (Just register for your Animal Aid Card at the Montrose Clinic or other neighborhood clinics.)

Donations can be sent to SNAP, P.O. Box 70286, Houston 77270. For more info, call 713/862-3863 or visit [www.snaptx.org](http://www.snaptx.org). SNAP clinics are located at 1603 Shepherd and 1801 Durham.



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### National Briefs

### TG Stonewall Legend Passes On

Hero of Stonewall, Sylvia Rivera, 53, passed away February 19 in a Greenwich Village hospital. The cause of her death was cancer of the liver. Her lover, Julia Murray, and Reverend Pat Bumgardner of MCC-NY were at her side as she passed on. She was 53.

Rivera was popularly credited as being the instigator of the Stonewall Riots. She was one of the collection of drag queens, transsexuals and stone butch lesbians on the scene, June 27, 1969. Though the uprising is the subject of legend, Rivera has traveled the world telling (and correcting) the legend of that fateful night. Rivera's firebrand demeanor was world-renowned and instrumental in galvanizing the transgender community to fight to further the cause of justice for all.

In 1970, less than a year after Stonewall, Rivera joined forces with another Stonewall veteran, the late Marsha P. Johnson, to form the group Street Trans-



vestite (later changed to Transgender) Action Revolutionaries (STAR), in which Rivera worked tirelessly for the civil rights of transgendered and other queer people.

Rivera was involved in the struggle for human rights until the moment of her death. Last year, she resurrected STAR in response to the high-profile murder of transsexual prostitute, Amanda Milan. Recently, just out of the hospital, Rivera participated in the lobbying effort to include gender identity in New York State's pending Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act legislation. Rivera met with the leadership of the Empire State Pride Agenda in her hospital room just hours before her death, presenting issues of concern to the transgender community and negotiating for greater support from ESPA. She left the national GLBT community as she had begun: a true and outspoken activist who was totally committed, and who never knew the word "quit." ■



## SURPRISES, SOCIALIZING, & SOLIDARITY

*Some observations on life at City Hall by a bemused three-term council member*

*Editor's note: This article is the debut of a monthly column by Annise Parker, who is just beginning her third term in City Council, and was Houston's first openly gay city councilperson. We were delighted when Parker came to OutSmart and offered to share her insights into the intriguing jumble that we call city politics.*

I was asked to "let my hair down" for this column. Those who know me know that's physically impossible, but I'll give it a metaphoric try and describe what council feels like from my perspective. In future columns, I'll try to give an insider's take on current events.

I remember my first impressions four years ago—the mayor's incredible power (granted by city charter), the number of decisions we have to make in a very short time, and, conversely, the slowness of the process. Another surprise was that council members

almost never interacted with one another away from the council table. And the council table, in council or in committee meetings, is a very public place. Every utterance is videotaped and broadcast, often live, on the Municipal Channel. (Careful what you're doing when the camera pans the room!) The press is usually there as well, alert for controversy or stupid comments.

Our city charter has the most restrictive public meetings statute in the state. We can't have executive sessions (private meetings) of council, even to consult with the city attorney on pending lawsuits. They must be conducted one-on-one. And, according to state law, individual council members are not even supposed to meet privately to discuss agenda items with each other!

We are allowed to socialize with each other; however, at the beginning of my first term, no one did except at official functions. On our officially non-partisan council, the

seven Republicans decided to address this by having breakfast meetings as the "R7." Public backlash against this partisan caucusing was so strong that the idea was dropped.

The three women on council (Martha Wong, Jean Kelly, and I) got together with City Controller Sylvia Garcia for lunch a couple of times. But we weren't consistent about it.

State legislators are notorious for their socializing. U.S. representatives spend a dozen hours a week attending the same banquets and a dozen more hours ironing out the details of members' bills in committees and private meetings.

For better or worse, Houston City Council is not a true legislative body. We're policymakers in a strong mayoral system. The mayor has all the administrative authority. Unlike Congress, we don't have attorneys at our disposal to draft legislation with our name on it. We have 10 council committees,

but ordinances are written by the Legal Department at the request of the mayor, a department head or a committee with the mayor's consent. We joke about LOL (Lost in Legal). Our negotiations are with the administration.

Council members do get an overwhelming number of public socializing opportunities. In a city of two million constituents, every major or minor group wants to meet the new council member. The good news is that

four new female colleagues at Brennan's. (Apologies to council member Michael Berry, my only new male colleague.) It definitely took two council members to pay this tab. Ask me some other time what happened when CM Galloway and I accidentally got each other's American Express cards and didn't know it for several days. My new colleagues were excited, prepared, and genuinely cordial to one another. Yes! Six of 15 council votes. Not just a

**The good news is that we are invited to everything. The bad news is that we are expected to attend. Not much time for a personal life.**

we are invited to everything. The bad news is that we are expected to attend. Not much time for a personal life. There is an old joke that politicians will attend the opening of an envelope. The truth is that there are groups that would invite us for that! One learns to distinguish the "must attends" from the "maybes," the "oh, my Gods," and the "want to attends."

My second term began with only one other female council member, Carol Galloway. Several of my new male colleagues had been hunting buddies whose adventures won them the nickname "Brat Pack." They had great camaraderie and often joined together on votes in a show of support. Unfortunately, too many nights out drinking led to a DWI for one and a highly publicized sex scandal involving his wife and one of his colleagues. The Brat Pack broke up.

As the term ended, two council members challenged the mayor for the top post. Cirque du Soleil would have had trouble balancing term-limit politics, partisanship, personal conflicts, and professional civility. Let me just say that we fell off the high wire occasionally.

Fortunately, the 2001 election changed the atmosphere. Now we have a new council and new dynamics. In early January, council member Galloway and I hosted a welcome lunch for our

handful among hundreds of legislators, but almost half of council. We won't vote as one, but we will work together and continue to meet.

Council member Addie Wiseman can handle any crowd. The former stand-up comic (and Robb Todd aide) is quiet but assertive. And levelheaded. Her first act on council was to give all the female members a gold flyswatter to use on the "boys."

Council member Dr. Shelley Sekula-Rodriguez is eager to apply her expertise to improving the Health Department, perhaps the city's most under-funded department. We definitely need a Health Department to Standard program, much like the Parks and Neighborhoods to Standard initiatives.

Carol Alvarado, former executive mayoral aide, now represents District I. Her experience gives her a head start. Add her energy and thoroughness, and her East End district is well-served.

Many of you may have already met new District D council member Ada Edwards. She began her term calmly and deliberately with her usual can-do attitude. She immediately convened civic club presidents from all across the district, which includes Montrose, in an effort to unite the sometimes combative ends of the diverse district and improve district services.

I'm enjoying the new dynamics at council meetings. During the heated debate over the naming rights study, council member Wiseman asked how the city could consider selling advertising or naming rights for city facilities when we try to teach our children that name brands are not that important, not worth hurting someone over a fancy pair of celebrity tennis shoes. Wiseman and I both ended up on the losing side of that vote (8 to 7). The city will go ahead and spend \$40,000 to study selling ads and naming rights. But throughout the discussion council members conducted themselves as if their children were indeed watching.

I begin my final council term chairing two major council committees: Fiscal Affairs, and Neighborhood Protection and Quality of Life. For the next few months, Fiscal Affairs will spend much of its time on the budget process and city finances so that coun-

cil members, especially new colleagues, will be ready to tackle the mayor's \$2.5 billion budget when it's presented in May. We are also expected to debate the naming rights study when it's finished. Neighborhood Protection will discuss ordinances pertaining to trees and shrubs, historic preservation, dumpsters, and valet parking.

Please e-mail (see below) or call my office (713/247-2014) if you have a problem with city services or would like to receive a committee agenda or e-mail newsletter. My city council website is [www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/council/1/](http://www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/council/1/). (Note to OutSmart readers: I tried to let my hair down a bit in the Neighborhood Network section.)

*Houston's first openly gay city councilperson, Annise Parker is serving her third term in City Council in at-large position 1. She can be reached at [annise.parker@cityofhouston.net](mailto:annise.parker@cityofhouston.net).*



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## THE CARDINAL'S SIN

*How the Catholic Church has been complicit with priests and pedophilia*

It's difficult to imagine something more ungodly than sex with a child. Imagine that the someone is a priest, and the concept becomes even more repugnant. Imagine that leaders in the Roman Catholic Church could have prevented the sexual abuse and didn't, and the idea is incomprehensible.

Once again, the Catholic Church is enduring harsh criticism for its decision to protect pedophiles instead of parishioners. And, once again, betrayed Catholics are questioning why the Church—after discovering that one of its priests had been charged with sex with a child—would simply move the priest to another parish to prey on a different community rather than address the problem.

This time, the allegations of abuse and cover-up are in Massachusetts. A defrocked priest—John Geoghan—was recently convicted and is awaiting sentencing for sexu-

ally abusing a 10-year-old boy. At least 130 more people have accused Geoghan of sexual abuse. He awaits two more criminal trials and 80 more civil lawsuits.

But now, the controversy has moved from Geoghan to Cardinal Bernard Law. Law is one of the spiritual leaders of America's Catholic community and has been since 1985. Law recently admitted that after learning of the sexual-abuse accusations against Geoghan, he permitted Geoghan to be transferred to another church.

This is not the first time leaders in the Catholic Church have been forced to admit that they have moved priests accused of abuse from one parish to another. It is the first time, though, that someone of Law's stature in the national church has admitted doing so. And while Law has apologized, he has refused to step down.

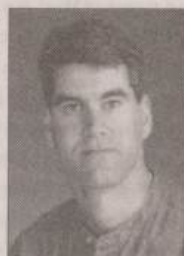
Instead, he insists that the church is

working with prosecutors and notes that the Boston Diocese recently gave prosecutors the names of more than 80 active and former priests suspected of sexual abuse. He attempted to explain his refusal to step down in a recent address at his cathedral in Boston when he said: "When there are problems in the family, you don't walk away. You work them out together with God's help."

While this statement might generally be true, it doesn't apply in every case. And, it doesn't apply in cases involving sexually

*continued on page 40*

*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.*



## THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE RESCUE

*Freedom of speech should apply to everyone . . . except gays and lesbians?*

Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech." Straight from the First Amendment, those may be the most important words in the English language for gay Americans. It might be a good idea for some yahoo politicians around the country to read them. I have in mind two politicians in particular, the governor of South Dakota and the mayor of Oklahoma City, who'd apparently prefer a First Amendment that doesn't apply to homosexuals. They're both fully prepared to sacrifice sound public policy rather than let gays enjoy free speech.

The First Amendment created gay America. For advocates of gay legal and social equality there has been no more reliable and important constitutional text. The freedoms it guarantees—including the freedoms of speech and association—have protected gay cultural and political

institutions from state regulation designed to impose a contrary vision of the good life. Gay organizations, bars, newspapers, radio programs, television shows—all these would be swept away in the absence of a strong First Amendment.

Evenhanded and detached from passions to an unusual degree for a jurisprudence, the First Amendment sheltered gays even when most of the country thought we were not just immoral, but also sick and dangerous. In an era of almost unrelenting hostility, law professor William Eskridge has written, the First Amendment supplied "an appealing normative argument in both the political and judicial arenas." The shelter afforded by the First Amendment allowed gays to organize for the purpose of accumulating and applying political power, a precondition for the effective exercise of other important liberties.

In its protection of the rights of those accused of crime, the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause is the First Amendment's only serious constitutional competitor for pride of place in assisting gay-equality advocates. The criminal procedure protections it guarantees have been powerful weapons against state prosecutions of gay people for a variety of criminal offenses, including the violation of sodomy laws.

Yet even these protections did not significantly reduce arrest rates of gay people for consensual

*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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## LeftOut

continued from page 38

abused children. You don't avail children of sexual abuse while you try to rectify the problem with the abuser. Rather, you keep the abuser away from the children.

In other words, once you find out that the shepherd of your flock is a wolf in sheep's clothing, you don't leave the wolf with the flock. And, you don't transfer the wolf to a new flock. You keep the sheep away from the wolf.

But Law and other Catholic leaders didn't protect the sheep. They protected the wolves. As a result, hundreds of lives were damaged.

Now, Cardinal Law and every other church leader who turned away while children were being abused should step down voluntarily. If they refuse, they should be forced out. There's no room in the Catholic Church for priests who are pedophiles, or for those who permitted the pedophiles to move from one flock to another. ■

## OutRight

continued from previous page

sexual crimes until gay political power forced police departments to consider our interests. The development of gay political power, however, has depended in the first instance on the liberty of gays to organize in groups free of state regulation impinging on their internal affairs, including the content of their message and the composition of their membership.

This freedom, in turn, depends on a strong and principled First Amendment committed to protecting unpopular opinions and speech by individuals or groups the state disdains. Government generally cannot discriminate against a person or group based on the content of their message.

Somebody better tell that to South Dakota. As do many states, South Dakota has an adopt-a-highway program that allows private groups to clean up a stretch of road in exchange for a public sign touting the group's contribution to beautification. Hundreds of groups participate.

The state rejected an application from the Sioux City Gay and Lesbian Coalition, however, saying the state does not allow official roadside signs for "advocacy groups." That is news to groups like the College Republicans, the Yankton County Democrats, the Wheat Growers Association, and the Animal Rights Advocates of South Dakota who have adopted stretches of highway and had their groups'

names enshrined on the state's roads. It's not that the state forbids participation by advocacy groups; the state forbids participation by advocacy groups *whose message it does not like*. This the First Amendment, with its requirement of government content-neutrality, does not permit.

Faced with a likely lawsuit based on the First Amendment, Gov. William Janklow at first threatened to cancel the entire program rather than let the gay coalition participate. In the end, he "compromised" by allowing the gay coalition to participate but ordering the state to take down *every* group's roadside sign. The loss of this public recognition will eliminate a significant incentive for groups to get involved.

Another chop-off-your-nose-to-spite-your-face move recently\* came from Oklahoma City. There, the city took down banners on city utility poles heralding the annual gay pride parade, sponsored by the Cimarron Alliance Foundation. The controversial banners displayed a rainbow flame over the name of the group. The city said the banners were inappropriate because of their (here's that word again) "advocacy." Yet the city had no problem allowing other religious and social advocacy groups, like an antidrug organization, to pay to have their own banners placed on city utility poles.

Under threat of a lawsuit charging a violation of the First Amendment, the city relented and allowed the gay pride banners to reappear this year. Mayor Kirk Humphreys just couldn't understand why. "We are not talking about free speech here," he opined. "We are talking about paid advertising." He said the city was free to pick and choose the messages that appear on public property, just like private companies can choose the messages that appear on their property.

He is doubly wrong. First, advertising is a form of free speech. Second, when it comes to rights guaranteed by the Constitution, government is emphatically *not* like private companies. The Constitution is a constraint on the state, not on private groups.

Now the city proposes to ban almost all advocacy on city property rather than let gay groups' messages appear in the future. Whether the new policy will stand up in court is a large question. What's certain is that, once again, the First Amendment has frustrated an attempt to single us out for silencing. ■

\* Editor's note: Dale Carpenter is on vacation. This column was written September 6, 2001.

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# Tuberculosis & AIDS

*A conversation with  
Nobel Peace Prize winner  
Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

*Editor's note: In recognition of World Tuberculosis Day, March 24, we print the following excerpt from a conference-call conversation with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, led by Dr. Joanne Carter, the legislative director of the grassroots citizens' group RESULTS on June 21, 2001.*

**J**oanne Carter: Many of us in the U.S. have a false sense of separation of TB and AIDS. Tuberculosis is not only the greatest killer of people with AIDS worldwide, but also the first manifestation of AIDS in more than half the cases in poor countries. TB treatment is one of the most effective ways to improve the life and health of someone with AIDS.

The good news, and the tragedy in a way, is that we have an inexpensive cure for tuberculosis that's one of the most cost-effective health interventions available in the world, and yet three-quarters of those sick with TB don't have access. Tuberculosis is more of a political challenge than a medical one.

On an encouraging note here in the U.S., the awareness and support for expanded global tuberculosis efforts have grown immensely among policymakers, especially the U.S. Congress. And, in fact, U.S. funding for international tuberculosis efforts has grown from virtually zero just a few years ago to \$60 million today, and a very prominent and bipartisan group of members of the U.S. Congress is seeking \$200 million for tuberculosis next year to battle that globally, and that includes a contribution to the very important new Global Tuberculosis Drug Facility which was created by the Stop Tuberculosis partnership.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has called in from Cape Town, South Africa. In his work to overcome apartheid and oppression in all forms around the world and in his work as a leader for justice and for peace, as a Nobel prize winner—he really needs no introduction. But I think what's very important today is that in his work to forward human rights in South Africa and around the world, Archbishop Tutu has taken a leading role in calling world attention to the scourge of tuberculosis. This March, he was very involved in the global launch of World Tuberculosis Day [March 24], very appropriately from Cape Town, South Africa, with the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD).



Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former president Jimmy Carter in Houston for the Rothko Chapel Awards for Commitment to Truth and Freedom, 1986.

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu:** As a 15-year-old I contracted TB and was in hospital for 20 months. I vowed then to become a physician to find a cure for that scourge. I didn't become a doctor, but there are those who have showed a wonderful zeal and commitment to rid the

**"If we are to do something about AIDS, then we have to do something about TB. If we are to do something about TB, we are going to have to do something about AIDS." —Desmond Tutu**

world of the scourge of TB, such as the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease and Stop TB campaign. And I do want to pay them all a very warm tribute because it's efforts of that kind which help to destroy that other scourge—apartheid—which targeted especially the most vulnerable, the poor, those who couldn't work, just as TB and now AIDS are doing.

As we have overcome apartheid, so we shall defeat TB and HIV/AIDS, these ungodly twin killers. TB is the most common opportunistic infection connected to AIDS. Fifty percent of those with AIDS contract TB, and TB is the leading killer of people with AIDS. One in three such persons dies. The two epidemics fuel each other.

If we are to do something about AIDS, then we have to do something about TB. If we are to do something about TB, we are going to have to do something about AIDS. There are about 36 million people living with AIDS today, and two-thirds of that huge, huge number are to be found in Africa—in the most poor countries, the least developed countries. If you have TB [and] you also have the HIV virus, it is likely that that is going to develop into full-blown AIDS.

As I've said, TB is the leading killer of people who have AIDS, but we can do something about it. We can conquer TB because there is a cure [that] is relatively cheap, . . . only between \$10 and \$15 to provide six months' supply of drugs per patient.

If the TB is not treated when it is related to AIDS, the patient is likely to die within five and six weeks. If the TB is cured, as it can be, the life span of that person is extended from two to six years, and you can imagine the enormous economic and social impact that must have, especially where it is the breadwinner who has been cured.

This is a wonderful opportunity ahead of the United Nations' General Assembly Special Session for us to galvanize the international community so that it is committed to dealing with something that it can actually handle.

And, please, can we remember that we are not talking just statistics when we say 35 percent, 36 million [dying]? We're talking about people of flesh and blood. We're talking about someone who is somebody's son, somebody's father, somebody's brother. It is people who can

laugh, who can cry. It is people who can be cured, who can have their life span extended.

We defeated Nazism. We defeated slavery. We defeated communism, and recently we defeated apartheid. We certainly can defeat TB and AIDS. Thank you.

*To read the complete transcript of the conversation—which includes Dr. Lee Reichman, author of Time Bomb: The Coming Plague of Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis—see the OutSmart website at [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com). To work for TB legislation and other issues of world poverty with RESULTS, call 202/783-7100, e-mail [results@resultsusa.org](mailto:results@resultsusa.org), or see their website [www.resultsusa.org](http://www.resultsusa.org). Locally, you can reach RESULTS at 713/668-1209.*

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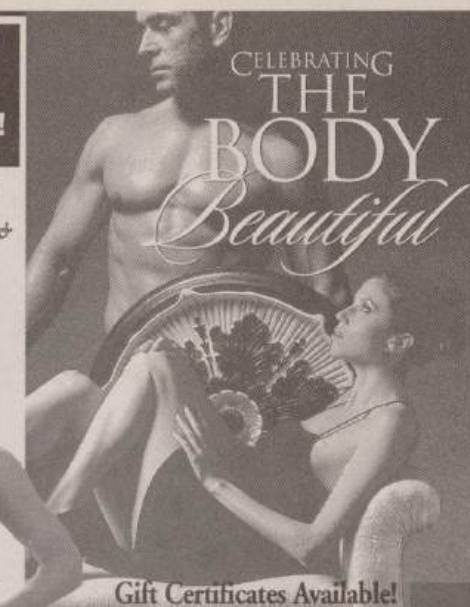
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# School's Out

by D.L. Murphy  
photos by BJ Smith

We need to  
demand that **HISD** be made  
**safe** for *all* students

**I** was kinda out in high school. And it was awful. Now, having spent many years as an all-the-way-out lesbian, served a brief stint as a teacher, and seen enough of the world to want things to be better for the next generation, I decided to talk with those involved in secondary education to see if anything has really changed.

It's not easy figuring out the state of GLBT issues in HISD. The Houston Indepen-

dent School district operates as a network of islands: Individual school principals decide what training teachers receive, what materials school counselors display, and how supportive or homophobic will be the overall atmosphere.

I did some research to see what resources are available to administrators, staff, and teachers. Surprise! Both PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education

Network (GLSEN) have packages for teachers and administrators to help them handle homophobic behavior in the classroom, while the Southern Poverty Law Center provides anti-bias teaching materials and curriculum.

One problem. Without exception, none of the 19 working teachers I surveyed had ever seen any of these materials at the schools where they teach.

Susan Wingfield, local art teacher and artist, has taught grades 6 through 12 at both



Young and Queer and Out: Standing from left, Sparkles, Tara-maria Martinez, Rebecca Mahaffey, Shelly Harvey, Yvonne Faeza, Lee Longoria, and (kneeling) David Norstrom.



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HISD and Pasadena ISD schools. We once worked together at George I. Sanchez Charter High School, an East Side school targeting "at-risk" kids. Has she ever received any training about GLBT issues? "[It] never even came up," she said. "If it weren't for the fact that I have gay friends, there is so much about GLBT issues I wouldn't know. I wouldn't be sensitive to this at all."

Next, I talked with the principal of another inside-the-loop HISD high school, this one on the southwest side. He asked me not to use his name in the story.

"Look, you have to understand the pressures I am under to make sure my students perform well on the TAAS," he told me. "All of my in-service re-

Arvey says she regularly provides PFLAG and H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals) materials to each school counselor. The Southern Poverty Law Center's "Teaching Tolerance" materials are available on the district's website. But sending materials out and having counselors use them are two different things. "It's an uphill battle to make people aware of the resources we have," Arvey said. "Nobody is going to make somebody display information at their schools."

Or, let us say, the district is not stipulating or even strongly urging that anyone display the information at their schools. Without such official sanction, even well-meaning counselors

**"If they tell a kid it's OK, they are afraid of the family and administrative repercussions. They don't feel they can stick their necks out for these kids." —Carol Petrucci**

sources are focused on helping teachers better prepare students for the TAAS."

But, I pointed out, the schools do take time out from their TAAS preparations for celebrations of African-American and Hispanic-American culture. When I asked the principal why the same wasn't done for GLBT students, the interview was terminated.

So, where do students with serious personal questions go within the schools? They go to the school counselors. To find out more about how counselors are trained to deal with their GLBT students, I spoke with Dr. Harriet Arvey, the assistant superintendent at HISD over counseling and guidance. "We do have to address the needs of individual groups who have special circumstances," Arvey said. "We do have a responsibility for that. It is difficult [to do so] in an organization where many different people make the decisions."

find themselves in a tricky spot.

"They don't know how to deal with this situation," said Carol Petrucci, executive director of H.A.T.C.H., who deals with both schools and teens on GLBT issues every day. "If they tell a kid it's OK, they are afraid of the family and administrative repercussions. They don't feel they can stick their necks out for these kids."

Such widespread fear makes it difficult to get off square one. For example, so far no Gay-Straight Alliances have been started in HISD, despite the fact that GSAs are joining the ranks of other student activity groups in schools across the country. Both the students and teachers I talked with said that the problem was getting a faculty sponsor. What a message this sends: If even the adults are afraid to come out of the closet, that tells kids pretty loud and clear how safe it's go-



Susan Wingfield has taught art to middle school and high school students in both HISD and Pasadena schools. Has she ever received any training about GLBT issues? "[It] never even came up." Eliot Cardenas was not getting any help from Bellaire High School, when one day he saw "half a H.A.T.C.H. pamphlet" behind some other materials in the counselor's office.

ing to be for them to be honest about their sexual identity.

Since no one is yet willing to make a stand within the school system, H.A.T.C.H. becomes vital as one of the few places locally where sexual-minority youth can turn. Functioning independently of any school, H.A.T.C.H. was formed a decade ago to provide a supportive place for kids to be themselves and explore the never-easy questions of adolescence, sexuality, and selfhood. "Part of the fun was being outside of the norm," said Eliot Cardenas,

now 20, at a recent meeting. "It is cool hanging out at H.A.T.C.H. with the other gay kids."

Cardenas recently received his GED after attending Texas Military Institute in San Antonio and Bellaire High School. He's been working part-time at the Hollyfield Foundation while he attends the University of Houston.

"I didn't have the best high school experience," Cardenas said. First he was kicked out of the military school when they found a gay magazine in his room. When he arrived at Bellaire, he found himself being threatened

and called "faggot." "When I went to the assistant principal, I was told, 'What do you want me to do about it?'"

Left on his own, Cardenas had no idea where to turn. The word "gay" was banned on the school Internet. Bellaire had a few gay books in the library, but he was afraid to check them out. "It was really annoying," he said.

Then, one day, as he describes it, "Way in back of the counselor's office, back behind the other pamphlets, I saw half a H.A.T.C.H. pamphlet." →

#### YOUTH RESOURCES

##### Adult, teacher, and parent resources

- **PFLAGHOUSTON** (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays): Monthly meetings around town and in the Woodlands and Galveston. For info 713/467-3524, or e-mail [helpline@PFLAGHouston.org](mailto:helpline@PFLAGHouston.org), or see their website [www.pflaghouston.org](http://www.pflaghouston.org). Or nationally [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org).
- **GLSEN** (The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network): Excellent resource for news and actions on everything pertaining to supporting GLBT youth—[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org).
- **SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER**: The SPL's mission is to "combat hate, intolerance, and discrimination through education and litigation." Their Teaching Tolerance project provides excellent curriculum and support for teachers dedicated to "fostering equity, respect, and understanding in the classroom and beyond." See [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org) and [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org).

#### good news

##### TEACHERS ORGANIZATION SPEAKS OUT

On February 8, the National Education Association's board recommended the adoption of antiharassment policies for GLBT students and the development of materials for classroom and community discussion on these issues. Representing 2.6 million teachers, the NEA board recommended expanding NEA efforts to provide students, education employees, and the general public with accurate, objective, and up-to-date information regarding the needs of, and problems confronting, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered students. "It is clear that, in too many places, students and education employees who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered face a hostile environment," NEA president Bob Chase said. "For students, a safe, hospitable environment means the right to learn. For education employees, it means the right to work. For all, it means the right to be free from harassment, bullying, and insensitivity."

##### 4 OUT OF 5 PARENTS SUPPORT PROTECTING GLBT YOUTH

A GLSEN poll found that 4 out of 5 parents favor "expanding existing anti-harassment and antidiscrimination policies to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students." Released late last year, the poll also showed that 80 percent of parents support "teacher sensitivity trainings on tolerance that include instructions on dealing with gay and lesbian harassment in schools." Sixty-three percent favor "including positive information about gay and lesbian people in middle and high school health and sex education classes," and 60 percent favor "information about transgender people" in those forums. The nationwide poll was conducted by phone in August 2001 and surveyed 1,000 parents of students ages 5-18 (with an over-sampling of African-American and Hispanic parents).



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Needless to say, we cannot rely on such quirky twists of luck and lurking half-hidden H.A.T.C.H. pamphlets to connect our up-and-coming generation to the supportive GLBT community on which we adults rely. So what's to be done? How can we break out of this standstill of fear and immobility? Assistant superintendent Arvey suggests that we might need the help of some good straight allies.

"Teachers need to let schools know that such training is needed," she said. "You need to get someone who is, or who is perceived to be, heterosexual to push the issue."

Given that HISD is still letting such decisions be made school by school, we all need to push the issue directly at the schools that serve our neighborhoods. We need to insist that teachers receive training on handling homophobia in the classroom. We need to check and make sure that H.A.T.C.H. and PFLAG materials are on the counselors' rack with all the other pamphlets, in plain view. We need to ask that scholarship information be provided to students who may benefit from it. We need to help start Gay-

Straight Alliances, and help solve the problem of finding a faculty sponsor. We need to push for a nondiscrimination policy for HISD faculty and staff. And, most importantly, we need to demand that our schools be made safe for all students.

There is some good news, as reported by H.A.T.C.H.'s Petrucci. "All of our kids who wanted to go to their proms with a same-sex partner could. I think the schools are afraid of the lawsuits that would happen if they couldn't."

And there's some even better news, and it has to do with the precious resilient nature of youth. Regardless of what school they attended, without exception, every gay and lesbian student I spoke with was full of life, full of hope for the future. This is what we want to protect; this is what we want to encourage; this is what we need to give us hope. Let's hope that when one of them, 30 years from now, is asked to write about GLBT students, they will ask their editor, "Why?"

*D.L. Murphy is a freelance writer who lives and works in Galveston and Houston. She may be reached at [possumproducts@cs.com](mailto:possumproducts@cs.com).*

### YOUTH RESOURCES

### hotlines

• **TEXAS YOUTH HOTLINE** Operating out of Austin, this toll-free Texas hotline is answered 24 hours a day in both Spanish and English. (In fact, when a Spanish-speaking staffer is not available, they use the AT&T Language Line, which can translate more than 100 languages.) Those who staff the hotline are prepared to discuss callers' problems, explore options, and help them develop sensible plans of action. Information and referrals are available to callers in need of community services. Although this hotline is for all youth, staff and volunteers are given training in GLBT issues, which are one of their main priorities. 800/210-2278.

• **FENWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH PEER LINE** This GLBT community health center in Boston offers Peer Line, a nationwide toll-free number staffed by GLBT youth for other gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. Monday-Friday, 6-11 p.m. Call 800/399-PEER (7337).

• **GAY AND LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD HOUSTON** Although the switchboard is not specifically set up to deal with gay youth, they are well trained in coming-out issues, available in a crisis, and have referral information on local youth resources. Run by the Montrose Counseling Center, the switchboard is staffed 24 hours a day, although only crisis calls are accepted after 10 p.m. 713/529-3211, or [www.gayswitchboardhouston.org](http://www.gayswitchboardhouston.org).

# Invisible Girls

A closer look at antigay harassment shows many have yet to see what young women face daily in school

by Nancy Goldstein

Illustration by Tina DeRamus

**"It quickly became obvious from our research that the abuse of LGBT youth is predicated on the belief that girls and boys must adhere to rigid rules of conduct, dress, and appearances based on their sex. . . . For girls, that means they must be attentive to and flirtatious with boys and must accept a subordinate status to boys."** —*Hatred in the Hallways* report, Human Rights Watch, 2001.



H.A.T.C.H., the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals). In its discussion of the discrimination that young lesbian women face, the report reminds us that when we recognize as homophobic only those attacks on girls that explicitly target their sexual orientation, we risk rendering antigay violence against girls—and the existence of the girls themselves—invisible.

Young lesbians do not experience sexism and homophobia as separate events; instead, the two forms of harassment are mutually reinforcing. It is simply impermissible, according to rigid rules of social behavior, for girls to reject boys. It is another unforgivable transgression for girls to "compete" with boys for the attention of other girls.

The Human Rights Watch study uses female-inclusive research and analyzes its data in female-inclusive ways. Its definition of harassment includes non-verbal harassment, indirect verbal harassment, "horseplay," and implicit physical violence—all of which affect girls, though they're often downplayed by authority figures under the twin rubrics of "harmless behavior" and "boys will be boys." Using this definition, boys who stare and make gestures regarding a girl's body or behavior; who talk loudly about "bitches" and body parts when they're around girls; who block girls from passing in the hallway; trip them; tug at their clothes; and ask if they can "party" with them and their girlfriends are engaging in sexual harassment layered with homophobic violence. These actions are just as antigay as the more "familiar" type of harassment directed at Nabozny: name-calling, bus-stop bullying, and schoolyard beatings.

The 2000 study quoted within *Hatred in the Hallways* takes the rare step of comparing lesbian and bisexual girls to heterosexual girls. The majority of all girls K-12, regardless of sexual orientation, experience intense

**J**amie Nabozny's struggle is now legendary within the LGBT community. In 1996, the former Wisconsin high school student successfully sued his school officials for failing to protect him from the vicious antigay attacks that made his life hell from the time he came out in seventh grade until he was forced to leave without his diploma four years later. During that time he was routinely called names, spit upon, and beaten. In one nightmarish incident, he was subjected to a mock rape in a science lab by two of his classmates, who told him that he should enjoy it; 20 other classmates looked on and laughed. His principal responded to his report of the assault by telling him that "boys will be boys" and that if he was "going to be so openly gay," he should "expect" such behavior from his fellow students. But the court responded differently, ordering school officials to pay Nabozny \$900,000 in damages. The precedent Nabozny's case set was clear: Schools nationwide could be held responsible for failing to protect their students from antigay harassment. Word was out.

