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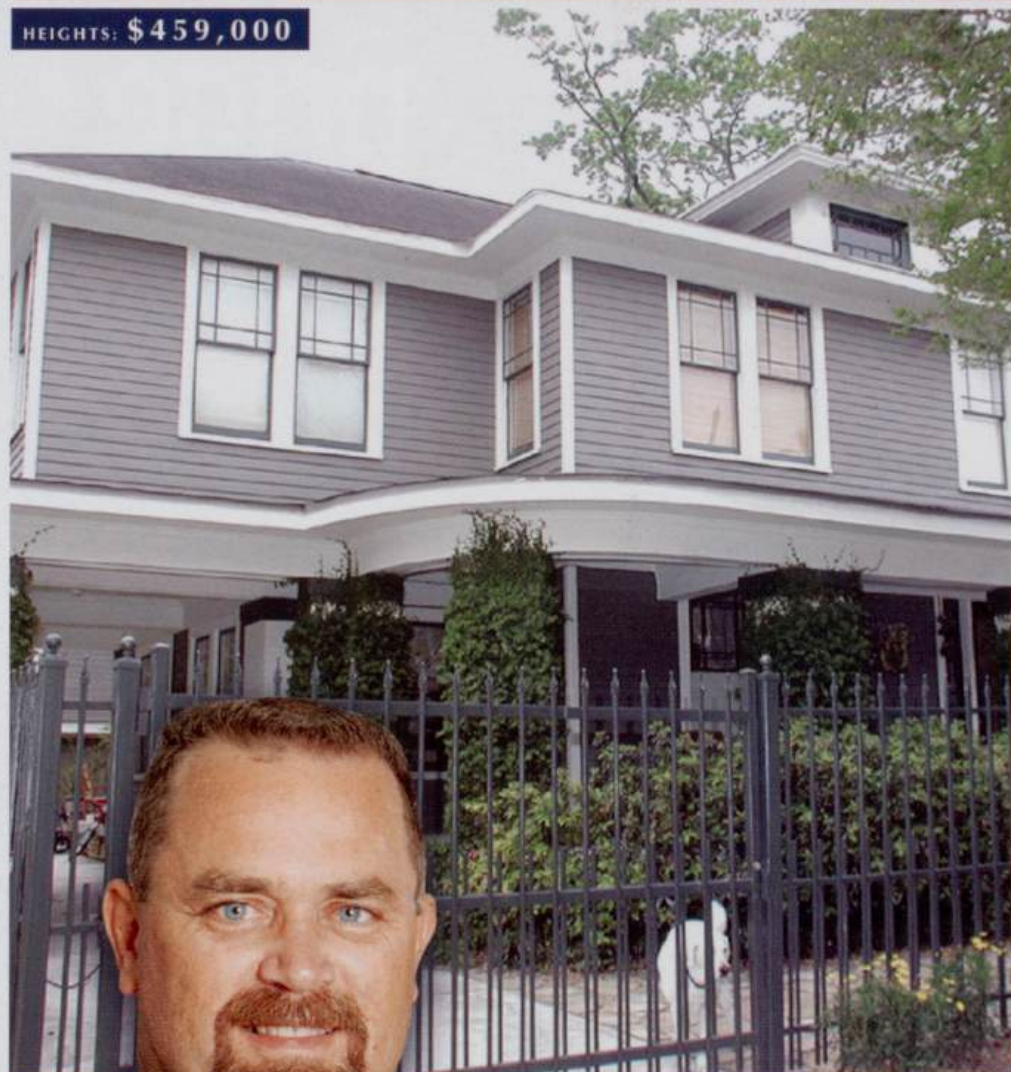
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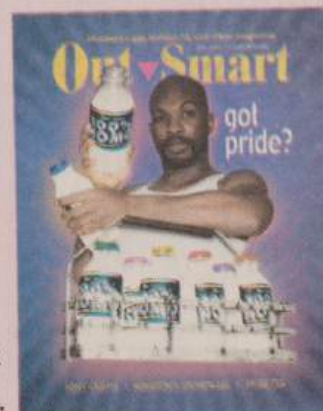
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the
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PRIDE PIX

Welcome to OutSmart's special Pride issue featuring the annual pictures of pride. A special acknowledgement goes to our Pride pic photographers: Dalton DeHart, Yvonne Feece, Thomas Chelena, and John Nagy, who have captured the community spirit that fill the OutSmart pages. • Ever wondered who's behind the scene in producing OutSmart each month? Here's a bit about the devoted and proud staff that keeps OutSmart rolling off the press. From all of us at OutSmart, Happy Pride Month!



Greg Jeu. Age: 43. Position: Publisher. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Author Peter McWilliams. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Queeny-meany-putdowns. **Who was the first person you told?:** My best friend Shelley Saunders. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Ask for help when you need it; say please and thank you. Trust your intuition. **Life's a bowl of:** peppers—each one of them is unique: some very sweet, some bitter, and sometimes the most innocent-looking ones turn out to be the hottest.



Jim Hurst. Age: 44. Position: Associate publisher. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: Something to stay cool. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Eating flan in bed naked with my partner. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Harvey Milk. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Alan Davidson, local writer/massage therapist. **What's the best advice you would give?:** Learn to believe in yourself and the sky will be your limit. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** Confidence in myself.

Tim Brookover. Age: 41. Position: Editorial director. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?: I embrace all fads. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Never give up. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Sensible flats. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Trinity Broadcasting Network. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Phyllis Frye. **Who was the first person you told?:** Eric, my best friend in high school. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** Because I was honest in living my life, all my relationships improved. **Life's a bowl of:** menudo—sometimes it smells a little funny, once in a while you think you just can't take it, but most of the time it's not so bad after all, and in fact it's pretty darn good.



Ann Walton Sieber. Age: 40. Position: Editor. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Bi. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: An OutSmart T-shirt, of course. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Tacqueria breakfasts. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Harvey Milk. **Who was the first person you told?:** My Unitarian youth group. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** It was all part of a continuum of growing up, exploring who I was.



B.J. Smith. Age: 30. Position: Photographer/graphic designer. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Robert Mapplethorpe. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Anything to do with Michael Jackson. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** If everyone were naked... Just kidding. Organization and less time between each float would definitely be a start. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** My best friend Talitha once told me something her grandmother used to tell to her. It has helped me often in this lifetime: "This too shall pass." **Life's a bowl of:** sweaty, hairy, burly, excited nasty men wearing rubber chaps.



Thomas Chelena. Age: 59 & 11 months. Position: Account executive. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Miss Nellie in leather chaps & harness. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Marching bands. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Celebrate life today!—Never, never wait for tomorrow, or for retirement. This is it... now! **Life's a bowl of:** experiences.



Blase DiStefano. Age: 55. Position: Creative director/entertainment editor. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Rita Mae Brown. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Rosie O'Donnell. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Bette Midler, Whoopi Goldberg, and Dame Edna. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Never say never. Read. **Life's a bowl of:** Kevin Bacons.



John Nagy. Age: 39. Position: Account executive. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Straight...oh, OK, GAY! What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: A big smile! **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Smoking and doughnuts. **Life's a bowl of:** great friends. **Who was the first person you told?:** My baby sister, but she already had me figured out. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** I slept with men rather than women.



Debbie Ratliff. Age: 31. Position: Account executive. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Just Debbie. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Boy George—I didn't know gay people existed until I saw him come out in an interview with Barbara Walters. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Anne Heche. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Having it in the winter. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Labels limit you. **Life's a bowl of:** possibilities.



Todd Pace. Age: Thirtysomething. Position: Account executive. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Ellen DeGeneres. She's got guts! **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Christopher Lowell. Yuck! **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Seeing The ROCK walk by! He's my hero! **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Do the right thing. If not, Karma will get you every time! **Life's a bowl of:** ups & downs. Enjoy the ups and learn from the downs! Stay strong!

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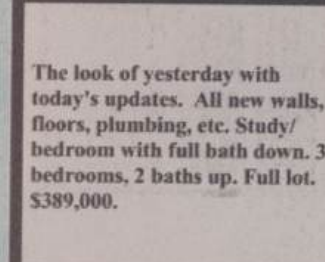


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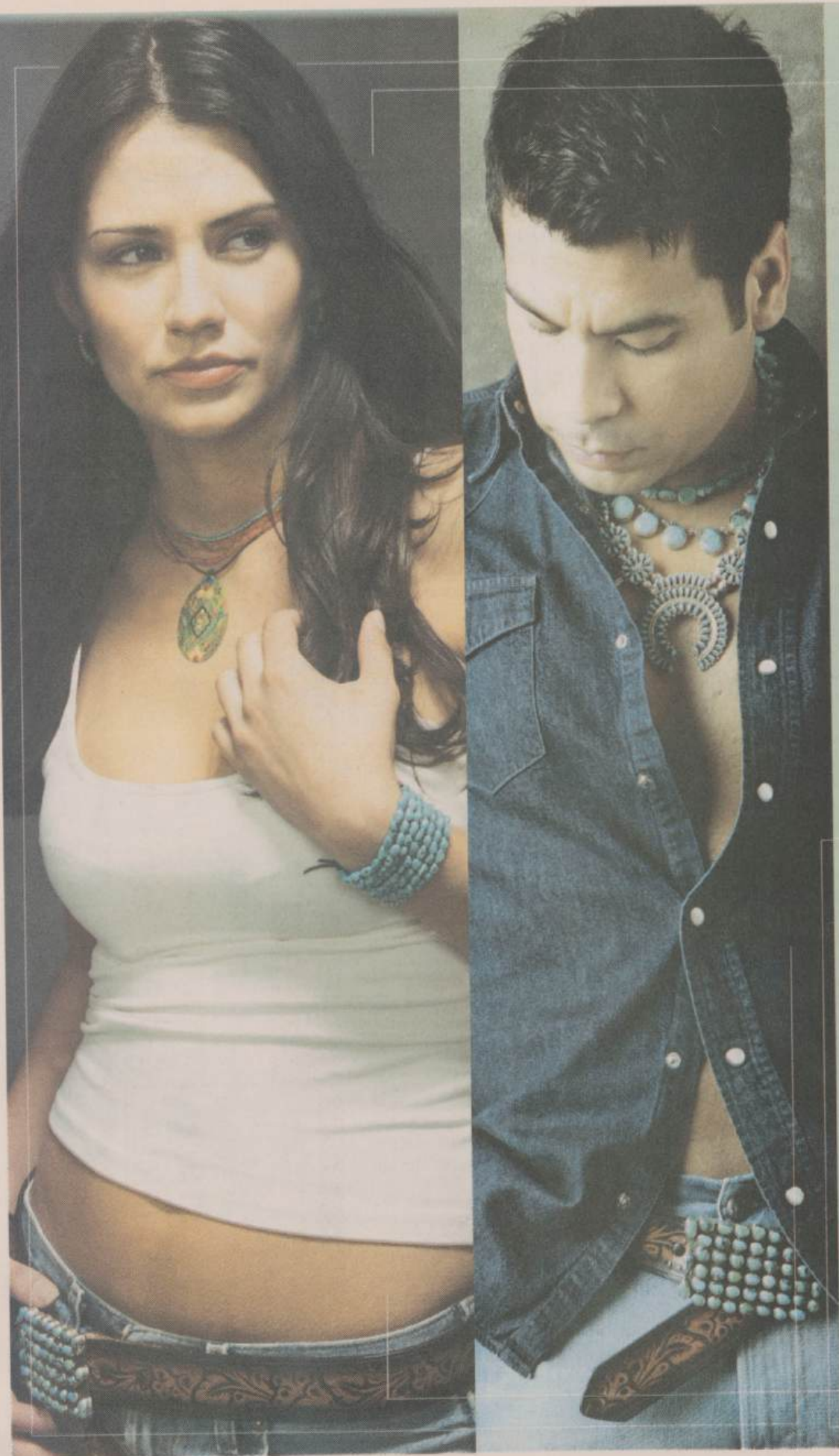
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LookOut

by Tim Brookover

PRIDE AFTER DARK. With another GLBT-QQSSL (that's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and Same-Sex Loving to you) parade upon us, we once again honor the Pride Committee of Houston for civilizing the celebration back in 1997. That year, then-executive director **Jack Valinski** and the rest of his clever band moved the event from the most withering part of the day to the relatively more tolerable evening. Because of their vision, the youngest among us will never have to strive to remain proud while enduring the parade from the surface of the sun. On Saturday, June 29, delight in the parade and thank current executive director **Ken Donnelly** and the committee for saving us all money on sun block.

As usual, June features more activities than you can shake a freedom-ring necklace at. Among the highlights: On June 8, the Houston Montrose Athletic Association hosts a 5K run/walk in Memorial Park benefiting AssistHers. A deluge washed out the event last year, so race director **Mac Crone** is doing the no-rain dance. **Linda Morales** helms a committee bringing back Baile Internacional, the terrific black-tie dance and fundraiser. The 2002 event takes place at Ripley House on Friday, June 28. Tejano Music Awards nominee Stampede performs. Call 713/522-9564 for tickets. **Ken Williamson** directs *Before the Parade Passes By*, a June 28 cabaret show at the Alley Theatre benefiting the Pride Committee. Check www.pridehouston.org for the full lineup of Pride activities.

Just in time for Pride, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is spotlighting one of America's great gay artists, **Jasper Johns**. An exhibition of his prints remains on display through July 28. The museum recognizes another historically queer artist with June 8-10 screenings of *Caravaggio*, the 1986 **Derek Jarman** film about the 16th-century Milanese painter, during the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

The June 16 closing bash for the sixth annual film festival is sandwiched between screenings of a 60th-anniversary print of *The Wizard of Oz* and a new print of *Female Trouble*, the **John Waters** trash classic—all at Rice Media Center. Credit **Kristian Salinas**, the clever Rice program director, with that terrifically nutty juxtaposition. *Oz* features a Glenda the Good Witch-led sing-along hosted by the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. A **Divine** look-alike contest presented by the center precedes *Female Trouble*. Check out www.hlgff.org for a complete listing of festival screenings at all six venues.

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. Talented and adorable **Michael Bolin** has a second book of poems due any day now. He made quite an impression last year with *Mourning Contagious Beauty*, his first collection. Michael's new book, *Running from the Light* (Consortium Press) will be available at Lobo.

Crossroads Market hosts writers **Peggy Herring** and **Frankie Jones** on Saturday, June 8, at 2 p.m. Herring will sign copies of her latest, *The Comfort of Strangers* (Naiad), and Jones will sign copies of hers, *Room for Love* (Naiad).

The bunch that once brunchd at La Strada on Westheimer can rejoice now that reconstruction has commenced on the fire-ravaged restaurant. Scheduled for a September opening, **Aldo Catania's** new double-decker restaurant will have 350 seats and a second-floor outdoor patio. Expect plenty of Bellini-drenched celebrations this fall.

GOOD WORKS. At the April 27 party benefiting the People With AIDS Coalition of Houston, hosts **Angela Blanchard**, **Jackie Cayton**, and **David Detcher** grilled hamburgers, chicken burgers, and veggie burgers at their Southmore place. Spotted in the crowd were **David Arpin**, **Ray Hill**, **Ken Jones**, **Sue Lovell**, and **Alex Martinez**. **Rodrigo Jerez** and Kroger's on Buffalo Speedway underwrote the event.

Talk about visibility. Even the outdoor marquee at the Hilton on the Southwest Freeway touted the April 20 Unity Banquet. Inside the Regency Ballroom, the sequined and swell guests at the sold-out celebration of the transgender community included **Jimmy Carper**, **Sarah DePalma**, **Dan DiDonato**, **Vanessa Edwards Foster**, **Phyllis Frye**, **Grant Martin**, **Annie Parker**, **Brenda Thomas**, and **Brandi Williams**. During the evening, **Peggy Rudd** received the Unity Committee's lifetime achievement award. **Cristan Williams**, Community Awareness for Transgender Support president, received the Apogee Award for her work in launching the transgender shelter in Galveston.

On June 15, the Ranch Hill Saloon in Conroe (2111 Airport Rd.; 936/441-6426) hosts a benefit show for the CATS shelter, featuring local entertainers. **Karma Hinson** is organizing the event.

PROUD WORDS. When you spot the predictable ragged band of homophobic protesters along the Pride Parade route, remember this quip from comedian **Lynn Lavner**: "The Bible contains six admonishments to homosexuals and 362 admonishments to heterosexuals. That doesn't mean that God doesn't love heterosexuals. It's just that they need more supervision." ■

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Lisa Simpson (cartoon character)

(TV Guide, 2/9/02)



Lisa Simpson (voiced by Yeardley Smith), of Fox's *The Simpsons*, in response to the Springfield Gay Pride Parade chant, "We're here, we're queer, get used to it": "You do this every year. We are used to it."

Chastity Bono (author/daughter of Cher)

(*Girlfriends*, 6/02, Heather Findlay)

Heather Findlay: You describe yourself in the book as a "punk tomboy" at thirteen. You love sports, and you're attracted to feminine women. But I noticed that one word that doesn't appear in *The End of Innocence* is *butch*. Do you not think of yourself in that language?

Chastity Bono: Yeah, I don't really think in that language. I think of *dyke* more than *butch*, though I know that's a little broader. I could definitely be categorized as *butch*, and I don't have a problem with it. But it's just not a word I use a lot. Like *queer*. That's another word I don't really use, don't really like. I think it's more in use in a younger generation; it wasn't something that my generation really owned.

Conan O'Brien (talk-show host)

(*Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, 4&5/02, Conan O'Brien)

• This past weekend, the "Spider-Man" movie made \$115 million, which is over twice as much as any of the "Batman" movies ever made. And if that weren't bad enough news for Batman, Robin announced he wants to start seeing other Super Heroes.

• This week, several blind patients in Chicago were implanted with artificial retinas and they are now able to see for the first time in years. Not surprisingly the first thing they said was, "Wow, N'Sync looks as gay as they sound."

• *Playgirl* magazine is now offering the men of Enron a chance to pose nude. Coincidentally, the men of Enron will be getting the same offer from their cellmates.

Jason Alexander (actor)

(*Entertainment Weekly*, 5/17/02, William Keck)

What about a *Seinfeld* reunion? "I really doubt it," says Alexander. "Besides, we all know George is somebody's bitch down in solitary confinement."

Moby (singer/songwriter)

(*The Advocate*, 5/14/02, Mike Wadewitz)

If I had to label myself, I'd just say I'm open-minded and I like people. Ideally, my hope is to live in a world where people's sexual orientation is as strict or as ambiguous as they choose it to be but is never subject to judgment. There are times in my life when I've been promiscuous, times when I've been celibate, times when... [Pauses] Yeah, just [call me] open-minded and experimental.

Sarah Michelle Gellar (actress)

(*Moviefone*, 5/02, Lawrence Grobel)

Lawrence Grobel: You received a lot of attention for kissing Selma Blair in *Cruel Intentions*. Has any other scene you've done won you as much attention?

Sarah Michelle Gellar: I got a lot of attention for kissing women, not only in *Cruel Intentions* but also my kissing Lindsay Sloane on TV. And I kissed Velma in *Scooby-Doo*. I'm not sure what's going on!

LISA SIMPSON: THE SIMPSONS™. © 1999 20TH CENTURY FOX FILM CORP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Jimmy Fallon

(*Saturday Night Live*, 3/16/02)

On NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, after Sir Ian McKellen (in drag as Dame Maggie Smith) kissed Jimmy Fallon on the lips during a "Weekend Update" segment, Fallon said, "Does this mean I'm knighted? Or did I just get queened?"

Jimmy Fallon (l) and Ian McKellen as Dame Maggie Smith

MC Hammer

(rap singer)

(*The Advocate*, 5/14/02)

Hammer's friendship with gays and lesbians—in the music industry, on the Oakland A's baseball team (through his friendship with out player Glenn Burke), and in his church—influenced his decision to participate in the film [*Don't Ask, Don't Tell*]. "In my experience with all of this," Hammer says, "I thought this movie [would] open up a dialogue and make sure that people's rights are not being harmed in any way."

5 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

(Today's Out Look Calendar)

When Helen Hull Jacobs died on [June 2] in 1997 at the age of 88, she was survived by her companion, Virginia Greene. Jacobs was one of five Navy women to earn the rank of Commander during World War II. In the 1930s, she won nine professional Grand Slam tennis titles with her aggressive style of play and was ranked among the top ten players for 12 years.

Erin Hamilton

(singer/daughter of Carol Burnett)

(*The Advocate*, 5/14/02, Steven Hausman)

Steven Hausman: How would you define your sexuality?

Erin Hamilton: It's interesting, I've always had boyfriends. I enjoy being with women, but it has got to be the right person. It's like, OK [laughs], I'm a people person, and I don't care if you are male or female—if I find a soul that I connect with, then I'm going to do that and I'm going to be there. I've always had, like, those kinds of thoughts...

David Duchovny

(*Entertainment Weekly*, 5/17/02, Mike Flaherty)

David Duchovny: ... I had a good instinct on [Fox Mulder, my character in *The X-Files*] being chaste, and yet all the sex was in his head. What was interesting to me was [his] outsider status with an insider look. In [writer] Darin Morgan's scripts he was always poking fun at the insider look, but to me, the pathos of the character ... it's like a woman trapped in a man's body.

Glen Morgan (writer/coexecutive producer): There were a lot of inside jokes. David's not an Elvis fan, so I threw that [obsession] in to annoy him. And he was a good sport to do it. I also [showed him reading *Adult Video News*] as a joke...

David Duchovny: But those are just quirks, those aren't character. You can say "sunflower seeds" and "porn" till you're blue in the face, but in the end it's about an attitude. They could have made Mulder interested in gay porn. It all would've worked for me.

David Duchovny (seen here in the final episode of *The X-Files*): a woman trapped in a man's body?

FALLON/MCKELLEN: NORMAN NG/DANA EDELSON/NBC. DUCHOVNY: LARRY WATSON/FOX

QUEER AS F**K & SPEEDWAY JUNKY

Bizarre short films and a hustling love story

QUEER AS F**K

In the tradition of the wildly popular gay shorts anthologies like *Boy's Life* and *Boys in Love* comes *Queer as F**K*, a collection of twisted gay-themed films. With the assistance of expert animator Todd Downing, First Run Features has curated a selection of award-winning hilarious and provocative films that draw upon the darker, weirder side of cinema, filled with party-loving plastic dolls, voguing traffic cops, mad scientists, stuttering sidekicks, and adorable break-dancing foreign exchange students.

Jeffrey's Hollywood Screen Trick Inspired by the recent spate of gay romantic comedies, this film brings dozens of anatomically-exceptional Billy dolls to life through stop-motion animation for the most unusual date movie ever. Lust, laughs, and a shocking surprise ending have made this one of the most talked about shorts on the film festival circuit. Starring the voices of Mike Albo (author of *Hornito: My Lie Life*), comedienne Nora Burns, and gay icon David Drake as "The Voice of Gay Men." Directed by Todd Downing. **Winner: Best Short, Philadelphia International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.**



Shame No More Inspired by the U.S. Public Service announcements of the 1950s, this hilarious short satirizes '50s conformist mentality and sexual intolerance. Set in the idyllic suburb of Cherry Creek, *Shame No More* warns of a disease infecting the town's men and women: heterosexuality. This audience favorite has played in over 60 film festivals worldwide! Directed by John Krokidas.

Winner: Best International Short, Rome International Film Festival.

Soda Pop is like a cool drink of water on a hot summer day. A trio of friends try to beat the heat in a small town, but the arrival of a sexy Spanish exchange student has one boy's temperature rising. A coming-of-age story for the yellow hankie set. Directed by Patrick McGuinn. **Honorable Mention: PlanetOut.com Short Movie Awards.**



The Trey Billings Show From the director of *Karen Black Like Me* comes the ultimate late-night public-access show from hell. David Drake stars in dual roles, as both celebrity-obsessed talk-show host Trey Bill-

ings, and as guest star, the Lucy-like legendary TV icon, Dodie Day. Illusions, delusions, and egos collide in this twisted tale of celebrity worship gone wrong. Directed by David Briggs. **Winner: Outstanding Achievement in Acting, David Drake, NYU's First Run Film Festival.**

BONUS FILMS

• **Dirty Baby Does Fire Island** In this animated short, poor Dirty Baby witnesses a day of decadent debauchery learning all about sex, drugs, and working out on an island "paradise" ... Fire Island. Own your own copy of this infamous contemporary queer cult classic! Directed by Todd Downing. **Winner: Best Animated Film, The San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and The Portland Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.**

• **Pyongyang Robogirl** It's "Axis of Evil" chic in this illicitly-shot short! This gem presents North Korea's fabulous alternative to traffic lights: uniformed, voguing beauties that would give Madonna and her dancers a run for their money.

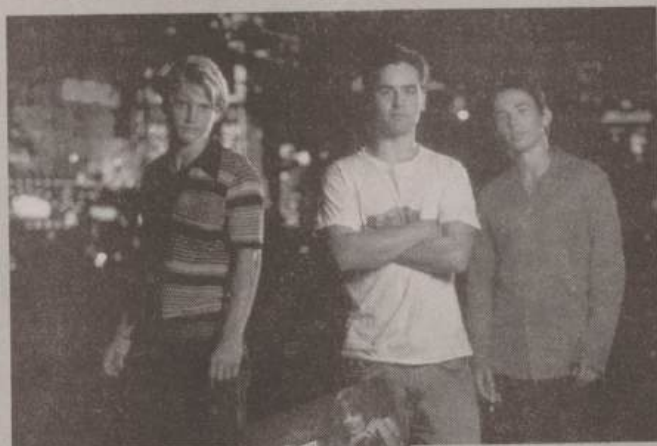
VHS \$24.95, DVD \$29.95. Special DVD features include director biographies, scene access and interactive menus. Available **June 11**. First Run Features: toll free consumer hotline number is 1-800-488-6652, website is www.firstrunfeatures.com.

SPEEDWAY JUNKY

Johnny (Jesse Bradford) is on his way to North Carolina to become a racecar driver, when he gets sidetracked to Las Vegas, where he meets Eric (Jordan Brower), a hustler. Johnny (a tad bit homophobic) doesn't know Eric is gay ... not right away, anyway. He hooks up with Eric

and his friends, one of whom is Stephen (openly gay Jonathan Taylor Thomas, here the polar opposite of his *Home Improvement* character). Eric does it with

men, Stephen does it with men and women, and Johnny wants to do it with women only. Meanwhile, Eric falls in love with Johnny, and Johnny progresses to a deep loving friendship with Eric, all of this in a world of hustling, crime, sex, and drugs. Does Johnny make it with Eric? In fact, does he even make it to North Carolina? Find out on **June 11** when the VHS and DVD make their debut. • An interesting aside: In an interview in *The Advocate*, the actor who plays gay Eric (Brower) came across as a tad bit homophobic, while the actor who plays straight Johnny (Bradford) appeared very gay-friendly. Good actors, both. • DVD \$24.98, VHS \$39.98. You can order online at www.wolfvideo.com or by calling 1-800-GET-WOLFE. ■



L-r: Eric (Jordan Brower), Johnny (Jesse Bradford), and Stephen (Jonathan Taylor Thomas) play hustling junkies



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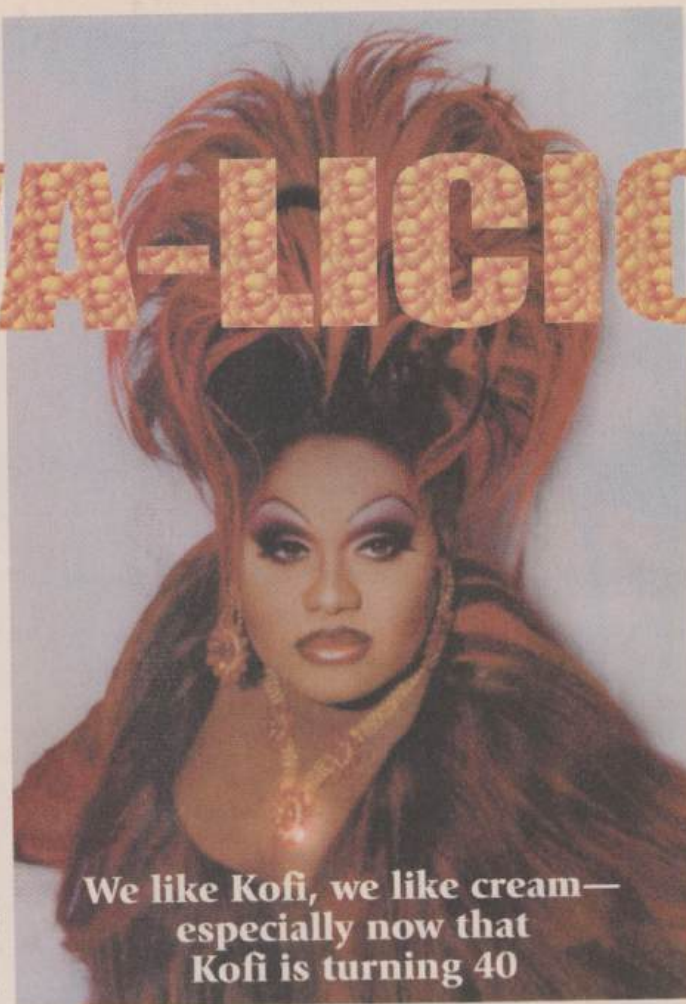
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DIVA-LICIOUS



We like Kofi, we like cream—especially now that Kofi is turning 40

to run its marketing out of national headquarters. He bought a restaurant, and for a few years made hamburgers at his Burger House on Park Place. Nabors was dependent on a business lunch crowd, and

when his clients moved out of the area, so did he. But he always had drag.