But it's far less well known that nearly one quarter of all lesbian and bisexual female students—and six percent of their female heterosexual peers—report being victims of the very same horror that Nabozny suffered: rape or attempted rape by their male classmates. Why is it, then, that the antigay abuse of girls has not been accorded the same attention as that of boys? For one, studies of female students are rare; it's rarer still for the results to find their way into print. For another, antigay harassment for women is differently expressed—and insidiously linked to the harassment they get for just being female. We need to expand our concept of antigay harassment to include the ways in which lesbian and bisexual girls are targeted for their gender

as well as sexual orientation. Until then, we cannot come up with the tools to recognize and intervene adequately in their suffering.

In 2001, Human Rights Watch did a landmark report, "Hatred in the Hallways: Discrimination and Violence Against LGBT Students in U.S. Public Schools," based on in-depth interviews with 140 youth and 130 teachers (including many of the youth in



## websites

## "THERE ARE NO CLOSETS IN CYBERSPACE!"

by Yvonne K. Feece and Rebecca Mahaffey

The web is proving a lifesaver for gay youth everywhere. However, it helps to know where to go since, unfortunately, when you search using terms like "young lesbian" or "young gay," most of the hits are pornography. Once you get on the track of good queer youth websites, they also have links to other great sites, including lots of personal webpages where gay teens tell their own stories. Here are our faves:

**www.4therapy.com** Gives advice on how to deal with coming out and homophobia issues from a therapist's perspective.

**www.boymeetsboy.com** A cute and funny online comic strip for young gay men.

**www.broder13.com** What it's really like to be a gay teen in a rural community.

**www.deafqueer.org** "Where deaf queers proudly make their home in cyberspace."

**www.gay.com** Offers a youth chat every night from 8-10 p.m.

**www.gayhelp.virtualave.net** This site contains real advice for gay teens as well as a gay teen message board. After all, "it's not about if you're gay, it's about when you discover it."

**www.gaylife.about.com** Offers articles, forums, and links for GLBT teens on gay life and relationships.

**www.gayteens.org** You've got a question; they've got an answer. A complete listing of links and lots of features make this site both entertaining and informative.

**www.homorama.com** An excellent search engine for queer issues ranging from homeless youth, coming out, and sex ed to suicide prevention/study.

**www.iwannaknow.org** This site from the American Social Health Association answers questions about teen sexual health and sexually transmitted diseases.

**www.lesbiansclick.com/youth** A decent listing of links related to lesbian and gay youth worldwide.

**www.matthewshepard.org** "The goals of the Matthew Shepard Foundation include supporting diversity programs in education and helping youth organizations establish environments where young people can feel safe and be themselves."

**www.mogenic.com** Hip! It's all about queer youth all the time. It offers "the first gay and lesbian youth program on live FM radio!"

**www.oasismag.com** A monthly queer youth e-mag full of personal stories, essays, articles, and news. Describes itself as a "writing community for queer and questioning youth."

**www.gaystudentcenter.studentcenter.org** The gay student center web community and resource for GLBT and questioning college students and teens. Offers teen, college, and high school home pages.

**www.queer.com** There's a whole world of websites devoted to queer youth issues—this site helps you navigate it. Run by OutProud, the National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Youth.

**www.scarleteen.com/gaydar** A funny site dedicated to answering questions about homosexuality and bisexuality.

**www.softlord.com** Comprehensive list of fiction and nonfiction books for and about GLBT teens. (The creator of the website was a plaintiff in an ACLU Internet censorship case.)

**www.straitacting.com** This site is gay-oriented, full of personals, quizzes, and polls. It's all about the boys!

**kg.ice-pixi.net** "I Kiss Girls," the official website, with lots of forums and journal entries. All for the girls!

**www.younggayamerica.com** "We drive around the country interviewing gay, lesbian, bi, queer, trans, closeted, and questioning kids. Follow our travels and meet gay kids from around the country in the Trips section." Their motto: "Information=Knowledge=Self-Esteem=the Power to make healthy strong decisions=Happier, longer lives=More gay kids alive to help other gay kids!"

**www.youthresource.com** Gives you the 411 on HIV, sexual health, and well-being. Easy to navigate, it's very informative with links to everything from activism to youth of color. In conjunction with **www.advocatesforyouth.org/teens** for the social activist in everyone.

**www.antijen.org** Good site for transgender youth with medical links, web board, and poetry.

**www.transproud.com** Covers a wide range of issues and offers support for transgender teens.

sexual harassment in their schools; thus antigay harassment faced by lesbian and bisexual females is compounded by the simple act of being female. Of those female students, lesbian and bisexual girls are targeted for even more, and more violent, sexual harassment than are their heterosexual counterparts—in every conceivable category, from being called "sexually offensive names" (72 percent vs. 63 percent) to being "touched, brushed up against, or cornered in a sexual way" (63 percent vs. 52 percent), from being "grabbed" or "having their clothes pulled in a sexual way" (50 percent vs. 44 percent) to being the victims of attempted rape or rape (23 percent vs. 6 percent).

Regardless of their sexual orientation, girls who have been assaulted are just as likely as Nabozny to be disbelieved, accused of inviting the abuse, characterized as troublemakers, or dismissed if they protest to school officials. "The boys feel free to grab the girls as they walk down the halls, but when girls complain to the administration, they are accused of lying," says Halona T. "Girls in my school expect to be harassed," explained Sabrina L. "But we know not to say anything."

It only makes sense, then, that a lesbian or bisexual girl, observing her school officials' failure to intervene in "normal" sexual harassment, won't turn to them when she's harassed on the basis of her sexual orientation. "At least when I was harassed as a girl, I could talk to the support counselor—not the principal, but the counselor," says Halona T. "When I was harassed as a lesbian, I couldn't talk to anyone."

Too often, the menacing behaviors boys exhibit toward girls in schools are misread as heterosexual "play"—a "normal," "natural" part of growing up male and female that doesn't hurt anyone. When boys harass girls by making statements about wanting to "watch" or "join" the girls, adults rarely recognize that girls perceive this form of harassment as an invasion of their privacy and an implicit threat of sexual violence. This betrayal of lesbian and bisexual girls by the very adults who are supposed to look after them is often accompanied with betrayal by their gay and bisexual male peers. The boys are routinely unwilling to affirm them—"Unlike young gay men we interviewed, none of the girls we talked with reported feeling protected or supported by gay male peers"—and quick to condemn them: "Several of the young gay men we interviewed expressed very sexist and sometimes homophobic views of lesbians. One young man thought there was nothing wrong with calling girls 'bitches' but thought that calling gay men 'faggot' was unacceptable."

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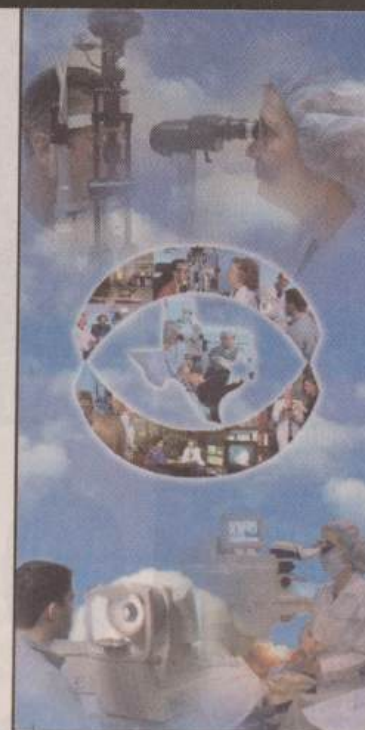
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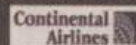
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those girls who stray furthest from gender stereotypes. (The persecution that transgender youth face for challenging gender stereotypes is severe and complex in unique ways.) Girls who are perceived to be "butch," in appearance and/or behavior, are most frequently the targets of abuse and are least likely to get the support of school officials. "The principal thought that I was a hard ass and to blame for everything that happened before I was hit by a brick—why would he change his mind now?" asks Nikki L., a 14-year-old lesbian. Even other, more conforming lesbian and bisexual girls can be as punishing in their enforcement of gender norms as the most rigid school official. "Lesbian girls, we dress like girls. 'Dyke' is out of here," scoffs Marianne T.

The cycle of oppression that entraps young bisexual and lesbian women is neither natural nor inevitable, and it spins with the help of a whole lot of people: the fellow students who harass them; the school officials who close their eyes to the abuse; the gay and bisexual male peers who look the other way. And then there's us: the parents, advocates, and onlookers who unwittingly perpetuate the suffering that the girls and young women routinely endure by failing to open our eyes to the incessant, often brutal, ways in which their sexuality is controlled on a daily basis in our schools. Breaking that cycle is an act in two parts.

Our first step in ending harassment against young women is recognizing it for what it is. On a practical level, that means expanding our definition of antigay harassment to recognize the ways in which it plays on sexism to manifest in the lives of girls. Our second step as citizens, educators, friends, parents, and teachers is to make it clear that the harassment of girls is, in fact, "unnatural"—corroding school social environments and destroying a girl's own sense of herself—and to take every opportunity to intervene and educate that comes our way.

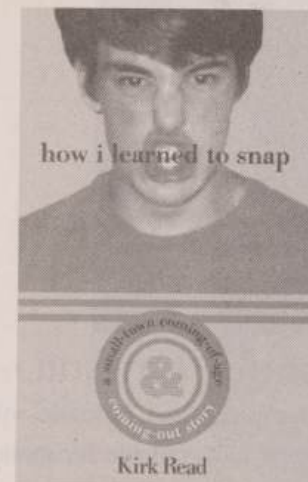
Every person has the right to determine the course of his or her own life, full of promise and free of intimidation. An increased willingness on the part of advocates to recognize and address the ways in which female students are harassed will ensure this right to self-determination, and increase the likelihood that all students have access to a quality education, free from fear or intimidation.

*Editor's note: Nancy Goldstein is educational resources manager for GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network), and this article first appeared in GLSEN's magazine, Respect. You can read the Human Rights Watch's report "Hatred in the Hallways: Discrimination and Violence Against LGBT Students in U.S. Public Schools" at [www.hrw.org/reports/2001/uslgbt](http://www.hrw.org/reports/2001/uslgbt).*

## Books

by D.L. Groover

### Gay Kid Makes Good



*How I Learned to Snap*  
 by Kirk Read  
 Hill Street Press

**T**ake a very hip postmodern Holden Caulfield, add a liberal dash of gay Tabasco, sprinkle with Gen-X cool and a true artist's ability to tell his story without excess, and you might get Kirk Read's mighty fine *How I Learned to Snap*.

While coming-of-age/coming-out stories are fairly standard fare, perhaps even old hat, it all depends upon the teller. Thank goodness we have sassy, savvy Mr. Read to relate his usually hilarious take on his early life and times.

Raised in redneck football-loving Lexington, Virginia, Read nimbly picks through the ups and downs of a gay boy light-years ahead of his class, making the journey from sensitive kid taunted in elementary school with "faggot" and "butt pirate," into a wise, almost all-knowing teen who knew just what he wanted. Youngest of his siblings, he's fortunate to have had older parents whose parenting skills had lapsed with fatigue into loving laissez-faire: "the cub of exhausted lions," he quips in one

of the many aptly turned phrases that pepper his memoir. In sixth grade he's prowling the video arcade in hopes of being groped by the greasy manager. After weeks in which he becomes extremely proficient in Frogger and PacMan, he tires of waiting for his diddle. "I couldn't even get molested in this town," he whines. Read smokes and drinks his way through school, writes poems to favorite male teachers, assiduously keeps his ubiquitous diary, fights needed battles and

Thank goodness we have sassy, savvy Mr. Read to relate his usually hilarious take on his early life and times.

bullies. "Boys love hitting each other in the face. I guess it's the next best thing to a kiss," he wisely notes.

He gets to throw a newspaper through Pat Robertson's front window (he grew up in Lexington, too), and becomes enamored of the theater's magic at an early age. He witnesses the outsider's feisty dignity in his openly gay friend Jesse, buys porn magazines on the sly in a neighboring city, and has sex (finally!) with his much older friend Rich.

Growing up, Read was always ahead of the curve. The love of his formative years—Walker—was an adult; their illegal affair, sanctioned by his mother, focuses his life and cements his career in writing. The two meet in Richmond, where Read attends a summer playwriting course before his high school senior year. It's the grounding he needs. The relationship completes him, bringing both heartbreak and joy. His flip attitude levels out. He keeps growing.

This brief book, elegantly phrased, written in short-story chapters, captures all the free spirit, the weird angst, the sexual shenanigans, the non-judgmental opened-eyed reality of gay youth. Read was never bashed, he never hid, never had his parents disown him, never contemplated suicide. "I was lucky," he admits in the epilogue. "I got through high school without the all-too-common horrors of many LGBT young people—the trick is navigating that world in a way that preserves both one's voice and one's safety." ■

Author Kirk Read

## YOUTH RESOURCES

### books

#### • HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

(The library has compiled the following list of recommended GLBT teen books, all of which can be found at the library.)

**Am I Blue: Coming out from the silence** edited by Marion Dan Bauer.

Short stories from leading teen authors.

**If It Doesn't Kill You** by Margaret Bechard. Ben's father is living with another man.

**Kissing the Witch** by Emma Donohoe. What if Cinderella fell in love with the Fairy Godmother?

**Eight Seconds** by Jean Ferris. John is attracted to tough-smart Kit.

**Shared Hearts: Portraits and stories celebrating lesbian, gay and bisexual young people** by Adam Mastoon.

Coming out with personal narratives and photographs.

**Empress of the World** by Sara Ryan.

Nic falls in love for the first time with Battle—another girl.

**Rainbow Boys** by Alex Sanchez. Three high-school seniors struggle with love, sexuality, and intolerance.

**Hearing Us Out: Voices from the gay and lesbian community** by Roger Sutton and Lisa Ebright. Reflections on growing up gay or lesbian.

**Hard Love** by Ellen Wittlinger. Lonely John loves lesbian Marigold.

• **ORDERING BOOKS** GLSEN has a great bookstore with titles for both kids and teachers. Call 1-800/247-6553 to request a catalog, or order online at [www.atlasbooks.com/glsen](http://www.atlasbooks.com/glsen).

• **WEB READING LISTS** See the list of websites on page 50—many have links to reading lists, including [www.softlord.com](http://www.softlord.com) and [www.bidstrup.com/biblio](http://www.bidstrup.com/biblio).

### LOCAL RESOURCES

• **H.A.T.C.H.** (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals) For teens between the ages of 13 and 20 years old. Meets Fridays and Sundays. The annual H.A.T.C.H. prom will be May 31. Call the HATCH-line at 713/942-7002, or look at their website (which includes local and national links): [www.hatchyouth.org](http://www.hatchyouth.org).

• **OUTSMART WEBSITE** OutSmart's Community Resource lists nine organizations for GLBT youth and their parents. [www.outsmartmagazine.com/issue/i05-01/reference.html#youth](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com/issue/i05-01/reference.html#youth)



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# Those Were the Days, My Friend



The bar the community called home.  
Kindred Spirits lives again—for one night

by Jacquelyn K. Hedden

If you lived in Houston between 1980 and 1989, the words themselves, "Kindred Spirits," are likely to carry a special resonance, maybe even leading you to wax nostalgic. For almost a decade, Kindred Spirits was the premier place for women to meet and socialize in a safe, upscale environment. Besides its reputation as a "community bar" where everyone knew your name, it gave back to both men and women by raising awareness and providing support where it was needed most. Kindred Spirits was more than just a bar—it was a community phenomenon worth remembering. To commemorate this landmark club, a fundraising dance and celebration are scheduled for March 30, with proceeds benefiting Bering Memorial United Methodist Church's HIV Medical Services.

Kindred Spirits was born in 1980, when Marion Coleman conceived of creating a place where community organizations could come together under one roof. Although there was no real centralized rallying place, the women's movement was picking up

speed. Houston was a mecca for vibrant, smart, young, independent women, but they needed a place to go. At first Coleman promoted the idea of a community center. But when that did not take off, she decided to open Kindred Spirits, dubbing it "a woman's alternative."

The women's bars that had come before had played an important role—local institutions like the Lamp Post, Just Marion & Lynn's, and Club L'Amore—but Coleman wanted something different for Kindred Spirits. First she chose a highly visible location in a strip shopping center in the West

University area. Then she created a safe, well-lit environment, equipped it with a light show and a DJ, and decorated the space in suave and sedate hunter green and tan with brass accents. The two-level layout created a grand entrance effect, while plants, beautiful hardwood floors, and incandescent lighting added a warm, comfortable feeling. "In a word," says Sandi Bubbert, owner of Acadian Bakers, "the club was classy."

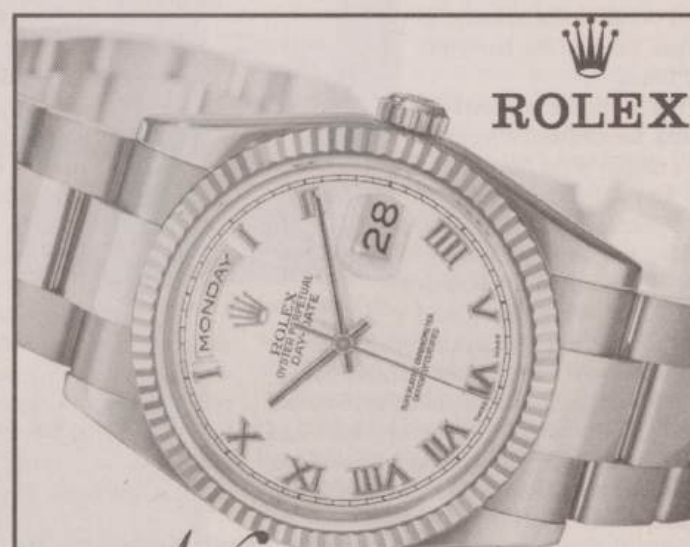
Kindred Spirits was an immediate success. It provided a haven where women could meet, have conversations, and develop friendships and relationships. Security guards or HPD officers were available to walk customers to their cars at night, and taxis were called for those who had had too much to drink.

According to Maureen Howard, who helped devise a nonalcoholic drink menu, "Even if you didn't know people there, you walked in and felt right at home. It was a neighborhood pub where you felt a great sense of compassion, camaraderie, and safety."

"Kindred Spirits was a family place in the larger



The celebrity judges at the annual Halloween fundraiser (l-r): George Greanias, Debra Danburg, John Hill, and Harla Kaplan



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sense," says former city controller George Greanias, who visited the bar while campaigning and then became a patron. "It was a friendly neighborhood bar, a gathering place for the entire community."

"It was one of the first places where women started really getting in touch with who they were as women rather than reaching into a strictly butch/femme role cabinet," says Vicci Lindsey, bartender throughout the Kindred Spirits years, and an integral part of the club's zeitgeist. "A new generation was coming of age, and you could see a new sense of freedom growing."

One of the keys to the club's success was Coleman's constant, hands-on involvement. A tall woman, her deep voice seemed to come from behind her soft brown eyes. Almost nightly, she stood at the door greeting guests when they arrived, shaking their hands, and making everyone feel special. "I felt that it belonged to me," remembers Cecily McBroom, one of the club's



employees. "Most women felt that way. Kindred Spirits was a variety of individuals who came together to share space for the same reason. You could go there and be accepted, feel good about yourself, and have a great time."

"The elegance of the bar provided many people with a deeper sense of dignity and pride about being gay," recalls Astrid Sheil, the club's original DJ. One night a year, the club hosted the "Friends and Families of Gays" event. Tablecloths, fresh flowers,

and bottles of champagne were added to the tables, and people had an opportunity to bring their friends and family who would not normally have gone into a gay bar. Understanding and acceptance were highlighted, and it was not uncommon to see fathers dancing with their sons and mothers dancing with their daughters at these events.

In an era when the men's and women's communities didn't interact as much as they do now, Kindred Spirits was also groundbreaking in its welcoming approach to men.

"Marion was a leader and she wanted everyone to grow together, so she extended a family environment, making it clear that both men and women were welcome," says state representative Debra Danburg.

Indeed, Coleman would go out to the various community organizations, ask how Kindred Spirits might help, and bring information back to the club's weekly staff meetings.

There was one meeting in particular that stood out, recalls Iris Rodriguez, a long-time employee. "I remember Coleman coming into a staff meeting one day and telling us about a disease that was beginning to claim the lives of gay men. This was during the early '80s, and Kaposi's sarcoma was being discussed for the first time. There wasn't yet an acronym for AIDS, let alone an understanding of it."

Coleman's concern for and dedication to AIDS awareness only increased. When she saw her friends in the men's community getting sick, she

responded by educating herself and her staff with everything she could find out. Additionally, she set about educating the community at large by holding numerous AIDS fundraisers for both individuals and organizations. In conjunction with the Red Cross, Kindred Spirits organized and sponsored the first blood drive in Houston geared solely toward procuring blood for those with HIV/AIDS.

"I can't tell you how many nights I was at the door and someone would come up and ask me for references for a doctor," Coleman recalls. "When people asked me for information, or

Kindred Spirits bartender Vicci Lindsey in her Halloween "smurf" outfit.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY MARION COLEMAN

Marion Coleman (l-r): with employee Iris Rodriguez, an integral part of the Kindred Spirits community; with the Kindred Spirits softball team, the year they went to the nationals; and on Valentine's Day 1988.



when people came up and volunteered for things, that's when I knew Kindred Spirits was doing the job I wanted it to do."

In a mere three years, Kindred Spirits was such a success that it outgrew its quarters; in 1984, Coleman moved the bar into a large club space on Richmond, just inside the Loop. "AIDS was becoming more prevalent, especially with women," Coleman explains, "and we needed a larger place where we could do fundraisers with a larger dance floor. We wanted it to be a place where we could raise major money for people who were dying and couldn't afford anything else." Now the club stood on its own piece of land and

had a large Kindred Spirits billboard visible from the freeway, proudly proclaiming the presence of the women's bar.

In addition to all that Kindred Spirits gave back to the community, it also provided fun, ranging from happy hour to live entertainment, including poetry readings, plays, singers, musicians... even cloggers. Many talented young women were given a start, such as comedian Nancy Ford. Women from all over the country performed at the weeklong Women's Arts Festival. The bar was visited by such notables as Gloria Steinem, Rita Mae Brown, and Tommy Tune, as well as political figures like former mayor Kathryn Whitmire. State representative Debra Danburg judged the yearly Halloween costume contest.

Ask Lindsey what made Kindred Spirits special and she'll tell you that it was the people who came in. "It was a big stepping stone between where we were in 1980 and where we would go next. Kindred Spirits represents a historical era that many of us shared. We were growing into ourselves as women. It was something of a rebirth that we needed to go through to move on into being more of ourselves. It was a time when we were still learning to walk. We all grew up together, no matter which direction we ultimately went in once we moved on."

We did move on. Kindred Spirits led to the Ranch, which led to the current Chances three-plex, offering separate areas for country dancing, top 40 dancing, and (relatively) quiet conversation. Kindred Spirits helped us realize that we have a variety of interests, and today we are freely exploring them.

Come re-experience Kindred Spirits at the Kindred Spirits Reunion, sponsored by A Christmas Songfest. The event is planned for March 30, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Hornberger Center, with a DJ and plenty of room for dancing. Keys West has graciously donated their staff for the event. Proceeds will be donated to BMUMC/HIV Medical Services. Tickets \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Acadian Bakers, Basic Brothers, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, Keys West, Meteor, and House of Coleman (713/523-2521).

*Jacquelyn K. Hedden recently relocated to Houston from Dallas and lives with her girlfriend and two cats with bad attitudes. She enjoys playing with words and pouncing through language, and believes strongly in the healing powers of ice cream and women supporting women. A telecommuter by nature, she exists in a perpetual state of furry slippers and hot tea, and can be reached at Elysium25@aol.com.*

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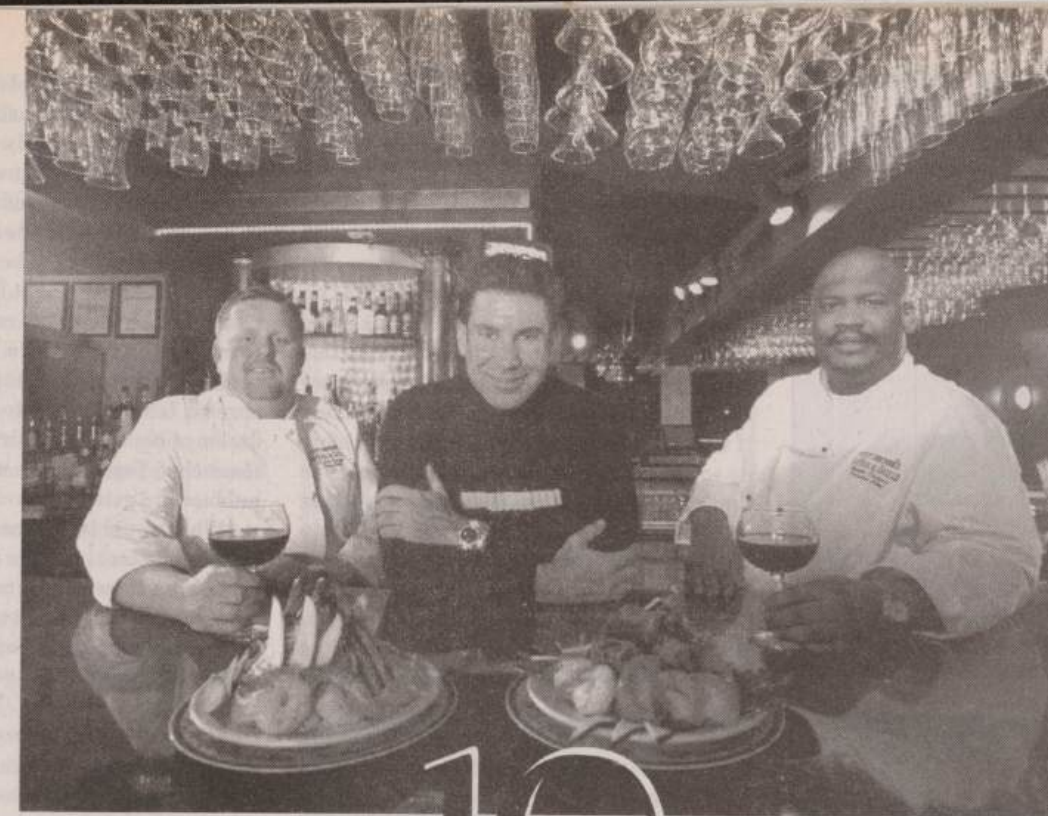
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# Misbehaving 10 Stories High

Getting crazy and creative, chef Buddha Dickson and his hubbie Dallas Isham keep the kitchen cooking way past midnight at Scott Gertner's Skybar

by Eric A. T. Dieckman

Well-behaved people rarely make history. Luckily, neither Buddha Dickson nor his partner Dallas Isham are of the well-behaved variety. "I would rather be notorious than famous," says Dickson. The couple sit at the large Scott Gertner's SkyBar patio overlooking the Montrose and the skyline. A club regular, a sexy tight-dress-clad bit-o-eye-candy, animatedly regales them with stories of her exploits at another club the night before. She tells of accidentally flashing passers-by while changing in her car, of dancing unencumbered by inhibition, of getting home at 6:30 a.m. On a weeknight. The stout, shaved-head man (Buddha suits his name well) lets out a musical laugh. He and his partner are no strangers to nocturnal misadventures. The nightlife is forged for notorious people, by notorious people. At Scott Gertner's SkyBar, Buddha and Dallas are there to feed them.

Dickson, a classically trained Master Baker, reached this point in his career by a meandering and rambunctious chain of

events. Raised on a farm, he learned how easy it is to make a cow insane. (Just tip it every night for about a week.) Educated at a boarding prep school, he learned to master the art of covert cocktail shaking. (Yes, a black preppie whose birth name is Buddha—his parents were hippies who became staunch conservatives when Dickson turned four.) Dickson next joined the military, smart-mouthed a few sergeants, then went to med school. After establishing his practice as a physician, dissatisfaction set in. He decided he had gone into medicine for all the wrong reasons and chose to pursue his greatest love, cooking. Not the easiest transition, for him or his wife and daughter, but the choice left no regrets in its wake.

Dickson held nearly every position in restaurants around town and elsewhere—including Tasca, Ousie's, Redwood Grill, Bon Appetite, and the Alaskan Pipeline. (That's not a restaurant—he cooked for the men on the

Alaskan Pipeline. They liked him so much, they once shot him a moose which he cooked on a spit for days.) Tiring of restaurant politics, Dickson flipped the bistro scene the bird and went into business for himself, opening up a coffeehouse at Montrose and Fairview, Cafe Avino, inspired by a similar gathering place he frequented while living in Spain. It was at this cozy artists' hangout that Buddha found his enlightenment in Dallas Isham. As bear couples go, they are one of the cutest, like the pandas at the zoo all the kids want to feed. Together, their softer sides come into view. When asked how the two met, Dickson prompts Isham with a "Go ahead, Mister."

"I had walked by the cafe on several different occasions and I wanted to go in, but was with people who didn't want to."

"I noticed him walking by, too," gleams Dickson.

The sassy redhead continues. "I saw this fat-ass black man, sitting at a table, giving me this look. I walked into the cafe, he came in, and turned the radio down. I caught him with a classic line, 'You don't have to turn that down for me,' and he just looked at me and

At the Skybar bar: Scott Gertner (center) flanked by chef Buddha Dickson (right) and Dallas Isham.

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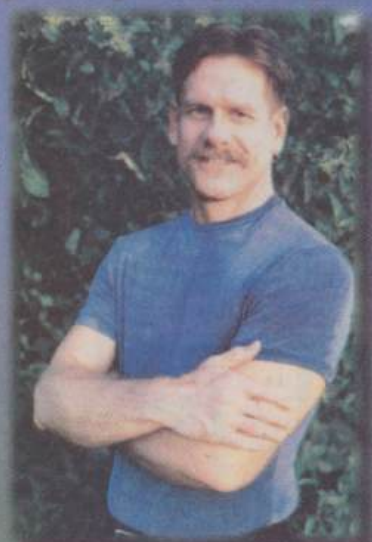
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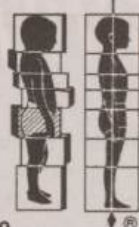
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said, 'I wasn't.' It just went from there. I came in every day, then I made him hire me, then I made him give me half-ownership, then I moved in with him."

"Didn't have a choice, really," Dickson beams a little more.

When they met a little over two years ago, Dickson had long left his wife, but was in another serious relationship. Unshaken by circumstance, Isham told Dickson to date this "other guy" as long as he liked, but he knew the bald man would soon fall into his clutches. "I told him it was just a matter of time before he was mine. It just clicked. I'm the only one that's never been intimidated by his hulking presence."

Within two years, the corner coffeehouse everyone said would close in six months had become a modestly successful local hangout. Houston.citysearch.com listed it as one of the best coffeehouses in town. Weary from the stopless hours, however, Dickson was ready for a break. A few months ago, Dickson learned that SkyBar was looking to open a kitchen. A dimly lit jazz bar? Jazz and funk swelling through smoky ambience? Smooth talkers beguiling incorrigible vixens with their spells? Dickson knew he could be lead cobra in this den-o-vipers. He met with owner Scott Gertner, CV in hand, and explained why any selection for executive chef other than himself would be a mistake. Dickson persuaded Gertner to cancel further interviews. Next, Dickson sold Gertner on his pitch to keep the menu open, flexible, and ever-changing (try Creole for a while, then abandon it for Caribbean, then a taste of comfort food). Then he insisted Isham be brought on as sous chef. Gertner agreed to it all. Since then, Isham's astute business mind and ability to charm have moved him to the role of catering and events coordinator.

Dickson is the artist, Isham the organizer. "Our business relationship and our home relationship are really the same," says Dickson. "There's no line of demarcation." Isham makes sure his master baker dots his i's and crosses his t's, literally. "Buddha had finished a birthday cake and asked me to check it for him. I said it looked great but he hadn't dotted the 'i' and crossed the 't' in the word 'birthday.'" Like many a culinary genius, Dickson aspires to greater things. The shrewd Isham strives to achieve Dickson's dream of becoming the first household name black chef. Together, the misbehavin' chubby hubbies are getting there.

What would be Dickson's script for a first episode of a cooking show? "I would like to do something classically French," he explains. His eyes light up as he starts to think about duck liver—and black pepper brioche with a coffee reduction. Put that napkin down. We're only getting started. What next? Veal ("because it's such a beautiful meat, with rosemary, thyme, and garlic, because those are my absolute favorites"), potatoes dauphinoise, fava beans ("people from the United States who aren't of Indian heritage or of that region, they don't know from a fava bean"), crusty bread—but no sauces. Dickson believes food should stand on its own. If it's good, why cover it up? Whoa. Something's missing. Sure you're bloated by now, just from reading, but what about that sweet tooth? "Some kind of Napoleon with berries." Ever heard the phrase, so good, it must be sinful? Just think of it as notoriously delicious.

Scott Gertner's Skybar & Grill, 3400 Montrose, 713/520-9688. Hours Wed. & Thu., 8 p.m.-2 a.m. (kitchen closes at 1 a.m.); Fri. & Sat., 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Live band & DJ: Wed, Fri., & Sat. \$10. Comedy night: Thu., \$5 (or \$10 for cover & a filet mignon)—emcee Eric Dieckman.