Nabors has been a venerated member of the drag community for 20 years, but when he started he didn't even know that a community existed. He had been frequenting the Copa on Richmond and Kirby since high school, but had never gone on Sunday nights when their heralded drag shows performed.

Some friends convinced him to go with them, and when he experienced female impersonators like Tiffany Jones, Naomi Sims, and Hot Chocolate, Nabors found his calling.

"I was sitting in the audience and said, 'Oh my God, I can do this!'"

I've always liked to entertain and I acted in plays in school and church.

"A lot of people don't realize that within the gay community, before it became popular worldwide, drag was like the glue that held the gay community together," Nabors says. "It was the art form we had all to ourselves."

"One of the reasons I love doing drag is that I like women so much. With women, there's so much versatility. I always admired how beautiful women could make themselves. And I like real ladies. I can't stand to hear a woman cuss. Now, when I'm in drag, I use a little foul language for entertainment purposes,

but very rarely will you hear a cuss word come out of Terry's mouth. That's the only real difference between my two personalities."

Nabors performed for the first time on Galveston during Splash weekend, when his friends convinced him to wear drag. "You have to have a name," they said. "But I have a name," Nabors said naively. "No, a stage name." Someone was adding milk to his coffee and happened to say that he knew the taste would be just right when it turned Terry's color. And that was how Kofi was born.

"On my first number, a man tipped me some roses and a 10-dollar bill," Nabors recalls. "This is good, I thought, this could be really really good. Then I entered one talent night and won it, and from that point on I was very fortunate and blessed that I started to work. I started doing it for fun and not being that serious about it."

He has worked continuously for the last 18 years, 11 of them at JR's, hosting the Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday amateur shows.

"When I started this, I never conceived a day when I would be making a living at it," Nabors says. "But I keep God number one in my life no matter what. I practice it, and he blesses me continually. I bought this house in the last five years I've been doing drag for a living."

Lounging on an overstuffed sofa, he spreads his arms wide and smiles at his good fortune. His spacious ranch house in Inwood Forest is tastefully decorated. The only sign of his drag persona is his national crown from Miss Gay USofAAtLarge, which rests on the mantle over the fireplace. A small, air-conditioned room in the garage holds his extensive collection of gowns, wigs, and shoes.

On weekends, Nabors travels across the country for benefits or show gigs, and recently he has begun speaking to young people about coming out, especially for Excite, a program of the AIDS Foundation Houston. "Whenever anyone asks me, I'm there," he says.

"Being a more full-figured, pleasantly plump person, I've learned to love myself for who and what I am, instead of worrying about trying to change. I looked in the mirror and said, 'God created me. He makes no mistakes.' I'm happy with what he made, how much he made, where it is, the shape it's in. I'm not going to worry about trying to change the package, I'm going to use what the package contains. Just be honest and be yourself."

"I can hold my candle up to any of the little skinny girls. When I walk out on stage, if I want to feel like a size 6, I can."

Kofi's 40th Birthday Party, Thursday, June 20, South Beach, 810 Pacific. Doors open 9 p.m., show time 10:30 p.m. \$10 cover; \$15 for tablesides. Contact Kofi at JR's for table seating. 713/521-2519

Fluff up that Eva Gabor. Red-dye those Ferragamos. Dry-clean that Chanel. Dust off the bugle beads and marabou. Pluck those brows and Epil-Stop that chest, for the mother of all drag extravaganzas is coming to Houston, Thursday, June 20.

Calling all queens: For one night only, South Beach nightclub will be dazzlingly reborn as the old Copa, Houston's legendary drag bar, when Kofi, Bayou City's drag entertainer nonpareil, celebrates her 40th birthday. Chiffon and high heels will politely elbow those club kids' T-shirts and sneakers right into the aisles. Rhinestones will blind in the laser light, and there will be enough pancake and eye shadow for 20 Maria Montez movies.

A flotilla of distaff pulchritude will entertain and take the audience's breath away, not least among them Tommie Ross, Maya Douglas, Donna Day, Whitney Paige, Chevelle Brooks, Diane Michaels, Roxanne Collins, Alexis Davenport.

"I want it to be one of the most fantastic celebrations that anyone has seen in Houston in years," says Terry Nabors, Kofi's male alter ego and the reason for Kofi's evergreen popularity. Nabors is level-headed, open-hearted, and a sincerely good person. He gives off positive vibes. All these cheery down-home traits imbue Kofi with a very real honesty when on stage. She has as much fun up there as we do being entertained by her.

"I'm just a country boy from Leesville, Louisiana," Nabors says. Of course, he is a boy who has been able to make a serious living at wearing women's clothes. "I've never been straight. When I was in second grade I had a boy carry my books home from school. To be honest, I can't remember a straight day in my life."

Nabors moved to Houston when he was

"I've never been straight. When I was in second grade I had a boy carry my books home from school. To be honest, I can't remember a straight day in my life."

14 and graduated from Westbury High School and the University of Houston, after majoring in business. A model student, he completely paid for his college education through scholarships. He had, by then, been working at Loehmann's, and when he graduated from UH he stayed with the company for 14 years, to become regional vice president of visual merchandising and sales promotion for all the stores in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arizona.

Nabors left the retail chain when the company consolidated in the early '90s and started

by D.L. Groover

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MOVIES

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

HOUSTON GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Houston's got a wedding, Divine, Russell Crowe, & more!



(L-r) John Huston, Racquel Welch, Mae West, and Rex Reed in *Myra Breckinridge*



Norm Korpi (center), star & co-director, with the cast of *The Wedding Video*

MYRA BRECKINRIDGE Rex Reed is Myron Breckinridge, a disgruntled film buff who decides to have a sex change, emerges as Raquel Welch, changes his name to Myra, moves to L.A., and terrorizes the awful acting students at an equally awful acting school owned by his egomaniacal uncle, Buck Loner (John Huston). In the pursuit of liberating the students (and the film industry!) from the grips of middle-class American values, Myra/Myron seduces a young Farrah Fawcett and her bozo boyfriend Rusty in a scene that should have garnered Welch at the very least an Oscar nomination! And don't forget Mae West as Leticia (LeTITia) Van Allen, L.A.'s finest casting agent with a casting couch old enough to have seen the likes of a very young Tom Selleck! *This 1970 film was directed by Michael Sarne, who will be in attendance at the screening. 7:30 p.m., Saturday, June 15, @ Rice Cinema, Rice Univ. Campus, entrance #8, 713/348-4853.*

THE WEDDING VIDEO Norm Korpi, real-life celebrity of MTV's *The Real World*, co-directs and stars in this spoof of the genre that made him famous. Norm is getting married, and this ain't no normal wedding. Norm's mother refuses to attend, instead sending him a \$10,000 write-off check, his soon-to-be-spouse Sky (conveniently rhymes with *guy*) is packing a secret, and Norm's back-stabbing friends travel from far and wide to witness the spectacle unfold. Caught in the middle is the hired videographer (co-director Clint Cowen), who captures every juicy moment of scandal. *Directors Cowen and Korpi and select cast members will attend this screening. See mini-interview with directors in sidebar at right. 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 14, @ Rice Cinema, Rice Univ. Campus, entrance #8, 713/348-4853.*

These are only a few of the many films being screened throughout June at Angelika Film Center, Aurora Picture Show, DiverseWorks, Landmark's Greenway Theatre, Houston's Museum of Fine Arts, and Rice Cinema. For more info, visit www.hglff.org, call 713/524-3818, or see the guide inserted in the May issue of *OutSmart*.



Russell Crowe (r) gets cozy with John Polson in *The Sum of Us*

THE SUM OF US Oscar-winning heartthrob Russell Crowe stars in this delightful 1994 Australian comedy about a young gay man living with his widowed father (Jack Thompson), who tries to understand the dating game—with his father's help. *The Sum of Us* won Australia's Film Institute Award for best adapted screenplay and was nominated for best film. Directed by Kevin Dowling and Geoff Burton. **June 14-20 @ Angelika Film Center, 500 Texas Ave., 713/225-5232.**

FEMALE TROUBLE RESTORED PRINT!

"Nice girls don't wear cha-cha heels!" Need we say more? Divine leads a delightfully debauched life, stopping at nothing to live out her philosophy, "Crime is beauty." Director John Waters' regulars David Lochary, Cookie Mueller, Edith Massey, and Mink Stole also star in this 1975 classic, shot on a shoestring budget of \$25,000. **June 16 and 19-23 @ Rice Cinema, Rice Univ. Campus, entrance #8, 713/348-4853. No one under 17 will be admitted.** • The Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center is co-sponsoring the June 16 screening of *Female Trouble*. Prior to this screening only, the center will host a Divine Look-Alike Contest. A panel of judges will award prizes to the most divine Divine.



Divine is *Female Trouble*



THE MONKEY'S MASK Based on Dorothy Parker's verse novel, this erotically charged murder mystery stars Susie Porter and Kelly McGillis. Private investigator Jill Kirkpatrick (Porter) accepts a job exploring the disappearance of Mickey, a young female student and aspiring poet. Soon Jill meets the alluring Diana (McGillis), Mickey's sexually aggressive poetry teacher. Together they embark on a search for clues. Distracted by her attention to Diana, Jill's investigation is compromised. **June 14-20 @ Angelika Film Center, 500 Texas Ave., 713/225-5232.**

Kelly McGillis (l) and Susie Porter in *The Monkey's Mask*

MYRA - 20TH CENTURY FOX; WEDDING - LORRAINE FRANCIS; SUM - THE SAMUEL GOLDWYN COMPANY; FEMALE - COURTESY RICE CINEMA; MASK - STRAND RELEASING

The Wedding Video's Gay Guys

Clint Cowen and Norm Korpi are co-directors of *The Wedding Video*. Korpi is a former inhabitant of MTV's *The Real World* and is the star of the film; Cowen is the videographer.

by Blase DiStefano

OutSmart: When and where were you born?
Clint Cowen: Tulsa, Oklahoma . . . in the early morning.

Norm Korpi: I was born during the summer of love in a little hamlet called Wakefield, Michigan.

OS: When did you realize you were gay?

Cowen: At a sleepover with a really dirty boy in my neighborhood . . . he was hot. We shared a bed that he usually slept in with his brother. I woke up in the middle of the night and he was spooning me.

Korpi: When I was fingering a *Sports Illustrated* magazine, I came across some randy photos of the L.A. Dodgers after a game in the locker room being interviewed in their jock-strap. Total boneage.

OS: Was it easy/difficult to deal with?

Cowen: Well, at the time I didn't deal with it at all; I didn't come out till I was 24. It wasn't hard once I made my decision.

Korpi: I came to terms with my sexuality shortly after college when I had a secure group of friends that I called my family. My natural family followed my lead once they knew I was happy and this was something that was true to me.

OS: How did you meet Norm/Clint?

Cowen: I met Norm in L.A. at a mutual friend's house watching movies on one of the only rainy days.

Korpi: I met Clint during a round of Joan Crawford films on a Saturday afternoon.

OS: I read that you two are partners. Is that business and/or otherwise?

Cowen: Business.

Korpi: You couldn't ask for a better friend than Clint, but he knows I am a whore, and things would never work between us because we are both tops. We keep things clean, wolf-pack like.

OS: How in the hell did you get this entire group together? It must have taken ages.

Cowen: Actually, Norm made that part really easy. He got to know everybody from the MTV reunions and such. Everybody was really gung-ho to work on the project. We're all friends in real life, so it was just like messin' around.

Korpi: Well, our favorite word is free. And I just rang the dinner bell and the kids came a-running. Really, these people did this out of love for me. They believed in me. And thank

you for recognizing their talents and wacky little film.

OS: You're welcome. If you were stranded on a desert island, and you could have only one celebrity or famous person with you—not a friend, lover, or family member—who would it be?

Cowen: That one's easy . . . Richard Hatch.

Korpi: The ROCK.

Cowen and Korpi will attend the June 14 screening of *The Wedding Video* at Rice Cinema. For more info, call 713/348-4853 or visit www.ruf.rice.edu/~cinema.



Norm Korpi (left) & Clint Cowen

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GAY PRIDE ON SUNDANCE

Sundance Channel celebrates Gay Pride month

Sundance Channel celebrates Gay Pride month with its fourth annual "OutLoud" FilmFest. Every day in June brings a different gay tale, including features, documentaries, and shorts.

Topping the list is a national, one-time-only sneak preview of David Weissman and Bill Weber's new documentary feature *The Cockettes*, a major hit at the 2002 Sundance and Berlin film festivals. *The Cockettes* made its theatrical premiere on May 10 at San Francisco's Castro Theatre and begins a national rollout on June 28.

Filled with archival footage, *The Cockettes* is a loving tribute to the spirit and unbridled creativity of its subjects, a gender-bending San Francisco musical troupe founded in 1969 by a charismatic drag queen named Hibiscus. A flamboyant ensemble of hippies (gay men, women, and babies), *The Cockettes* took musical theater to new heights of fabulous absurdity with their midnight revues. There were all-singing, all-dancing original shows replete with glittering costumes, rebellious sexuality, and gleeful anarchy. *Newsweek's* David Ansen said: "[T]he best time I've had at the movies [at the Sundance Film Festival] has been at a documentary. *The Cockettes* is an exuberant journey into a barely remembered corner of the psychedelic '60s."

Circle this date on your calendar: Friday, June 21, 8 p.m.



Goldie Glitters (l) & Dusty Dawn (r) in *The Cockettes*

Clockwise from right: *By Hook or By Crook* with (l-r) Harriet "Harry" Dodge, Stanya Kahn, & Silas Howard; *Bedrooms & Hallways* with (l-r) Kevin McKidd, Jennifer Ehle, & Tom Hollander; and *L.I.E.* with (l-r) Billy Kay & Paul Franklin Dano



Francois Ozon's *See the Sea* (1997), *Water Drops on Burning Rocks* (1999), and *Criminal Lovers* (1999) • *See the Sea* is a psychological thriller in which a mother and her baby are spending the summer at an isolated beach house when a scruffy and sullen backpacker pitches her tent in the yard and is welcomed into the house. • *Water Drops on Burning Rocks*, based on an early play written by German filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder, is a satirical examination of shifting cycles of sexual dependency. • *Criminal Lovers* is a disturbing meditation on sexual identity and erotic power, a twisted retelling of the Hansel and Gretel story.

SUNDANCE OUTLOUD FEATURE FILMS

Aileen Wuornos: *The Selling of a Serial Killer*

Aimée & Jaguar

Alive and Kicking

Bar Girls

Bedrooms & Hallways

Benjamin Smoke

The Brandon Teena Story

Chuck & Buck

Chutney Popcorn

Companions: *Tales from the Closet*

Dear Jesse

The Delta

GODASS

Hey, Happy

Hide and Seek

Hit and Runway

Kiss Me, Guido

L.I.E. (one showing only: Saturday, June 22, 10 p.m.)

Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100

Mädchen in Uniform

Maurice

The Monkey's Mask

My Left Breast

Persona

Steam: *The Turkish Bath*

Taboo

For a complete list of films, documentaries, shorts, and playdates, go to www.sundancechannel.com.

By Hook or by Crook • Striding boldly into areas rarely visited by filmmakers, this first feature by Harriet "Harry" Dodge and Silas Howard stars Howard as Shy, a drag king searching for meaning and love after the death of his terminally ill father. One showing only: Friday, June 28, 8 p.m.

Thursday, June 27

6:30 a.m. *The Blue Angel* Marlene Dietrich

8:30 a.m. *Mata Hari* Greta Garbo

10 a.m. *The Letter* Bette Davis

Noon *Mildred Pierce* Joan Crawford

2 p.m. *Adam's Rib* Katharine Hepburn

4 p.m. *Easter Parade* Judy Garland

6 p.m. *Calamity Jane* Doris Day

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUNDANCE CHANNEL

BOBBIE'S GIRL



Rachel Ward (l) and Bernadette Peters

Bobbie (Rachel Ward) and Bailey (Bernadette Peters) are, to say the least, an atypical couple living on the outskirts of Dublin, Ireland, in the seaside village of Bray. Together they run a pub named "The Two Sisters" with Bailey's eccentric brother David (Jonathan Silverman). Their life takes a traumatic turn with the sudden arrival of Alan (Thomas Sangster), Bobbie's 10-year-old nephew. Alan, whose parents have been tragically killed, casts the three adults in the unlikely and unexpected roles of adoptive parents. Unfortunately, matters are complicated by Bobbie's diagnosis of breast cancer. • *Bobbie's Girl* is one of Showtime's Original Pictures For All Ages. Finally, a film with a lesbian couple is considered suitable "For All Ages." Hats off to Showtime. • *Bobbie's Girl* premieres on Sunday, June 9, at 7 p.m.

QUESTIONING FAITH: CONFESSIONS OF A SEMINARIAN



Macky Alston

This documentary follows minister-in-training Macky Alston as he searches for the ways people find meaning in life when sometimes nothing seems to make sense. During his quest, he encounters people with a wide range of religious backgrounds and beliefs, from born-again Christians to Muslims, from atheists to Buddhists to Orthodox Jews. • The documentary begins with the death of Alston's seminary classmate Alan Smith. • Among many others, Alston encounters Liza Gottlieb, a straight-talking atheist and grandmother of Alston's life partner, and Hazel Rankin, the mother of Alston's friend Alan, who died of AIDS. At stake for Alston is whether or not he has the faith to be a minister. • Debuts Thursday, June 27 (5:30-7 p.m.), on Cinemax.

BOBBIE - BERNARD WALSH/SHOWTIME; FAITH - BROOKE WILLIAMS/CINEMAX

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Turner Classic Movies is celebrating Gay Pride on June 27, the 33rd anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. If you're not gonna be home for the day, you might consider learning how to time-record on

that VCR. Or I guess you could always take the day off (not that *OutSmart* is advocating such a ruse). But wouldn't it be pretty enjoyable to lounge around all day with these gay and lesbian icons?

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PRIDE PIX



Pamela Robinson. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** k.d.lang. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Gay men overdone in leather! **What would make the parade even more fun?:** More celebs! More everything! **What's the best advice you've received and what is**

the best advice you would give?: Be yourself, no matter what! **Life's a bowl of:** cherries and we are the pits, only if you make it that way!

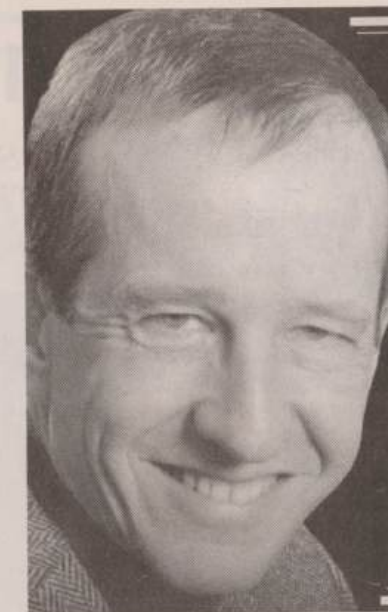
Logan Motter. **Age:** 22. **Occupation:** Student. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Tori Amos. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Half shirts. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Bette Midler. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Follow your heart, follow your heart. **Life's a bowl of:** fun.



Ric Ancira. **Age:** 31. **Occupation:** Manager at Mo Mong. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Andy Bell. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Cher. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** More drag queens and leathermen. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the**

best advice you would give?: Better to regret the things you have done than the things you haven't. **Life's a bowl of:** choices.

LaVera Twine. **Age:** 39. **Occupation:** Financial advisor. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Straight. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** T-shirt. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Dessert. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Rosie O'Donnell.



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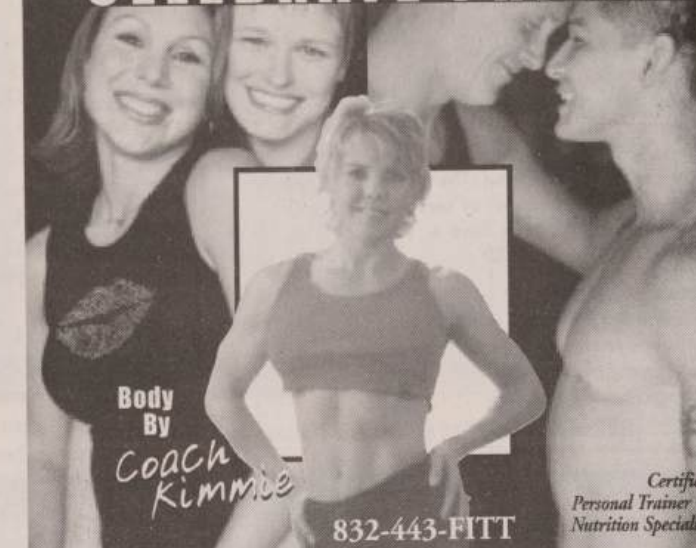
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Donald Currie
Sex and Mayhem
Ever have a friend with great childhood stories, but just doesn't know when to shut up? *Sex and Mayhem* is like spending an hour with him. For those who are old enough to appreciate "coming-out and coming-of-age" tales of the Stonewall era, it can be a lot of fun. Although the style can be a little annoying at times (just like that friend), the stories end up making you want to know how it all turned out. Good for a long car trip, it fills the gap between Houston and Dallas very nicely. Available at www.cdbaby.com/donaldcurrie. —**Erich Glasbrenner**

Jessica Molasky
Pentimento
Pentimento, Molasky's debut solo CD, puts a jazzy new twist on a collection of vintage American popular songs and novelties from the 1920s and '30s. Selections range from light, fresh interpretations of "Red, Red Robin" and "Oh, How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning" to the introspective, bittersweet ballads "What I Do" and "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows." In stores on June 4. More info: www.psclassics.com. —**Blase DiStefano**

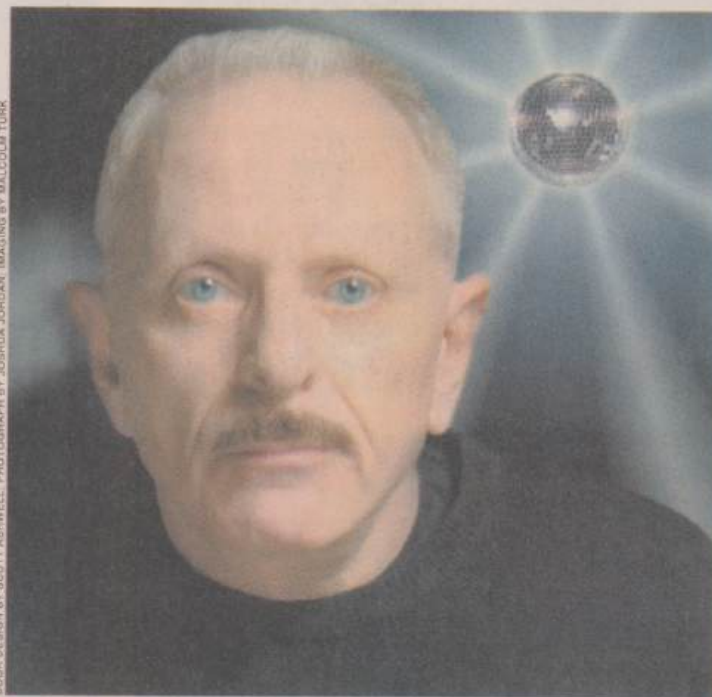
Matt Zarley, Debut
This debut CD from showbiz veteran Matt Zarley is a great mix of modern pop and heartfelt ballads. What really grabs your attention is a bonus remix of the opening track "You always want (what u ain't got)." DJs, listen up—this song has deep house appeal! Hopefully, the label Fynsworth Alley will release more remixes from this handsome and talented man. Now available in stores. For more information on Matt Zarley, visit www.MattZarley.com. —**BJ Smith**

Darius de Haas
Day Dream
Combining classical sophistication, intense theatricality, and jazz-inflected swing, singer/actor Darius de Haas celebrates Billy Strayhorn, the jazz composer, lyricist, pianist, and arranger who collaborated with Duke Ellington. The CD features well-known standards as well as several premiere recordings. In stores on June 4. For more info: www.psclassics.com. —**BD**

Nancy Sinatra
California Girl
This new release features a collection of her unique, swingin' renditions of California-themed tracks plus five all-new recordings heralding her return to the studio. A must-have for all Nancy Sinatra fans. Buena Vista Records. Now available. —**BD**

I'M STILL DANCING

*Stonewall? The birth of disco?
The response to the AIDS crisis?
Disco pioneer Mel Cheren was there.*



FROM BOOK COVER OF *KEEP ON DANCING: MY LIFE AND THE PARADISE GARAGE*. BOOK DESIGN BY SCOTT ASHBY. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOSHUA JORDAN. IMAGING BY MALCOLM TURK.

Gay Pride. Our annual celebration of who we are. Our chance to show the world how proud and strong we are as a community. Our time to remember that our battle is still raging on, and that history will be made.

Reading Mel Cheren's *Keep On Dancing: My Life and the Paradise Garage* is an absorbing lesson in modern American gay history. From his firsthand account of the Stonewall Riots; to the creation of West End Records—the seminal disco record label that spawned classics like Karen Young's "Hot Shot" and Taana Gardner's "Work That Body"; to his involvement in what many call the greatest nightclub ever, the Paradise Garage; and his assistance with New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis Center, Cheren's vital and passionate contributions to our history constitute their own history.

GrooveOut: Mel, I want to start in the 1960s—what was it like being a gay man in New York at that time?

Mel Cheren: Well, first of all, I came to New York from Boston, where I had just gotten out of the military. I had a job in Boston at a place called Colonial Papers Company, which was such torture to go to every day. It was doing

inventory control for paintbrushes. But then my whole life changed through a trick I met in the park. I think it's important that people remember that nothing happens by accident. After I met this person, he soon called me and told me there was a job opening in New York at a record company, doing inventory control. **Oh, no! How ironic.**

So I left Boston and that's how my whole life changed. When I came to New York I was so in the closet and I didn't see even a glimmer of light in the city. That's just the way it was at that time. When I came to work at the company, I pretended I didn't really know the guy who got me the job because he was known in the company as being gay.

Let's move forward a little to Stonewall and the aftermath. You were so close to the actual scene.

It was really very frightening. Prior to that, the gays, we were subservient. If the police said jump, we jumped. The Mafia owned every gay club and we got the worst service.

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



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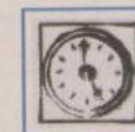
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AHCH Volunteers From All Walks of Life Show Their Pride!

We had no choice. But that night changed everything. A few people, especially lesbians and drag queens, just got so pissed off that they exploded. And even though I felt stronger with the large group that was gathering, I didn't know what the hell the consequences would be.

Tell me about the rise of disco and your involvement in its birth.

People ask me if we knew what we were doing back then. We didn't. We were doing what we had fun with. When I first got to Scepter Records I did production work, and I would go out at night to the Firehouse, [which] was like a community center where they had gay parties. I knew that the DJs only had 45s to play and they couldn't do anything with those. The one big turning point at Scepter Records came when we traded with Bell Records "This Is the House Where Love Died" by First Choice for "We're on the Right Track" by Ultra High Frequency. I approached the vice president about putting the instrumental on the B-side. He said people would think we were cheating them. I told him that DJs would give anything for it and finally convinced him to do it. We ended up getting the Trendsetter Award that year from *Billboard Magazine*, and the instrumental went on to become an industry standard. [Editor's note: Cheren was also known as the innovator of the 12-inch single, beloved by DJs.]

In the book I love how you describe disco as feel-good music, being about celebration, and how the world caught on to that vibe.