## Buddha's Grandmother's Opelousas Catfish

When Buddha Dickson was a boy in Louisiana, his Native American grandfather, Daddy Red, would take him fishing outside Opelousas. One day, Dickson caught a 45-pound catfish. "I broke his fishing pole catching it," he recalls. Daddy Red told Dickson to throw it in the sink and tell his grandmother, "Woman, clean that fish for me. Cook it and have it ready. I'm going to wash up. I want it for my dinner." When he commanded his grandmother, "she grabbed me by my pants, pulled me back, and said, 'What did you say, boy?' so I told her Daddy Red told me to say it. She called Daddy Red in, asked him if he told me to say that. He said, 'Well, are ya cleanin' the fish, woman?' I went upstairs, washed up, and that night I ate that catfish."

This is the recipe his grandmother used:

- 2 1-lb. catfish fillets (cut into cubes)
- 3 whole eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2 T. salt
- 2 T. coarse ground pepper
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper
- Corn oil for frying

Combine the eggs and milk and set aside. Mix all the dry ingredients together. Put enough corn oil in your pan to just cover fish when frying. Take a piece of catfish, dip in the egg and milk mixture, coat in the dry mixture, then place in the hot oil. Fry until golden brown.

## Greg Herren continued from page 29

I know lots of Southern gay men who are out and open now, who are divorced and have kids, especially in a city like New Orleans. When you get involved with the old moneyed families here, it's very, very prevalent. There are a lot of gay men who are married and have kids, who belong to these families. Ooh, I'm getting myself in trouble here. They have an understanding with their wives. They are totally gay, except they have a wife and kids. They do the whole Mardi Gras society type thing. I find that fascinating. As long as the wife is aware and knows what's going on and doesn't mind...

I know that's not politically correct—in our community—to say. But, at the same time, you can't really judge anybody else's situation without having been in it. I think there's a lot of judgment in our community as far as people who get trapped. I didn't come out until I was 30, [although] I knew I was gay when I was nine years old. It was not an option.

### Were you ever married to a woman?

I was engaged twice. I never married. I was always smart enough [to realize] this is not going to work. I went back and forth with it, because it simply wasn't an option for me. [Because of] where I was living, I didn't know any other gay people. I'd heard that there were these gay communities in New York and San Francisco, but I'm also not a big-city kind of person. Moving to New York or San Francisco, on my own, trying to make it in a big city where I knew no one, just so I could be openly gay, was a frightening prospect for me. Interestingly enough, it took getting a job at an airline to meet people who were openly gay and comfortable with it. I made friends with them and they walked me through the process.

### Have you begun working on your next novel?

Yes, my next novel, *Bourbon Street Blues*, is almost finished, and will be coming out from Kensington in April of 2003. After I finish that, I am going to take a month or so off. I've been working very hard for the last few years and just want to recharge my batteries. The first draft of the next Chanse novel, *Murder in the Rue Royal*, is finished, and I am going to finish it after the break. Then I have another novel to write for Kensington, *Death Spiral*, and who knows what will happen between now and then? I love to write, and I have tons of ideas for books. I have several first drafts just lying around that I have never finished that I would like to finish. I guess I am trying to make up for lost time.

Living in Chicago, Gregg Shapiro writes for Next Magazine (NYC), Windy City Times (Chicago), and Gay & Lesbian Times (San Diego), among many others. His fiction can be found online at Blithe House Quarterly ([www.blithe.com](http://www.blithe.com)) and Velvet Mafia ([www.velvetmafia.com](http://www.velvetmafia.com)).



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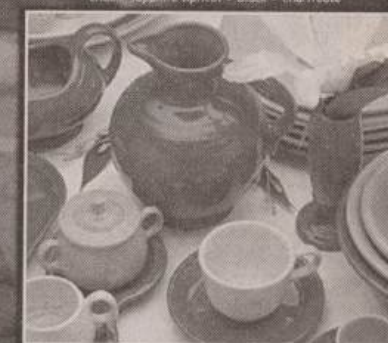
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# Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's April issue is 5 p.m., Monday, March 11.

## MARCH

**Weekly** (Tue., Wed., Thu.)

**HIV Testing.** The Montrose Clinic offers free confidential HIV testing every Tuesday at The Club Houston (2205 Fannin), 8 pm-midnight; every Wednesday at Mary's (1022 Westheimer), 4-8 pm; and at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center (803 Hawthorne), 6-9 pm; and every Thursday at Toyz Disco (5322 Glenmont), 10 pm-1 am. Call 713/830-3070 for other testing locations. **LIVE IN OR NEAR CONROE?** Free & confidential HIV/AIDS testing is also available from 2-5 pm on the 13th & 27th in Conroe at Northwoods AIDS Coalition, 1414 South Frazier, Ste. 106. More info: 936/441-1614.

**3 & 16** (Sun. & Sat.)

**Wellness and Psychic Expos.** Explore alternative healthcare medicine & products, including vitamins & magnets. Try aromatherapy, acupressure, reflexology. Consult top Houston psychics. 1-5 pm @ CenterPoint, 1920 Hollister. Entry \$1. (Classes starting Mar. 4 at CenterPoint: yoga, tai chi, feng shui, & meditation.) Expo/classes info: 713/932-7224 or [www.centerpointhouston.com](http://www.centerpointhouston.com).

**6** (Wed.)

**From PMS to Menopause.** Want to be heard, informed, & empowered to make choices about your health? Concerned about risks with synthetic hormones? Want to know more about natural hormone therapy? In this seminar by Nellie Grose, M.D., learn that hot flashes are not a symptom of estrogen deficiency. PMS is not a symptom of Prozac deficiency, what you can do naturally, & much more. 5:30 pm-9 pm @ Fitness and Therapy Center at the Woman's Hospital of Texas, 7400 Fannin, Ste. 600, 713/799-6125. Cost is \$40. Info: Linda at 713/660-6620.

**8-10** (Fri.-Sun.)

**Swing!** Conductor Michael Krajewski invites you to relive the swinging era of big bands, the jitterbug, & the Lindy Hop, as the Houston Symphony performs the greatest hits of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, & Tommy Dorsey. Friday & Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 7:30 pm @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets (\$25-\$80) are available at all Ticketmaster outlets; by calling 713/224-7575; or online at [www.houstonsymphony.com](http://www.houstonsymphony.com).

**8-10** (Fri.-Sun.)

**Stomp** is composed of young performers who make a rhythm out of anything they can get their hands on that makes a sound. Stiff-bristle brooms become a sweeping orchestra, Zippo lighters flip open and closed to create a fiery figure, while wooden poles thump & clack in a rhythmic explosion. In fact, Stomp uses everything but conventional percussion instruments—such as trash cans, tea chests, plastic bags, plungers, boots, & hubcaps—to fill the stage with compelling & infectious rhythms. 8 pm on Friday, 5 & 9 on Saturday @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. Tickets (\$16.50-\$65) are available by calling 409/765-1894 or by visiting [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com).

**9** (Sat.)

**Chasing Paint.** Da Camera of Houston presents *Chasing Paint: The Jane Ira Bloom Quartet Performs Jackson Pollock*. Jazz saxophonist Jane Ira Bloom performs the world premiere of this new composition inspired by Jackson Pollock. 8 pm @ the Museum of Fine Arts (Caroline Wiess Law Building). Tickets (\$30, students/seniors half price) are available

**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](mailto:calendar@outsmartmagazine.com). **NO LISTINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—MON., MAR. 11.**

by contacting Da Camera Music Center, 1427 Branard, 713/524-5050.

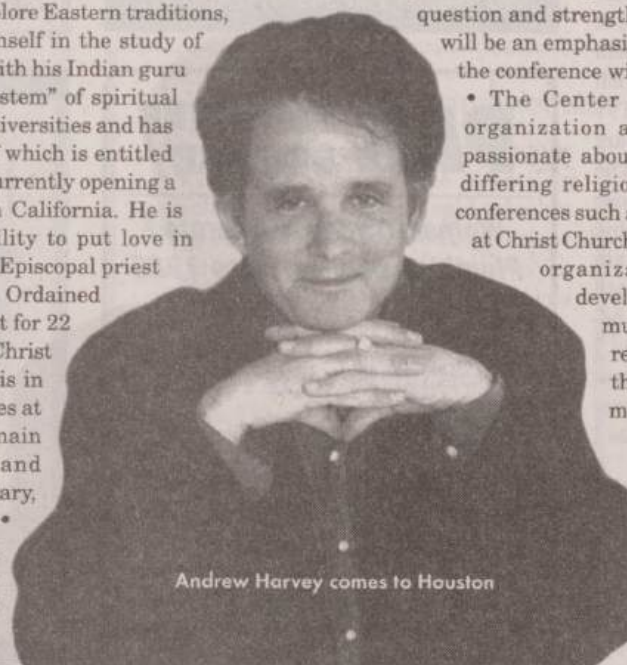
**9 & 10** (Sat. & Sun.)

**The Bob Marley Festival** features performances by the next generation of reggae & world beat music superstars. A core group of 25 acts is selected to be part of this tour each year. In each city on the tour, local bands are also selected to provide a unique local character to the festival. Dance troupes, jugglers, & poets provide offstage entertainment. As in previous years, the tour features Caribbean, African, & Third World arts & crafts along with some of the best foods from these regions. Many of these vendors travel from city to city

## ACCESSING THE GOD WITHIN

An experiential conference with Andrew Harvey and J. Pittman McGehee

Andrew Harvey, who is openly gay, is a Christian mystic whose spiritual path led him to explore Eastern traditions, translate and immerse himself in the study of the Islamic poet Rumi, and break with his Indian guru Mother Meera and the "Master system" of spiritual direction. He has taught at many universities and has written more than 30 books (one of which is entitled *The Essential Gay Mystics*). He is currently opening a Center for the Divine Feminine in California. He is passionate about one's responsibility to put love in action. • J. Pittman McGehee is an Episcopal priest and a diplomate Jungian analyst. Ordained in 1969, he served as a parish priest for 22 years, including 11 years as dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Houston. He is in private practice, lectures, and teaches at the University of Houston. His main avocations are poetry, sports, and fishing. In his backpack of vocabulary, his favorite word is "authentic." • "Mystical Paths to Wholeness: Accessing the God Within" is designed to explore the mystery of God within ourselves, so it is hoped



Andrew Harvey comes to Houston

that participants will go to it full of wonder and with the desire to question and strengthen their spirituality. Additionally, there will be an emphasis on the creative arts and spirituality, so the conference will be enriched with artistic explorations. • The Center at the Cathedral is an ecumenical organization at Christ Church Cathedral that is passionate about increasing dialogue among people of differing religious backgrounds through classes and conferences such as this one. • Brigid's Place is also housed at Christ Church Cathedral and is a nonprofit, ecumenical organization that supports the spiritual development of women. It offers classes and much more where people can ask questions relating to their spiritual journeys, address their doubts, and become empowered to meet the challenges of life.

**What:** Mystical Paths to Wholeness  
**When:** March 8 & 9  
**Where:** Christ Church Cathedral  
**Cost:** \$75 (includes 2 meals on Sat.)  
**More Info:** 713/590-3333 or [brigidsp@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:brigidsp@christchurchcathedral.org)

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with the tour. Noon-10 pm both days @ Eleanor Tinsley Park (Buffalo Bayou Park). For more info: 713/688-3773 or [www.bobmarley-festival.com](http://www.bobmarley-festival.com).

**10** (Sun.)

**The 13th Annual AIDS Walk Houston** is a 3.5-mile walk event to increase awareness & knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Last year's walk raised more than \$35,000 with the help of over 4,000 participants. There is no cure for HIV/AIDS, and it is infecting/affecting all communities, race/ethnicities, sexes, & ages. Currently, it is estimated that one in 90 Houstonians is HIV-positive. According to the Houston Department of Health & Human Services, as of December 31, 2001, in Harris County alone, 10,628 reported individuals are living with HIV/AIDS. Beneficiaries this year are AIDS Foundation Houston and five local HIV/AIDS service organizations. The walk begins with registration at 8 am, warm-up activities at 8:30, and starting time at 9 @ Sam Houston Park, 1000 Bagby. For more info: Gwen Johnson at 713/623-6796, ext. 252, or online at [www.aidshep.org](http://www.aidshep.org).

**10** (Sun.)

**Watercolor Art Society Houston (WASH)** presents a demonstration by acclaimed watercolor artist Cheng-Khee Chee, an artist in demand as a workshop instructor, author, & painter. A weeklong workshop to be held at WASH has been filled; however, the public is invited to view the demonstration beginning at 1:30 pm in the Brown Auditorium of the Museum of Fine Arts. Admission: \$5 at the door. Info: 713/942-9966.

**14** (Thu.)

**Cantoni, Inc.**, one of the leading contemporary furniture, accessory, and design studio retailers, brings fashion-forward designs to life during its upcoming Spring Preview parties in Houston & Dallas. Proceeds from the Houston event will be donated to the Montrose Clinic, and proceeds from the Dallas event will be donated to the AIDS Resource Center of Dallas. The parties will showcase a new line of home furnishings for living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, home offices, & more. A special highlight of the evening will be a glimpse of the newest fashions from various clothing boutiques in Houston & Dallas. The evening will include fine foods, music, & a selection of beverages. One hundred percent of the \$10 cover charge per person will benefit the selected AIDS-related charities. Guests will also have the opportunity to participate in a giveaway drawing for a \$1,000 shopping spree from Cantoni. 7-9:30 pm at 9889 Westheimer, one block west of Gessner. The Dallas party will take place on Mar. 21 from 7-9:30 pm at Cantoni's flagship store. RSVP is required by calling 713/787-9494 one week prior to the event (972/934-9191 in Dallas).

**15** (Fri.)

**Christopher Parkening.** With dramatic virtuosity, eloquent musicianship, & a uniquely captivating sound, Parkening is the Pavarotti of the classical guitar. He has performed with the world's leading orchestras. In this special program, he performs masterworks of the 20th century, including favorite works by Aaron Copland, Joaquin Rodrigo, Heitor Villa-Lobos, & more. 8 pm @ Jones Hall. Tickets (\$15-\$47) available at all Ticketmaster locations or online at [www.spa-houston.org](http://www.spa-houston.org); charge by phone at 713/629-3700.

**15** (Fri.)

**Danilo Perez** returns to Houston with The Motherland Project, a heartfelt homage to the music of the Americas incorporating the roots of Panamanian music as well as American, European, African, & Native Indian heritages. Presented by Da Camera of Houston at 8 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Tickets are \$25-\$40 (students/seniors half price) and can be purchased by calling Da Camera of Houston at 713/524-5050 or by visiting [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**15** (Fri.)

**ComedySportz**, an improvisational comedy show, presents "Luck o' the Irish" matches in honor of St. Patrick's Day. So take the whole clan to see two teams of leprechauns, also known as ComedySportz "act-letes," compete in a battle of wits. 7:30 & 10 pm @ Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. at 17th St. Admission is \$10. Info/reservations: 713/868-1444.

**16** (Sat.)

**OrchestraX** presents "ChamberX," in which principal players from the string section of OrchestraX perform musical selections from an upcoming concert, *Confrontations with the Unconscious*. This free concert starts at 2 pm @ Pascal/Robinson Gallery, 2307 W. Alabama. More info: 713/225-6729. (See the "Planning Ahead" section of Calendar for info on OrchestraX's Confrontations with the Unconscious.)

**16** (Sat.)

**The Merry Widow** is a light-hearted tale of political & amorous intrigue that unfolds amidst the gaiety of Parisian high society full of beautiful, Viennese-style waltzes, romantic, lyric melodies, & impassioned choruses. It's a story about a widow who loves a playboy who loves the widow, and the only thing standing in their way is 40 million francs. 8 pm @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. Tickets (\$37-\$85) are available by calling 409/765-1894 or by visiting [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com).

**18** (Mon.)

**Listen Up.** The Margaret Root Brown Houston Reading Series presents Patricia Hampl & Li-Young Lee. Hampl, considered the creator of the contemporary memoir, is the author of *A Romantic Education*, *Virgin Time*, & a book about memoir, *I Could Tell You Stories*, as well as two books of poetry. Lee, of Chinese descent, is the award-winning author of three collections of poetry, *Rose*, *The City in Which I Love You*, and *Book of My Nights*, and the memoir *The Winged Seed*. 7:30 pm (doors open at 6:45) @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets are \$5 (students/seniors free) and are available only at the door on the evening of the reading. For more info: 713/521-2026 or [www.inprint-inc.org](http://www.inprint-inc.org).

**19, 22, & 23** (Fri. & Sat.)

**Gay Men's Chorus of Houston** presents its spring concert, "Sophistication," which features the Houston premiere of selections from *NakedMan*. Composer Robert Seely & librettist Philip Littell relate the gay experience in a way that everyone can share, as drawn from stories of the members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Rounding out the program are songs of elegance, class, & no class! The camp, costumes, & laughs start with a performance on the 19th to benefit Montrose Clinic, Montrose Counseling Center, and Bering-Omega Community Services. The pre-show reception will start at 7 pm, followed by the concert at 8. Ticket prices are \$35 (concert reserved seating and pre-show reception), \$15 (concert only, advanced sales), and \$18 (concert only, night of, if any remain). Other performances are at 8 pm on Friday, with two performances on Saturday at 3 & 8 pm, @ Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. Tickets are available online at [www.gmch.org/tickets](http://www.gmch.org/tickets) or through Box Office Tickets at 800/494-8497 or TDD 888/833-8497.

**22** (Fri.)

**Kate Clinton.** She's worth the trip to Austin, where the uproarious Madame President of Comedy will perform for one night only. Spend an evening with one of America's brightest political comedians, Kate Clinton. This humorist/monologist's agenda includes political material as fresh as the daily news, savvy send-ups of modern family relationships, & illuminating perspectives on life as a gay American. FYI: Clinton served as

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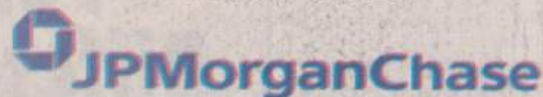
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a writer on The Rosie O'Donnell Show in 1996, during its rollout period. 8 pm @ the Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, Austin, Texas. Tickets (\$20-\$29) are available by calling 512/469-SHOW (7469).

**22 & 23** (Fri. & Sat.)

**Paul Anka** presents a treasure trove of his biggest hits, such as "Put Your Head on My Shoulder," "Puppy Love," "She's a Lady," "Lonely Boy," and "My Way." 8 pm @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. Tickets (\$37-\$85) are available by calling 409/765-1894 or by visiting [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com).

**22-24** (Fri.-Sun.)

**Bayou City Arts Festival.** You can expect to see 300 artists from around the country selling their original artwork. This juried festival includes painting, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, glass, furniture, photography, wood, fiber art, and leather works. The featured artist is Kathy Womack from Austin, Texas, with her *Women and Wine* series (pictured). There will be music by Levi Chen, Watson & Co., Pat Surface, & more. There will be a wine café, beer tavern, & restaurants, including Hellenic Foods, Jalapenos, Kim Son, Little German Kitchen, Pierre's French Cuisine, and Marble Slab Creamery. Also: The Creative Zone, an interactive art area for kids. Admission: \$7 adults, children under 12 free. Among the beneficiaries: DiverseWorks, MECA (MultiEducation & Counseling through the Arts), Spay-Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP), Art League of Houston, Steven's House, & Bering Omega Community Foundation. 10 am-6 pm in Memorial Park.

**Bayou City Arts Festival features artwork by Kathy Womack:** "I tell people I live vicariously through my paintings. I live them as I paint them, but my paintings are about the closest I'll ever get to wearing an evening gown. Inspiration comes from that same place inside that as a child made me secretly wish I was a princess of a far-away place, though I was really a tom-boy with a big imagination."

**23** (Sat.)

**Opera Scenes in Style** is an introduction to opera's greatest overtures & arias set to the collections of today's hottest fashion designers, at Saks Fifth Avenue, Galleria II. Info: OrchestraX at 713/225-6729.

**23** (Sat.)

**Hubbard Street Dance Chicago.** From corsets & kilts to khakis & black tie, these spirited dancers move from ballet to jazz to modern with grace, sensuality, & show biz pizzazz. 8 pm @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets (\$15-\$45) available at all Ticketmaster locations or online at [www.spa.houston.org](http://www.spa.houston.org); charge by phone at 713/629-3700.

**23 & 24** (Sat. & Sun.)

**Camera Show & Sale.** Over 200 worldwide dealers bring you usable & collectible cameras, accessories, darkroom equipment, photographic literature & images, and much more. Take your cameras, browse, buy, sell, and/or trade. Admission only \$5. See what develops from 10 am-5 pm on Saturday, and 10 am-4 pm on Sunday @ the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Hobby Airport, 9100 Gulf Freeway. For more info: 713/868-9606.

**24** (Sun.)

**Anthony Kearns**, who is perhaps best known as one-third of the Irish Tenors group, will take center stage at 7 pm @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. Tickets (\$16.50-\$57) are available by calling 409/765-1894 or by visiting [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com).

**28-31** (Thu.-Sun.)

**It's Dinah Time!** Pack your bags, grab your shades, & join your friends at the world's greatest gathering of women—the Dinah Shore Weekend 2002 in Palm Springs, California. VIP weekend passes (includes entry to all seven events) are \$125. Visit [www.clubskirts.com](http://www.clubskirts.com) or [www.girlbar.com](http://www.girlbar.com) for information and to order online. Call the Dinah hotline at 888/44-DINAH to also get event details or to charge by phone.

**29** (Fri.)

**The Mercury Baroque Ensemble** focuses on authentically performing 17th- and 18th-century music, playing on period instruments in order to recapture the intimacy & nuance of Baroque music. Tonight's concert is "Stabat Mater." At press time, the location had not been confirmed. Tickets are \$20 (students/seniors \$10). For more info: 713/498-4853 or visit [www.MercuryBaroqueEnsemble.org](http://www.MercuryBaroqueEnsemble.org).

**29** (Fri.)

**Outfest 2002.** As one of the world's largest gay & lesbian film festivals celebrates its landmark 20th anniversary, Outfest 2002 is now calling for submissions for completed feature, animated, & short films, videos, and documentaries. To be held in Los Angeles July 11-22, 2002, filmmakers from across the country and around the globe are invited to submit their work and join in the celebration of the gay & lesbian community's vision & artistry. Applications, rules, & regulations are available from the Outfest website at [www.outfest.org](http://www.outfest.org). Submission deadline is March 29, and final decisions will be announced May 31.

**30** (Sat.)

**Kindred Spirits Reunion.** To commemorate this landmark club, a fundraising dance and celebration are scheduled for March 30, with proceeds benefiting Bering Memorial United Methodist Church's HIV Medical Services. Come re-experience Kindred Spirits at the Kindred Spirits Reunion, sponsored by A Christmas Songfest. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. @ Hornberger Center, with a DJ and plenty of room for dancing. Keys West has graciously donated their staff for the event. Proceeds will be donated to BMUMC/HIV Medical Services. Tickets \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Acadian Bakers, Basic Brothers, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, Keys West, Meteor, and House of Coleman (713/523-2521). (For related article, see page 55.)

**30 & 31** (Sat. & Sun.)

**Funny Girl.** Barbra Streisand won an Oscar in her screen debut as show-business legend Fanny Bryce, who rose from New York's Lower East Side to become a star of the Ziegfeld Follies. Co-starring Omar Sharif, this lavishly restored print directed by William Wyler features great songs, including *People* and *Don't Rain on My Parade* on the digitally remastered soundtrack. Sat. & Sun. at 1 & 5 pm in the Brown Auditorium of the Museum of Fine Arts. General admission \$5 (members/seniors/students \$4). More info: 713/639-7515 or [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org).

## PLANNING AHEAD

**APRIL & BEYOND**

**April 1 & 13** (Mon. & Sat.)

**The 13th Annual GLAAD Media Awards** will take place in three ceremonies to be held in New York City on April 1 at the New York Marriott Marquis; in Los Angeles on April 13 at the Kodak Theater at Hollywood & Highland; and in San Francisco on June 1 at Westin St. Francis. Among the nominees: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *The Ellen Show*, *Queer as Folk*, *Six Feet Under*, *ER*, *USA Today*, *Newsweek*, and many more. Info/tickets: 888/655-6529 or 310/201-5033. General event

& ticket info can also be found online at GLAAD's website [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org).

**April 3** (Wed.)

**A Little Day Music.** Da Camera of Houston's free lunchtime performance series features the Sam Dinkins III Trio and poet Lorenzo Thomas in a program titled "Jazz and Poetry: A Fusion." The series also features drawings for tickets to Da Camera's upcoming events. You are encouraged to bring & enjoy your lunch while listening to the music at noon in the Grand Foyer of the Wortham Theater Center, 500 Texas at Smith. More info: 713/524-7601, ext. 15.

**April 3** (Wed.)

**HIV and Uncertainty.** The Bering Omega Care Center is a licensed adult day-care facility operated by Bering Omega Community Services for people with HIV disease. This past February, they began offering "First Wednesdays," a lecture series on HIV-related topics for social services & nursing professionals. Tonight's topic is "HIV and Uncertainty." Lectures are free of charge, and certificates of attendance are available for obtaining continuing education units. Speakers are Michael Eckenfels, RN, LSMW, and Andrew McPhaul, LPC. A complimentary light supper will be served. Although there is no fee for participation, space is limited and reservations are required. Social services & nursing professionals: 713/520-7070, ext. 141, for reservations. The next topic, "Responding to the Needs of MH/MR People with HIV," will be covered on May 1.

**April 3 & 4** (Wed. & Thu.)

**Confrontations with the Unconscious.** In collaboration with the Jung Center, OrchestraX incorporates readings from Jung's autobiography *Memories, Dreams and Reflections*. The multi-media event starts at 8 pm at Rice University, Stude Concert Hall. For tickets/more info: 713/225-6729.

**April 5** (Fri.)

**Murder in the Rue Dauphine** is Greg Herren's first novel. He will be signing and discussing his mystery novel at 5:30 pm @ Murder by the Book, 2342 Bissonnet, 713/524-8597. (For more on Herren, see page 29 of this issue of OutSmart magazine.)

**April 8** (Fri.)

**Baudelaire and Chopin.** Da Camera of Houston presents a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process. Discussions, readings, & performance intermingle in this preview event for the Houston premiere of *Epigraph for a Condemned Book*, the newest work in Sarah Rothenberg's award-winning *Music and the Literary Imagination* series. 7:30 pm @ The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. Tickets (\$30, students/seniors half price) are available by contacting Da Camera Music Center, 1427 Branard, 713/524-5050.

**November 2-9** (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.sydneysydney2002.org.au](http://www.sydneysydney2002.org.au) for more info about the events & registration. For reservations, call Mark at 713/365-6266 (reservation cost \$210).

## PERFORMING ARTS

♦ **Come Up and Slay Me Sometime and Marriage Can Be Murder** are presented by Mystery Café, home of Comedy Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. ♦ In their new original production *Come Up and Slay Me Sometime*, the troupe runs roughshod over Texas history of the 1920s, as a national radio broadcast takes place at a floating speakeasy. In attendance: flappers, gangsters, historical

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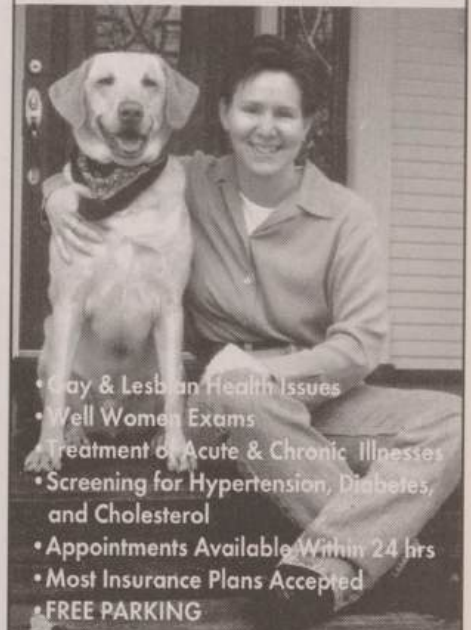
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## WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Local playwright's new drama premieres

**F**ew theaters have the courage to present new works these days.

Most seem to rely on the old warhorses or other proven vehicles; after all, they're safer bets than new plays by unknown writers. But along comes Unhinged Productions, Houston's nonprofit theater dedicated to staging works that present honest (read "positive") images of gays and lesbians. • Earlier this season, it entertained us with a double bill of one-act plays that included Houstonian Patti A. Aldredge's comedy about lesbians mourning one of their own. • This time it's Houstonian Fernando Dovalina's *The Man in the Trunk*, a new, two-act, fully drawn drama that promises to make us cringe at the white-heat exchanges generated by a feuding straight couple and laugh at their foibles and those of their friends, a very grounded gay man who's newly in love, a divorcee who's just tossed out her abusive husband, and a very inebriated Hispanic copy editor enthralled with the parts of speech. • Dovalina spent 31 years at the *Houston Chronicle*, the last of those as an assistant managing editor in charge of the news copy desk and the international desk, which won two Pulitzer Prize finalist citations while he was at the helm. He served as a Pulitzer juror four times. • He was one of the founders of the Houston affiliate of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and was active in the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association. "That made it NLGJA," says Dovalina, "but it didn't stop us from referring to it as 'negligee.'" • Two years ago, he took early retirement and left the newsroom behind. At Rice University, he studied under Sam Havens, the head of the drama department at St. Thomas University. And at the University of Houston, he studied under Edward Albee, the three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright. "I'm realizing a dream," says Dovalina. "I've retired, but I'm still working, doing some teaching, some consulting, some studying, and writing plays. Not too many people get to do what I'm doing. I pick the jobs I want to do; I decide on the hours. And I'm having fun." • Dr. Bill Gilmer, on the Unhinged board of directors, read Dovalina's play, loved it, then took it to Chris Jimmerson, Unhinged's artistic director. After two

staged readings, a decision was made to mount a full production. "The readings were invaluable," Dovalina says. "I could see what worked and what didn't, what made sense and what didn't, what my characters were saying, and what I was cramming down their throats and forcing them to say." • In *The Man in the Trunk*, the five characters, all of them Texans, are in San Francisco celebrating the Mitchells' wedding anniversary at the home of Randy Wilson, a gay man who is



Kelly Williams (left) plays the gay character Randy Wilson, and Paul Locklear plays his best friend Frank Mitchell in *The Man in the Trunk*. Inset: Playwright Fernando Dovalina



Frank Mitchell's best friend. "Randy Wilson is, in part, based on someone I know," says Dovalina. "Randy lives in San Francisco, though he grew up in Texas City, and my friend lives in San Francisco, though he grew up in Oklahoma. They are both well grounded, intelligent, loving, and funny, and they love words and hate confrontations. They are peacemakers, or at least they try to be. They would never knowingly try to hurt anybody. Randy Wilson is the reason that Unhinged became interested in *The Man in the Trunk*." • "Here is an otherwise Anglo heterosexual play, but one character is gay and another is Mexican-American," Dovalina continues. "Without knowing that I was doing it, I've mainstreamed them. That's the way life is. We don't live in our own exclusive world. Gays and lesbians and straights and bisexuals, Anglos, blacks and Hispanics, everybody—we live together, in each other's world. We better get used to it. My play is about a lot of things, and that idea, that we're in this together, is just one of them."

**What:** *The Man in the Trunk*  
**When:** Through March 30

**Time:** 8 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays

**Where:** Unhinged Productions, 3304 LaBranch

**Cost:** \$15 adults, \$12 seniors/students

**Info/reservations:** 713/524-8707

figures, Mae West, & Abraham Lincoln. With a combination like that, somebody's going to wind up dead. • *Marriage Can Be Murder* takes place at a disastrous wedding ceremony and can serve as either a warning to lovebirds or a soothing balm to those who have already posted bans, as they can say. "Well, at least our wedding wasn't that bad!" • *Come Up and Slay Me* runs Saturday nights at 8 pm in repertory with *Marriage Can Be Murder*, which runs Friday nights at 8 pm. Both shows are presented at the Prima Pasta Restaurant, 2710 Richmond Ave. Info: 713/944-2583 or [www.mysterycafehouston.com](http://www.mysterycafehouston.com).

♦ **Crumbs from the Table of Joy.** In some way, we're all looking for answers to life's questions and "crumbs from the table of joy." This is a moving yet poignantly humorous story of a young woman's coming of age in Brooklyn, amidst the influences of her aunt who parties in Harlem and preaches revolution, and her father, a devout follower of Father Divine. Sparks of emotion & magical moments fly when Ernestine's vibrant Aunt Lily shows up one day with suitcase in hand to give the family a crash course in politics & civil rights, and days later, her father shows up with a new wife, a post-war German refugee. Mar. 21-Apr. 14 (previews Mar. 16 & 17) @ the Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main St. More info/reservations: 713/520-0055.

♦ **Forever Hold Your Peace!** Join the festivities as the tiny town of Dumpster, Texas, throws a wedding in this original Fertile Family comedy. Thursdays & Fridays at 8:30 pm, Saturdays at 8 & 10:30 pm, through May 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.

♦ **Houston Ballet.** It's the world premiere of *Peter Pan*, a spectacular new full-length version of James M. Barrie's classic tale of the boy who refuses to grow up, created by openly gay choreographer Trey McIntyre. (Read more about McIntyre on page 24 of this issue of OutSmart magazine.) Peter Pan leads Wendy, John, & Michael Darling from their sheltered home to fantastic adventures in Neverland, where they join the tribe



Costume designs for Peter Pan by Jeanne Button

of Lost Boys and do battle with the villainous Captain Hook. Mar. 14-24 @ Wortham Theater Center's Brown Theater, Texas at Smith streets. Tickets (\$11.50-\$101.50) are available by calling 713/227-ARTS (2787) or in person at the Wortham Ticket

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Center in the Wortham Theater Center. For more information: [www.houstonballet.org](http://www.houstonballet.org) (Cleopatra continues through Mar. 10.)