You know, I preach every place I can get someone to listen to me that the music of the '70s, which we call disco, was not disco at all. They call me the Godfather of Disco. I don't know why. I never put out a disco record. My music was danceable R&B. When you look at the music of the '70s, just look at the charts for proof. The top records on the R&B chart were the same records we were dancing to. Isaac Hayes's "Shaft," Diana Ross's "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." Those were not

disco records. They used the word disco because they were played in the discos. I don't mind the term, but in this country people put down that term because they thought of it as involving only gays and blacks. And that's when those idiots in Comiskey Park, Chicago, burned all those disco records. [In 1979, a Chicago radio station held a "Disco Record Demolition" between games at a White Sox doubleheader in Comiskey Park. It got way out of hand as more than 100,000 records were destroyed and thousands of young rioters tore up the field, causing the police to be called in and the second game to be cancelled.]



"I put a plaque on my building so that maybe 100 years from today kids will see that it was the original home of the Gay Men's Health Crisis. People asked me why I didn't abbreviate it on the sign, but I wanted it that way, as part of gay history."

I remember how sad I was about that.

The next day the whole record industry became paralyzed. You couldn't even mention the word. It was a terrible mistake that we should have never allowed to happen. It only happened because the heavy metal people were jealous and frustrated because they could not get their records played because everything being played was what they called disco.

Do you think part of that reaction was because the straight rockers were intimidated?

Oh, absolutely! It happens the same way when a straight guy has a big problem with gays and gets so angry about it that he goes out and bashes and kills. A straight man who is secure in his sexuality has no problem with it whatsoever.

How did you see AIDS change everything in the '80s?

We lived the '70s and the early '80s like every day was a party. We didn't know that what brought life would bring death. And we were never thanked for being the guinea pigs that let the world know about the crisis. It would have taken 10 to 15 years more if the gay population in New York hadn't taken notice of those early cases.

You were also instrumental in housing the GMHC.

I was involved with a small group of friends, including Paul Popham, who founded the Gay Men's Health Crisis. We were all volunteers, but no one would rent to us because we had no money. Fortunately, I owned a building, which at the time was a rooming house. I gave the use of one room, then two, and eventually the whole building until they found a more suitable space. They were in my building from early 1982 to 1984. At the time the disease wasn't called AIDS yet, it was called GRID, Gay Related Immune Deficiency.

Did you have any idea then of how bad things would become?

We thought that hopefully in a few months or a year everything would be okay. I never fathomed what happened. I put a plaque on my building so that maybe 100 years from today kids will see that it was the original home of the Gay Men's Health Crisis. People asked me why I didn't abbreviate it on the sign, but I wanted it that way, as part of gay history.

How important do you think gay history is? History is very important. For example, let me tell you that years ago I went to *The Advocate* to try to get them to put Paul Popham on the cover. Not only was he the founder of the GMHC, he was a captain in the Green Beret. After he passed on, his mother told me that he got the Bronze Star for heroism for saving a whole platoon. *The Advocate* said that they did not understand what I was trying to do because he was known only in New York. I asked them when were we going to expect the straight people to recognize our heroes when we didn't recognize

them ourselves? At Paul's funeral, Matilda Krim, the head of amfAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research) at the time, said when the history books were written, Paul Popham would go down as a giant among men. Here's a straight woman who knows and understands, and yet we ourselves don't know.

It is hard especially for the youth in our community to learn about our history. You really have to read books like yours and others to learn. It's not something you can just check out at the library.

I get letters from kids thanking me for the book because they want to know about our history.

What happened to the party and the music when AIDS hit?

Things changed so drastically. People from the Saint [disco] used to tell me that when they would send out invitations to parties, so many hundreds, even thousands, would be returned because the people were gone. It disseminated the whole gay scene. One of the hardest things I did in the book was to try and list the names of all my friends who died.

The '90s showed signs of hope for an end to AIDS and somewhat of a return to the ways of the '70s. It seemed like more people became more carefree sexually.

Yeah, people say that. The AIDS cocktail has been wonderful to help people return to life, but because of that, some people thought that they could go back to the way it was.

Now I don't want to sound preachy because I was out there doing it too, and it may sound corny, but the reason I'm still here is that God gave me this second chance . . . and I can't do enough to pay [it] back. I know that if I don't keep doing what I'm doing over and over again [with education and charity work], when I get up there, my friends who are gone are going to kick my ass.

This month is Gay Pride. What makes you proud about today's gay community?

I'm proud of the fact that people are becoming more open. There are a lot of wonderfully committed people in our community. I guess I just wish that more people could see them. I wish that we could have a national gay cable network so we could get our message across. One of the things that I'm determined to do is to make a recording like "We Are the World" with gay and straight performers to the old song "Born This Way" by Carl Bean. There's no doubt in my mind from being around all these years that we are born gay, like we are born right- or left-handed.

It could be our new gay anthem! Since it is pride month, what are your picks for all-time gay pride anthems?

You know, the only ones I can think of are Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," "I Am What I Am," MFSB's "Love Is the Message" and "I Was Born This Way."

I would have to agree with all of those and add C&C Music Factory's remake of "Pride." And "Free" by Ultra Nate.

Yes! What do you tell young people today about pride?

Well, a lot of people ask me why I wrote the book. The one reason that keeps coming back to me is that all the friends I lost were mentors to young kids. Now there's a whole generation that doesn't have that one-on-one mentoring because there are so few left from my generation. The book is not the best substitute, but if younger people can learn from my mistakes—and there were many—and from the good things, then so be it. I tell kids that they should be proud of who they are.

I believe that God said to leave the changing of the diapers to your heterosexual mothers and fathers. Your legacy is your sensitivity, your creativity, and your art.

Editor's note: We're sorry to say that after four years of writing GrooveOut, Chris Sill is leaving us to study media production and pursue his national DJ career. He's still in Houston, DJing Friday nights at Rich's and selling music at Soundwaves.

Victor/Victoria Soundtrack

Director Blake Edwards's 1982 gender-bending musical comedy of errors starred Julie Andrews in the title role as down-and-out soprano Victoria Grant, who becomes the toast of Depression-era gay Paree after she impersonates a male impersonator impersonating a female. Marking the film's 20th anniversary, Turner Classic Movies Music/Rhino Movie Music compiled the definitive soundtrack with all the music featured in the movie augmented by 10 previously unreleased tracks. Available in stores on June 18. —BD



Michael Feinstein, Anthology

The first-ever two-disc overview of Feinstein's career includes his most popular tunes and also boasts eight previously unreleased live tracks, including his duet with Liza Minnelli on Kay Thompson's "Violin." It also features a 52-page booklet containing new photos of Feinstein and an extensive interview/conversation between Feinstein and producer George Feltenstein in which the singer discusses his career and the tracks on the anthology. Available in stores and at www.rhino.com. —BD



Michael Feinstein, With the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

In his first recording with a symphonic orchestra, Feinstein carresses a collection of gems from the great American songbook: "Stormy Weather," "Somewhere," "On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever)," "The Best Is Yet to Come," "By Myself," and many more. Concord Records. Now available in stores. —BD



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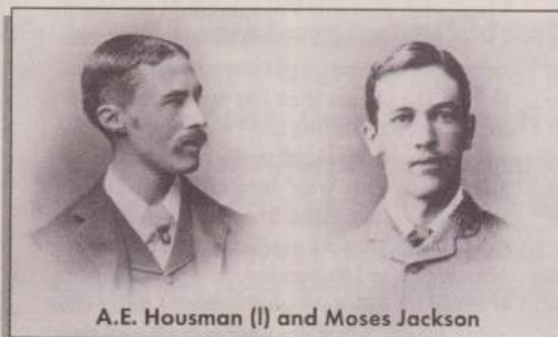
The Englishman in the Closet

When the June floodwaters of tropical storm Allison breached the downtown tunnel system, they inundated the Alley Theatre's underground arena stage and destroyed the company's costume and scene shops, which were in preparation for Tom Stoppard's evocative, mysterious *The Invention of Love*. Fortunately, the rainbow appeared, and this haunting play, a phantasmic puzzle on the life of A.E. Housman, is now on stage through June 23 in time for Gay Pride week. What better way to reflect on one of our most cherished, most tormented, most talented forefathers.

*That is the land of lost content,
I see it shining plain,
The happy highways where I went
And cannot come again*
—from *A Shropshire Lad*, XL,
A.E. Housman

Alfred Edward Housman, through his two short books of poetry (*A Shropshire Lad* and *Last Poems*), became the voice of post-World War I England. His melancholic elegies on a half-imagined idyllic country town, with vague and not-so-vague homoerotic undertones, reverberated through war-sick Britain. Concurrently, Housman was equally celebrated as the preeminent classical scholar of his time, emending ancient Greek and Roman works while dissecting contemporary colleagues with barbed-wire wit and staggering insight. He was also gay, in love with straight-arrow heterosexual Moses Jackson, a fellow student at Oxford. Mo was Housman's unrequited, foolish, unconquerable passion; he pined for him his entire life.

*He would not stay for me; and who can
wonder?
He would not stay for me to stand and gaze.
I shook his hand and tore my heart in sunder
And went with half my life about my ways.*
—from *Additional Poems*, VII



A.E. Housman (l) and Moses Jackson

**Brilliant Victorian poet
and scholar A.E. Housman
spent his life loving
a straight classmate;
Tom Stoppard's play
at the Alley
explores the way
love travels at many levels**

After a horrendous meltdown during finals—some biographers attribute his psychotically blank and/or scribbled examination books to be the manifestation of his realization that Jackson would never be his—Housman followed Mo to London, worked next to him at the Patents Office, and shared an apartment with him and Mo's brother Adelbart, who became Housman's lover, a kind of consummation by proxy.

Housman seemed to split himself in two, sublimating his love for Jackson into intellectual passion for dead ancients. His smothered emotional life was a Hades, but his brilliant mental pursuits were Olympian. Naturally, Housman's dual existence wasn't as neatly cleaved as Stoppard depicts. Contemporaries, while astonished at his diffidence, also marveled at the raconteur and witty bon vivant whose "infectious laughter" would ring

out at dinner parties. He traveled to France and Italy to have affairs, so he certainly knew pleasures. But he was the original man in the closet, whose overwhelming, all-consuming feelings of love centered on a straight man.

*The stars have not dealt me the worst
they could do:
My pleasures are plenty, my troubles
are two.
But, oh, my two troubles they reave me
of rest,
The brains in my head and the heart in
my breast.*

—from *Additional Poems*, XVII

Alley Theatre artistic director Gregory Boyd, who directs *The Invention of Love*, and John Tyson, who plays the elder Housman, share a dialogue about the enigmatic A.E. Housman and his stage recreator, Tom Stoppard.

John Tyson: I read two biographies about him. It was more for my own interest than perhaps how it was going to affect what I did on stage. As I learned, his life was even more com-

plicated than Stoppard was willing to investigate. He took as much of Housman's life as he needed, but he left a lot of really interesting things out.

Gregory Boyd: Which is what Housman did himself. No one would have known that Housman was gay if Lawrence [Housman's gay brother, playwright of *Victoria Regina*, and novelist] hadn't published the posthumous poems. The way I understand it, Housman self-published his first two books of poems in his lifetime, and then left this body of work unpublished, because—well, we can surmise whatever reason we want to surmise. Lawrence was gay, and found the poems.

Tyson: These papers were left to be burned when A.E. Housman died, and his brother disobeyed Housman's wish, because he found the poems moving

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WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

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

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

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

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

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

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

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

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

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

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quindex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafegot® 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.

Ritampin® (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)
- Zovir® (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (ddidanosine, ddI)

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

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

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood 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 Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

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

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

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

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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and, I suppose, wanted the world to know Housman's true story. He didn't start releasing them until long after his brother's death.

Boyd: And Mo's death [Moses Jackson]. But there are also other artifacts that are in the papers, like that incredible page from the journal. There's one page that has nothing written on it except *Wrote to him by today's mail*. Sitting on this blank page. It's so heartbreaking.

Tyson: Even in his own private papers, he would never say his name. Every once in a while he would write about Moses and always refer to him as *he* or *him*. It's so moving. That was the trigger for Stoppard. He wanted to write a play about this very famous poet, who he then found out was considered the greatest classical scholar of his day. Well, then he found out that he had this very secret life that he had repressed even from himself.

Boyd: Stoppard couldn't find a way into the play until he found this other life that Housman had.

Tyson: Stoppard usually says more than one thing at the same time. That's the problem, and the joy of it. He's the great-

est. I would much rather walk the plank with a play like this.

Boyd: When Stoppard started to write the play, he said he didn't know it would be a play about a gay man, although it turned out, obviously, to be that. He did know it was going to be a play about how people misapprehend, or sometimes mis-feel, or confuse what is love, what is romance, what is romantic love, and how they screw that up.

Tyson: It explains what it needs to ex-



There's one page that has nothing written on it except *Wrote to him by today's mail*. Sitting on this blank page. It's so heartbreaking.

plain. The fact that they're all getting buzzed about Greek and Roman translations is not important, specifically. Smart people fall in love, too, and smart people fall apart when they fall in love, too. When I saw the production in New York, it was an audience of tourists; they weren't all Latin scholars, and they loved the show. It's a play that people will understand and be moved by.

Boyd: A gay audience, or a theater-savvy audience, or a Stoppard-loving audience, but, also, anyone who's interested in love is going to find something in it. It's such a feeling play by a writer who's often been accused of being merely clever. It's very sexy and very theatrical.

Oh, said I, my friend and lover, take we now that ship and sail outward in the ebb of hues

and steer upon the sunset trail; Leave the night to fall behind us and the clouding counties leave: Help for you and me is yonder in a haven west of eve.

—from "The Land of Biscay"

Alfred Edward Housman is a hard nut to crack. Playwright Stoppard, with his theatrical flair, crystalline writing, and own brilliant flights of fancy, applies enough pressure on this eminent Victorian to turn his muffled emotional life into a blinding diamond. One in whose facets we clearly see ourselves.

The Invention of Love by Tom Stoppard will be performed at the Alley Theatre through June 23. 615 Texas Avenue, 713/228-8421.

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J Lo Strikes Back

An interview with singer/actress
Jennifer Lopez

by Larry Flick

Jennifer Lopez gets to kick some serious ass in her latest movie, the stylish thriller *Enough*. "Yeah, baby," she says with a hearty laugh, "Don't mess with me, 'cause I'll knock you out!"

Joking aside, the actress/singer says she "really loved" playing Slim, the character she portrays in the film. "There's something universal about her life experiences. There's something in her story for all types of people to relate to—including gay people."

Lopez believes her gay audience will particularly connect with Slim's evolution from being a victim to living from a point of pure power. "When you have to overcome the obstacles that society puts on you because you're not like everyone else, you're left with a choice: to be a victim or to be empowered. Thank goodness we live in a world where more and more gay people are choosing to do what Slim does... to be empowered. It's not always an easy road to travel, but it's a worthwhile one."

Her affinity with the gay community extends far beyond the underlying message of *Enough*. "The gay community has always been so supportive of my music," she says. "Gay

clubs are always among the first to jump on my records. Their love and encouragement have always been such a beautiful and moving thing to me."

Lopez recently repaid the longtime support of her gay audience by making a surprise appearance at the annual White Party in Palm Springs. "There was all kinds of talk about who the surprise guest would be, but my name wasn't really mentioned," she recalls. "I was happy that we were able to keep it totally under wraps. It made the moment when I came out onstage so huge."

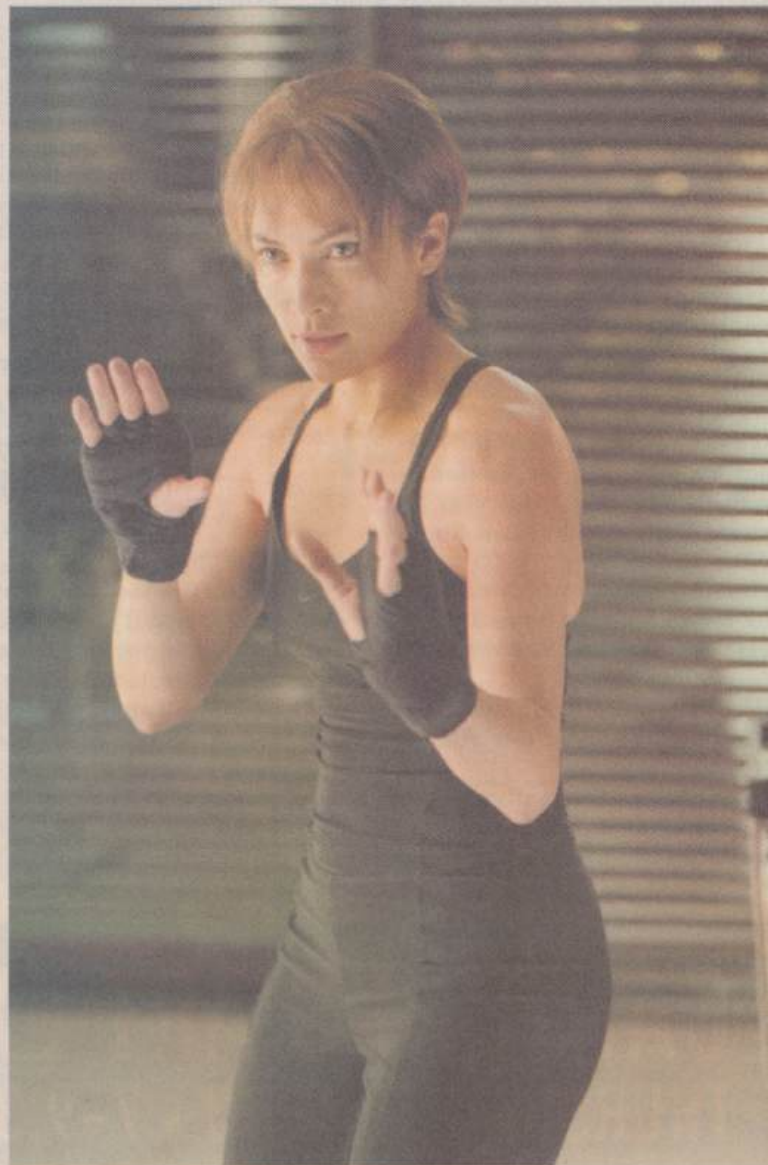
She recalls the roar of applause being so loud that she could not hear the instrumental track to the song she was to perform. "It was overwhelming, the love that came from that crowd. I'll never forget it. As an artist, you pray for that kind of response to your work, but you never expect it."

She will likely enjoy a similarly ardent

response to "Alive," the end-theme to *Enough*, which she wrote during her honeymoon with husband Cris Judd.

"He was playing a melody for me, and I thought it was just beautiful. So we finished it. I played it for the people making *Enough*, and they loved it. It's a song that means the world to me because of its positive message—and because it's something that I created with Cris."

"Alive" is also featured on Lopez's current album, *J to Tha L-O*, and it will soon be released as a single. Chris Cox and Barry Harris, a.k.a. Thunderpuss, have reconfigured the ballad into a club-ready dance track. "Oh, and it pumps," Lopez says with a smile. "I can't wait for people to hear it." This will follow hot on the trail of her



VAN REDIN/COLUMBIA PICTURES

international club smashes "Play," "My Love Don't Cost a Thing," "I'm Real," "Waiting for Tonight," "If You Had My Love," and "Let's Get Loud."

She adds that she also cannot wait for moviegoers to see *Enough*. Directed by Michael Apted (*Gorillas in the Mist*, *Coal Miner's Daughter*) from an original screenplay by Nicholas Kazan, the film also stars Billy Campbell, Juliette Lewis, Dan Futterman, and Noah Wyle. This film marks a change of pace for Lopez as she takes on a role that is both filled with extreme physical action and features a remarkable internal shift from maximum fear to maximum strength.

"I loved the script because Slim goes from being just a normal girl working as a waitress to marrying Prince Charming. Then she loses it all, everything she believed in, and must fight her way back to take control of her life. I really responded to her courage and her strength."

As she fights to survive, Slim must change not only the way she views her husband and the world, but also her body. She goes into an extremely physical boot camp so that she will be ready to confront her menacing husband. For Lopez, this meant that she had to train intensively in the martial arts to prepare for the role.

"I really enjoyed the training," she says. "Even though men are usually physically bigger and stronger than women, I learned that through certain techniques a woman really can get the upper hand in a combat situation. I think for Slim, it's a way to realize she can take control of her fear and win."

Lopez was initiated into the potent fighting form of Krav Maga, originally developed by the Israeli military in part to give their female soldiers the ability to defend themselves in even the most excruciating hand-to-hand combat. Lopez received her training in Krav Maga from Wade Allen, who schooled Angelina Jolie for her physically demanding role in *Tomb Raider*. Notes Lopez, "In Krav Maga there is only one rule: Use everything you've got."

And that's been the story of Lopez's life. "I've learned how to take as many elements of who and what I am and turn them into assets," she says. "You're born with certain talents that God provides. But you're also born with the ability to work hard and hone your craft, and make the most of what you have. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to prove that I can do good work. And now that I'm rolling, I'm nowhere near ready to stop."

Larry Flick is talent editor at Billboard magazine and a contributor to The Advocate, Out, and HX.

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"There's something in her story for all types of people
to relate to—including gay people."

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PRIDE 100% HOMO PIX



Kathy Goodwin. Age: 21. Occupation: Intern at Planned Parenthood. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** I'm too spontaneous to know! **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Smoking & ice lattes. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** My girlfriend, of course! **Who was the first person you told?:** My best friend at my all-girls' high school.

What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: My whole life changed—my mom voted for Gore instead of Bush!

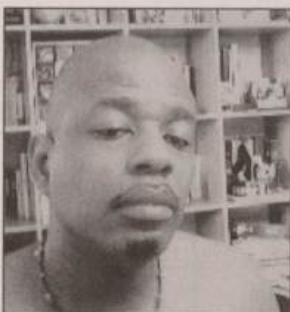
Rusty Mueller a.k.a. Crystal Rae Lee Love.

Age: 45. Occupation: Insurance. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay.

What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: "Pride"—everything else is an accessory. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:**

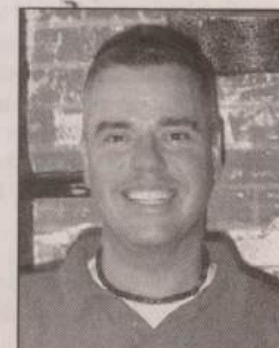
Whataburgers with cheese. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Every person that has helped raise \$\$\$ for the cause. **Who was the first person you told?:** My parents told me!

What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: The age on my driver's license.



Charles Harvey. Age: 44. Occupation: Writer. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Shorts & a T-shirt. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Young men. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Bayard Rustin. **Who was the first person you told?:** No one, people just know. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** Meeting other friends, and learning about self.

David Johnson. Age: 36. Occupation: Contract administrator. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** The jury is still out. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Clothes. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Beer and lots of it. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** The Teletubbies (the purple guy).



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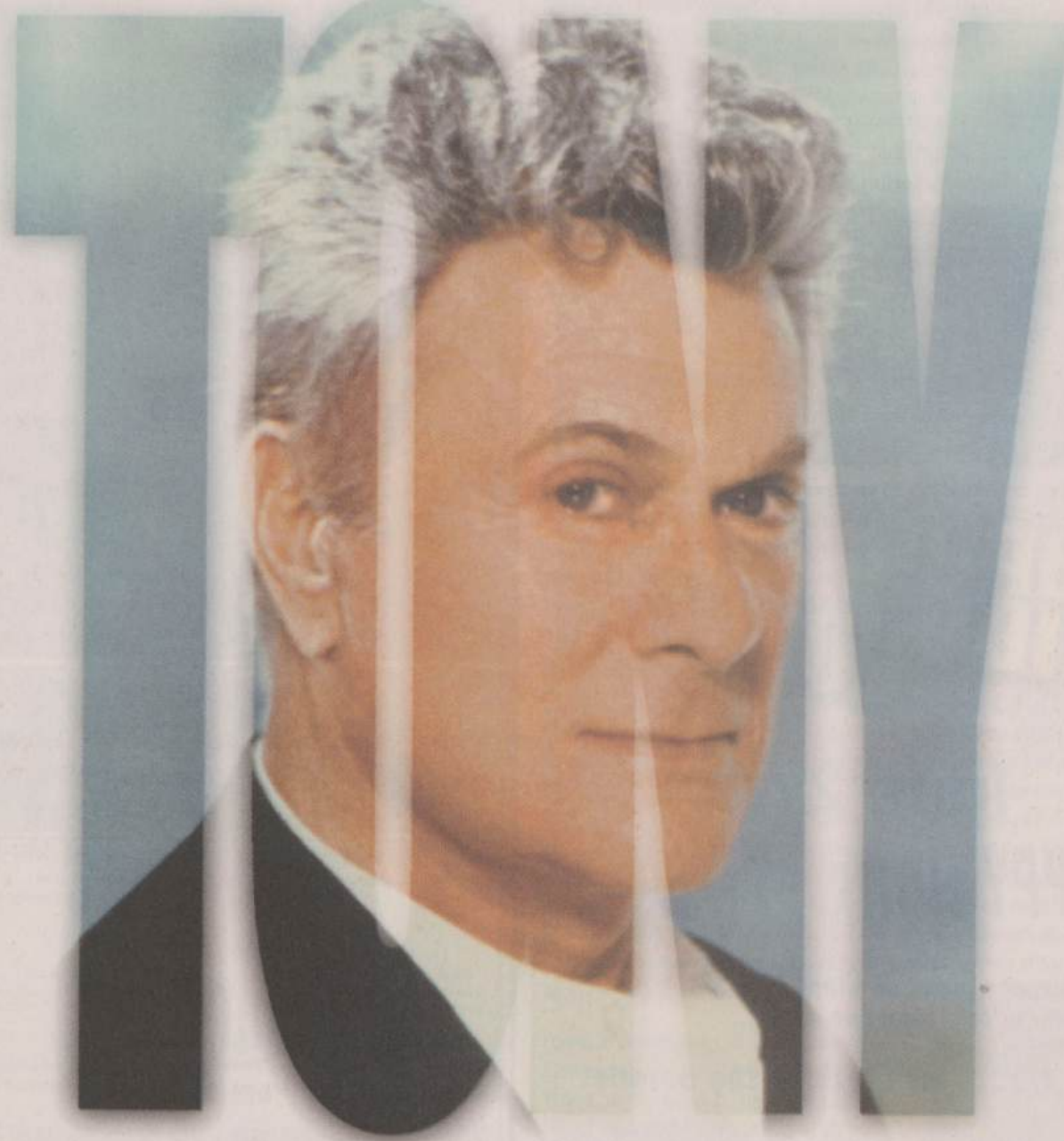


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TASTY



Tony Curtis hits Houston with *Some Like It Hot*, the first production at the new Hobby Center, June 6-23

Some like it hot. Some like it cold.
Actor **Tony Curtis** likes it hot and cold AND
... everything in between.

by Blase DiStefano

In the bathing scene from the 1960 film *Spartacus*, the Roman senator Crassius (Laurence Olivier, pictured below, right) is discussing with his young slave Antoninus (Tony Curtis) how to treat women, when he starts talking about food:

Crassius: Do you eat oysters?

Antoninus: Yes.

Snails?

No.

Do you consider the eating of oysters to be moral and the eating of snails to be immoral?

No, master.

Of course not. It's all a matter of taste, isn't it?

Yes, master.

And taste is not the same as ap-

petite and therefore not a question of morals, is it?

It could be argued so, master.

Um, that'll do. My robe, Antoninus. Ah, my taste... includes both oysters and snails.



This exchange about Crassius's taste for women and men was cut from the film (although it was restored in the 1991 rerelease). In the

documentary *The Celluloid Closet*, Tony Curtis says that Antoninus "realizes he's going to be asked to do something that he's not prepared to do. I like Antoninus for that, you know? Take me out to dinner first, give me a little

good time. Don't throw me in the tub and drop the soap."

OutSmart talked to Curtis by phone while he was in Las Vegas taking singing and dancing lessons for the new musical *Some Like It Hot*. When asked how long he had been preparing, he said about five months for the dancing and three months for the singing, and then he burst into song: "I fall in love too easily. I fall in love too fast." (The 77-year-old legend is in his fifth marriage. His first marriage was to actress Janet Leigh—their daughter is actress Jamie Lee Curtis).

To get the full flavor of the interview, try to hear his New York Jewish accent in your head while you're reading.

OutSmart: You're playing Osgood in the new *Some Like It Hot* musical, right?

Tony Curtis: I'm playing Osgood Fielding III, the eccentric millionaire. And they cast me perfectly—I am an eccentric millionaire. But I've got a dress in the closet. They don't know it yet.

I remember reading that you and Jack Lemmon got completely dressed up [for the 1959 film *Some Like It Hot*], went into a ladies room to see if anybody would notice, and nobody did.

I put my lipstick on looking in the mirror and the girls were coming in and out of the stalls in the back. And as we got outside, I said, "Jack, it worked." And just then a girl comes walking out of the bathroom and says, "Hi, Tony."



Tony Curtis in *Some Like It Hot* (1959): "I was Eve Arden and Grace Kelly and my mother."

What was it like? You apparently hadn't dressed up and put on heels before.

Oh, yes.

Oh, you had!

Oh, yes. Well, listen, I was brought up around it. My mother wore heels. All my girlfriends wore heels. A couple of wives wore heels. How could you avoid not knowing how to put on heels?

Was it uncomfortable?

I didn't find it uncomfortable. But you learn to balance once you learn the rhythm of the walk. You don't have to exaggerate it. In my playing the part, I let the heels do the work. Jack was a little over the border, as they say... bumped around a little bit. But I didn't, boy, I was Eve Arden and Grace Kelly and my mother. →

How in the hell did you choose Eve Arden, of all people?

Well, Eve Arden, her chin was always up in the air. Notice if you ever see a picture of her, we look very much alike. And I patterned it off of her. My social graces were Grace Kelly. And my mother was hid underneath all of that.

I don't know when your mother died, but was she able to see...

Oh, yeah, she saw *Some Like It Hot*—that may have put her in. My son is my daughter!

And now it's going to be a musical.

Yes, and I get a chance to play in it. And it's over

40 years later. I'll be able to be in eight performances a week all over the place.

You're starting in Houston, right?

We're starting rehearsals in New York, then we're on to Houston, Texas. It's so Americana, you know, it's so kind of sticking its nose out at people who are nervous about being men, nervous about being women. You know at the end of the play when the

guy pulls his wig off and says, "I'm a man!" And I'm gonna say, "Nobody's perfect." Don't you love it?

I do.

Isn't that good? Doesn't that do better than anything?

Totally.

Totally. What's the big f---ing deal, Blase?

Speaking of men and men... well, first, how

OutSmart: "As beautiful as you were, I'm assuming that you..." Tony Curtis: "I had more action than Mount Vesuvius."

old were you when you got to Hollywood?
I was 22. That was 1948.

And as beautiful as you were... I mean, you are still good-looking...
Thank you.

But as beautiful as you were, I'm assuming that you...

I had more action than Mount Vesuvius.

So, both men and women put the make on you.

Men, women, children. Animals!

I can't wait for the headlines—"Tony Curtis into Bestiality."

[Laughs] I loved it, too. I loved the affection of everybody around me. I participated where I

wanted to, and I didn't where I didn't. It wasn't like I said, "Well, I won't do this or I won't do that." I just had a chance to have great wonderful friends of all ethnic backgrounds, all sexual genders, and that's the joy of being an American, that's the joy of being alive, where all of your friends can be whoever they want to be.

Apparently, you were pretty open about it.

I've always been open about it. I couldn't be any other way. I've never allowed that to inflict me, and I don't even like movies that have homosexuality and heterosexuality as a theme. I don't feel it's necessary. You tell the story as the story is. You don't

have to inflict on it your opinions. You see, I don't like to use the word "gay," because gay is a word in the dictionary that means happy and thoughtful, and I think we're using that word out of context, although it represents what we feel like. But still I don't like to use that word in describing all of us. I want to be very straight and honest with everybody. You know, I don't see any reason why not. Aren't we allowed to have privilege of choice? If you don't offend or hurt anybody, you should have that privilege; we are in America, we are Americans and are allowed that privilege, or we should.

But the problem is the laws.

Yes, absolutely. And the ethnic vibrations of all that. We have to come to grips with that. We have to come to grips with many, many things. But that's all right, we must carry on, arm in arm, walk down that street, and not be ashamed of anything. Bet you didn't think you'd get all this on Monday morning, did you?

Well, sure, why not.

Why not, dear.

I'm open.

Any time of the day, sweetie. Oh, dear.

So, do you eat oysters?

I do. Oysters and snails.

And snails?

I'm not prejudiced in any way. That was a fabulous scene in that movie.

It was cut, wasn't it?

When the movie came out, that scene was not in. It showed me with Larry Olivier and he's asking me what I did, and that was the end of it, and the next thing you see me escaping.

And that scene was key to the project. They photographed it, but they never did closeups of it and they never processed the sound. Universal Pictures in their own way was trying to critique the movie; they didn't want that to be spoken. So, they said they lost the sound. But they didn't lose the sound. And just after making the movie, Larry Olivier and I realized that's that what they were trying to do. So we insisted they shoot the scene, but they never recorded it.

And then years later, they had the scene, but they had no soundtrack. So what they did, they went to Anthony Hopkins and asked him to do Olivier, and they asked me to do Antoninus, and that's where we got the dialogue in that scene. Isn't that intriguing?

Is it ever.

It just shows you how studios, the fear they had in mentioning anything like that.

They didn't want to touch the scene as the picture was being made, but as it was finished, they thought they could do anything they wanted. Well, they couldn't get away with it.

So the scene was key to why Antoninus left.

To the whole project. To Antoninus, Spartacus, and Crassius... these three men. That was the love story. Sure, Spartacus had a woman pregnant—that was his child for the future. But still the story was a boy who was loved by a man [Crassius]. And the boy did not want to capitulate, because he wasn't sure what that was about. So he escapes and runs to his father figure, who is Spartacus. And then at the end Crassius has Antoninus and Spartacus fight. And I say to Spartacus, "I love you like I loved my father," and Spartacus says, "I loved you like the son I'll never see," then kills me. That's the powerful story of *Spartacus*. It's valuable to the film, because now it makes sense in a lot of areas. I feel Spartacus should have been about the three men. That would have made an intriguing and interesting story, wouldn't it?

Definitely. So, you also made Goodbye, Charlie.

"Goodbye, Charlie, I hate to see you go." Yes, that was a wonderful movie.

With Debbie Reynolds...

Debbie Reynolds is coming back as a woman. She is my best friend as a man, then dies and comes back as a woman. You gotta be careful who you go out with, dear. You never know, does one?

That's right. Okay, you also did The Great Race, another film with Jack Lemmon.

Well, yes, you know, in *The Great Race* we had a gender conflict. He's the king, the real king of Russiatania. So, he's madly in love with me: "You great Leslie, you." He doesn't want me to go away. So, you see, I've had a lot of interesting lovers or lovers-to-be in movies I've been in.

That's the truth.

If you want to really examine it, what about Sydney Poitier and Tony Curtis in *The Defiant Ones*. We know they didn't "make" it.

Right.

We don't know. What you don't know won't hurt you.

Weren't you nominated for an Oscar for The Defiant Ones?

Yeah, but I didn't take that serious. That was the first time they nominated a black man and a Jewish man. Chained together. I don't have much respect for the Academy.

It's mostly a popularity contest.

That's all it is. They ought to step up and

say that's what it is, instead of trying to fake it. I don't know what they think a best performance is.

Speaking of best performances, you were excellent in The Boston Strangler.

Thank you. I loved that movie. I always played great these sexual deviants.

Typcast, huh?

[Laughs] Typecasting.

I know you're a painter. How long have you been painting?

All my life. It's always been my biggest avocation. Has nothing to do with movies or acting or anything else. It's a language that I speak, an unspoken language.

Is it sort of like meditation?

No, it's not. Painting is work, it takes a lot of work. Repetition, you've got to do it over and over again—and slowly I'm beginning to have control over what the lines and colors I put on paper have to say.

Tell me a little bit more about Some Like It Hot. You're playing Osgood...

Yes, and it's going to be a musical, a two-act musical. I've got five or six excellent funny scenes with the character of Daphne that I've fallen in love with. So that's really going to be an amusing thing, because the audience will be the only ones who know that Daphne is a guy.

And you don't.

I don't know nothing. So I pursue her like madness. And at the end, I pull the wig off and say, "Nobody's perfect." For a minute there, you say, "Wait a minute, what does he mean by that?" And it's over.

In the film, you worked with Jack Lemmon and Marilyn Monroe. How was it working with the two of them?

There were a lot of rumors about Marilyn, but she was having a difficult time getting through the picture. She couldn't memorize lines, she had emotional difficulty, but Billy Wilder told Jack and me, "You guys better get it right every time we do it, because once she gets it right, I'm going to print it, and if you got your finger stuck in some orifice, that's where it's going to be." So, he kind of read us the law very early.

I really appreciate you and your time.

Thank you so much.

It's been a pleasure talking to you. And we'll be seeing you in Houston. Come over and say hello to me. You'll recognize me by the carnation in my lapel.

Some Like It Hot plays June 6–23 at the new Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets (\$25–\$68) are available by phone at 713/558-8887, at the Theatre Under The Stars box office (2600 Southwest Freeway at Kirby, Mon.–Sat., 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.), or online at www.tuts.com.



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Tony Curtis in a 1954 Universal Pictures publicity shot

News Briefs

VETERANS GROUP CHANGES NAME TO INCLUDE TRANS VETS

The Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA) has changed its name to the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER). "As it was, our name (GLBVA) was not inclusive of transgender/transsexual, two-spirit, and heterosexual members," said Jim Donovan, AVER president.

Approved at the organization's national convention in May in San Diego, the name change affects chapters nationwide, including two in Texas.

"For the first time since the organization's inception, we are able to lead by example," said B. K. Silva, president of the Houston AVER chapter, "demanding equal rights and protections for all American veterans because we respect and honor the service of all American veterans."

A color guard of local AVER members will lead the Pride parade in Houston on June 29. On June 1, an AVER Houston contingent will also attend the first Pride parade in Austin in a decade, and local members will march in the San Antonio parade on June 15.

Over the past 18 months, the Houston AVER chapter has more than tripled in size, Silva says. The group meets on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center (803 Hawthorne). For more information, contact Silva at 713/661-7561 or Bsirious@aol.com.



NEW HOUSTON BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY COALITION OPENS OFFICE IN COMMUNITY CENTER, HOSTS JUNE 19 RECEPTION

Community activist Steven Jerome has organized the Houston Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition, a new resource organization for African-American GLBT people. The coalition has opened an office in the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center (803 Hawthorne) and will hold a welcome reception at the center on Wednesday, June 19, at 7:30 p.m. That date is Juneteenth, the annual commemoration of the day in 1865 when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston with news of the Emancipation Proclamation.

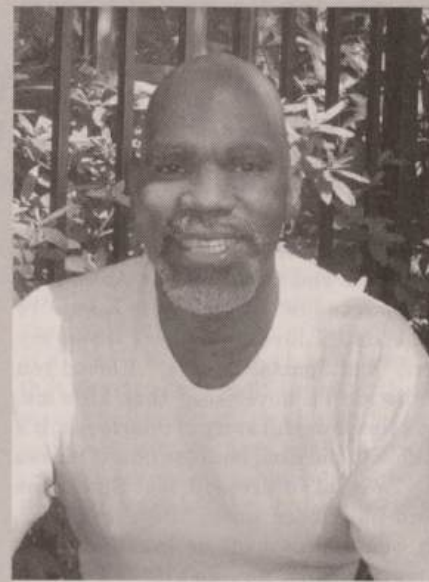
"HBLAGC has been organized to bring unity, strength, cohesiveness, education, and solidarity to the African-American GLBT community in Houston and surrounding areas," Jerome said. "The purpose is to disperse information concerning various organizations and activities of interest to the African-American community."

Jerome identifies four main areas of work for the coalition:

EDUCATION. Through information and counseling, the coalition will help African-American GLBT individuals further their education and take advantage of grants and programs.

HIV/AIDS. The coalition will work to make the African-American GLBT community aware of the threat of sexually transmitted diseases, the prevention of infection, and how those living with HIV/AIDS can maintain a comfortable standard of living.

FINANCE. The coalition will offer programs to educate African-American GLBT individuals on managing finances



Steven Jerome

and increasing their spending power.

VISIBILITY. The coalition aims to make African-American GLBT people a more visible and a viable part of the African-American community, the GLBT community, and the Houston community.

Jerome also leads another new group, Men of All Shades Houston (MASH), which meets at the community center on the second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.

The Houston Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition office is located on the second floor of the community center. Coalition office hours are 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The telephone number is 832/455-2032. The e-mail address is HBLAGC@aol.com.

BLASE DUTERANO

NAMES PROJECT HOUSTON, OTHER LOCAL QUILT CHAPTERS CLOSE

The local chapter of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt closed in April, reflecting changes in the national organization. In addition to NAMES Project Houston, chapters shuttered in Ohio, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Syracuse, New York, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, the city where the quilt began in 1987.

In March, the quilt left San Francisco for a new permanent home in Atlanta. The new national office for the NAMES Project opened in Washington, D.C., in April. The Names Project Foundation board of directors voted in 1997 to relocate the quilt and the national office to the eastern United States, in part to increase proximity to other national and international AIDS service organizations.

At the same time, the national office imposed new rules on local chapters governing fund-raising and increased shipping costs for quilt panels. That new reality, combined with a decline in volunteers in some cities, including



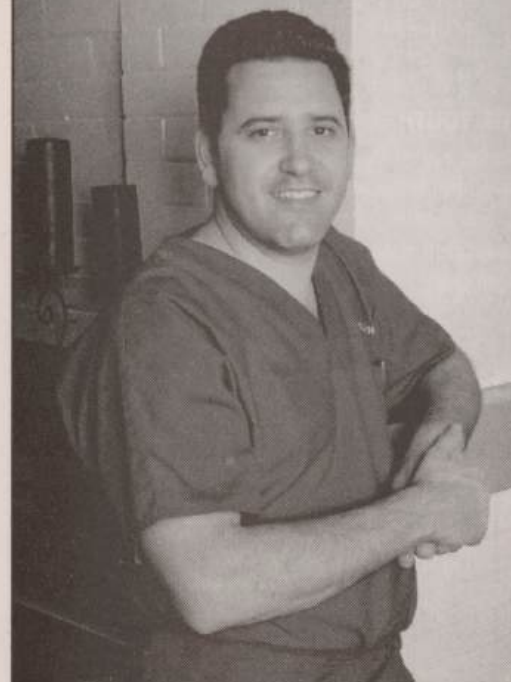
Houston and San Francisco, convinced the local chapters to close.

NAMES Project Houston, one of the most vital local chapters, opened in 1988. Upon closing the organization, the board of directors gave the entire NAMES Project Houston archive to the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender History (GCAM). This donation included photographs and photo albums, posters, certificates, awards, trophies, and more. Some of these objects are now on display in a GCAM satellite exhibition at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center (803 Hawthorne). NAMES Project Houston also donated a glass display case to GCAM, which the museum will keep at the community center to hold changing groups of objects from its collection. ■

Top photo shows the quilt in Washington, D.C., in October of 1987; other photos capture quilt-makers at NAMES Project Houston.

TOP PHOTO: TOM ALLEMAN, OTHER PHOTOS COURTESY OF GCAM

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MONTROSE CLINIC LAUNCHES HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR UNINSURED

Known for 20 years as a resource for HIV/AIDS treatment, Montrose Clinic has launched a new program to provide health care to individuals with no insurance. Called Community Care, the program is designed to serve GLBT people as well as people who live and work in the clinic's neighborhood. Treatment will be offered on a fee-for-service basis.

With its focus on the GLBT community, the new program will be the first of its kind in Houston and one of only a few in the nation, according to the clinic's Sanna Alton. "Our goal is to provide high-quality primary and acute health care in a safe, comfortable, and judgment-free atmosphere, and to encourage overall health and wellness among populations who traditionally do not access preventive health care," she said.

Serving individuals who are not HIV positive will be the focus of Community Care. Other Montrose Clinic programs will continue serving people living with HIV and AIDS. "Overall health and wellness is a key component in preventing the spread of HIV and other serious diseases," Alton said.

The Montrose Clinic is located at 215 Westheimer. The number is 713/830-3000.

THE CITY NEEDS YOU

Little-known opportunities for service, networking, and résumé-building at City Hall. At least 211 of them.

City of Houston boards and commissions do an enormous amount of work behind the scenes and provide the opportunity to get involved in your community, perhaps in ways you never considered.

A warning for those future officeholders, entrepreneurs, or socialites just out to pad their résumés: Most city commissions are hard work, volunteer work. But if you're fortunate enough to be appointed to one that really interests you, you may end up feeling like you've made an important contribution to your community and to your personal development. You may have the chance to meet some of the best and brightest from all over this diverse city.

I spent many hours on two commissions: the Houston Police Department Citizen Review Committee and the Police Advisory Committee. The Citizen Review Committee is a 21-member body (divided into three panels) that reviews evidence in cases alleging excessive use of force by police officers. I spent

a dozen hours each month reading case files and attending the monthly panel meeting. I became a panel chair and added many more hours reviewing all Internal Affairs Division disciplinary recommendations. Community members Brooks Ballard and Lane Lewis now serve on the review committee, and are also two of the three chairmen.

The Police Advisory Committee was formed in the 1980s and is composed of various representative community groups. They meet monthly with the police chief and his command staff to recommend ways to improve police-community relations. The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus has been a member since inception. For many years I was the caucus representative. (Ray Hill and I have logged more time with HPD than any other non-officers.)

One of the most visible (and most powerful) commissions is the Planning Commission. Twice a month, members review hundreds of requests for plat approvals and vari-

ances for developments. This has become a battleground for neighborhood vs. development forces.

The most sought-after appointment is one of the five city seats on the Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) board. Council just confirmed a new slate. They will have a critical role in next year's vote on the future of transit, especially rail, in Houston.

Building and Standards works with the Neighborhood Protection division and the Legal Department to determine if a residential or commercial building should be declared "dangerous." Commission members, many of them neighborhood activists, conduct hearings to determine if a structure needs to be demolished or repaired to be safe enough for occupancy.

The Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission helps preserve the city's historical past by preserving landmarks and historic neighborhoods. HAHC approves certificates of appropriateness for construction and exterior alteration in the city's seven historic districts.

The commission spent almost two years revising the city's historic preservation ordinance, considered one of the weakest in the country. The ordinance is now being discussed in the City Council Neighborhood Protection Committee, which I chair.

The Buffalo Bayou Partnership is one of the most visionary groups in the city. Established in 1984, this commission works to develop Buffalo Bayou from Shepherd to the Ship Channel. Unfortunately, just two years after its creation, Houston's oil bubble burst and bayou development took a distant backseat to basic city services and downtown redevelopment. Times have improved, and the partnership will announce its new development plan in June. The Neighborhood Protection Committee is expected to preview the plan this month.

If your curiosity remains un-piqued, consider this variety of opportunities:

- Area Agency on Aging, the advisory council of the Houston/Harris County Area Agency on Aging;
- City/County Commission on Children;
- Commission on Disabilities, which advises the mayor and Council. I've met with several members who are strong advocates for people with disabilities;
- Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZs) and almost as many redevelopment

boards and management districts;

- Miller Theatre Advisory Board, Municipal Art Commission, and the Read Commission;

- Boards that work closely with departments, such as the Library Board and the Parks Board;

- Technical professional boards that deal with licensing: Air Conditioning; Automotive; Boiler Code Review and Licensing; Electrical; Fire Code Board of Appeals; Helicopter Facilities Licensing; and the Plumbing Code Review Board;

- For environmentalists, the Houston Clean City Commission, which serves as the advisory board to Keep Houston Beautiful;

- The Housing Authority, responsible for federally funded public housing; and the Houston Housing Finance Corp., which lends money to lending institutions. You may recall that HHFC took over Fourth Ward properties when Houston Renaissance defaulted on its loan to develop affordable housing in historic Freedmen's Town.

Many of the commissions meet during the workday, which requires a flexible schedule and commitment, with the emphasis on commitment. Boards often have trouble making quorum. People who are passionate about parks or redevelopment can waste an hour waiting for enough members to make

quorum. Everyone's precious time is wasted, not to mention paperwork and scheduling that has to be redone.

Many require specific credentials or expertise. It's extremely hard to be appointed to some boards, such as Metro or the Planning Commission, but numerous boards carry vacancies for months while they beg for new members.

Most boards are mayoral appointments with council confirmation, but a few are council member appointments with council confirmation. If you are interested in serving on a board or would like more information, contact my office at 713/247-2014 or annise.parker@cityofhouston.net.

If you would like to receive Neighborhood Protection or Fiscal Affairs Committee agendas or my bi-monthly email newsletter, please e-mail or call my office.

The city website is www.cityofhouston.gov. (Parker's website address is listed below.)

A Houston City Council member who happens to be lesbian, Annise Parker is serving her third term in At-large Position 1. Call or e-mail to receive her bi-monthly newsletter, 713/247-2014, or annise.parker@cityofhouston.net. Her website is www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygov/council/1.



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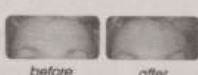
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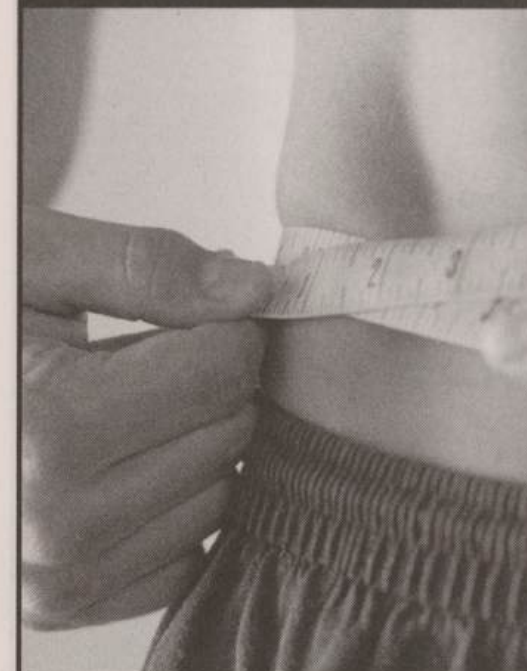


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THE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

It's about more than job security

Last month, a Senate committee approved the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would prohibit job discrimination based on sexual orientation. The bill prohibits discrimination in hiring, firing, wages, and other conditions of employment. It does not apply to religious organizations, the military, or to businesses with fewer than 15 employees. It is modeled largely after Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race and gender and provides remedies for those who are discriminated against.

Today, a person's sexual orientation is a permissible reason to hire or fire someone in 38 states. Only 12 states outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation. (Texas is not one of them.)

Still, the head of the Log Cabin Republicans—Rich Tafel—hinted recently that we don't need ENDA. He said he doesn't believe

the passage of ENDA will really benefit many gays and lesbians, since not that many gays and lesbians get fired these days because of their orientation. Apparently, in Mr. Tafel's rose-colored world, homophobia in the workplace has almost disappeared. Gays and lesbians are treated equally on the job. And they enjoy the same job security as their heterosexual counterparts.

What an idiot. Did it ever occur to Mr. Tafel that the reason many gays and lesbians have not lost their jobs is because they are closeted at work? They don't invite their partners to company parties or functions. They don't have pictures of their partners on their desks. They don't talk about their partners in the office.

While most employers simply presume that their employees are all straight, we have done little to rebut that presumption. That is because it has not been professionally ex-

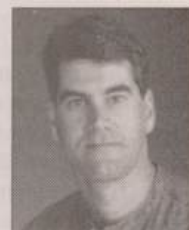
pedient to be out at work. If we're out, we can lose our jobs.

So, while straight workers stand around the coffemaker on Monday mornings and detail their weekend activities, many of us simply listen. While single straight men whisper about the "rack on the new receptionist," we do not whisper back "Have you checked out the package on the new mailroom clerk?" In short, to protect ourselves and our jobs, we avoid talking about our personal lives while others speak freely. Or worse, we lie.

Contrary to Mr. Tafel's conclusion, ENDA

continued on page 00

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.



WHY A DEAD DUTCH POLITICIAN MATTERS

When Pim Fortuyn was murdered, we may have lost one of the leaders of the future

He came closer than any other openly gay person in history to leading an entire country. He was smart, articulate, and charismatic as he defended gay equality against all enemies. In a just world, history would put him on a par with other courageous gay trailblazers like Harvey Milk.

But chances are you never heard of Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn (pronounced "fortown") until he was recently assassinated, if then. And chances are what you heard was slanted and defamatory.

Fortuyn, 54, was running as the leader of his own party in Dutch parliamentary elections held on May 15. If his party had captured a sufficient number of seats he could have been the next Prime Minister of the Netherlands, the only country in the world that recognizes full-fledged gay marriage. But as he left a radio interview on May 6, a man shot him dead.

Fortuyn was controversial. In a country with an extremely generous social welfare system, he argued for cutbacks in the bureaucracy. He wanted reforms in bloated and inefficient public services for education and health care. He criticized Dutch environmental policy as having "no more substance." He emphasized the need for law-and-order in a country that has the second-highest homicide rate in Western Europe.

At the same time, Fortuyn supported his country's tolerant social policies on matters like euthanasia, abortion, prostitution, and drug use. He made no apologies for being a gay man, nor, in the Netherlands, did he have to.

But Fortuyn also wanted to hold the line on immigration, and for this he was demonized by legions of the politically correct. He worried that his country's liberal democratic values were under attack from large numbers of immigrants, a disproportionate number of

which have come from repressive and undemocratic Islamic countries.

Islamic clergy in the Netherlands have ridiculed homosexuals as "lower than pigs." Their attitudes toward the role and rights of women have been no less retrograde.

Fortuyn responded by calling Islam a "backward culture" in its attitude toward gays and women. "How can you respect a culture if the woman has to walk several steps behind her man, has to stay in the kitchen, and keep her mouth shut?" he asked.

Candid remarks like

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 46

has tremendous potential to change our lives. Not because it will prevent us from being fired, but because it will permit us to be honest.

ENDA is not a watershed moment for gay and lesbian equality. It will not end discrimination in the workplace. But, it might result in a lesbian's placing her life partner's picture on her desk. Or, it might give a young gay male the courage to say "no thank you" to a straight male coworker's invitation to a bachelor party at a topless bar.

To Mr. Tafel—the openly gay leader of a paid political lobby—this might not seem like a lot. To gays and lesbians who are sick of lying about their orientation, it might make all the difference in the world. ■

OutRight

continued from previous page

that caused a stir. Fortuyn was denounced by political elites as an "extreme right-winger" and a racist. Just a day before his assassination, a writer for the *New York Times* accused him of "modernized fascism." These labels were ceaselessly applied to him by media in the U.S. and Europe even after he was dead. (By contrast, his assassin was described in the media as "an animal rights campaigner" and was remembered by friends in the *Times* as "a gentle and kind nature lover.") Like many extreme environmental and "animal-rights" activists, the assassin apparently loved everything in nature except people.)

Was Fortuyn a racist? Hardly. He bitterly rejected comparisons between himself and the continent's true neo-fascist and racist, France's Jean-Marie Le Pen. As his successor for party leadership, Fortuyn chose a black immigrant from the Cape Verde Islands. Another party candidate is Moroccan-born.

As for his criticism of Islam, antigay views should not be exempt from criticism just because they spring from religious faith. Islam is backward when it comes to matters like basic human dignity for gay people. So are other religions, including many Christian sects. But it's worth noting there is not one predominantly Christian country in the world where homosexual acts are still punishable by death, as they are in Muslim countries like Saudi Arabia.

In his concerns about the ultimate impact of immigration on his country's institutions, Fortuyn probably exaggerated. The Netherlands already has among the most restrictive immigration policies in Europe, rejecting two of every three would-be immigrants. The American experience has been that wave after wave of immigrants, initially feared as

having hostile values and alien religions, have enriched our country.

But if I were Dutch I might see immigration differently. A small nation of 16 million people, the Netherlands is already the second most densely populated country in the world. Almost 10 percent of the country's population is non-European, the highest rate in Western Europe. Rotterdam, the country's second-largest city, is now 45 percent foreign-born. Unlike Americans, the Dutch have a long history, culture, and language uniquely their own. Those things are worth preserving.

The most important thing Fortuyn did for gays, however, was simply to stand his own independent ground against vicious criticism. He proved a gay person could support free markets, individual liberty, a rollback in government bureaucracy, and tough anti-crime measures. He identified with the problems of hardworking, middle-class citizens. What's more, it appeared they increasingly identified with him.

Fortuyn refused to be shoved into a particular politics because of his sexual orientation. He defied standard expectations about what gays should think and say, and so made room for the rest of us to do likewise. It's not surprising the media was unable to compose a coherent or truthful sentence about him, unaccustomed as they are to seeing a gay person think for himself.