◆ **Houston Grand Opera** presents *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, one of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's best-known comedic masterpieces. Mozart composed the opera in 1782 at one of the happiest times in his short life, while he was engaged to marry his love Konstanze, for whom Mozart named *Abduction's* heroine. Mozart married Konstanze three weeks after the opera's premiere, Mar. 8-24 @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, Texas at Smith. Tickets (\$25-\$77) are available by phone at 713/227-ARTS (2787), in person at Wortham Ticket Center in the lobby of the Wortham Theater Center, or on the website at [www.houstongrandopera.org](http://www.houstongrandopera.org).

◆ **The Laramie Project**. If you missed the production in Houston, you might consider taking the short trip to Austin to see this incredible play based on the events surrounding the Matthew Shepard story, as told through the eyes of the Wyoming townspeople who served as both witnesses & participants. *Greater Tulsa's* Jason Williams stars. Through Apr. 7 @ Zach's Kleberg Stage, 1421 West Riverside Dr. at S. Lamar. Tickets are \$26-\$31. Charge by phone at 512/476-0541, ext. 1, or online at [www.zachscott.com](http://www.zachscott.com). (Can't make it to Austin? See *The Laramie Project* on HBO premiering at 7 pm, Sunday, Mar. 9, with repeat airings throughout the month. Related TV show: *The Matthew Shepard Story* at 8 pm on Sunday, Mar. 16, on NBC.)

◆ **Lobster Alice**. In 1946 Hollywood, animator John Finch is busy creating the fanciful world of Wonderland—and falling in love with his secretary, Alice. When he's assigned to supervise the work of Salvador Dali, Finch's predictable life is turned upside down as he & Alice are drawn through Dali's looking glass into the

glittering world of the bizarre. Through Mar. 24 @ 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.stages theatre.com](http://www.stages theatre.com).

◆ **The Misanthrope**. Alceste is a man disgusted with mankind—and with womankind, for that matter. Alceste's friends are insincere, his girlfriend pays too much attention to trivial people, and the worlds of law & literature alike are full of sycophants & power-mongers. Even Celimene, his true love, enjoys baiting men with her affection & then pitting them against one another. As he exposes the fraud & superficiality around him, his own intolerance & obdurance are revealed, and he finds himself increasingly alone. Mar. 21-Apr. 21 @ Main Street Theater in Rice Village, 2540 Times Blvd. Tickets are \$20-\$30. More info: 713/524-6706 or [www.mainstreettheater.com](http://www.mainstreettheater.com).

◆ **The Mousetrap** by Dame Agatha Christie. This quintessential "whodunit" has it all—unsuspecting lodgers snowed in at a new bed and breakfast, an unexpected guest, and a dead body. Tickets \$10 (students/seniors \$9; matinees \$8). Through Mar. 23 @ Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd St. 713/682-3525, [www.theatresuburbia.com](http://www.theatresuburbia.com).

◆ **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**. Counter-culture icon Ken Kesey's thrilling 1962 satire of mental health institutions, government institutions, & all institutions questions the distinctions made by society between sanity & insanity, freedom & responsibility. Through Mar. 23 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets are \$35-\$50. For more info: 713/228-8421 or [www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org).

◆ **The Perfect Party**. Tony, a professor of American literature, quits his job in order to host the perfect party. He invites a critic from the *New York Times* in hopes that his perfect party gets its justly deserved perfect review. His wife & his best friends are there to ensure everything goes perfectly. A perfectly hilarious play about life's imperfections. Tickets are \$12 (students/seniors \$10). Mar. 29-May 4, Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1216. Reservations recommended.

◆ **Swing!** A celebration of the music & dance that swept the nation in the '30s & '40s, *Swing!* opened on Broadway last season to powerful praise for its music, dance, & style. So much more than a dance revue, *Swing!* crosses ethnic & cultural barriers, highlighting an eclectic mix of Jive, Latin Swing, West Coast Swing, Hip-Hop, & Country Western Swing. Featuring a mix of new & classic songs and over 30 tour de force dance numbers, it also boasts spectacular vocal performance, while the entire show is driven by the dynamic sound of a hot neo-Swing band. Included: "Boogie Woogie

Bugle Boy," "Harlem Nocturne," "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," "Sing, Sing, Sing," and many more. Mar. 26-31 @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets (\$31-\$57) are available at all Ticketmaster locations, online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), or by phone at 713/629-3700. For more info, visit [www.BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com](http://www.BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com).

## PERFORMING ARTS

### FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

◆ **Grand Kids Festival**. Color on the sidewalk, create your own music on the Kids Kitchen Band, blow bubbles on the wind, or just spend a day enriching your artistic senses. On Saturday, April 6 (yes, this gives your parents a chance to plan ahead for next month!), The Grand 1894 Opera House will host this 7th annual festival—a celebration of families & folk arts—from 10 am-5 pm in historic downtown Galveston, on three blocks of Postoffice Street between 20th & 23rd streets. You could even be a star at the festival and perform in Missoula Children's Theatre's productions of *Treasure Island* (auditions take place on Monday, April 1). Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2 for children under 12 (children under 5 are admitted free of charge). More info: 409/765-1894 or [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com).

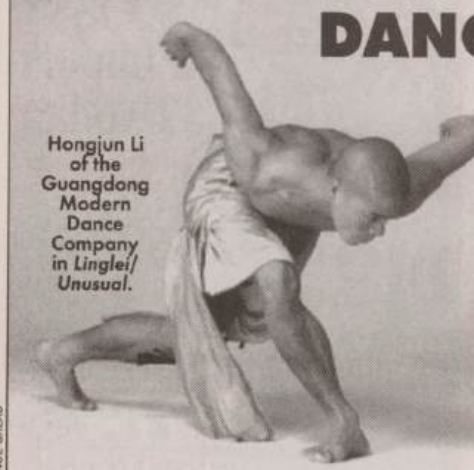
◆ **Miss Nelson Is Back**. A new classroom will be subjected to the notorious substitute who dresses in black when Miss Viola Swamp returns to Room 207. Miss Nelson has to get her tonsils removed, & Principal Humleker decides to take over her class. When the children realize how boring his lessons are, they devise a plan to get the day off to go eat ice cream & go to the movies. But what happens to them on their way back to school? And how did Miss Viola Swamp find out they still needed a substitute? Join the antics of Room 207 as they learn a hard lesson in appreciation. Recommended for pre-kindergarten-4th grades. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$8 children/students/seniors. Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. For info on family performances (Mar. 23-Apr. 6): 713/524-6706. Info on school bookings (Mar. 5-Apr. 5): 713/524-7998.

◆ **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**. Beautiful Snow White, the handsome prince, the evil witch, & seven kind, hardworking little people make this fairy tale a story to charm most people. Tickets \$6. Saturdays at 11 am & 1:30 pm; Mar. 16-Apr. 27 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury. 713/726-1216.

◆ **Thief of Sherwood Forest** is presented by Mystery Café on Saturdays at 11:30 am @ the Prima Pasta Restaurant, 2710 Richmond Ave. Info: 713/944-CLUE (2583) or [www.mysterycafehouston.com](http://www.mysterycafehouston.com).

## DANCE SALAD DAYS

Dance Salad celebrates its 10th year of presenting the works of internationally renowned contemporary choreographers and dancers. Just a few of this year's companies: Rambert Dance Company, England; The Norwegian National Ballet, Norway; Battleworks, New York. March 28-30 @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Tickets (\$15-\$35) are available by calling 713/227-2787 or at the ticket window at 550 Prairie in downtown Houston. More info at [www.dancesalad.org](http://www.dancesalad.org).



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## RADIO

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

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

## ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

◆ **Katharine Cobey: Fiber Sculpture**. Cobey takes the process of knitting to new levels of art in her new exhibition. Her knitted sculptures include a range of media such as hand-spun wool, plastic garbage bags, & metal wire, all demonstrating her skill & creativity. Through April 7 @ Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main St., 713/529-4848.

◆ **Rex Kare's** powerful & exciting new works (pictured) include figurative oil paintings, sketches, & portraits. Through Mar. 15 @ Betz Gallery, 1208 West Gray, 713/523-3765.

◆ **Agnes Martin**. The Menil Collection honors Agnes Martin, a legend in American 20th-century art, in her 90th year, presenting some 30 canvases made in the decade since her 1993 retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Through May 26 @ the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross, 713/525-9404.

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Best known as the BRB, Houston's premiere country-western bar brings you denim, boots, and cowboy hats. Located just outside the Montrose, this bar calls Midtown home. Voted the "Best Place to Two-Step," the BRB has two huge bars to serve you—not to mention a great bar staff. Whether dancing, playing pool, or just cruising around, you're sure to see some true Texas kicker dancing. 2400 Brazos • 713/528-9192.

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### COUSIN'S

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### EJ's

It might be on the western end of Montrose, but it attracts a crowd from all over while keeping the charm of a local colorful hangout. Now with three bars, one

inside, one outside, and one on the new second floor patio, you never have to wait for a cocktail, so drink up and enjoy the nightly entertainment on and off the stage. 2517 Ralph • 713/527-9071.

### GUAVA LAMP

This funky little spot is the perfect place to grab a cocktail, listen to your favorite tunes, and maybe shoot a round of pool. Like its name, it's groovy, hip, and a tad bit kitschy. 2159 Portsmouth • 713-524-3359.

### J.R.'S/SANTA FE

Where do you meet the boys? Right here, at one of Houston's gay institutions. J.R.'s boasts everything from pool tables to karaoke to table dancers, depending on the day of the week. 808/804 Pacific • 713/521-2519.

### KEYS WEST

It's Cheers in Neartown. Must-see décor

featuring a piano bar and guest entertainment, Tue.-Sat. Check out the clientele, and if you think they look familiar, you've probably seen them over at the Briar Patch. Say hello to owners Joe and Jerry and their seasoned bar staff. 817 W. Dallas • 713/571-7870.

### MARY'S

THE venerable local neighborhood bar in the Montrose. Largest private garden patio anywhere in Houston and an inside and outside bar to serve you. Enjoy a game of pool or darts, or just join the men relaxing at the bar. Always a great gathering place for local events, everyone should see the Pride Parade from the roof of Mary's at least once. 1022 Westheimer • 713/527-9669.

### MELA'S

Houston's favorite little Tejano and country-western bar, this joint is mostly women, pool tables, and music. 302 Tuam • 713/523-0747.

### METEOR

A step up from the rest, Meteor offers a relaxing but chic atmosphere with its overstuffed couches and fancy glassware. Handsome men and darling women gather here any night of the week for drinks and conversation. The friendly bar staff makes this video lounge a great place to catch your favorite TV or music videos. Winner of OutSmart Readers' choice award for "Best New Club." 2306 Genesee • 713/521-0123.

### MO MONG

Voted "Best Martini" by OutSmart readers,

every Wednesday night the guys and gals come out in droves to enjoy the multiple martini specials. Located just behind the old Tower Theatre (now Hollywood Video), this Vietnamese restaurant's downstairs lobby and outside patio do double duty as a bar for the mob on Wednesday nights. 1201 Westheimer #B • 713/524-5664.

### MONTROSE MINING CO.

Hang out with the leather/denim crowd in this popular bar with an awesome stereo system and gorgeous male dancers every night of the week. If the dancers get you overheated, head outside to the two-level back patio bar to chill out. 805 Pacific • 713/529-7488.

### NSOMNIA

Houston's premiere after-hours club. Enjoy your favorite cocktail here until 6am, Wed. through Sun., but only if you bring your own. This BYOB after-hours offers a game room, large outside patio, and great music, where you can dance till dawn. 202 Tuam • 713/522-6100.

### OUTPOST

Minutes from the heart of Montrose, this country-style bar always has something going on. Play pool, watch a show, or just hang out with the regulars at this local hangout with a lot of charm. 1419 Richmond • 713/520-8446.

### PACIFIC STREET

The heat is on at Pacific Street, where this two-story industrial-style nightclub will get you sweaty. With the best drink prices in

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## Bar Guide

town, you can dance all night or hang out on the balcony for a better view of the strip—or sneak out to the secluded back patio for a secret rendezvous. 710 Pacific Street • 713-523-0213.

### PARADISE

Enjoy this neighborhood-style bar and private patio by chatting it up with the friendly bar staff and the even friendlier crowd. 2312 Crocker • 713/522-7366.

### RAINBOW ROOM

Out of the Montrose and outside the Loop, this is a welcome spot on the Northside. 527 Barren Springs off Ella • 281/872-0215.

### RIPCORD

This "man's bar" in Montrose was voted "Best Place to Show off Your Leather." With three bars (two inside; one outside) manned by the best bartenders in town to serve you, you'll never go thirsty. Whether inside or on the newly expanded back patio, this is the hottest place in town, where cruising takes on a whole new meaning. 715 Fairview • 713/521-2792.

### RICH'S

The meeting place for the hip and gay (or just hip) for over 20 years, the iconic two-story danceteria Rich's still packs 'em in. *OutSmart* readers bestowed several honors on this local favorite in this year's Gayest and Greatest,

including "Friendliest Bar Staff" and "Best Club If You're Under 21." Outstanding light and laser shows add to the varied pumped-up music. 2401 San Jacinto • 713-759-9606.

### 611

You can wake up and go straight (uh, gaily) to this neighborhood bar that opens at 7 a.m. You will always find lots of men there, from the youngest allowed to the oldest. Good bartenders ready to serve you. Play pool, throw darts, relax in their garden-style patio or just hang around their large bar and you will be sure to meet someone. Check out their buffets on Fridays and Sundays. 611 Hyde Park • 713/526-7070.

### SOUTH BEACH

From the ashes of the club Heaven has risen one fine phoenix. A relative newcomer to the bar scene and an instant hit with the in crowd, the splashy new South Beach is the place for high-energy dancing. Its cutting-edge design and technochic sound system keeps the mixed crowd of chicly dressed and shirtless buffed boys pumped up late into the night. 810 Pacific • 713/529-7623.

### Galveston

### BLVD SALOON

A perfect place for a relaxing cocktail or a fun-filled evening of socializing and entertainment. Nice big walk-around bar

and dance floor, right on the Seawall, with a great view of the ocean, especially from the new second-floor deck. Entertainment on weekends. 3102 Seawall • 409/750-8571.

### GARZA'S KONTIKI

The gay bar for the Island. Conveniently close to all Galveston's celebration spots, the Kon Tiki is a block and half from the Strand district and the Pier. It's the place to go dancing, with male and female entertainers on weekends—and, of course, the "show girls." Don't ask; just go see for yourself. 315 Tremont (23rd) • 409/765-5805.

### JIMMY'S ON THE BEACH

Newest bar on the island, owned and operated by long-time bartender Jimmy Sweeney. The tropical décor and the full wall of windows overlooking the Gulf give you plenty to please the eyes. It's the closest bar to gay East Beach, and owner Jimmy plans to add male strippers and karaoke nights to the list of attractions. Open noon–2 a.m., seven days a week, with happy hour prices on every drink every day until 8 p.m. Corner of 9th and Seawall (904 Ave M) • 409/765-6911.

### ROBERT'S LAFITTE

A real neighborhood bar; this venerable place has been around forever. The clientele is as colorful as the chandeliers that adorn this Island institution. A great place to be

yourself or who you would like to be or who you think you are! Sit out on the private lush tropical patio and grab some of that nice Gulf breeze. Just two blocks from the Seawall, 2501 Ave Q at corner of 25th • 409/765-9092.

### Beaumont

#### The Copa

This bar certainly lives up to its name as a hot dance club. This two-story fun complex has pool tables, a spacious stage, and a staircase that would make Norma Desmond green with envy. You'll be entertained by some of the prettiest "show girls" from the Golden Triangle. The bar of Beaumont, and the hangout for the hip crowd from Lamar University. 304 Orleans • 409/832-4206.

#### CROCKETT ST. STATION

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# SceneOut



## OUT IN HOUSTON

**1** California artist **Kimberly Jordan** had a reception at Meteor, Feb. 6.

**2** The Montrose Softball League's Recruitment day at Memorial Park, Feb. 10.

**3** Loft-warming party for **Glenn, Keith, Ryan, and Scott** on Feb. 9 at the Lofts at the Ballpark.

**4** A Chamber mixture was held Feb. 7 at Haus Edelweiss: (l-r) chamber pres **Larry Baumann**, Edelweiss owner **Charlie Corley**, and **Brooks Ballard**.

**5** Miss Camp America DIVAS fundraiser, Feb. 3, at Guava Lamp.

The opening ceremony for the AIDS

Memorial Quilt, Feb. 11, Rice Univ.:

**6** Unfolding the quilt.  
**7, 8, 9** Quilt panels.

**10** M2M hosted a fashion show at South Beach on Feb. 9. Model **Brian Denelan**.

**11** Sean Lane.

**12** The Sing-A-Long *Sound of Music* had a benefit preview to benefit the Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. The Sing-A-Long plays at the River Oaks thru Mar. 14.