Some people are ennobled by their untimely deaths; when they are gone, we suddenly realize how much promise was lost. James Dean was not a great actor, but he might have been. John Kennedy was not a great president, but he could have been. Pim Fortuyn was not given the chance to show that a homosexual could be entrusted with the stewardship of his nation's most precious values, but he should have been. ■

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It Was



Years Ago Today

Houston's Stonewall: The night

*You squeeze mine, Anita . . . I'll squeeze yours,
Anita;
Yours are frozen, Anita . . . You are chosen, Anita.
Terrible cost, Anita . . . All covered in frost, Anita;
Smile and pray, Anita . . . You'll feel gay!!*

—Tom Paxton

When renowned singer, Florida Citrus Commission spokesperson, and ardent Christian Anita Bryant was asked

by the Texas Bar Association to sing at their annual state convention held in Houston in June 1977, no one could have foreseen what significance her appearance would have on our community. The leaders of the march to protest her antediluvian views had no inkling that their peaceful, yet loud, protest would rouse Houston's queer populace with a roar unheard since NYC's Stonewall riot of '69.

While Greenwich Village was the unruly sight of broken bones, sidewalk bloodshed, and uprooted parking meters hurled through windows, Houston's tame nighttime demonstration was a love fest of slogans, candlelight, and long-stemmed daisies. Stonewall roused the nation; but it was "hurricane Anita" who personalized our struggle.

By December 1976, Bryant's career, while immensely lucrative from singing appearances at corporate gigs and religious conferences, had stalled. Once, she had been Miss Oklahoma and a second runner-up for Miss America. A discovery of Arthur Godfrey's, she had three gold records. In the '60s, she toured with Bob Hope and his USO shows, was featured with Billy Graham on his crusades, had sung at both presidential conventions in 1968, and delivered her signature *Battle Hymn of the Republic* at Lyndon Johnson's funeral. But now, still pretty, popular, her voice untarnished, she hawked orange juice from Florida. She needed a jumpstart with national exposure.

When Florida's Dade County Metro Commission unanimously passed an amendment to their civil rights ordinance in December 1976 that banned discrimination in housing, public accommodations, and employment based on "affectional or sexual preference," Anita Bryant found her new voice.

Overnight, she became the public persona for the "straight-thinking normal majority." She became shrill and strident, a mouthpiece for a vengeful Old Testament God as she spewed hate and bigotry with abandon.

Her *Save Our Children From Homosexuals* petition drive bowled over the commissioners, who were forced by law to put the ordinance to the vote. Gays lost 2-1. As of June 7, 1977, it was legal to discriminate against homosexuals in Dade County.

We marched past the Hyatt to the library plaza [as] a group of angry individuals being mistreated by a lot of elements in society, symbolized by Anita Bryant. But we marched back as a community, no longer angry but confident that we could make a difference in our lives.

Flushed with easy success, Bryant set her sights much further. "We shall not let the nation down," she vowed.

She was now a national media celebrity with spectacular clout, quoting Scripture. She had become extremely dangerous. It was this Anita Bryant who was coming to Houston, June 16, at the invitation of the Texas Bar Association to sing at their President's Dinner.

"I found out that the Texas Bar Association was having her appear at their state convention at the Hyatt," remembers *Houston Post* reporter Jane Ely. "Two lawyers told me, but they didn't want to get crossways with the bar. My recollection was that the bar people were kind of doing this in defiance. How and why the stupid Bar

Association would have wanted Anita Bryant? Who'd say, *Oh, great, let's get Anita Bryant to come sing for us?* I can't imagine they weren't making a statement."

Veteran GLBT rights activist Ray Hill credits Ely's *Post* article as the heads-up warning to Houston's somewhat scattered gay community. To some in the nascent activist movement, Hill was persona non grata, having been released from prison only two years earlier. But Gary Van Ooteghem, Houston Gay Political Caucus president, realized Hill's value as a political organizer and rough-hewn firebrand. Both men worked together to bring off a protest march that would culminate at the downtown Hyatt at the precise moment Anita Bryant took the stage to sing for the assembled lawyers.

"The first word we had of it was in print from Jane Ely," says Hill, "and that gave us plenty of time to organize. I come from the old anti-war and civil rights movements. Marching and demonstrating I know how to do. My problem was that I was just out of prison in '75, so I was a real embarrassment to the community.

"But we started having meetings and it became quite apparent that I knew how to do this and they didn't. So we divided up the responsibilities. Since I knew the nuts and bolts stuff, I would be the liaison to the police and be in

charge of security."

With the caucus shaky but operational, allied with the Houston Human Rights League, the Gay Activists Alliance at the University of Houston, the Metropolitan Community Church, and student groups from Rice University, they had a reasonable coalition, in Hill's words, to "stir the pot."

They invited national heavy hitters such as MCC founder Troy Perry, *The Advocate's* publisher David Goldstein, Ginny Apuzzo from the Gay Rights National Lobby, and *All in the Family* supporting actress Liz Torres.

Since Houston at that time didn't permit the streets to be closed at night for a parade, they asked and got permission to march down the sidewalks of both Smith

Anita Bryant came to town

By D.L. Groover



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and Louisiana streets. Meeting in the parking lot of the old Depository II bar on McGowen, the small rally would head downtown at 8 p.m.

Hill and Van Ooteghem anticipated 300 marchers. That would have been a respectable turnout. What they got was an incredible outpouring, estimated anywhere from 4,000 to 10,000.

"Heaven knows where they were parking their cars," says Hill. "For years, I estimated the crowd at about 6,000. Gary insisted that we use the number 12,000. I was always a little uncomfortable with that, and I told him, 'If I outlive you, it's going to be 6,000. If you outlive me, it's going to be 12,000.' When he died, I had so much respect for his activism, I adopted his figure. So you can quote me at 12,000. He who lives the longest gets to write the memoirs."

There were so many people, the police ordered the marchers off the sidewalks and onto the two streets, exactly where Hill and Van Ooteghem wanted to be for greatest media visibility. Police called in reinforcements to control the DeMille-like multitudes; and the noisy, peaceful demonstration was covered by local press, television, and on live NBC national radio.

John Nechman, former Stonewall Lawyers president, was 12 years old when he heard the march over the radio in his parents' car.

"Suddenly, a nervous-sounding radio announcer came on, talking about a civil uprising in downtown! When he started mentioning that the crowd was comprised of homosexuals, my nervous parents quickly changed the station. The second we got home, I ran and turned on the radio—in my closet, I'm embarrassed to say—and found a station that was providing continuous coverage of the event. I remember hearing descriptions of a 'sea of men' coming from all directions and converging on and around the Hyatt, where they all peacefully but potently began chanting so loud that many feared the event would have to be cancelled.

"When I tell people today of what I remember of that magical night at the Hyatt 25 years ago, they look at me like I'm crazy. That couldn't happen in quiet, complacent Houston! Bryant's pathetic crusade was very big national news back then; but that night, Houston's finest were able to drown out her hate. I don't think it's an understatement to refer to that event as our Stonewall. That was the first time in my life that I really knew I wasn't the only one."

Marion Coleman, owner of the printing firm House of Coleman and executor of Gary Van Ooteghem's estate, while hazy on

details, recalls the march's indelible emotions.

"I was so proud of our community because we really stepped up and stepped forward. It was very positive and very loving in what we were trying to do. It wasn't so much as anger as it was all of us getting together and being together and supporting each other. That was the most important thing."

"The demonstration was great fun," says Jane Ely. "It kind of overwhelmed everyone. It brought out a great mixture. It brought out all the old civil rights people; it brought out the anti-war people who hadn't got to go to a good demonstration in a long time; and it brought out a lot of the gay community that was the first time they had done anything. Here they were with all these people who were glad to see them. It was an experience of acceptance and support."

"I wish so much I could have been there in person," recalls Nechman. "It's one of those things I'll never forget. To this day, whenever I travel around the country and speak, it's something I bring up. We had our own incredible moment that evening here in Houston. It really galvanized this community in so many ways."

"As I listened on the radio, there was a respect in the announcer's voice. They may have expected a few vocal people with placards, but they never expected this mob that was so well controlled and ready to make their voices heard. Other than the hysterical stories, you didn't hear much about the GLBT community. And here was a night when anybody, even if they were homophobic, would have been impressed with this amazing turnout that could be heard throughout the Hyatt."

"I've always considered that particular event the birthplace of Houston's activism," Ray Hill says, "and the birthplace of Houston's GLBT people as a community."

"We marched past the Hyatt to the library plaza [as] a group of angry individuals being mistreated by a lot of elements in society, symbolized by Anita Bryant. But we marched back as a community, no longer angry but confident that we could make a difference in our lives. We could marshal the attention of the power brokers and it would ultimately result in some level of equality for us."

The protest demonstration's slogan that night was: *For one evening come out of your closet, you may never go back.*

"That proved to be true for hundreds of people," says Hill with pride. "Houston's gay and lesbian community actually became a community. Before Anita, gay community meant where the bars were; after Anita, gay community meant people." ■

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Anita Bryant

Everything isn't coming up citrus for Anita

by Sarah Richards

Imagine showing up for a press conference with the whole world watching—and you get a banana cream pie smack in the kisser. Anita Bryant's story is perhaps the greatest proof of that age-old saying, "What goes around, comes around."

Twenty-five years ago, "America's sweetheart" was busy touring the country, speaking out against homosexuality. For three years running, the Miss America runner-up had won *Good Housekeeping's* "Most Admired Woman in America" contest, and was squeezing a fruitful ad campaign with the Florida Citrus Growers that made her one of the most recognized faces in America.

And there were the books—many of them, and with titles like *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* and *At Any Cost*.

But to this day, it is Bryant's 1977 Save our Children campaign to repeal an ordinance she believed forced private and religious schools to hire gay teachers that won her the most notoriety. The boycotts, death threats, crank calls, poop, and voodoo dolls heaped upon Bryant eventually brought about her downfall. She lost her advertising gigs as well as her husband.

"If Stonewall was the match that started the modern gay liberation movement, then Anita Bryant was really the wildfire that spread across the entire country," James Sears, author of *Rebels, Rubyfruit and Rhinestones: Queering Space in the Stonewall South*, has said.

Fast forward 25 years. Once again, things aren't looking too rosy for Bryant. After purchasing the Music Mansion in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, Bryant and her new husband, former astronaut test crewman Charlie Dry, began producing a Christian show called *Anita With Love*. But low/no attendance meant the gig was shuttered.

Bryant could not be reached for comment, but verbiage on her website promises that it is undergoing the always portentous "transitional phase" with "exciting announcements forthcoming." No word yet, though, as to when ex-employees and other creditors will be paid. They are reportedly owed thousands of dollars in numerous states.

With reporting by the *St. Petersburg Times*

PRIDE PIX



David Lindsay. Age: 27. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Least as possible. **What's your favorite**

unhealthy indulgence?: Smoking. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Luke. **Who was the first person you told?:** Mom. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** I was always out.

Chris Donatella. Age: 40. **Occupation:** Self-employed/upholstery. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Tight mesh shirt from Basic Brothers. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Body women painting.

Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?: Marion Coleman. **Who was the first person you told?:** My dad. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** I became real with all women.



Ken Mingus. Age: 43. **Occupation:** Sales. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** TGRA chapter dress shirt, jeans, boots, and a cowboy hat. **What's your**



favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Beer. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Annise Parker. **Who was the first person you told?:** A friend at church. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** I was just relieved that I actually told someone.

Sophia Cheung. Age: 23. **Occupation:** X-Ray Student. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Sarah McLaughlan. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** RuPaul. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Monkeys dressed as Marilyn. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Live every moment you can 'cause life is too damn short! **Life's a bowl of:** chocolate.



Vincent Sanchez. Age: I still get ID-ed. **Occupation:** Banking. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Shorts, T-shirt, & baseball cap. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Bud Light. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Billy Bean & the gay Boy Scout leader. **Who was the first person you told?:** Myself. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** I grew taller.



Armando Orduna. Age: 28. **Occupation:** Community relations for the Children's Museum. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or**

Straight?: Straight. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Federico Garcia Lorca. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** John. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Eat breakfast. **Life's a bowl of:** bourbon on the rocks.



Jessica Arias. Age: 26. **Occupation:** Personal trainer. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Bi. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** My friend Tony. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Be yourself always.



Tony Arrington. Age: 32. **Occupation:** Physical therapist. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Shorts and T-shirt. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Beer. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** None. **Who was the first person you told?:** A friend. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** The way I dress.



INSIDE PRIDE



A history of the Pride movement
by Mark Willis

What we know as Pride began with a small civil disturbance in New York's Greenwich Village. Bars that attracted gay and lesbian customers were often subjected to police harassment, usually a raid, including the arrest of anyone in the bar deemed "deviant." In late June of 1969, a raid on one of these bars, the Stonewall Inn, resulted in several nights of conflict now called the Stonewall Riots. Although barely noticed at the time (and much smaller than many similar incidents of the era), it is the event that most of us consider the birth of our equal rights movement.

A year later, the events at the Stonewall were commemorated by a march in New York, as well as in several major cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco. The tone was one of protest rather than celebration, and most ended with a political rally rather than a festival.

Over the next several years this movement attempted to define its identity, moving from calling itself Gay Liberation and similar names, on to what we now call Pride. Even now, some locations don't call it Pride, for instance, the Alan Ross Freedom Parade in Dallas or Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras. Organizers in France and Germany use "Christopher Street Day" in recognition of the location of the Stonewall Inn. However, Pride is generally accepted as the overall term for the movement.

Over the years we have often been spurred to action by events that affected us

negatively. After Stonewall ignited the first wave of Pride activity, the wave continued in response to the homophobic campaigning of singer/orange juice queen Anita Bryant (see p. 50, "It Was 25 Years Ago Today") and the murder of gay San Francisco politician Harvey Milk. And in Sydney, Australia, police used brutal force to suppress the Aussies' first march, creating their own Stonewall. In response to these events, cities all over the country and world, including Houston, held their first gay march or rally.

In 1982, members from five of the major groups organizing these events met in Boston, and founded a network of support that is now known as InterPride.

Through the challenges of the '80s and '90s, the number of Pride celebrations increased, and spread all internationally. We estimate that there are nearly 400 Pride celebrations around the world. There are parades, marches, rallies, festivals, dances, picnics, proms, and any other type of event you can imagine. The smallest are a hundred people or less in rural communities or places where it's viewed as dangerous to gather and be identified as gay or lesbian. The mega-Prides of New York, San Francisco, Toronto, and Sydney attract more than 800,000 people. Some communities have a week or more of events, and some are on one day only. Most are in the month of June, but some have moved to the spring or autumn months to beat the heat. Some have even followed Houston's lead (we were the first!) and gone to a night parade.

We are fortunate to be in Houston, for we have the largest Pride parade in the South Central and Southwestern United States, and have one of the most diverse and inclusive group of participants and spectators anywhere. We have consistently been one of the leading organizations in InterPride and are respected for our stability and experience.

Every group needs a day to celebrate its identity. Whether it's St. Patrick's Day or Cinco de Mayo, Juneteenth or Bastille Day, a recognized holiday or season brings a diverse group together, creating unity, if for only a very short time. We have Pride. Having our community on display lets people know there is a whole new world to explore beyond the bars and nightclubs. When people know they are not alone, coming out becomes easier.

I wish everyone a festive Pride season, and hope you will attend some of the many events here in Houston, and even travel to experience Pride elsewhere. Even though it's my busiest month of the year, it's still one of my favorite holidays. I hope you will take advantage of all it has to offer, and enjoy it as much as I do.

Mark Willis has been involved with the Pride Committee of Houston since 1997 as both parade coordinator and as secretary. In 2000 he was elected to be one of the regional directors of InterPride, the International Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride Coordinators. (See InterPride's global Pride calendar at www.InterPride.org.) Originally from New Orleans, Willis has lived in Houston since 1991.



Female Pride Marshal

Herlinda Mela Contreras

Serving Pride on Tap

by Eric A.T. Dieckman



YVONNE FEECE

"I'm proud to give my women a place to go and have a good time and not be worried about this and that," says Herlinda "Mela" Contreras, 55, of her lesbian Tejano bar, Mela's, at 302 Tuam. "I'm proud I've been around as long as I have."

Mela's opened its doors in 1980. Back when the average non-Latino Houstonian labeled everyone Hispanic as "Mexican" and considered it scary to even enter a Tejano bar. Fortunately, Contreras says she encountered little to no resistance from the Latino community to her women's bar. And here it still is, through the tough times, through the ups and downs that come with bar ownership. ("It's kind of hard to own a women's bar," Contreras says. "They don't support the bar as much as men would. That's just the way they are.") How does one maintain the confidence to stride through all those highs and lows? Contreras says a lot has to do with the support she got from her family.

Born and raised in Houston, Contreras was one of 16 children. All of her nine sis-

ters, six brothers, and both parents knew at an early age that Contreras was gay. Yet no one ever objected. "My family, I guess, always knew I was gay, but we didn't really talk about it. They all accepted me." Of course there was the ubiquitous hassle from peers and outsiders, but never from family. "You know, family. They're always there for me, I'm always there for them."

Bar ownership demands a lot of one's time. These days, after almost half of her family has passed on, Contreras finds new family in the regulars at Mela's. The Jefferson Davis high school class of '68 graduate spends most of her time there, keeping shop with her partner, Eileen Ledgerwood, 39, at her side. Mela's fills such a tight niche, no other bar like it exists in town. The closest is NRG—although NRG is more of a guy's hangout, plus it's more Central American and Cuban, not so much the Tejano crowd. To find anything like Mela's, one would have to venture out to San Antonio. Niche aside, Mela's has changed. Contreras comments non-Hispanics are beginning to get over the aforemen-

tioned stereotype that Tejano bars are dangerous places where white folks (or *bolillos*, meaning "white bread") are not welcome. At Mela's can be found drinkers of any race, either sex, straight couples even, enjoying mixed drinks or spicy-cool *Micheladas*, a house favorite made with Mexican beer (preferably Corona) mixed with lime and hot sauce. Contreras might even be found taking a moment to chill with her drink of choice, Crown and Diet Coke.

As grand marshal of this year's Pride parade, Contreras is proud to be a woman who owns a bar for other Hispanic women. But she serves her community in more ways than that. "I'm there for the community, whatever that community is, whatever nationality. Anybody who comes to me for a fund-raiser, I've never told anybody no." Her fondest memory is of a Christmas three years ago. Contreras arranged for two impoverished families to receive a truckload each of furniture, food, and toys. "Seeing the kids, how their eyes just shined, it made me smile, made me feel really good inside. That one I always remember." ■

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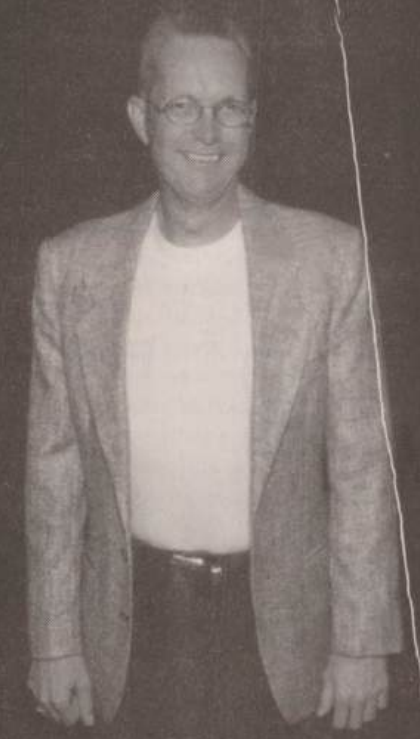
Male Pride Marshal



Rusty Mueller

Presenting
Empress Crystal

by Kay Dayus



To do drag or not to do drag. To be Crystal or to be Rusty. This is Rusty Mueller's dilemma as he rolls into the final stretch before his appearance in this year's Pride parade as the male grand marshal. Will he appear in the parade as Rusty or Crystal? That is the question.

Mueller is perhaps best known as his alter ego, Crystal Rae Lee Love, the blonde bombshell who struts her stuff as a drag artist in the Royal, Sovereign, and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, affectionately (and sometimes mysteriously) known as "The Court."

Wrong, wrong, insists Mueller, there is no mystery about the court. "There's nothing secretive. Some people think you have to be invited into the court; it's not true. We embrace anybody who wants to play our game and the court is one big game."

He says membership is open to anyone, not just gay men. "We also have lesbians and transgenders, and this year we even have a married heterosexual couple in the court."

And the court really is one big game, according to Mueller. They are mostly all flamboyant. And they strive to impress with titles like empress and emperor, prince and princess, and all the pomp and circumstance that go with them.

"The men wear white gloves and we bow and curtsy. We really think we're emperors and empresses, but when we wake up in the morning, we know we're not," he laughs.

He, or should we say Crystal, was elected empress some years ago and was regaled for a year as royalty in the court. More recently he was elected to serve on the International Court Council of the 35-year-old organization. And this is no small organization. There are over 65 courts throughout Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. The court in Houston has been around for 18 years.

The 45-year-old Mueller says when he was younger he always loved to watch the drag queens at the old gay bars such as the Old Plantation and the Outlaw Bar. "I still remember the first names of those drag queens and I just knew when I grew up that's what I wanted to be."

Get into drag he did, about 15 years ago, but it didn't turn out to be the money-making career he'd hoped for.

"I was neither the prettiest nor the most talented to earn a living that way," he says with a self-deprecating laugh. To preserve his drag career, he turned to the court. "Now I don't have to be the prettiest. I can still make a lot of money if I have to, but for others, not myself."

It takes a great stretch of the imagination to picture this quiet, thoughtful, soft-spoken man as the effervescent livelier self he loves to become. Once he puts on the dress, makeup, blonde wig, and three-inch heels, his personality changes.

"As Crystal, I'm more outgoing. Rusty is shyer. At least that's how it was in the beginning. Now, through Crystal, I am more outgoing as Rusty. But I am Rusty, a man who puts on a dress to make money."

Unlike his fun job as Crystal, Mueller's real occupation has been in the humdrum world of insurance. He is single but has been in two long-term relationships. He says he's still good friends with both those old flames. Talking to Mueller, that's not surprising.

His other fund-raising activities have been with the Colt 45's and the now-defunct Soiree/Aubergine. He is on the board of directors for the Montrose Clinic.

It's hard to tell who's looking forward to the parade most—he or Crystal. "This is the first time a drag artist who has been chosen grand marshal has been given the option to be either persona in the parade. Before, they had to go as a man. It was gender-specific."

You'll have to wait for the parade in June to see whether Rusty or Crystal puts in an appearance. One thing is for sure, Mueller will continue being Crystal for a long time, at least while he can still get his feet into those three-inch heels. "My feet hurt like hell when I'm in them," he says.

"I'll never get tired of the court. But there will come a time when Crystal will have to retire and take a back seat." He smiles wryly. "We're not ready yet. I am the empress who won't step down." ■

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Irv & Jane Smith

**PFLAG parents
progress from
shock to pride**

by Sarah Richards



Irv Smith remembers the day his son first revealed he was gay. He had been celebrating his 31st wedding anniversary with his wife at a Houston restaurant when the couple opened a letter addressed to them from their son. It was brief and to the point.

"He merely said, 'I'm moving to a new apartment. Here's the address. It's a one-bedroom apartment. My friend Gary is moving in with me. Love, Paul,'" recalls the 67-year-old retired oil engineer.

But the aftershocks of the letter were anything but brief.

The news that their only son was gay profoundly shocked the Smiths, sending them tumbling down a steep road of depression and fear.

"It was devastating," says Jane, sipping on an iced coffee at a Westheimer café. "I thought I knew how to raise children because I was a first-grade teacher. I thought, *Oh my God, I've done something awful*. I cried for three years."

But the Smiths told their son they would do their best to come to terms with his revelation. Six months passed before they attended their first Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) meeting. The topic of discussion that night was marching in the Pride parade. For two Texans who considered themselves "apathetic

Republicans" and members of the Methodist church, it was just too much.

"On the way back from the meeting, I said to Irv, 'Forget the parade. I just want to stop crying!'" says Jane, 66.

Nearly 10 years have passed since that first meeting—and what a decade it has been. On June 29, the Smiths will be perched on the back seat of a convertible, waving and grooving to the beats at Houston's annual Pride parade as the honorary grand marshals. They admit to having come a long way since the days they believed upbringing and environment caused a person to become homosexual.

"Our son's coming out gave us a real cause," says Jane.

After working on billboard campaigns and numerous conferences as well as coordinating PFLAG Houston's help line, Jane recently became a board member of the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Over the years, Irv has had editorial letters published in the likes of the *Wall Street Journal*. He and Jane have also provided guidance counselors at high schools in the Fort Bend district with information and pamphlets for gay teens.

Neither Jane nor Irv knew much about the gay community prior to their son's coming out.

"There were probably some gay rough-necks on the rigs I was working on, and they

were probably deeply closeted," says Irv. "When we were in high school, *fairy* was the word used for gay. I'd never heard the word *lesbian*."

After experiencing so much emotional upheaval—including the decision to leave the Methodist church for a Unitarian congregation—the couple decided they could help others going through similar situations by getting involved with PFLAG. They continue to work on promoting gay rights in the workplace and schools, and hope that recent court rulings like the one in Arkansas—in which a gay student was beaten, then successfully sued the local school district for failing to protect him—will convince businesses and schools alike that protecting sexual minorities is not merely an ethical requirement, but a financial must.

But it is undoubtedly the human cost of ignorance the Smiths have fought most arduously to end. For eight years, they watched their son's boyfriend struggle with a family unwilling to accept him for being gay.

"He would come to me and say, 'Why can you accept me, and yet my parents can't?'" Jane remembers. "It would touch us so much."

He later died from AIDS, having never told the Smiths he was sick.

"The lessons have been very painful," Jane remarks. "But they have been very good for us. It has kind of been like an awakening."



Grand Marshal Organization

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston

For 20 years, this organization has answered our LGBT questions

by Marene Gustin



For the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, being chosen as the organization Grand Marshal for the 2002 Pride parade is really more of a life time achievement award. Since 1982 the switchboard has aided the community by providing information on resources and counseling.

"The very first [gay switchboard] was in New York in the '70s," says switchboard manager Steven Jerome. "The need was to get information out about medicines for AIDS patients." Since then, GLBT switchboards have sprung up around the world and—like the group here—have undergone some changes. As AIDS became a pandemic, mainstream media began carrying information, and for a while switchboards concerned themselves more with social issues.

"They were an absolute critical resource in the early days to finding the community," Houston city council member Annise Parker says. "Now we're so *'en vogue'*, and there are many more opportunities to network and find events and clubs."

More than just providing news of clubs

and gay-friendly businesses, today's switchboard works as a contact for callers in crisis. Domestic violence and hate crimes against gays and lesbians may not have increased, "but they have become more visible," Jerome says. Many of the 180 calls a month are from people in need of immediate aid. Trained volunteers answer the crisis line at 713/529-3211, 24 hours a day. "We can refer people for counseling and even get volunteers to go with them to the hospital or to file a police report," Jerome says. He adds that the switchboard is the model in this country for "providing shelter for male victims of domestic abuse." The switchboard also fields e-mail inquiries via its website, www.gayswitchboardhouston.org.

Working part-time, Jerome is the switchboard's only paid employee; the other 21 workers are volunteers. The switchboard itself is housed in a tiny downstairs room at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. A year ago, the switchboard slid under the umbrella of the Montrose Counseling Center, which now handles the paperwork, grant filing, and other such

administrative tasks. Jerome says that relationship has been a lifesaver for the organization. As for being chosen grand marshal, "All the little elves on the switchboard are excited."

"I think all the grand marshals think it's a real honor to be chosen," says Dick Dickerson, chair of the parade's Grand Marshal Committee, "particularly since it's not the committee but the community that votes."

"And I think, I hope, it will bring more volunteers to the switchboard and more users," says Jerome. "We really need more bilingual call takers." Those wanting to volunteer can download the volunteer application off the website. Training is 42 hours of classroom instruction and then 24 monitored hours on the phone. Volunteers make a one-year commitment to one 4-hour shift per week.

The payoff? "That call that comes in," says Jerome, "and they just say, 'Hey, this was the first place I called when I came to town or came out—I just wanted to call back and say thanks.'"

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Humor
by Sally Sheklow

SING A SONG OF PRIDE

*Birds do it, bees do it,
even Irish bankers overseas do it—
let's do it, let's celebrate Pride*

Pop Quiz: Which is celebrated around the world by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people and our allies every year? (a) The Stonewall Rebellion (b) Stonewall Jackson, (c) Michael Jackson.

If you picked "a," congratulations.

Yes, at a gay bar called the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 27, 1969, during a routine raid, the patrons, fed up with constant police harassment, kicked and screamed and refused to get into the paddy wagons. They ripped up parking meters and threw Molotov cocktails and otherwise blew the minds of the police, who never expected mild-mannered dykes and sissies to go so berserk. Gay people and allies from all over Greenwich Village joined the melee and rioted in the streets for four days while the world watched on TV. What became known as the Stonewall Rebellion brought attention to gay people's struggle for equality and justice under the law. (Which, 33 years later, in case you're keeping tabs, we still don't have.)

But everyone already knows all that, right? Don't students learn about Stonewall in grade school where their teachers hand out little rainbow-striped Gay Pride flag outlines to color in? Don't news commentators review the Stonewall Rebellion every year and discuss its profound significance? Don't rabbis and ministers give special sermons on Gay Pride Day to remind their flocks to love your neighbor, regardless of sexual orientation? No? Wait. Let me sit down. I am shocked. You mean to tell me that every year I traipse around a grassy park all day without enough sunscreen on, listen to music, eat chocolate-dipped ice cream, and run into old lovers and friends whose names I suddenly realize I no longer remember, all in celebration of a holiday you didn't even know about?

Gay Pride Day has happened every year since Stonewall, but it is NOT pre-printed in my Day Runner date book like other important occasions: "June Bank Holiday—Ireland" for example. (And I mean no offense

to Irish bankers.) But we're a strong people and we're not going to let a little thing like being left out of the calendar keep us from asserting our right to tromp through the grass risking sunburn and forgetting old friends' names. Every year hundreds of thousands of us bravely come out of the closet (or the board room or the PTA or wherever) and participate in Gay Pride Day celebrations. We gather in communities around the world to celebrate human diversity, lobby for equality, and drip melting chocolate on our T-shirts.

Don't rabbis and ministers give special sermons on Gay Pride Day to remind their flocks to love your neighbor, regardless of sexual orientation?

exercising what they call their "freedom of speech" and you'll end up with a kazillion e-mail spams inviting you to ENLARGE YOUR PENIS!!!! I get these messages every day and I sure wish I knew who to call to say that we don't even have any penises in our house. But it's just as hard (excuse the expression) to stop the EARN \$6,000 A WEEK WORKING FROM HOME!!!! messages that fill my e-mail in-box. I have yet to get a message that says "ACHIEVE EQUAL RIGHTS!!!!"

That's the message you'll get at Gay Pride Day. Once you find out where it is, come on out (so to speak)—everybody's welcome. I would love to see you there. Come join the festivities in the park and groove on the music, listen to speakers, sign a petition, buy a rainbow bumper sticker, meet some new people. Heck, I'll even introduce you to my friends, if I can remember their names.

Sally Sheklow lives and writes in Eugene, Oregon, where she performs with the WYMPROV! comedy improvisation troupe. Her column appears in several news-weeklies and magazines across the country. Send comments to sally@wypmprov.com.



PRIDE PIX



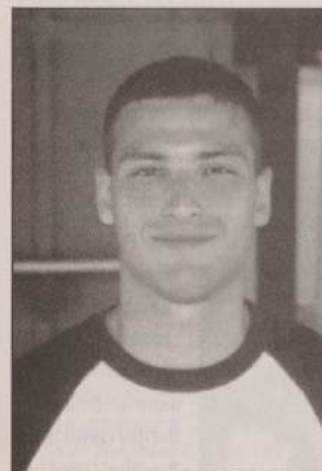
Dane Powell. Age: 23. Occupation: Retail sales. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** A wool turtleneck & flannel lined pants—Houston can be cold in the middle of summer. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** After psycho boyfriends, it's beer! **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** George Michael—he still came out ahead of his situation and always helps out GLBT youth & causes. **Who was the first person you told?:**

My best friend from high school; she was totally cool about it. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** My sex life.

Debbie Storrs. Occupation: Constuction/property Management. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** As little as possible with this weather. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Pushing the envelope—staying out way too late, too often. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Gloria Steinem. **Who was the first person you told?:** My first crush's mother. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** My underwear.

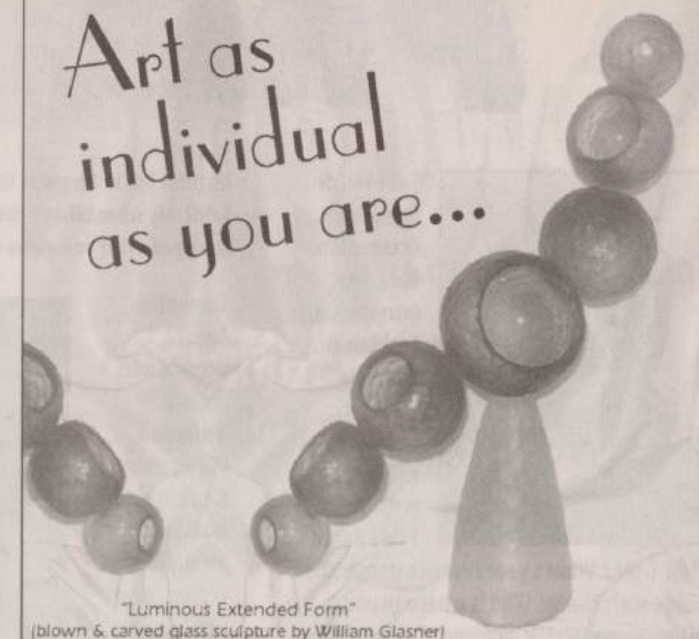


Damien C. Torres. Age: 20. Occupation: Massage therapist. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Ian McKellen.



What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?: Limp wrist. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Male strippers! **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** When something doesn't go your way, let it slide off your back—pick up and keep going, life is too short to dwell on the past. **Life's a bowl of:** strawberries.

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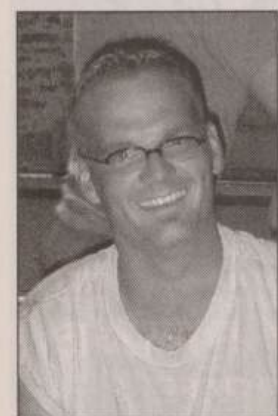
PRIDE PIX



Sallie Woodell.
Age: 25.
Occupation: Bookstore manager. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:**

My HRC T-shirt. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Alcohol. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** The girlfriend of the woman in California who was killed by dogs, who is fighting for emotional & other damages; and Rita Mae Brown. **Who was the first person you told?:** My sister. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** My perception of people, treatment of gays, and the reaction when people find out that I'm gay.

Corbin Young.
Age: 38.
Occupation: Merchandiser. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Sweets. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Rosie O'Donnell. **Who was the first person you told?:** My brother. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** The ability to show affection openly.



John Brown. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Gallery Furniture T-shirt. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** This and that. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:**

Mattress Mack. **Who was the first person you told?:** My sister. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** Drink prices.

Tammy Tran
Age: 22.
Occupation: Hotel & Restaurant Management **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Ellen DeGeneres. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** RuPaul. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Women flashing! **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** "Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for the future." **Life's a bowl of:** luscious cherries.

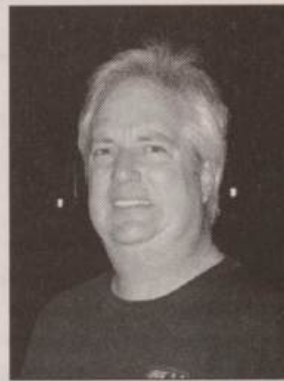


Rattaele Soggiu.
Age: 29. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Oscar Wilde. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Celine Dion. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Fashion. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** *Vivi ogni giorno come fosse l'ultimo!* (Live every day as if it is your last!!) **Life's a bowl of:** dreams.



Wade Wilson. **Age:** 42. **Occupation:** Art education director. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Artist Ross Bleckner. He paints brilliantly and supports the community. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Boys who call everyone "girl." **What would make the parade even more fun?:** A

float of Houston TV weathermen. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Kill 'em with kindness. Always take the high road, the view is better. **Life's a bowl of:** oxymorons.



Tammy Yoder. **Age:** 33. **Occupation:** Self-employed, owner Chulo's Icehouse. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Straight. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** John Nagy. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Cher. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Fireworks. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Life is too short to be miserable. **Life's a bowl of:** beer caps.



Adam Esguena. **Age:** 24. **Occupation:** Photo lab manager. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Almost nothing. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Strawberry cheesecake. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Mr. Dalton DeHart—he's the best. **Who was the first person you told?:** Both of my parents; they're completely cool. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** The atmosphere. It's more fun being in the gay crowd than the other crowd.



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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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Pride Week 2002

Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Pride 2002 comprises nine days of social, cultural, educational, and charitable events sponsored by the Pride Committee of Houston and other GLBT community organizations.

While Houston Pride celebrations of the past several years have lasted a month or more, this year's festivities are much more manageable and focused in what we on the Pride Committee hope will be a more meaningful series of events for Houston's GLBT community.

Another change aiming toward a more meaningful celebration is in the scheduling of events. Between the Pride Kickoff Party on Friday, June 21, and the world-famous nighttime Pride parade on Saturday, June 29, is a week of community-sponsored events. Each day has a different focus to

emphasize the wide diversity of our community: Saturday, June 22, is Health & Recreation Day; Sunday, June 23, Family & Youth Day; Monday, June 24, Community Awareness Day; Tuesday, June 25, Commemoration Day; Wednesday, June 26, Spirituality Day; Thursday, June 27, Pride Worldwide Day; and Friday, June 28, Arts Appreciation Day.

Arts Appreciation Day begins the exciting parade weekend with the very special presentation of the first annual Pride Cabaret, "Before the Parade Passes By," at the Alley Theatre. Then Houston Pride 2002 climaxes with the exuberant Pride parade on Saturday, June 29. There are several ways to take full advantage of all the festive activities being offered during this year's parade weekend. Purchase bleacher seating—the best spot for watching the Pride parade—for yourself

and your friends. Call 713/529-6979 for information. Visiting from out-of-town? Spend parade weekend at the Holiday Inn Select near Greenway Plaza, two miles from the parade site. Call 1-800/HOLIDAY for reservations and use group booking code PRI for a flat rate of \$69 per room per night. And join us at Rich's Houston, 2401 San Jacinto, host of the official Pride parties on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Listed here are the events scheduled as of press time. For a complete up-to-date listing, check out the Pride Committee website, www.pridehouston.org. All events are open to the public and attire is casual, unless otherwise noted. Since event details are subject to change, contact the individual event sponsors for any changes, cancellations, or additional information.

—Troy Christensen
Houston Pride Committee

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Pride Kickoff Party

Meet and mingle with fellow community members and enjoy a cash bar and fabulous family entertainment at this all-ages event starting Pride 2002. 8 p.m.–2 a.m., Sonoma, 1415 California. \$10 donation. 713/529-6979, info@pridehouston.org.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Health & Recreation Day

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center Art Festival

A number of local artists, including David Aylsworth, Patrick Palmer, Tori McMillan,

and Vera Taylor, will have work in the community center art festival. Refreshments and live music. Proceeds from the silent-auction art sale will benefit the center. 7:30 p.m., 803 Hawthorne, 713-524-3818. \$10.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

Family & Youth Day

Pride Family and Youth Fun Day
JPMorganChase sponsors a family picnic at Hermann Park for GLBT families and friends with an emphasis on activities for children, including a visit to the Houston Zoo. Special guests from the Houston Energy, our champion women's professional football team, will be on hand to speak. 1–4

p.m., Hermann Park near Circle Drive, next to Harlon's BBQ. Discount adult zoo tickets and special Harlon's BBQ box lunches available. 713/216-0372, donna.h.rickard@chase.com.

MONDAY, JUNE 24

Community Awareness Day

Grand Marshal Reception
The Royal, Sovereign, and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc., introduces the grand marshals of the 2002 Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Pride Parade, along with grand marshals of parades past. Meet some of the most heroic and inspirational

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members of Houston's GLBT community and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres. 6-9 p.m., Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos. 713/529-6979.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25 Commemoration Day

GLBT History, Houston's First Decade: 1975-1985

Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston (SLAGH) presents a panel of speakers who will discuss their personal experiences on the front lines of the GLBT rights movement. Speakers include Ray Hill, citizen provocateur; Phyllis Frye, the transgender menace; and Donna Garrett, lesbian poet extraordinaire. Donations benefit Community Awareness for Transgender Support, Civil Patrol, Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History, and SLAGH. 6-8:30 p.m., Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University, 3001 Clayburn. No charge, but donations requested. 713/227-1717, jerry@simoneaux.com, www.stonewall-lawyers.org.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 Spirituality Day

Interfaith Pride Worship Service

The diverse spiritual traditions of the GLBT community will be celebrated at this interfaith worship service. A reception follows the service. 7-9:30 p.m., Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 N. Braeswood. 713/466-4438, vschill@hcupl.net.

Introduction to

Nichiren Dai-shonin's Buddhism

Learn how to become happy in this lifetime by chanting "nam myoko renge kyo." Sponsored by SGI-USA Living Out Loud, Houston's gay Buddhist group. 7-8:30 p.m., 3465 W. Alabama. 713/622-6181, rosewoman57@hotmail.com.

Comfort & Joy

Jack Heifner's comedy is presented in a benefit performance for the Pride Committee and the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History. Join Scott and Tony, a happily married gay couple, in the midst of a Christmas disaster created by the arrival of ze many members of their respective families and an unusual fairy who teaches the others about love, hope, and forgiveness. 8-10 p.m., Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd. \$10. 713/682-3525, tsuburbia@hotmail.com, www.theatresuburbia.com.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27 Pride Worldwide Day

HRC Pride

Invite a friend for a introduction to the Human Rights Campaign Federal Club in this Pride celebration with cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres. 6:30-8 p.m., Farrago Restaurant, 318 Gray. 713/416-8470, www.hrc.org. No cost.

"Love Knows No Borders"—

A GLBT Immigration Talk

The Houston chapter of the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force presents a GLBT immigration talk by attorney-at-law John Nechman. An emphasis



Stampede performs at Baile Internacional 2002 (see June 28)

will be placed on the right of gay and lesbian binational couples to make a life together in the U.S. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. Donation requested. 281/485-5097, sdryam@houston.rr.com, www.lgirtf.org.

National HIV Testing Day

The Montrose Clinic provides free HIV testing in conjunction with National HIV Testing Day. Testing is also available for syphilis and hepatitis C, and free condoms and lube are available. Testing will also be done at Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., 8 p.m.-12 midnight, Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos, and EJ's, 2517 Ralph. 713/830-3000, eroland@montrosecclinic.org, www.montrosecclinic.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28 Arts Appreciation Day

"Before the Parade Passes By"

Join us for this very special presentation of the first annual Pride Cabaret, just before the Pride parade passes by. Some of the finest entertainers of the Houston stage perform your favorite Broadway melodies in a musical celebration of our lives. Directed by Ken Williamson, "Before the Parade Passes By" is presented by the Pride Committee of Houston and benefits Houston's Pride festivities. Also benefiting Houston Pride will be a silent auction. 8-10 p.m., Alley Theatre, 615 Texas, 713/228-8421, 713/529-6979, info@pridehouston.org, \$25-\$100.

Baile Internacional 2002

This black-tie celebration and dance is a fundraiser for gay and lesbian community groups. Formal attire. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Ripley House Ballroom, 4410 Navigation, 713/522-9564, lindamorales77006@yahoo.com. \$250 table, \$25 advance, \$30 at the door.

GoGirls Rock!

GoGirlsMusic.com, the Houston-based online community of independent women artists, is producing an all-Pride, all-women show, co-sponsored by the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Liviya Compean, Carol Plunk, Astrogin, Amanda's Waiting, and Beth Puorro will perform. Rhythm Room, 1815 Washington, 8 p.m. \$7.

Dirty Little Showtunes... Encore!

Laughter was never this nasty... again... in this musical revue with new songs. 8-10 p.m., Theatre New West, 1415 California, 713/394-0464, joeleewatts@aol.com. \$20.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

2002 Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Parade

Experience the fun and excitement you've come to expect from America's original nighttime Pride Parade and the South-west's largest GLBT event, along with new announcers' stages, new lighting, and other surprises. 8:45-11 p.m., Westheimer, Woodhead to Whitney. 713/529-6979. ■

PRIDE PIX



Evelyn Mitchell. Age: 43. Occupation: Correctional officer. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Lesbian. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:

My gay Pride shirt & shorts. What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Smoking cigarettes. Who was the first person you told?: My children. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: Unconditionally happy!

E.J. Nixon. Age: 29. Occupation: Legal field. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay.

What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: Shorts & a tank top.

Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?: Bill Clinton. Who was the first person you told?: My best friend. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: No more caring what people think.

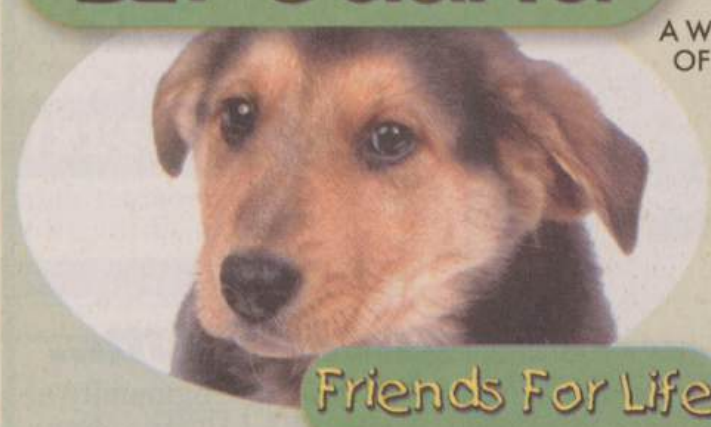


Tony Angel. Age: 37. Occupation: RN. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: It depends... What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Alcohol. Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?: Anyone but George "W" Bush Jr. Who was the first person you told?: Jerry



Gross. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: My career—I was a minister in a previous life.

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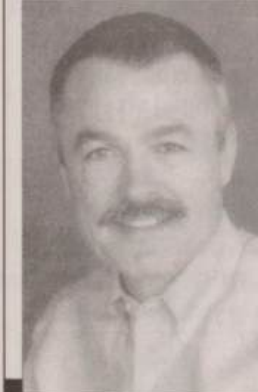
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PRIDE PIX



Allen Cole. Age: 37. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: Mr. Outpost 2002 Sash. What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Eating. Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?: Charlie Packeo. Who was the first person you told?: My mother. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: The self-respect I had for myself.

Charlie Packeo. Age: 44. Occupation: Country singer. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: I'll be wearing a face full of Pride! What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Chocolate. Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?: Harvey Milk. Who was the first person you told?: My mother. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: I felt total freedom and joyful that both my parents accepted me!



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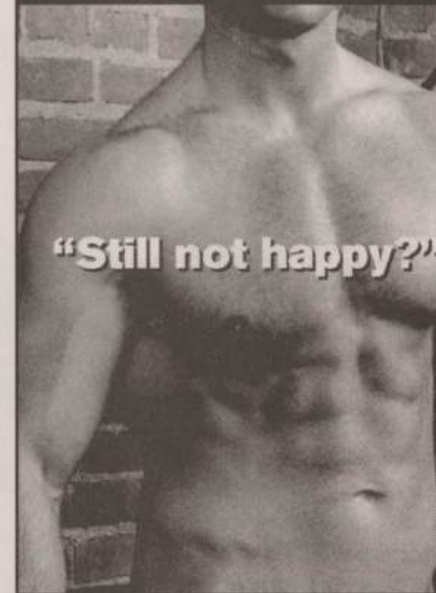
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PRIDE PIX



Charles. Age: 46. **Occupation:** Business owner. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Shorts.

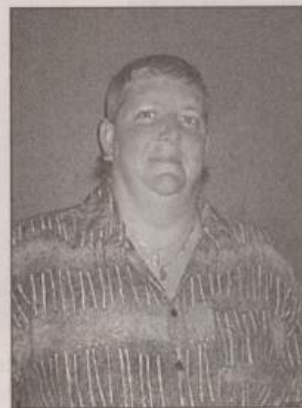
What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Swimming nude! **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Me. **Who was the first person you told?:** My best friend. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** Being myself.



Tom Schwenk. Age: 45. **Occupation:** Owner of consulting company. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Paul Monette.

What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?: Young guys with attitude. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Marching bands, majorettes, etc. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Live your beliefs or you will start believing in how you live. Be honest. **Life's a bowl of:** lube.

Cheri Ginn. Age: 39. **Occupation:** OR tech. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** My father. **What gay fad/mannerism/**



you've received and what is the best advice you would give?: Be yourself, do the best you can to have fun.

Douglas Seifert. Age: 39. **Occupation:** Carpenter. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Ricky Martin.

What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?: Richard Simmons. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Less stereotypes. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Be yourself always. **Life's a bowl of:** fruit loops.

Coco Brown. Age: 25. **Occupation:** Professional. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What will you be**



celeb do you wish you could never see again?: Hate crimes. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** A little more of everything! **What's the best advice**

wearing at the Pride parade?: Tank top & Capri's. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Chocolate. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Audre Lorde. **Who was the first person you told?:** My best friend. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** Being accepting of myself.

Patrick Collins. Age: 45. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Just enough. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Brownies. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Jack Bell. **Who was the first person you told?:** Myself. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** My wardrobe.



George Maida. Age: 66. **Occupation:** Retired. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** James Baldwin. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Michael Jackson. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Less drag. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Be yourself! **Life's a bowl of:** Blue Bell's Rocky Road.



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Out of Town

by Andrew Collins

GREAT NATIONAL PARK VACATIONS

Visitation at America's best-known national parks has skyrocketed in recent years, so it's no surprise that these monuments to natural scenery and wide-open spaces have become increasingly popular with gays and lesbians. Whether you're into camping, serious hiking, and off-road trekking, or you're more likely to stay in a romantic lodge, check out the park museums, and spend most of your time in your car, you will be happy to know that most national parks offer a balance of both mellow and rigorous diversions.

The parks described below offer a broad range of activities. Some of them can be visited as day trips from nearby gay resorts or gay-popular cities, while others require plenty of time and planning. Whatever your level of interest in the outdoors, you are likely to delight in at least one of these adventures.

Canyonlands/Arches National Park, Utah

An advantage to touring the national parks of southeastern Utah is the region's small network of gay-friendly inns. There are five national parks and one national monument in these parts, but you need at least a week merely to sample them, and perhaps two or three weeks for serious exploration. First-timers might want to focus on arguably the most dramatic of these natural wonders, Arches and Canyonlands national parks, which lie close together near the funky and low-keyed town of Moab.

On its eventual journey to the Grand Canyon, the Colorado River cuts through the southern edge of Arches and then—where it's joined by the Green River—snakes around the brilliant red sandstone formations of Canyonlands. The latter park takes days to investigate thoroughly. It comprises four districts, all miles from one another by car. In any of these areas you will discover secluded campgrounds where at night the dark, starry skies put on a spellbinding show. Hiking and mountain-biking trails penetrate much of the park's interior, and white-water rafting is a favorite pastime through the dramatic slot canyons and narrow river gorges.

At Arches, on the other hand, you can get at least a nominal sense of the terrain and layout in one day. More than 2,000 sandstone arches—some of them as tall as 50 feet—dot this jagged, almost surreal landscape. A



The spectacular red-rock geological formations at Arches National Park delight—and surprise—thousands of visitors every year.

paved road allows access to most attractions, but you have to get out and follow one of the many trails to truly appreciate the park. The must-see is Delicate Arch, reached via a moderately strenuous 3-mile round-trip trail (with an ascent of 500 feet).

Moab abounds with eateries and shops, and the lesbian-owned Mt. Peale Resort is a short drive south. This destination is convenient to one of the Canyonlands entrances and enjoys a spectacular setting at the base of Mt. Peale.

Sample driving distances: Salt Lake, Utah (225 miles), Aspen, Colorado (230 miles), Las Vegas, Nevada (450 miles).

Mt. Rushmore National Memorial/ Badlands National Park, South Dakota

Making a trip to South Dakota's Mt. Rushmore and Badlands involves a bit of effort. You don't typically stumble by these parks on your way somewhere else, since they are quite far from any major cities. Consequently, these two fascinating national parks remain relatively uncrowded year-round.

Mt. Rushmore, part of western South Dakota's Black Hills National Forest, has been a source of inspiration and intrigue since Gutzon Borglum and a team of stonecutters carved the images of four U.S. presidents onto its face in the 1930s. These remarkably detailed likenesses of Washington, Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Lincoln even played a supporting role in the Alfred Hitchcock thriller *North by Northwest* (in which Martin Landau played a villain with an obvious gay crush on his cohort, played by James Mason). You can drive to a viewing platform at the base of Rushmore, taking in the awe-inspiring view, and—in summer—visit the sculptor's studio.

From here, scenic roads lead south

through Custer State Park, where enormous buffalo often lumber alongside the road. Drive north along U.S. 385 to see the rollicking Old West mining towns of Lead (pronounced "lead") and Deadwood. Or make the two-hour drive east on I-90 to Badlands National Park, where Highway 240 loops by scenic overlooks and several trailheads. Not as singularly striking as Rushmore, the Badlands are no less unusual to look at. Endless acres of bizarre rock formations—colorfully eroded spires, buttes, hoodoos, and pinnacles—meet with a 65,000-acre wilderness area that consists mostly of ancient grasslands and prairies. Mountain biking, rock climbing, fishing, and bird-watching are among the most popular outdoors activities.

Sample driving distances: Rapid City, South Dakota (15 to 65 miles), Denver, Colorado (450 to 500 miles), Minneapolis, Minnesota (575 to 625 miles).

Joshua Tree National Park, California

Just a short drive from the world-famous gay resort of Palm Springs, this 800,000-acre park at the convergence of the deathly hot Colorado and slightly cooler Mojave deserts feels miles away from civilization. It looks almost lunar-like in places. Of course, the park is famous for the thousands of curious-looking Joshua trees for which it is named. These distinctive members of the lily family grow about an inch a year and bloom winsome white flowers ever so rarely.

This aside, seeing a Joshua tree is but a minor reason to visit. Scenic drives abound—the 6-mile spur out to 5,100-foot Keys View affords breathtaking vistas over the entire Coachella Valley and even as far as Mexico on the clearest days. Several short but fascinating trails penetrate the park's myriad ecosystems: A brief scramble through the Cholla Cactus Garden will introduce you to the regional flora, while the 1.3-mile High View Nature Trail entails a 300-foot ascent to magnificent Summit Peak. Longer trails past piles of massive boulders and by oasis-like hot springs offer the possibility of spying bighorn sheep and golden eagles.

Sample driving distances: Palm Springs, California (50 miles), Los Angeles, California (150 miles), Phoenix, Arizona (270 miles).

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina/Tennessee

Geologists believe that the Great Smoky Mountains, which straddle the Tennessee and North Carolina border, are the world's oldest mountains. There is little question that this park ranks among the nation's oldest tourist attractions, and the crowds that permeate its every square mile can cause frus-

tration in high season. Still, if you have never seen the Smokies, battling the slow traffic and heavily trod trails is worthwhile to experience this 500,000-acre park's ethereal beauty.

Favorite activities include hiking, especially to Chimney Tops, whose summit is reached via an invigorating four-mile round-trip jaunt. The Appalachian Trail cuts a significant swath through the park, affording fine views of the many rugged mountain peaks, including the highest point in Tennessee, 6,643-foot Clingmans Dome. Keep your eyes open for wildlife; some 2,000 black bear, plus bobcats, deer, and wild hogs make their home in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Favorite accommodations in the park include the Le Conte Lodge, which at nearly 6,600 feet is a memorable setting for an overnight. Day-trippers can get a lot out of a visit here simply by driving through some of the main routes and making a couple of short hikes. Take Newfound Gap Road for some of the best views or plan a tubing trip down Deep Creek on a hot day.

The Cherokees first called these mountains Shaconage, meaning "blue, like smoke," because of the mist that frequently envelops the park each summer. Sadly, these days, auto emissions and pollution from the region's coal-fired power plants turn the Smokies blue. It's a reminder, of course, to make every possible effort to preserve these magnificent parks before little is left of them to save.

Sample driving distances: Knoxville, Tennessee (50 miles), Asheville, North Carolina (75 miles), Atlanta, Georgia (190 miles).

Andrew Collins authored the recently updated and expanded Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and six regional gay guides for Fodor's.

THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK

Canyonlands/Arches National Park

Canyonlands: 2282 S. West Resource Blvd., Moab, UT 84532, 435/719-2313 or 435/719-2100, www.nps.gov/arch; Arches: Box 907, Moab, UT 84532, 435/719-2299 or 435/719-2100, www.nps.gov/arch; Mt. Peale Resort: 1415 E. Hwy. 46, Old La Sal, VT 84530, 435/686-2284 or 888/687-3253, www.moab-canyonlands.com/mipeale.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

107 Park Headquarters Rd., Gatlinburg, TN 37738, 865/436-1200, www.nps.gov/grsm. Joshua Tree National Park: 74485 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277, 760/367-5500, www.nps.gov/jotr.

Mt. Rushmore National Memorial/ Badlands National Park

Mount Rushmore: Box 268, Keystone, SD 57751, 605/574-2307, www.nps.gov/moru; Badlands: Box 6, Interior, SD 57750, 605/433-5361, www.nps.gov/badl.