**13** Robert Gerber (l) and Frank Foissella won best costume for their festoons of edelweiss.

**14** (L-r) RO usher **Adrian Flores**, RO manager **AmyBeth Gilstrap**, **Charmian Carr** (liesl in the S of M), and emcee **Ernie Manouse**.

**15** King Olympus **Dennis Peterson** and Queen Olympus **Jim Humble** at the Krewe of Olympus Mardi Gras Ball, Feb. 2, at the Hornberger Center.

**16** Doug Willis (l) and Hal Coley at Rich's Mystery & Fantasy Mardi Gras party, Jan. 26.

**17** Jim Kovach and Ben Montalbano hosted a Super Bowl party, Feb. 3.

**18** Guests **Greg Fredo** (l) and **Kenton Warne**.

**19** Loubel Cruz (l) and Susan Raffte of the Pink Ribbons Project with EPAH program chair **Ben Whittle**, EPAH meeting at the Houston City Club, Feb. 19.



6, 7, 8, 9 - YVONNE FEECE; ALL OTHERS - DALTON DEHART



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## SignOut

by Lilly Roddy

Jupiter goes direct (or forward) on March 1. All the outer planets, including Pluto, Neptune, Uranus, Saturn, and Jupiter, go retrograde each year for about four months. Retrogradation is when the Earth and that particular planet are on the same side of the Sun. And all retrograde motion usually indicates a time when that energy symbolized by the planets affects us internally or in a more unconscious fashion. Venus and Mars are retrograde about every two years and Mercury is retrograde three times a year. The only planet going retrograde this month is Pluto. • The Sun begins the month in Pisces but enters Aries, the first day of spring, on March 20. Mercury, racing along, begins in Aquarius, enters Pisces on the 11th and Aries on the 29th. Venus begins in Pisces and enters Aries on the 7th. Mars is visiting Taurus this entire month. The rest of the planets are still in the same signs they have been, Jupiter in Cancer, Saturn in Gemini, Uranus and Neptune in Aquarius, and Pluto in Sagittarius.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19–March 20) Living on the edge of the fault line and coming to your yearly solar cycle, you are assessing so much of what you used to do and what you used to be. And how little interest you have in those things. But you are afraid to trust those new things out there because they could take the next bus out of town. Life in general gets better but not until after the end of May. And your career will become a lot more stable at that time. Otherwise, just hang on, the star light is at the end of the tunnel.

**Aries** (March 21–April 19) Part of you wants to spend time in meditation exploring your spiritual domain. And the other part wants to go on a shopping/indulgence spree. You will be attracting people to you like a magnet. You may want to avoid religious places with good-looking clergy members. This energy could surely help your business or work environment. You'll find people are just so helpful. Relationships will be better, but tired routines will have you daydreaming about Greek goddesses and gods.

**Taurus** (April 20–May 20) This is your month to get those projects started. And you'll find friends and business associates are really interested in helping you get what you want. However, March 14–16 are not great days for business—but they are wonderful days for escaping the humdrum. Your sexual energy is stronger than usual. This can be a great month for meeting new people or relighting the inner flame between you and your lover. Unexpressed, this will show up as arguing and fighting.

**Gemini** (May 21–June 21) You are more serious than usual this month. Career and long-term

security goals top the list of fun and excitement in your life. You have become a force to be reckoned with at work. Even though you are extra nice and flexible, others will still be intimidated. Relationships are still edgy. And if a person is not willing to go to Hell and back with you twice, just what kind of person are they? You will be leaving Hades by the end of May but not before then.

**Cancer** (June 22–July 22) The Moon kids have become so social this year, just itching to get out there and meet new people. New doors are opening up for you. This is certainly not a time

**Happy Birthday to Chastity Bono.**  
Born March 4, 1969,  
Bono is an activist and writer,  
and she just happens to be  
the daughter of Cher.

Bono is pictured here in 1999 when her book *Family Outing* was published in paperback by Little, Brown and Company.



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you want to remain in bed. Your career is even more activated by mid-month and only gets busier. People will want to be around you just to rub up against your crabby shell. Don't forget about that special person at home while you are basking in the glory of your self.

**Leo** (July 23–Aug. 22) You will feel more grounded after March 11. You have just been on a short vacation where you have not wanted to do anything you didn't have to do. You are going to be more focused on work and career objectives. You are in a dilemma with relationships because you would really like a partner, but you don't want a commitment to get in the way. You may avoid romance all together and just hang out with your friends. Then when you tire of their company, you can just go home.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) You are desperately seeking divine inspiration. Your lovely routines don't hold the glamour for you that they once did. Now, scrubbing the floor just seems like scrubbing the floor. You have not been the most motivated sign since the end of December, but you are slowly getting those engines in gear. Everyone you have been meeting is doing something special and exciting and you want to know when you are going to find yours. Romantic partners can be very helpful in helping you find Nirvana. Just ask; they are only too eager to help.

**Libra** (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) Selling yourself and/or your ideas is favored by the stars this month. This can be the time to take on a new project or seek a new position at another place of employment. Whichever direction you go, things will turn

out in your favor. The public eye is watching you. And potential relationships will be knocking at your door. Be careful that they don't take advantage of your good will. Relationships are calmer this month. You are not as combative and may prefer to find resolution in the bedroom.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 24–Nov. 21) Your relationships are really heating up this month. You may want to visit Hot Springs just to express that unexpressed libido. Yes, I know at work they really want your organizational skills. Be careful that you don't end up doing their work for them instead of inspiring them to find a solution on their own. Great month for a visit to your health specialist or to get back on that diet. You are ready to make another go of it.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22–Dec. 21) As your month begins, you are focusing on home and family and setting your roots down in boggy marsh. Maybe a lake house or beach cabin will do. You are still in the mist, emerging from your chrysalis. Who and what shall you be? This has put a big strain on your romantic relationships since you don't know who you are or what you want from the people around you. Work routines are better this month, but you don't have much patience with people around you who can't carry their own weight.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22–Jan. 19) You are so interested in getting your views and ideas out to those around you. You will be more than helpful with suggestions and hints at work. Others may see you as a bit bossy, but you are coming from your heart. Romantic relationships can be really great this month. If you are in one, it will improve, and if you are looking, you will find someone. Take some time to visit the doctor. She can give you some good advice and boost your energy levels.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20–Feb. 18) Your attention turns to money, personal resources, talents, and skills. The first part of the month, you are assessing just what talents you have, if any, and then if you are being rewarded or recognized adequately for those talents. If you are not, gosh, are you going to raise a stink. Of course, for those who are appreciating you, you will bestow your beneficence on them. Even though you are searching for your spiritual self, you are more ready than ever for commitment. Activities at home increase.

Lilly Roddy is a Houston-based astrologer. She can be reached at [lillycath@aol.com](mailto:lillycath@aol.com) or [www.hermesfoot.com](http://www.hermesfoot.com).



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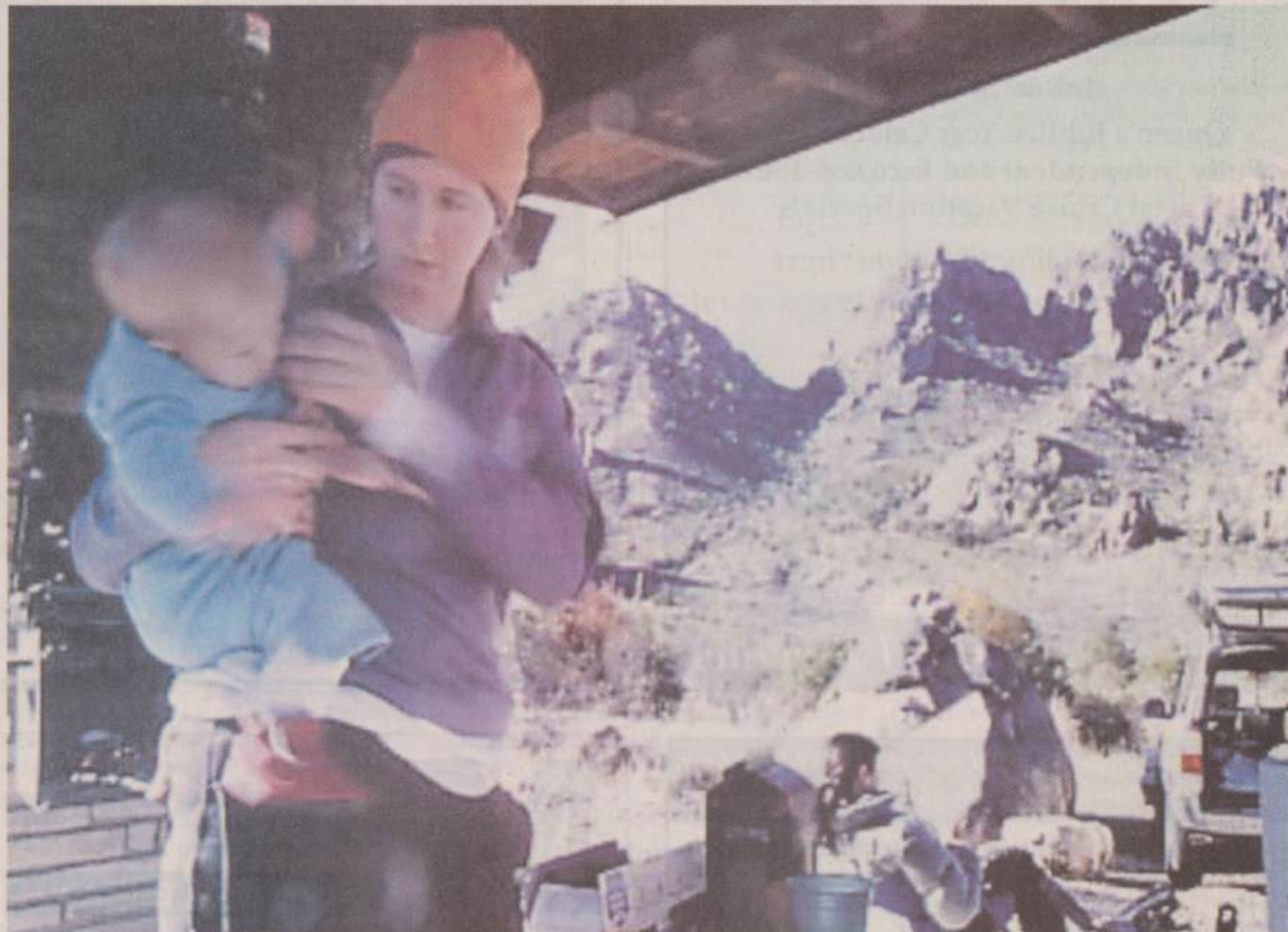
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Teya Sparks with her five-month-old daughter Evan at Big Bend. Evan has gone camping and hiking regularly since her birth. Evan lives with Teya, her dad Craig, and her second mom, Jo Vamvakias (in the background).

**"I think the key is for women not to set any limits."**

—Martina Navratilova

Photograph by Paige Morrison

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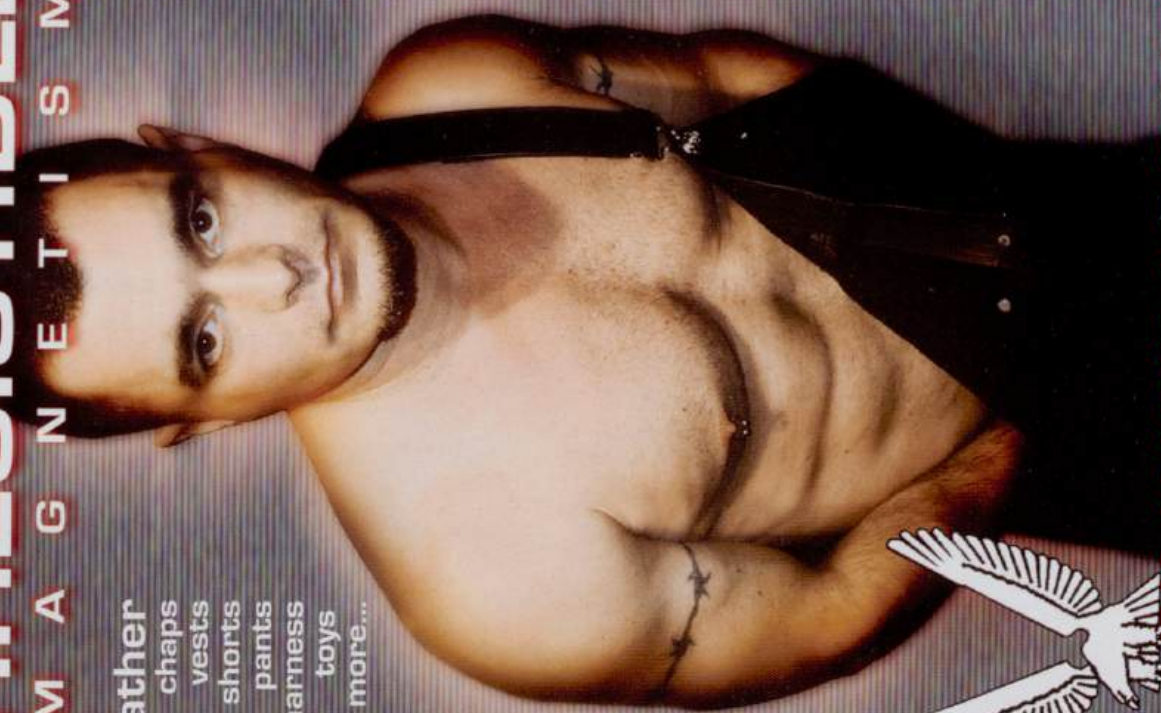
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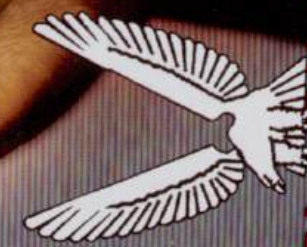
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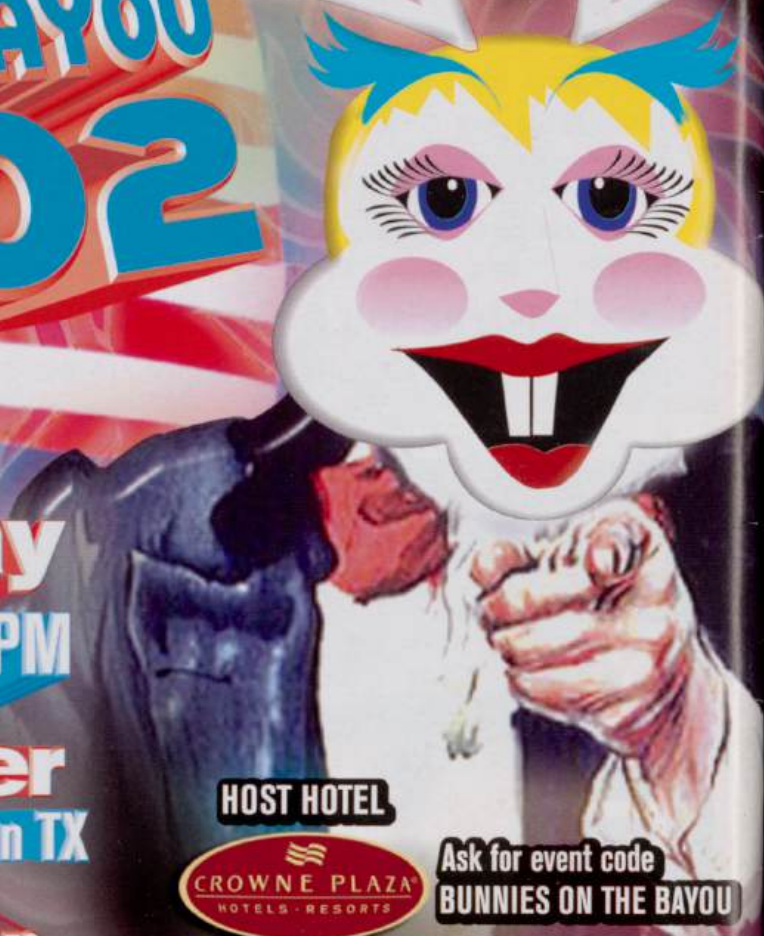


**Ask for event code  
BUNNIES ON THE BAYOU**

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**MISS PENNY WANTS YOU...  
TO PARTY!!**

**BUNNIES  
ON THE BAYOU  
2002**

**Easter Sunday**

**March 31, 2002 • 1:00-6:00 PM**

**Wortham Center**

**Fish Plaza • 500 Texas Ave. • Houston TX**

**\$25 ENTRY DONATION** **21 & up**  
(please bring your ID)

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