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PRIDE PIX



Mary.
Age: 34.
Occupation:
Psychologist.
Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Bi. What's your favorite unhealthy

indulgence?: Smoking cigs. Who was the first person you told?: My parents. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: Acceptance!

Matthew Baker. Age: 26. Occupation: Bartender/student. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: As



Matthew Shepard. Who was the first person you told?: My first trick. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: My self-confidence.

Xavier Luna, a.k.a. Selena St. John. Age: You don't ask a lady that question! Occupation: Ophthalmic tech. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What GLBT writer,

little as possible. What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Drugs/alcohol. Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:



artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Pavi Lee Love. What gay fad/mannerism/celeb

do you wish you could never see again?: No one! We are all good! What would make the parade even more fun?: Air conditioning. What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?: Always thank people for helping you get where you are. Life's a bowl of: pee pee's.

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HIV/AIDS CLINICAL RESEARCH TRIALS

Clinical research trials and the many HIV-infected patients who volunteer their participation have driven the progress made in the treatment of HIV/AIDS these past years, resulting in improved health and quality of life for many persons now living with HIV/AIDS. The AIDS Clinical Trials Unit (ACTU) at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston has been performing all phases of clinical research trials for the treatment of HIV/AIDS and its complications since 1992. The ACTU at UTMB conducts research trials sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and by pharmaceutical companies.

Clinical trials are carefully designed studies which investigate the safety and effectiveness of medicines and therapies in treating HIV and associated opportunistic infections. Most trials offered at the ACTU provide study drug(s), study-related clinic visits, exams and laboratory tests at no cost to study participants.

To find out more about currently enrolling studies or volunteering as a study participant, please call toll free **1-877-324-ACTU (2288)**.

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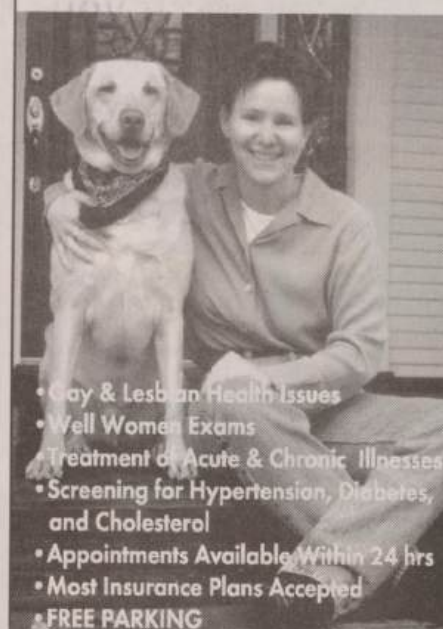


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Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's July issue is 5 p.m., Wednesday, June 12.

JUNE

Weekly (Mon.-Sun.)

HIV Testing. The Montrose Clinic now offers free confidential HIV testing every day of the week at the following locations. **Monday:** Keys West (817 W. Dallas), 8 pm-midnight. **Tuesday:** The Club Houston (2205 Fannin), 8 pm-midnight. **Wednesday:** Mary's (1022 Westheimer), 4-8 pm; the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center (803 Hawthorne), 6-9 pm; Ripcord (715 Fairview), 9 pm-midnight; E's (2517 Ralph), 10 pm-1 am; and Midtowne Spa (3100 Fannin), 10 pm-1 am. **Thursday:** The Outpost (1419 Richmond), 4 pm-8 pm; Brazos River Bottom (2400 Brazos), 8 pm-midnight; Cousins (817 Fairview), 8 pm-midnight; and Toyz Disco (5322 Glenmont), 10 pm-1 am. **Friday:** The Meatrack (2915 San Jacinto), 10 pm-2 am; E's (2517 Ralph), 10 pm-1 am; and Midtowne Spa (3100 Fannin), 10 pm-1 am. **Saturday:** Viviana's (5219 Washington), 11 pm-2 am. **Sunday:** Club Inergy (5750 Chimney Rock), 9 pm-midnight. The clinic also offers classes for those newly diagnosed with HIV or Hepatitis C. For more info: 713/830-3000.

2 & 15 (Sun. & Sat.)

Wellness and Psychic Expos. Explore alternative healthcare medicine &

products, including vitamins & magnets. Try aromatherapy, acupressure, & reflexology. Consult top Houston psychics. CenterPoint, 1920 Hollister. Info: 713-932-7224 or www.centerpointhouston.com. Starting June 3: classes in pilates, yoga, tai chi, feng shui, and meditation.

8 (Sat.)

Lesbian Health Initiative's annual health fair includes free mammograms (by appointment only), 8 am-4 pm @ Resurrection MCC, corner of TC Jester and 11th Street. For more info, e-mail LHIHouston00@aol.com.

8 (Sat.)

"Babes in Boots" Dance Party for women & friends has been rescheduled for tonight. The event will feature the best dance music from the '80s, '90s, and the new millennium. It'll be unrestrained fun from 9 pm-2 am @ the Engine Room (one of Houston's premier music venues), 1515 Pease (downtown, between LaBranch & Crawford). Admission \$15. For more info: www.hwfestival.org/dance.htm.

8 (Sat.)

Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride 5K Run/Walk. The 3.1-mile race along Memorial Dr. between Sabine St. & Vaughn Dr. is an official part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 2002 and benefits

AssistHers. The race starts at 7:30 am and will conclude with a party on Sabine Bridge and presentation of awards & door prizes. All participants will receive a T-shirt. Fee is \$18. To download a registration form, go to www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html. Forms are also available at the Memorial Park tennis center, Lobo, & Crossroads Market. Online registration: www.SignMeUpSports.com. To volunteer, call Mac Crone at 713/661-8919.

8 & 9 (Sat. & Sun.)

Celebration! Political upheaval, civil rights, Stonewall, and the liberation of the human spirit—from Motown to Mama Cass, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston celebrates the '60s with the tunes you love to sing. Take a groovy trip back to decade of peace & love at 8 pm on Saturday, 3 pm on Sunday, @ Heinen Theater, 3517 Austin at Holman, on the Houston Community College central campus in Midtown. Tickets are available online at www.gmch.org/tickets or through Box Office Tickets at 800/494-8497 or TDD 888/833-8497.

9 (Sun.)

Whirlpool! Party Texas presents the 14th Annual Pool Party! Starting at a private residence for a few hundred people, this party has outgrown its

INFO NEEDED FOR YOUR EVENT LISTING: a few lines of info about your event; date/time; cost; location/address; organization name; AND two phone numbers—one for OutSmart to reach you for questions and one for OutSmart readers to get more info on your event. Mail info to: OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston 77006. Fax info to: 713/522-3275. E-mail info to: calendar@outsmartmagazine.com. NO LISTINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—WED., JUNE 12.

former location, becoming Houston's largest annual poolside event and still growing! Giveaways, Mr. Party Texas contest, and much more! The Pool Party is followed by the 3rd annual Swimsuit Party at Rich's nightclub, conveniently just a block away. Everyone ages 21 and up welcome. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door: 1-7 pm at Club Houston, 2200 Fannin (downtown), 713/659-4998. For more info: 713/859-7988. Tickets available at Rich's, Basic Brothers, or with a credit card online at www.partytx.com.

14 (Fri.)

ComedySportz, an improvisational comedy show, celebrates Father's Day. So, if you have a father, grandfather, or father-in-law, or any other form of fatherhood recognized in the state of

Texas, you can enjoy the improvisational comedic services of ComedySportz alongside your childhood hero, and they'll let your fatherly advisor in for free. 8 pm @ Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. at 17th St. Admission is \$10 (for all those who are not fathers). For more info/reservations: 713/868-1444.

15 (Sat.)

Jade Esteban Estrada in San Antonio. Latin pop star, performance artist, gay activist, & director Jade Esteban Estrada will be honored in his hometown as grand marshal at the 20th annual San Antonio Pride Parade and Festival 2002. The San Antonio native is a LGBT "Texas treasure" to the community because he is the only Texan ever to have earned international recognition for his work & visibility for lesbian & gay rights on an international level. For more on Estrada, visit www.getjaded.com.

15 (Sat.)

Grey Party XX. Community artists & graphic designers are invited to submit poster entries for this coming October's Grey Party XX, Houston's HIV/AIDS charities annual circuit party. The winning design, to be featured on party invitations, advertisements, & as part of the event location's decor, is to incorporate an "industrial theme" that reflects the group's long-standing signature image of male prowess. Judges for the competition will be this year's hosts, June 15 is the deadline for all submissions. The winner will be announced the week of July 1. Artists & graphic designers who would like to enter their work contact Bruce Chambers, president of Grey Party XX, at 713/529-9304 or 713/822-1577.

22 (Sat.)

2002 Summer Print Sale. Houston Center for Photography features work by over 40 local & regional artists. 10 am-6 pm @ Gremillion & Co. Fine Art Inc., 2501 Sunset Blvd. Valet parking will be available, and music & refreshments will be provided. Free and open to the public. Info: 713/529-4755.

27 (Thu.)

Family to Family Adoptions, a nonprofit licensed agency, is offering a free adoption seminar discussing how to adopt a child in less than one year. They currently have programs in the U.S., China, Guatemala, Russia, Vietnam, & other countries. They work with single men, single women, & couples 25 to 65 years of age. A free informational is included. 6:30-8:30 pm @ Bellaire Hospital, 5314 Dashwood, Bellaire, TX. For more info: 281/342-4042; e-mail info@fam2fam.org or fam2fam@aol.com; website www.fam2fam.org.

28 (Fri.)

Hispanic Black Tie Soiree. A Baile Steering Group has formed to bring back the popular Hispanic black tie soiree & dance held during Houston's Lesbian & Gay Pride Week. This year's theme, "Baile Internacional 2002," embraces the different cultures, nationalities, & ethnicities in our diverse community. Performing will be Tejano Music Awards nominee, Grupo Stampede. Monies raised at the dance will benefit lesbian & gay community groups. 9 pm @ the Ripley House Ballroom, 4410 Navigation. Tickets/info: Linda Morales at 713/522-9564.

28 (Fri.)

GoGirlsRock! Houston Pride. A "Girls Night Out" for the women of Houston features live music 8 pm-Melinda Mones (Houston); 8:45 pm—Astrogin (Dallas); 9:30 pm—Amanda's Waiting (New York City); 10:30 pm—Beth Puorro & members of Echostet (Austin); 11:30 pm—Carol Plunk (Memphis); 12:30 am—Liviya Compean (Houston). Tag team emcees for the evening: Carol Wyatt (began 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at Meteor); Chelsea Beauchamp (local singer/songwriter); Carline Burum (previous owner of Toopees); Karen Myrow (marketing director, GoGirlsMusic.com); & Madalyn Sklar (founder/editor, GoGirlsMusic.com).

Admission is \$7. Doors open at 7 pm @ the Rhythm Room, 1815 Washington, 713/863-0943. More info: www.GoGirlsMusic.com or www.GoGirlsRock.com. Then on Saturday, look for the GoGirls yellow Jeep in the pride parade. GoGirls staff & Friday's performing artists will be passing out GoGirls temporary tattoos, artist CDs & more. Don't miss it... Cuz Chicks Rock!

29 (Sat.)

Houston Pride Parade. The Pride Committee of Houston needs volunteers for the parade (8:45-11 pm) and related events. Contact info: phone 713/529-6979; fax 713/529-6929; e-mail info@pridehouston.org; mail Pride Committee of Houston, P.O. Box 66071, Houston 77266-6071. Office location: 803 Hawthorne.

30 (Sun.)

What You Think of Me Is None of My Business. is a seminar led by Dr. Terry Cole-Whittaker, author, inspirational & motivational speaker & teacher, and businesswoman. The seminar is based on Cole-Whittaker's book of the same title. Stop allowing others to control your life. Don't let the criticism, anger, or judgments from "them" make you feel guilty & miserable. Learn how to spot both friends & enemies. Be courageous & get what you need from life. Free yourself from fear & negative people. Learn techniques to make you more positive, confident, blissful, & rich. Live your life as you choose, not as they choose. 1:30-4:30 pm @ Creative Life Spiritual Center, 5326 Spring-Stuebner, 281/350-5157. Cost is \$30.

PLANNING AHEAD

JUNE & BEYOND

July 3 (Wed.)

HIV Services for Houston Parolees. 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 Services for Houston Parolees." 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.

July 3 & 4 (Wed. & Thu.)

Boys4toys. For the 3rd year, Boys4toys is back at Dallas's Wyndham Garden Park Central to dance the night away on July 3 and to be cool by the pool on July 4. Passes (good for both events) are \$50 (or \$40 and \$20 at the door respectively). Both events will sell out, so book your room early to avoid the last-minute rush. Call 800-WYNDHAM and mention "Boys4toys" for special \$69 for single/double rooms. Proceeds from the back-to-back parties assist with Boys4toys's December production of Toys in Boyland, a mega toy-drive party. Last year, the group gave over 11,000 toys to critically abused & less fortunate children. More info: www.boys4toys.org or 214/522-5200.

July 4 (Thu.)

2002 BP Power of Freedom. Highlighting this event will be Sky Freedom, Houston's largest 4th of July fireworks spectacular. The Grammy Award-winning Doobie Brothers, a favorite '70s rock 'n' roll band with hits including "Takin' It to the Streets," "Jesus Is Just Alright with Me," and "China Grove," will perform in a live concert. Four stages will feature the diverse sounds of America, including country, Latino, jazz, rock, rhythm & blues, and oldies. Skydivers & plane fly-overs will entertain the crowd. Admission is \$5 (\$2 for 12.

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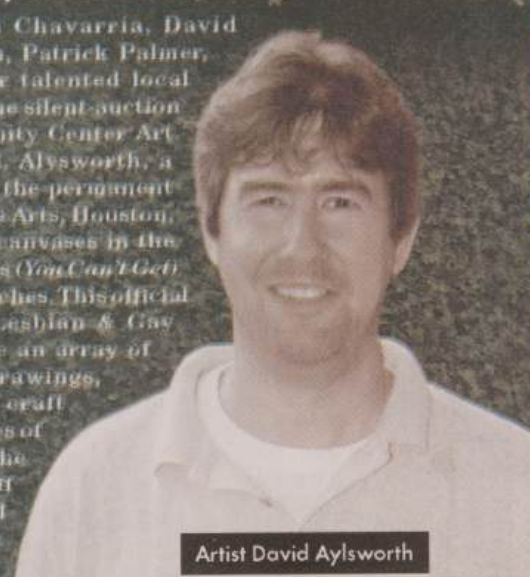
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ART OF THE DEAL

Community Center Art Festival features silent auction of works by local GLBT artists

David Aylsworth, Alma Chavarria, David Groover, Tari McMillan, Patrick Palmer, Vera Taylor, and other talented local artists will have their work on the silent-auction block at the first-ever Community Center Art Festival on Saturday, June 22. Aylsworth, a respected painter with work in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, will offer one of his exuberant canvases in the auction. His oil-on-canvas work is *(You Can't Get) A Man with a Gun*, 2000, 24 x 24 inches. This official Pride event at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center will include an array of works, including paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures, and craft pieces. All proceeds from the sales of works will benefit the center. The gala evening, which helps kick off Pride celebrations in the city, will include refreshments and live entertainment. —Tim Brookover



Artist David Aylsworth



(You Can't Get) A Man with a Gun

What: Community Center Art Festival
When: Sat., June 22, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne
Cost: \$10
More Info: 713/524-3818 or www.hlgcc.org

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www.creativelife.org 281 350 5157

and under, free for children under 3). More info:
www.festivalsouthouston.com

August 3-11 (Sat.-Sun.)

National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) is holding its 22nd annual convention in Miami. A plenary session will be addressed by Louie Crew, associate professor of English at Rutgers University. A second plenary session will feature an address by Dr. James T. Sears, an independent scholar who has authored or edited 13 books, including *Rebels*, *Rubyfruit*, and *Rhinestones*. A variety of workshops is scheduled: gay estate planning, sexuality and sex, homosexuality behind bars, reapportionment and black America, and the media & the African-American electorate during the Florida 2000 election (at press time, more workshops were being scheduled). Also on the agenda: a "No Talent/Talent Show," a more somber & poignant memorial service, and a one-day Multi-racial/Multi-cultural Institute at the convention in Miami Beach, Florida, @ the Shelborne Beach Resort. Registration/inquiries: 305/545-6105; fax 305/545-0508; e-mail alwakefield@aol.com or nabwmt@mindspring.com.

October 17-21 (Thu.-Mon.)

Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC) honors its 15th anniversary with its first-ever conference at sea. Attendees will board the Carnival ship "Celebration" in Galveston & cruise to Cozumel, Mexico, for 4 days of fun, entertainment, & conference activities. The conference theme, "What Lesbians Really Want," will examine the changing needs of lesbians in Texas and how TLC can continue to serve its community. Speakers & workshops will be offered on-board ship. Michele Balan, known as "da Comic Princess," will entertain. All-inclusive tickets (cruise & meals on board, entertainment, port taxes, & conference fees) begin at \$439 per person (double occupancy). Reservations: Stan the Cruise Man, toll free, at 1-866-200-2086 or e-mail Stan@CruisingWithPride.com. For more info on the conference: www.texaslesbianconference.org

October 17-21 (Thu.-Mon.)

Bisexual/Men's Awareness Institute Conference. This three-day weekend in San Diego's Mission Valley is hosted by the American Institute of Bisexuality (AIB), an organization founded 10 years ago to educate the public about the subject of bisexuality. The AIB created this conference in 2000 expressly to allow bisexual and bi curious men to gather in a safe, supportive environment to dialogue on their issues of

concern, including their feelings of invisibility & the societal pressures to remain closeted. This 3rd annual conference will offer approximately 12 workshops (covering themes including coming out, relationships, culture, spirituality, identity, health, & more) & numerous social events. There will be a Friday night no-host welcome reception, a Saturday evening banquet with live entertainment, as well as time to explore San Diego. Registration fees: \$40-\$120 depending upon the activities selected & whether registration has been completed by the Sept. 27 early-bird deadline. Southwest Airlines is offering a special discount for conference attendees. More info: www.bisexual.org/pages/newconf/sdsandiego/. Workshop info: Alexei Guren at 206/709-8676 or Alexei_Guren@msn.com. Inquiries about AIB: Dr. Fritz Klein at 619/542-0088 or FritzKlein@aol.com.

October 24-26 (Thu.-Sat.)

LGBT Medical Conference. Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) is holding its 20th annual conference in Toronto. The conference is designed for physicians & other healthcare professionals and provides both Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits and Continuing Education Units (CEU) to attendees through dozens of workshops & seminars that relate to LGBT health. The 3-day program will focus on primary care & biopsychosocial issues, as well as policy & advocacy. The conference will take place at the Fairmont's Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Canada. More info & early-bird registration discounts are available at the GLMA website: www.glma.org

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.sydney2002.org.au for more info about the events & registration. For reservations, call Mark at 713/365-6266 (reservation cost \$210).

PERFORMING ARTS

◆ **Beauty and the Beast.** The elaborate Broadway production, based on the animated film, finally returns to Houston, where it had its pre-Broadway premiere nine years ago. Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* tells the story of Belle, a lovely, independent young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young

prince trapped in an evil spell. If the prince can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end. But time is running out. If Belle cannot help the Beast learn his lesson soon, he & his entire castle household will be doomed for all eternity. The Tony Award-winning musical is part of the 2001-02 Broadway in Houston series presented by the Society for the Performing Arts. June 5-16 @ Jones Hall. Purchase tickets (\$21.25-\$63.25) at the Jones Hall box office, at Ticketmaster locations, at www.ticketmaster.com or 713/629-3700.

◆ **Blade to the Heat** is a searing exploration of gay love in the world of 1950s boxing. A relative newcomer to the boxing scene, the Mexican-American Pedro Quinn wins a surprise decision against Mantequilla Decima, a Cuban and the undisputed middleweight champion. The unlikely loss and Quinn's uncertain happiness over his victory against his own long-time hero unsettles the former champ. Decima cannot fathom his loss and tries desperately to find some answers. Another boxer, Wilfred Vinal, throws poison into the brew by calling Decima a "maricon," the "queer" epithet in Spanish, then leveling the same charge against Quinn. Decima tries to find solace in the arms of his girlfriend, but her responses only add to his growing doubts about himself. Vinal realizes he has found a weak link in Decima's chain, and he rattles that chain to his advantage. Quinn is no less disturbed because he is discovering that his friendship with Gamet maintains a special hold on him. The action comes to a bloody confrontation in the ring. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, through June 8 @ Unhinged Productions, 3304 La-Branch. Tickets \$15 (\$12 seniors). Reservations/more info: 713/524-8707.

◆ **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 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 banns, 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 Marriott West Loop, 1750 West Loop South at San Felipe. Info: 713/944-2583 or www.mysterycafehouston.com

◆ **Dirty Little Showtunes—Encore**, conceived and written by Tom Orr, is part two of the original *Dirty Little Showtunes* that was produced by Theatre New West early last year, which was a hit with critics and audiences alike and was held over. It follows the format of *Forbidden Broadway*, a satirical revue in its 20th year in New York, which uses new lyrics to spoof the industry. *Dirty Little Showtunes—Encore* does the same thing, only with a gay male context. It has had very successful productions in Seattle, Chicago, and San Francisco. *Dirty Little Showtunes—Encore*, like the original, is directed by Joe Watts. Tickets are \$20. Through June 28 (Fridays and Saturdays only, 8 p.m.) @ Theatre New West, 1415 California (on the ground floor of the Sonoma Restaurant building). NOTE: The performance on Friday, June 28, is an official event of Gay & Lesbian Pride Week. Reservations: 713/394-0464. For more info: 713/522-2204.

◆ **Houston Ballet.** Don Quixote is poignant, passionate, & sizzling with spice. Plenty of fancy footwork, authentic Spanish-flavored dance, & comic interludes bring to life the story based on Cervantes's classic novel. In the ballet, the idealistic, eccentric Don Quixote goes on a quest in search of his ideal woman Dulcinea—while real-life lovers Kitri & Basilio battle against all odds & unite in true love. 7:30 pm on June 6, 8, 14, & 15; 2 pm on June 9 & 16. Tickets are available by calling 713/227-ARTS (2787) or in person at the Wortham Ticket Center in the Wortham Theater Center. For more info: www.houstonballet.org

◆ **The Invention of Love** by Tom Stoppard. From the author of recent Alley favorites *Travesties* and *The Real Thing* comes this fantastical look at the life of A.E. Housman, renowned classical scholar and one of England's favorite poets. Through June 23 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$40 & \$45) can be purchased at www.alleytheatre.org at the Alley box office, or by calling 713/228-8421.

◆ **Light Up the Sky.** The leading actress, producer, director, & others involved with an experimental new play are in a feverish state of joyful anticipation of the expected great success of their new show. When opening night seems like a flop, despair & savage recriminations are exchanged. Will the troupe be transformed yet again when the reviews come in? Moss Hart presents us with a scathing, yet affectionate, portrait of the zany & mer-

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curial personalities involved with theater. Tickets \$12 (students/seniors \$10). Through June 29, Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1216.

♦ **Making Porn.** Adult stars Ryan Idol and Chris Steele have been slated to head the cast in a new production of Ronnie Larsen's comedy "Making Porn," to be initially produced in Austin. Naughty Austin Productions, an award-winning comedy troupe, pre-cast Idol and Steele to portray "Jack" and "Ray," respectively. Idol portrayed Jack Hawk in the original off Broadway version of the show; Steele is performing in his first leading on-stage role. "We have chosen [Idol and Steele] not only because of their status in the industry but because we believe they both can really act, bringing talent and humanity to the role," says Blake Yelavich, artistic director of Naughty Austin. "Though the guys will offer plenty of eye candy, the new ideas for mounting the play are so good, we're not going to rely solely on the nudity to fill the house." June 13-July 13 @ Hyde Park Theater, Wed.-Sat. evenings, with early and late showings. Adults only. Ticket info: www.naughtyaustin.com or 512/407-8877.

♦ **On Approval.** A wealthy widow invites a man who has adored her for years to join her in remote Scotland for one month to see if they are compatible for marriage. The "experiment" proves to be a success, although not exactly in the way she had intended. A bright comedy of manners in the style of Noël Coward. Through June 9 @ Main Street Theater in Rice Village, 2540 Times Blvd. Tickets are \$20-\$30. Info: 713/524-6706 or www.mainstreettheater.com.

♦ **The Story of Burford, Category 5!** is about a force 5 hurricane that cuts a new ship channel through the Bayou City. Through August 31 @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt. Desserts, munchies, champagnes, wines, beers, cappuccino, & soft drinks are available for purchase throughout the show. Admission \$16, reservations required, tickets must be purchased in advance at the theater or by calling 713/522-7722.

♦ **Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love.** Nine years and 60 productions later, the definitive Theater LaB Houston (TLH) play marks its return with a new production of the play that launched TLH in 1993. A contemporary drama set in Edmonton, Alberta, it centers on a group of young people whose lives intersect and bleed into one another as they search for meaningful relationships while a serial killer terrorizes the city at night. Time

magazine named it one of the 10 best plays of 1991. Its initial run played to sold-out houses and received critical reviews setting high marks for things to come. Adults only. Tickets \$22. Fridays & Saturdays, 8 pm, through June 15, @ Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo. Info: 713/868-7516 or www.theaterlabhouston.com.

PERFORMING ARTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

♦ **The Wizard of Oz.** We are off to see the wizard, as Dorothy, Toto, & the wonderful friends they find in the Land of Oz are again traveling the yellow brick road. Just be careful of that wicked witch. Tickets \$6. Saturdays at 11 am & 1:30 pm, through June 29 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury, 713/726-1216.

RADIO

♦ **After Hours.** Saturdays, midnight to 3 am. Featuring the QM2 (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

♦ **Americanos: Latino Life in the United States** presents 120 photographs by 32 of the nation's top photojournalists, offering an extraordinary view of the breadth & variety of the Latino experience, and encompassing the spectra of national origin, economic status, education, profession, religion, & language. Images are organized into sections that focus on working life, family, spiritual life, community, recreation, and culture & the arts. From celebrities such as Gloria Estefan and actress Rita Moreno, to a flag seamstress in Houston, the subjects convey a huge chunk of Latino life. Through Aug. 4 @ the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300.

♦ **The Grandeur of Viceroyal Mexico: Treasures from the Museo Franz Mayer** examines the rich heritage of Mexico through works produced over three centuries from 1521 to 1821. The arts of Mexico as manifested in the collection of the Museo Franz Mayer in Mexico City reveal a fascinating confluence of cultures from Europe, Asia, & Meso-America that gives the Mexican arts their unique qualities. The exhibition includes painting & sculpture, furniture, metals, porcelain, & Talavera earthenware. The pieces once belonged to the banker/collector Franz Mayer, who settled in Mexico City in 1905. He became a prominent financier; and about 1920 became a pioneer collector of the arts of Viceroyal Mexico. He left his collections as a legacy to the people of Mexico. Through Aug. 4 @ the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300.

♦ **Slant: Bold Asian American Images.** This group show presents a smattering of works by emerging Asian American artists from around the country. Working in a variety of media, these works approach issues of identity and bi-culturalism, some with head-on aggression and others with subtle grace. Through June 30 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/223-8346, www.diverseworks.org.

♦ **Women in the Visual and Literary Arts** (WVLA) presents an open show through July 1 @ the Omni Hotel on Woodway. Info: 281/444-1118.

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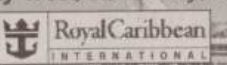
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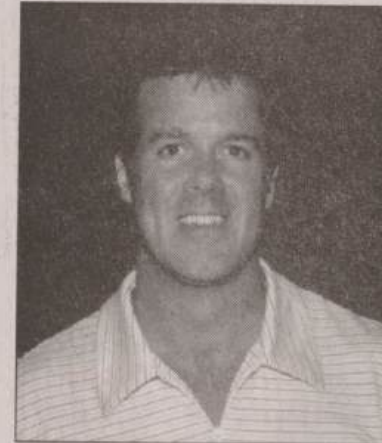
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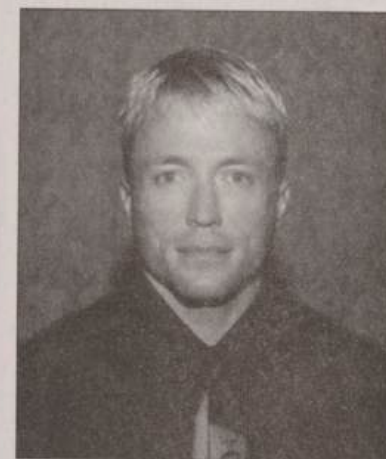
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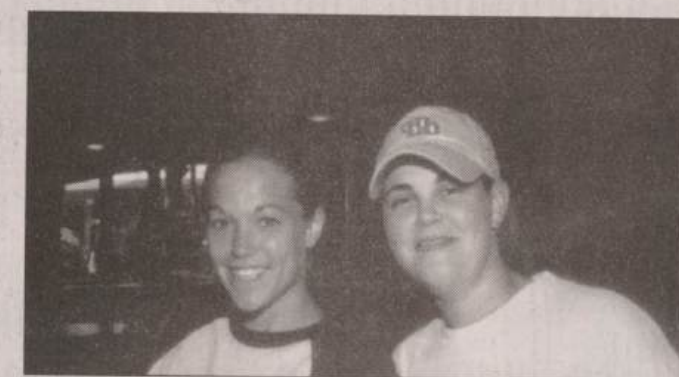
PRIDE PIX



Glen Fillmore. Age: 38. Occupation: Real estate with Karen Derr. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: "Little Debbie Snackcakes." What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Haagen-Dazs Dulce de leche. Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?: Ernie Manouse. Who was the first person you told?: My sister. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: Being comfortable being gay.

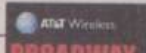


Mark Boline. Age: 32. Occupation: Realtor. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: Very little. What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: See's Candy. Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?: Lt. Steve May. Who was the first person you told?: My brother. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: I felt good about not lying to everyone all the time.



Bonnie Clevon. Age: 25. Occupation: Student. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Lesbian. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Rosie O'Donnell. What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?: Men in chaps! What would make the parade even more fun?: Bondage shows. What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?: "If you can't be free, be a mystery." Life's a bowl of: green goodness.

Lori Garner. Age: 24. Occupation: Student. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Lesbian. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Ellen. What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?: Men in leather. What would make the parade even more fun?: Bondage acts! Life's a bowl of: purple haze.

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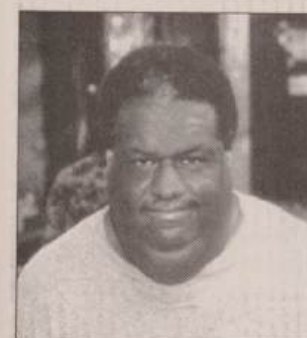
PRIDE PIX



Teresa Cunningham. Age: 24. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Straight, but my best friends are gay. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Writer May Sarton. What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?: Pretentious queens who act like they're better than everyone else. What would make the parade even more fun?: FIREWORKS! What's the best advice

you've received and what is the best advice you would give?: Don't worry so much what other people think. Life's a bowl of: condoms ... you never know when you're going to get screwed!

Doug Weiss. Age: 40. Occupation: Hotel manager. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Armistead Maupin. What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?: Bad drag! What would make the parade even more fun?: Monkeys dressed as Bette Davis. What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?: Enjoy life to the fullest, there may not be a tomorrow. Life's a bowl of: bittersweet "fruit."



Gregory Gordon. Age: 49. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: None. What would make the parade even more fun?: More cute men! What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?: Be yourself. Life's a bowl of: fun!

So Fonda St John. Age: 28. Occupation: Program coordinator. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?: Melissa Etheridge. What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?: Liza Minnelli. What would make the parade even more fun?: More lights! What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?: Live each day for the moment.



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Business News

The Rainbow Chamber of Commerce will hold a mixer on June 5 and a membership meeting on June 11.

Michael Brackett (from left), **Larry Kolb**, **Chris Donatella**, and **Val Richardson** were in the crowd at a recent chamber gathering at Jimmy's on the Beach.

Alan Bourgeois

was recently named the executive director of sales and marketing for the chamber, formerly known as the Galveston Island Lesbian, Transgender, Bisexual & Gay Chamber of Commerce. **Corey Cole** of Ryan Express Mortgage is vice president, and **Ryan Harris** of Online Database Management has joined the board of directors as a board member at large. For more information, contact the Rainbow Chamber at 409/765-0257, www.RainbowCC.biz, or letsbigay@hotmail.com.

Terry Zolnier, the former owner of Paradise Bar, will open **Chicago Top Dog** this summer. The new spot at 2703 Smith will serve Chicago-style hot dogs, deli sandwiches, and hamburgers and will be open 24 hours a day.

The Engine Room (1515 Pease) is the venue for the reset **"Babes in Boots"** dance party for women and friends on Saturday, June 8, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Admission is \$15. The event, originally scheduled for May 18, will feature dance music from the '80s, '90s, and the new millennium. For details, access www.hwfestival.org/dance.htm.

StatScript Pharmacy has donated a bioelectrical impedance analysis device to the **Houston Buyers Club**. The device uses a faint electrical current passing through the body to estimate body composition. Information entered into a software program may report on various types of data, including body fat percentage, fat mass, lean body mass, and the way current passes through the body, which can help predict survival rates in people living with HIV. For more information, contact the Houston Buyers Club at 713/520-5288 or 800/350-2392.

Karen Derr & Associates Realty (713/862-1600) has announced the addition of four new Realtor executives. Heights resident **Dawn Richards** works from the Heights Boulevard office, specializing in inner-loop properties. **Glen Fillmore** has joined the Westheimer office, focusing on Montrose and Midtown properties. **Gentry Gary** also works in the Westheimer office, specializing in Montrose and Medical Center properties. **Tim Anthony** has joined the Westheimer sales team and specializes in both single-family homes and high-rise condominiums.

Basic Brothers Menswear presented the summer Nukwear collection by Nuk Phanurat at two fashion shows in May. **Cesar Galindo** produced both events, on May 10 at Meteor and on May 11 at Rich's. Nukwear is available at Basic Brothers (1232 Westheimer).

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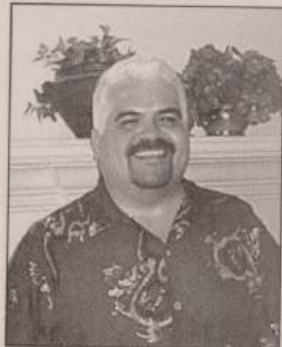
Jai Paul.
Age: 45.
Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT**

movement?: Rosie O'Donnell. **Who was the first person you told?:** My mom. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** My outlook on life.

Misty Valdez. Occupation: Female impersonator. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** My mother. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Hate crimes. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Keep your head up high, be a leader, not a follower. **Life's a bowl of:** nuts.



Gilbert Martinez. Age: 20. **Occupation:** Senior administrator. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Summer wear. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Chocolate ice cream. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Elton John. **Who was the first person you told?:** A high school teacher. **What's the**



biggest thing that changed after you came out?: Got along with friends and family better. Also, diversity in the workplace has changed but still needs work.

Bruce Watts.
Age: 40.
Occupation: Scientist. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** David Sedaris. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Emulating Martha Stewart. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** More nudity by beefy men! **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Live honestly. **Life's a bowl of:** Godiva chocolates.



Jarrett McDonald. Age: 25. **Occupation:** College grad. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Fried shrimp. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Rosie O'Donnell. **Who was the first person you told?:** My friend. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** My self-esteem skyrocketed.



Faye James. Age: 35. **Occupation:** Nurse. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** T-shirt & panties! **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Sex. **Who**

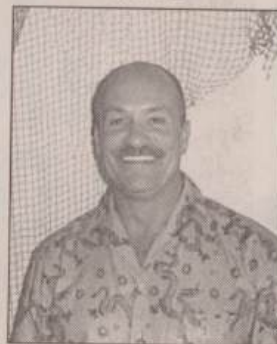
is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?: RuPaul. **Who was the first person you told?:** My sister. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** My life.



Val Richardson. Age: A lady never tells. **Occupation:** Women's B&B. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Rainbow earrings. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Eating. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Billie Jean King. **Who was the first person you told?:** My first girlfriend at 15. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** I am much more comfortable with myself.



Mike Howell. Age: 48. **Occupation:** Risk manager. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Tank top & shorts. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Chocolate. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Rosie O'Donnell/Tom Cruise. **Who was the first person you told?:** A close friend.



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BOCADOS
This homey Mexican restaurant serves comfort food in a colorful setting, but on Wednesday nights, Houston's women turn out for dancing and socializing until 1 am. Popular with gay and straight alike. The Sunday brunch starts at 11am and doesn't end till 3 in the afternoon. 1312 W. Alabama • 713/523-5230.

BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM
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.

BRICKS II
This neighborhood bar on Fairview boasts

a jukebox loaded with C/W music. With cement floors, cold draft, and the occasional cowboy hat, you can belly up and drink your fill in a low-key atmosphere where regulars rule. 617 Fairview • 713/523-7217.

CHANCES/NEW BARN/G-SPOT
Keeping up the Houston tradition of HUGE lesbian bars, this three-in-one spot gives you a place to two-step, rock, and sit down and talk—all under one very large roof. Voted "Best Honky Tonk & Upscale Lesbian Bar" in OutSmart's Readers' Poll. 1100 Westheimer • 713/523-7217.

CHULO'S ICE HOUSE
Chulo's does a great job of creating a friendly, quirky atmosphere. Built from the remnants of a gas station, Chulo's is a step sideways from the usual icehouse. The purple-felt pool table, leopard-print columns and table tops, funky lamps, and cool Johnny Cash poster on the fridge welcome you. 512 Elgin • 713/520-5218.



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CLUB BIGYO

Houston's new lesbian bar that, according to its mission statement, puts "our ladies on top where they belong. This is an all girls production; our male friends are welcome." Thurs: talent night. Fri. & Sat. nights: black male Chippendale & female dancers. Sun: no cover all night, special shows/events emceed by Flawless Oz. 6305 Skyline • 713/953-0268; hotline 281/322-0394; www.clubbigyo.com.

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.

INCognito THE CLUB
Giving Houston's black gay community "a place to party comfortably" since 1995. The host of the annual mega-blast Houston-Splash ("the South's largest African-American GLBT Weekend"), Incognito recently moved to its current huge three-level space. Friday night is girls' night, Saturday is for the boys, and Sunday is a male & female strip show. But everybody is welcome every night. 3704 Fannin • 713/237-9431.

J.R.'S/SANTA FE
Where do you meet the boys? Right here, at one of Houston's gay institutions, JR's boasts

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.

CLUB RAINBOW
A mixed male and female crowd, this bar is just off the curve in Montrose. DJ, dancing, in a relaxed atmosphere. 1417-B Westheimer • 713/522-5166.

COUSIN'S
Best little drag bar in the heart of Montrose. Drag aficionados pack the place on weekends for its campy shows. 817 Fairview • 713/528-9204.

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

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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.
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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 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.

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.

RANCH HILL SALOON

Located 30 miles north of Houston in Conroe, this spot features daily drink specials, live entertainment, & Wednesday karaoke night with Heather & Music Express. Tuesday is college night. 2111 Airport Rd. • 936/441-6426.

RIPCORN

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 am. 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. An instant hit with the in crowd, the splashy new South Beach is the place for high-energy dancing. Its cutting-edge design and

techno-chic sound system keeps the mixed crowd of chicly dressed & shirtless boys pumped up late into the night. 810 Pacific • 713/529-7623.

Galveston

BLVD SALOON

A perfect place for a relaxing cocktail or fun-filled evening of socializing & entertainment. Big walk-around bar & dance floor, on the Seawall, with a great view of the ocean, especially from the new 2nd-floor deck. Entertainment on weekends. 3102 Seawall • 409/750-8571.

GARZA'S KON TIKI

The gay bar for the Island. Conveniently close to all Galveston's celebration spots, the Kon Tiki is close to the Strand district and the Pier. It's the place to go dancing, with male & female entertainers on week-ends—and, of course, the "show girls." AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas benefit: Sat., Jun. 1 with Misty Valdez & her 15th annual extravaganza "Quinceanera." 315 Tremont (23rd) • 409/765-5805.

JIMMY'S ON THE BEACH

The tropical décor & full wall of windows overlooking the Gulf give you plenty to please the eyes. Located on the East end makes it convenient to stop in on your way to & from East Beach. Male dancers & "showgirls" on weekends. Open noon–2 am, seven days a week, with happy-hour prices on every drink every day until 8 pm. Corner of 9th and Seawall (904 Ave M) • 409/765-6911.

MYRA'S CANTINA

Galveston's newest bar opened its doors Mar. 13. Well-known island entertainer

Myra Sanchez & her business partner Charles Pena ("Sisters") opened this distinctly Latin neighborhood cantina. They offer beer, wine & setups, real cheap (you provide liquor for the setups). There's a pool table, game machines, juke box & TV (Latin station). Myra & Charles plan their grand opening Sat., May 11. 813 21st Street, between Ball & Sealy.

ROBERT'S LAFITTE

A real neighborhood bar, the clientele is as colorful as the chandeliers that adorn this Island institution. 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 & grab some of that nice Gulf breeze. Two blocks from the Seawall. 2501 Ave Q, corner of 25th • 409/765-9092.

Beaumont

THE COPA

This bar lives up to its name as a hot dance club. This two-story fun complex has pool tables, a spacious stage, & 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

A sweet, cozy neighborhood bar. Cute, friendly bartenders serve up your favorite cocktail while you play pool and socialize. It's right around the corner from the Copa, so visit both on your next trip to Beaumont. 304 Orleans • 409/832-4306.

PRIDE PIX



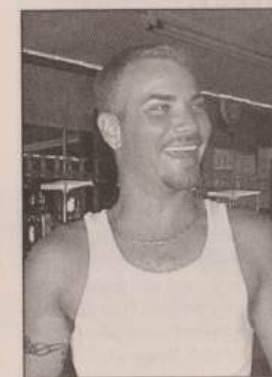
Denise. Age: 30. **Occupation:** Busboy. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in**

your life?: Cher, Maria Conchita Alonzo. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** More Bette Davises!

Elmer Sbehaue/Stella Link Seville. Age: Over 21. **Occupation:** Florist. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Very gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Rainbow shirt, pearls, boas! **What's your favorite unhealthy indul-**

gence?: Vodka. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Ruby Stone, Barbara Walker, Renee Monroe. **Who was the first person you told?:** My boyfriend. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** Working in the Garden Party, RSICSS, Lights of Love.

Michael Hunter Gann. Age: 30. **Occupation:** Import/export. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Very little. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:**



Smoking. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Every GLBT! **Who was the first person you told?:** The first man I kissed. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** I party harder.

Shy Anne. Age: 35. **Occupation:** Billing specialist. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Who knows!

What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Bread. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Me! **Who was the first person you told?:** My best friend. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** My life.

Dennis. Age: 32. **Occupation:** Airway transportation system specialist. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Shy Anne.

What would make the parade even more fun?: Shy Anne. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Persevere and press on! **Life's a bowl of:** cute men!

Crazy Lady. Age: 28. **Occupation:** Barfly. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:**



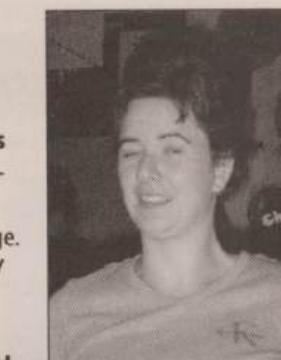
Freddie Mercury. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Elephants! Yes, please! **Life's a bowl of:** cement mixture.

Hal Jeffords. Age: 25. **Occupation:** Sales. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Hopefully nothing. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Bud Light. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:**

Rosie O'Donnell. **Who was the first person you told?:** My parents. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** Everything stayed the same, except my curfew—it was non-existent.

Lindsey McCartney. Age: 25. **Occupation:** Secretary. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Straight. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** Boy George.

What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?: Liza Minnelli. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Wear colorful clothes and show some leg, live to live and be happy. **Life's a bowl of:** cigarettes.



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PRIDE PIX



← Melissa Carruba. Age: 23. Occupation: Student.
Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Lesbian.
What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: Strategically placed flowers and a thong! What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Orange soda. Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?: Rosie O'Donnell. Who was the first person you told?: My best friend Jennifer. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: My social life, outlook, & perception of people.

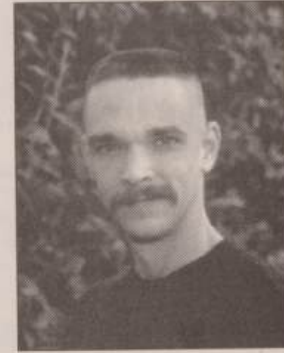


← Rafael Castillo. Age: 22 Occupation: Interior designer. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: As little as possible. What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Chocolate-chip cookie-dough ice cream. Who was the first person you told?: My mom. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: My attitude towards life.

→ Shannon Jacobs. Age: 32. Occupation: Artsy Fartsy Weirdo. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Oh please. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: My best Chanel. What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Booze...no boys...okay booze. Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?: Rufus Wainwright. Who was the first person you told?: A chick I know in college. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: Drink prices.



→ Darrell Lang. Age: 30. Occupation: Bail enforcement agent. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Bi, depends on who is available. What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?: A leather formal. What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Men. Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?: Guy Baldwin. Who was the first person you told?: My first lover. What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?: My circle of family/friends.



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PRIDE PIX



Daryl Ewing. Age: 40. Occupation: Medical billing manager. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** A feather G-string.

What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Doug's cookies. **Who was the first person you told?:** The family. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** Ability to be myself with family and friends.

Rick Walther. Age: 50. Occupation: Teacher. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:**



"Colors" for sure. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Smoking. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Elton John. **Who was the first person you told?:** My best friend in college.

Rick Spethmen. Age: 41. Occupation: Writer/Photographer. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:**



Something cool & light. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Chocolate cake. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Janet

Reno. **Who was the first person you told?:** My old girlfriend. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** My hairdo!

Stephanie M. Louviere. Age: 27. Occupation: Home-maker. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian.



What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?: Smoking cigs. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Ellis. **Who was the first person you told?:** My mother. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** My life, unconditional happiness.

Randy Greathouse. Age: 39. Occupation: Human resources consultant. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:**



Rosie O'Donnell. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** John on *Survivor*! **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Just breathe. **Life's a bowl of:** possibilities.

What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?: John on *Survivor*! **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Just breathe. **Life's a bowl of:** possibilities.

Robin Brown. Age: 43. Occupation: Sterile proc. supervisor. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never**

see again?: Hate crimes. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Be honest with yourself and others. **Life's a bowl of:** nuts.



Randy LaCombe. Age: 24. Occupation: Sales. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What will you be wearing at the Pride parade?:** Clothes. **What's your favorite unhealthy indulgence?:** Beer. **Who is a hero to you in the GLBT movement?:** Faith Hill. **Who was the first person you told?:** My sister. **What's the biggest thing that changed after you came out?:** I'm happier.



Jack Bell. Age: North of 50. Occupation: Retired. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What GLBT writer, artist, or performer has made a difference in your life?:** My lover Tom. **What gay fad/mannerism/celeb do you wish you could never see again?:** Disco lighting. **What would make the parade even more fun?:** Bands, live music. **What's the best advice you've received and what is the best advice you would give?:** Be yourself. **Life's a bowl of:** vanilla ice cream.



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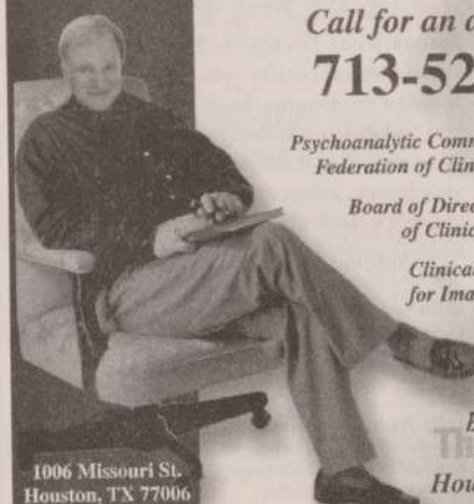
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SignOut by Lilly Roddy

The good news is that Mercury, planet of communications, goes direct on June 8. That means you will be able to start your new projects by the 11th. Tensions begin to wane and you will soon see life returning to normal now that May is over. • There are some eclipses this month. The new moon/solar eclipse is June 10 at 6:46 p.m. in Gemini—a good time to focus on daily activities and communication skills. The full moon/lunar eclipse is June 24 at 4:42 p.m. in Capricorn, highlighting emotional and familial security issues. • Days of fun and play are June 1-3, 19-20, 23, and 29. Days of tension are June 6-10, 24, and 28. • The Sun enters Cancer the first day of summer on June 21. Mercury dances about in Gemini. Venus swims through Cancer and fires into Leo on the 14th. Mars keeps the crabs boiling in Cancer while Jupiter keeps him company. Saturn's at the gym in Gemini. Uranus and Neptune are getting aquatinted in Aquarius. And Pluto is cleaning up Sagittarius.

Aries (March 21–April 19) You just need to get all those ideas and thoughts out of your brain! Share them with everyone you meet. You are just so willing to talk to everyone. This is good if you are in sales. You may want to change some habits and do things differently so you don't get bored with yourself. Home calls soon and you will want to have a more emotionally stable time. You will want to be the boss. If you have to share this job with someone else, you will have fireworks earlier than July 4. Work may be a wonderful place to escape to.

Taurus (April 20–May 20) You are balancing your checkbook, rethinking your investment plans, and trying to figure out how you spend your money. You are more conservative than usual and you want to know ahead of the game that you will be a winner. And yes, you will be sharing more about yourself with your partner. You are really ready to do something different with your life. Humdrum will drive the Bulls and Cows crazy. Toward the end of the month, you are ready for some ease and flow. No, you can't get that at Walgreen's but you will be looking.

Gemini (May 21–June 21) Such an introspective time for the birthday Girls and Boys, Gals and Guys, Men and Women, or whatever politically correct form you would like to choose. Be sure to get all your ducks in a row because after the 11th, you are ready to re-enter the human race. Most everything is better. Even relationships are a bit easier. You are getting your life moving.

Cancer (June 22–July 22) Mars, planet of action, energy, and facial blemishes, moves through your sign this month. This is a month that we expect to see fast-moving crabs. Tell everyone they best just get out of the way. Excellent time to tackle projects that have needed an extra boost. Face those fears and shout boo at the family ghost. Or is that just your mother changing the sheets on the bed? You are just a people magnet. Everybody will want to know you. Great time to start a new business.

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22) You are trying to determine this month if that group association that you belong to is really worth the time and effort. And you must have tangible results by June 6.



**Happy Birthday to
Scott Thompson**
Born June 12, 1959,
Thompson is an actor,
funnyman, and member
of Kids in the Hall.

Though openly-gay Thompson may not be a queen in real life, he is pictured here as THE Queen in the 1996 film Brain Candy.

You are still feeling the social bug, and sitting at home is not your cup of tea. By mid-month, you are ready for some R&R. Visit your favorite spa or monastery. Have someone read the Tao Te Ching to you while you are having a pedicure. A relationship would be nice. Keep working on that list and let's see what Santa brings you next year.

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) You have been working overtime trying to figure out how to feel more connected to your current career path. And by the 10th, with the eclipse, you are ready to make some decisions in your life. You will refocus on what you are doing or start putting your résumés out on the streets. By mid-month, groups and friends get top priority rating—they can be helpful to your career interest and may even want to start dating you. Watch for those friends who will want to be a bit more than just "friendly."

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) This month you are a cross between a philosopher and a stand-up comedian. Sort of a stand-up philosopher. Before you take your copy of Plato and Kant to the corner and start preaching Ideal Forms and Categorical Imperatives to the teeming throngs, you may want to take a break and get away from the routines of daily life. But you will have all the answers, in case anybody wants to ask you. At mid-month, you are much more directed toward getting your career into gear. You will want to drive.

Scorpio (Oct. 24–Nov. 21) This is a bit of a lighter month for you, backing away from all the intense emotional analysis that you have been putting yourself (and everyone else) through. You

might even tell a joke. And from this we begin to see the shy timid side of that vulnerable creature that you are. Relationships could actually be fun. As mid-month approaches, you are more communicative than ever. And deep feelings and thoughts emerge. You will be respected for your wisdom this month. Career opportunities are just around the corner.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21) Since last month, you have been practicing breathing. This month, with all that practice, it may be almost natural. Yes, you have been busy. And yes, you over-committed. But you know you love it. Relationships are still a bit edgy if that certain someone can't make up their mind. If they haven't made a decision by the 10th, you will make it for them. You are future bound and they can get on the bus or not. But it leaves on the 10th. You will find yourself more settled than you have been this whole year.

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19) You have been spending a lot of time getting your office and closets all clean. Now it is time to consider asking someone over to spend some time with you. You may not have everything in its place, but you are certainly getting bored with all the tidying up. Just have some chocolate and go out on a date. You are ready to mix your milk chocolate with their dark chocolate. You want adventure and (according to G. Marx) some Ha Cha Cha.

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18) You are out of the spin cycle and you may feel as though you actually have a life. You are ready for something fun and something that stirs your creative juices. You are way past the need for escapist behavior. You are ready for Disneyland. By mid-month, the work demon re-enters your life and it is back to being a semi-responsible adult. You are ready for a new project, so that is good. Routines will make you into a lunatic. Avoid those if possible.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20) Your search for internal home is finally over. You are now ready to make an entrance back into the real world. You are feeling safe and secure now that you've put down all that excess family baggage. Paint your house, redecorate your bedroom, or build yourself a deck with a waterfall. As the summer begins, you are a social butterfly. You are ready for a fun time. And a bit of self-indulgence wouldn't be bad at all.

Lilly Roddy is a Houston-based astrologer. She can be reached at lillyroddy@aol.com or www.hermesfoot.com.



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The PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Spring Fling was Apr. 19 at the Warwick Hotel.

1 Kevin Davidson (l) with PFLAG scholarship recipient **Laura Springel** (center) and **Joy Villarreal**.

The Transgender Unity Banquet was April 20, at the Hilton.

2 Vanessa Edwards Foster (l) and **Mitch Rainey**.
3 Cristan Williams, with the C.A.T.S. homeless shelter.

4 A celebration of the life of **Darnell Mure** was held May 9, at the Garden in the Heights. **Robert Cornelius** holds his picture.

5 Ray Olachia of the Mental Health Association of Greater Houston at their May 1 gala at the Westin Galleria, with **Sherri Hosang**.

Houston Splash was April 30-May 6.
6 (l-r) **Shanta Jackson**, **Jonita Stegall**, **Shronda Scott**, May 5 at Stewart Beach.



OUT IN HOUSTON

7 Hasan Murry (l) and **Tony Villalpando**.

8 The Texas Gay Rodeo Association presented checks to community groups: (l-r) **Sean Carter** (Colt 45's & Stone Soup), **Ken Mings** & **Michael Jobin** from TGRA, **David Sawyer** (Paw Prints), and **Fred Walters** (Houston Buyers' Club), May 5, at the Brazos River Bottom.

AssistHers and an **Uncommon Legacy** held a progressive dinner May 3.

9 Frank Stagg (r) served dessert. With **Gustavo Ruiz**.

10 Tori Williams (l) with **Tracy Gary**.

11 A group of **Uncommon** women.

12 The Gay & Lesbian Film Fest was the subject of the May 7 GLBT Chamber meeting at the Holiday Select. **Glen Fillmore** (r) brought his visiting mother, **Pam** (2nd from left). Here with Film Fest

VP **Ernie Manouse** and **Debbie Ratliff**.

13 Mother of Montrose 2002 **Eartha Quake** (**Tony Wadford**, right), with **Lloyd Powell**.

14 Deborah Boille—with **Randall Jobe**—performed for the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston "Silent Moon" fundraiser May 3, at the Warwick Hotel.

15 (l-r) The 5th Anniversary Masters of Leather contest was held April 14, at Pacific Street. Master of Leather 2002 **Buz Lawson**, Mistress of Leather 2002 **Billie Rendahl-Mink**, and founder/producer **J.R. Ewing**.

Two fundraisers for the PWA Coalition.

16 Jackie Cayton (l) and **Angela Blanchard** held a fundraiser Apr. 27, here with **Dave Detcher**.

17 (l-r) Musician **Charlie Pacheco**, the "Castro Cowboy," **Alice Sarmiento**,

and **Allen Cole** Apr. 28, Michael's Outpost.

18 Episcopal lesbian priest Rev. Dr. **Carter Heyward** (2nd from right) presented a weekend of "Exploring Justice," May 10-12, sponsored by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church & Brigid's Place. With (l-r) Rev. **Helen Havens**, **Daryl Moore**, & **Muffie Maroney**.

19 Cooks at the ready for the Bering Spring Fling, Apr. 27.

20 **Misty Valdez** at her pre-show benefit at Myra's Cantina in Galveston May 3, raising money for the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas.

21 EPAH held a progressive dinner Apr. 20.

22 M2M sponsored a fashion show at Mo Mong May 12. Here, model **Joshua Mellen**.

23 The Katz Deli staff launches their "Deli Belly" waitloss program, May 13.

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